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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 26, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JAY OBERNOLTE 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 11:50 a.m.

LET THE ADULTS TAKE THE WHEEL

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

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, I want you to imagine that you get home from work tomorrow and decide that you just don't want to pay your mortgage, so you call your bank and share the good news.

The bank, at that point, explains that if you don't, you are looking at eviction, so you propose a counteroffer because you are a clever fellow. I will pay my mortgage, but only if my family stops using hot water and stops going to the doctor. At which point, the bank says: You, sir, are a moron.

Yet, that is what is happening in the House this week. The United States Government has already agreed to buy a house. We are already living in the house. We took out a loan to pay for the house, but the Republicans want to stop making the mortgage payments unless the American people agree to skimp on healthcare and basic services.

I would remind everybody in this body that it is Congress that has the power of the purse. Every dollar of government spending and every dollar of government revenue was approved on this floor by this body. If the expenses exceed the revenues, then we borrow to make up the difference. We made those choices.

You all may not like every dollar that we have approved. I certainly don't. I also don't agree with every dollar my wife has ever spent, and she doesn't agree with every dollar that I have ever spent, but we get by because my wife and I are functioning adults. That would appear to be too high a bar for this body.

The majority today is bringing a package to the floor that, according to Moody's Analytics, would ''meaningfully increase the likelihood'' of a recession; not because it is the right thing to do but because it is the only way that the Speaker can keep his job.

If Speaker MCCARTHY brought a clean debt limit bill to the floor of the House tomorrow, he would get every single Democratic vote, and I am sure a few of my colleagues across the aisle would join in. It would pass the Senate, and President Biden would sign it. That would be that. We would move on to the important work of this country.

But as all of us know who spent a long, late night here after 14 failed efforts to win the Speakership, Mr. MCCARTHY caved to the extremists in his own party and agreed to conditions where he loses his job if he does not try to blow up the economy. He has the opportunity today to do the right thing; he simply doesn't have the ability.

The House is now preparing to vote on a bill that would be disastrous for Americans. Let's be clear: If we don't raise the debt ceiling, we will see collapses in global financial markets.

We will default on our debt, which means interest rates go up, which means everything you have that has an interest rate tied to it gets more expensive. Your mortgage, your car payment, your student loan, your credit card payments, all those things start going up.

The majority is hoping that the adults in the room will prevail and that the adults will be so frightened by that consequence that we will accept their self-destructive alternative.

The alternative is a bill that would slash nondefense discretionary spending by 22 percent. Just in my home State of Illinois, let's talk about what that means.

That means in Illinois, home of the O'Hare airport hub, eight traffic control centers shut down.

In the wake of East Palestine, the train crash, just in Illinois, we will do 420 fewer rail inspections.

2,900 students in Illinois will lose their Pell grants. Several hundred thousand will see their Pell grants cut.

10,000 kids will lose pre-K and childcare.

53,000 veterans will lose outpatient services. That is just in Illinois.

Nationally, a cleaner, cheaper future will be thrown away.

White-collar police will be defunded to make it easier for everybody to commit tax fraud, which, of course, will lower future revenues and make it necessary for us to borrow more money.

The majority would have us believe that our only choice right now is: Do we want to blow up the economy, or do

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we want to ruin the lives of millions of Americans? That is not the only choice.

We have a third option. The third option is that we can let the adults come back in the room. We can take our jobs seriously. We can pass a clean debt limit bill.

Governing is hard, but it is especially hard when you let the clowns drive the car.

Please, Mr. Speaker, let the adults take the wheel.

DEBT CEILING NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOTHING NEW

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, Joe Biden and House Democrats should listen to what former Speaker NANCY PELOSI had to say about debt ceiling negotiations back in 2019, according to The Washington Post: ''Pelosi, the California Democrat, said the idea of raising the debt ceiling on its own and not in conjunction with a budget agreement was not 'acceptable to our Caucus' and, therefore, did not stand a chance of passage in the House of Representatives.''

Debt ceiling negotiations are nothing new. President Biden has a long history of engaging in and supporting negotiations over the debt limit, as do other House Democrats.

House Republicans are committed to a reasonable, responsible, and sensible solution to our Nation's debt crisis that would limit Washington's irresponsible spending, save taxpayer dollars, and grow the American economy.

President Biden and the extreme Democrats' inflationary spending spree has worked to increase our national debt to unsustainable levels, over $31.6 trillion, with annual deficits of $1.5 trillion.

While Joe Biden has no plan to avoid debt default, House Republicans are committed to sensible debt ceiling negotiations.

CONGRATULATING STUARTS DRAFT FFA TEAM

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Stuarts Draft High School team for winning the Virginia State Future Farmers of America forestry championship at the Mountain Gateway Community College in Clifton Forge. These outstanding students exemplify leadership and are model representatives of the organization.

The forestry competition included being able to identify tree types and disorders, pinpoint wood products, as well as pass a knowledge exam and identify and navigate maps.

Led by Coach William Monroel, as well as advised by agriculture teacher Lindsey Baber, these champions include freshman Kelli Weaver and seniors Anna Grace Henderson, Will Monroe, and Steven Ramsey.

As Virginia's Sixth District is the number one agriculture district in the Commonwealth, I am always proud to see the next generation of agriculture leaders participating, excelling, and winning in competitions like this one.

Congratulations to the Stuarts Draft students, Coach Monroel, parents, and staff on this well-deserved victory.

RECOGNIZING CLARKE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Clarke County High School girls' basketball team for their Virginia Class 2 State championship victory. These impressive young ladies stepped up big and beat the defending State champs, Central High School of Wise County, 45–41, for their second State title in the program's history.

Junior guard Selene Good cemented the Eagles' lead by nailing a dramatic 3-pointer to put the team up by 5. In the final minutes, the Eagles knocked down 10 of 12 free throws that helped seal the victory.

These champions include: Selene Good, Kayia Williams, Emma Nelson, Devin Simmons-McDonald, Keira Rohrbach, Willow Oliver, Alainah McKavish, Bailey Beard, Hailey Evans, and Emily Emmart, led by head Coach Regina Downing and assistant Shadd McCaw.

Congratulations to all of these talented athletes, coaches, staff, and parents on this well-deserved State championship.

FIX AMERICA'S GUN PROBLEM

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because we have a gun problem in the United States. This problem has been ongoing for years, but the continued events make this reality all the more stark.

Kaylin Gillis was shot and killed for turning around in a driveway, something so many of us have done.

Heather Roth and Payton Washington, two cheerleaders, were shot for mistakenly getting into a car they thought was theirs, something so many of us have done.

Kinsley White and her parents were shot for retrieving a basketball in a neighbor's yard, something so many of us have done.

Ralph Yarl was shot for ringing the wrong doorbell when picking up his siblings, something so many of us have done.

All of this violence, not to mention the mass shootings in Dadeville, Louisville, and Nashville this month, reminds us that going about your daily life can quickly turn deadly in this country.

Death should not be a consequence for simply living our lives. We cannot continue to look away from the thousands of lives taken by gun violence every year that barely register in the headlines.

This past weekend, 17 people were shot in Chicago, including a 3-year-old from Calumet Heights and a 6-year-old from Woodlawn. The weekend before, 10 were killed and 26 wounded. Four were killed and 21 injured the weekend before that.

Whether it is from a fight gone too far, an accidental discharge, a stray bullet, or death by suicide, guns make our communities more dangerous and restrict other people's freedoms. Walking down the street or playing with your kids on the front porch shouldn't be dangerous activities.

I am sick and tired of gun violence only being acknowledged in Chicago to say that gun laws don't work. This is simply not true.

According to trace data from the ATF, only 49 percent of crime guns used in Illinois are from Illinois. Illegal gun trafficking from States with fewer gun protections makes my constituents less safe.

Whether it is background checks, consumer safety laws, community violence intervention, or cracking down on gun trafficking, gun safety laws work. States that have fewer gun laws have higher gun deaths.

Already in 2023, 13,000 people have died because of a gun, and another 10,000 have been wounded. These numbers include homicides, suicides, mass shootings, and daily gun violence.

One thing these incidents all have in common is that access to a firearm made them more deadly.

This is a public health crisis that is painfully American. Unlike our peer countries, life expectancy in this country is not rising after the worst of the pandemic has abated. Life expectancy continues to decline because our young people are dying, and too many of those deaths are from guns.

The data shows that violence begets violence begets violence. More violence means fewer job opportunities, fewer education opportunities, and fewer opportunities to build a healthy family.

The solution is not cutting Social Security, not cutting Medicaid, not adding onerous work requirements, not cutting school funding. The solution is better gun safety laws, and we must invest in our communities to stop the cycle of violence.

We must dispense with the false choice between better gun safety measures and what some dare to call freedom. A constant, slow-motion massacre is not the price of freedom. This is a farce.

What about our freedom to go to the grocery store and church, to go to school, to ride on the bus, to play in the park, to come out of choir practice, to get coffee from a coffee shop without fear of getting shot?

No matter who they are or where they grew up, someone being shot to death is not an inevitability. They died because we failed them. We failed their family. We failed their community.

I am tired of failing. We have the tools to stop this senseless violence. We just need the courage to use them.

I have been fighting for stronger gun safety laws since my first day in Congress, and I am not going to stop. I

can't imagine looking at a mom who has lost her child or a brother that has lost his sister and telling them to calm down, to stop asking for something to change.

We all deserve the freedom to live without fear. Thoughts and prayers are nice, but they won't save lives. Doing nothing is not an option.

□ 1015

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOE KEJR

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Joe Kejr, a great Kansan who passed away on April 8 at the age of 64. Joe was a third-generation wheat farmer, a passionate advocate for agriculture, and a follower of Jesus who was committed to building and fostering deep relationships in the agricultural community.

Wheat harvest was Joe's favorite time of year. He loved spending long hours with family and friends, racing to beat a storm, and enjoying the quiet peace and camaraderie of suppertime in the field, and sharing the entire experience with younger generations.

He and his crew loved the challenge of trying to be the last truck to go through the elevator each night. At the end of harvest, Joe would hold court and share stories at the big ''last supper'' that he and his wife Geena would host at their house for everyone who came to help.

Joe served on the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers board of directors from 2002 to 2010, serving as president in 2007, and as the president of the National Wheat Foundation in 2022.

First and foremost, however, Joe was a follower of Jesus who served in the Kansas legislature on various ministry boards, including At Stake Ministries and church committees, and he was passionate about sharing the Gospel and he led mission trips to and made many friends in Guatemala.

Mr. Speaker, Joe is now at rest with his Savior. I am praying for Geena and Joe's family as they mourn his loss and celebrate his life.

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARIES OF THE CHISHOLM TRAIL AND WESTERN CATTLE TRAIL

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversaries of the Ellsworth Route of the Chisholm Trail and the Western Cattle Trail through Dodge City and beyond. The American cowboys who used these trails were the original pioneers who ventured West in search of new opportunities with nothing more than their horses, their dogs, their ropes, and their prayers.

I grew up on a cattle operation in Quinter, Kansas. There are more than 4.4 million cattle and calves on ranches and feed yards in our district, which means that plenty of cowboys called The Big First home.

Kansas has been the first frontier for cowboys since the 1860s when cattle were driven from Texas to places like Abilene and Dodge City to be sold near the closest railroads.

The cowboys would drive about 3,000 head of cattle on their thousand-mile journey at a pace of about 15 miles per day, so it took 2 months. They would look after their cattle 24 hours a day, sleeping under the stars in shifts in the land that would later become Oklahoma.

By the late 1870s, so many cowboys were making this trek from Texas to Kansas that half a million head of cattle were being shipped out of Dodge City alone every year.

These long drives disappeared at the end of the century, but the modern cowboys of today still embody the courage, dedication, personal responsibility, and traditional methods from their pioneering history.

Cowboys remain a constant in an ever-changing world. They know how to break a horse without breaking its spirit, and they put in a 40-hour workweek by the time Wednesday morning rolls around. Cowboys know that they can't take shortcuts or do the bare minimum if they want to succeed. They are resourceful multitaskers who do things the right way, which is often the hard way, and their reward for all their hard work isn't public accolades, but simply providing for their families, caring for their stock, and keeping America fed.

It is exciting to see all the local celebrations of Kansas' history around these trails.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Dennis Katzenmeier, president of the International Chisholm Trail Association; Michael Grauer, president of The Western Cattle Trail Association; Ron Wilson, and many others for their dedication to preserving the history of these trails and the cowboys that use them.

THANKING EMILY WOODS FOR HER SERVICE TO KANSANS AND THE BIG FIRST DISTRICT

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and thank Emily Woods for her service to me, my office, Kansans, and The Big First District.

Emily served on my team since my first day in Congress, and she consistently brought a caring, professional, and attentive approach to building relationships, providing thought leadership, and connecting with Kansans and her coworkers alike. Emily established herself as a resource for everyone in the office, always offering helpful advice and solving problems with a creative perspective.

This scripture comes to mind for Emily, Proverbs 3:5–6: ''Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.''

I am so excited to see what lies ahead for Emily and her move back to the Sunflower State. I know that with her many skills, her passion, and her work ethic, she will go very far.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank Emily for her dedication to The Big First District. My time in Congress wouldn't have been the same without her. We will miss her and wish her well with all of her future endeavors.

DESIGNATING LEBANON FOR TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, I am proud to renew our fight to designate Lebanon for Temporary Protected Status to prevent Lebanese nationals in the United States from being forced back to the dangerous crisis facing their home country.

Between the pandemic, the aftermath of the Beirut Port explosion, economic devastation, and the ongoing political crisis, Lebanon is experiencing one of the worst humanitarian crises globally, resulting in widespread lack of access to medical care, clean water, food, and electricity.

According to the United Nations, Mr. Speaker, over 3.5 million Lebanese people are estimated to live in poverty and 1.38 million people are experiencing extreme poverty. The Presidency has been vacant since last October and the parliament just extended the terms of local officials without elections to avoid a complete collapse at the local level.

Mr. Speaker, 40 percent of the doctors there in Lebanon have left the country and we continue to see huge amounts of illnesses spreading throughout on top of the pandemic.

Our country must not retreat from its long tradition of providing a safe haven for those that need it the most. Temporary Protected Status for our Lebanese neighbors is critical to prevent more hardship. I call on my colleagues to support this legislation.

CELEBRATING LEE VERNON NEWBY, JR.'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lee Vernon Newby, Jr. He is a veteran of World War II, and a longtime resident of Detroit in Michigan's 12th District Strong. He is celebrating 100 years of life.

Mr. Newby is a United States Marine Corps veteran who served from April 1, 1943, until January 8, 1946. He served and was wounded during World War II, where Mr. Newby was one of our courageous Montford Point marines and one of the first barrier-breaking African Americans to enlist in the United States Marine Corps.

He fought against prejudice and hostility while serving our country. Mr. Newby, Jr., proudly serves as a member of the Montford Point Marines of America, the Detroit chapter, and was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest civilian award in the Nation, under President Obama's administration.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending Mr. Lee Vernon Newby, Jr.,

for his outstanding service to our country as we celebrate his 100th birthday.

CONGRATULATING KRISTY GRIFFIS ARNOLD

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 congratulate Kristy Griffis Arnold on her appointment to the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board by the USDA.

Kristy has been involved with farming and agriculture her entire life. She was born into a farming family, growing up on her family's 465-acre farm which has been passed down through multiple generations. It was on her family farm that she learned the tools of the trade related to cattle farming.

In addition to her recent appointment, Kristy has also been awarded the Georgia Producer of the Year Award in 2010 by the Georgia Cattlemen's Association.

In 2012, Kristy and her family won the 2012 Wayne County Farm Family of the Year Award. In 2014, they won the Georgia Beef Quality Assurance Award.

Kristy has proven time and time again that not only is she one of the most accomplished and knowledgeable farmers in the district, but she is also one of the best in the country.

Kristy's expertise in agriculture speaks for itself, and I believe she will be an excellent addition to the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board.

CALLING ON THE FDA TO REVERSE RESTRICTIONS ON ALZHEIMER'S TREATMENTS

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand with the 6.7 million Americans who are living with Alzheimer's disease, their family members, and their caregivers.

One in three seniors dies of Alzheimer's or a form of dementia. These are our sisters, our brothers, our mothers, our fathers, our neighbors, our fellow Americans, who are living with this heartbreaking disease.

Thanks to bipartisan efforts in Congress, we have made great progress advancing research on Alzheimer's and dementia, providing hope to families struggling with this tragic disease.

However, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services recently declined to cover an entire class of FDA-approved Alzheimer's treatments for Medicare patients. This has significantly reduced access to care for our most vulnerable patients with no other options to treat the disease.

Unfortunately, this administration continues to put patients last and this decision of restricting Medicare coverage of FDA-approved Alzheimer's treatment is just the latest example.

I ask my colleagues to join me in calling on this administration to reverse this restrictive decision and provide those living with Alzheimer's access to FDA-approved treatments.

To all the patients, families, and caregivers out there who are struggling with Alzheimer's, I stand with them, and I will continue to fight for them.

CONGRATULATING THE CAMDEN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING TEAM

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Camden County High School wrestling team on their ninth consecutive State championship.

It seems like winning a State championship is just part of the yearly routine for the wrestlers at Camden County, but it was not always that way. When Coach Jess Wilder took over the program in 2006, the school had not won a State championship since 1984. Some even called Camden the land of no chance, in reference to its State title aspirations.

Coach Wilder and the wrestlers of Camden County did not let that discourage them, and after 2 years of hard work and determination, Camden County won a State championship in 2008. The team took championships home in both 2012 and 2015. Their 2015 win marked the beginning of a yearly State championship run that still continues today.

I congratulate the team and Coach Wilder on their hard work and determination. They continue to make their school and the First District proud.

CONGRATULATING INGA CASHON AND BRITTANY NEARHOOF

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Inga Cashon and Brittany Nearhoof for being recognized as 2024 Georgia Teacher of the Year finalists.

State school superintendent Richard Woods, who surprised the finalists with their selection throughout the month of March, said each one of them is a shining example of the profession. I could not agree more.

Inga Cashon is a science, technology, engineering, and math teacher at North Tattnall Middle School. In 2020, she received the Georgia STEM Scholar Award for her efforts to integrate effective STEM education in the classroom.

Brittany Nearhoof is an art teacher at McAllister Elementary School in Bryan County in the First District. She is also a leadership team member and chair of the Fine Arts Night Committee.

I congratulate Inga and Brittany for their hard work and their dedication to their students. They are very deserving of this honor.

RAISING THE AGE TO PURCHASE SEMIAUTOMATIC CENTERFIRE RIFLES

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

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Raise the Age Act.

This bill would protect the public by raising the minimum age to purchase semiautomatic centerfire rifles to 21 years old. Currently, the buyer only needs to be 18 years old, even though the minimum age to purchase a handgun from a dealer with a Federal license is 21 years old.

The Raise the Age Act would apply the 21-year-old minimum age standard to buyers of semiautomatic centerfire rifles just as it applies to buyers of handguns.

Imagine the agony that Alexandria Rubio's parents felt last May when they learned that their 10-year-old daughter's life was cut short at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas.

On that horrific day, 21 beautiful spirits were stolen from us: 19 precious young children and 2 beloved, dedicated teachers.

The halls of the grade school were forever robbed of their innocence due to the gruesome actions committed by an 18-year-old who used a semiautomatic weapon that he purchased shortly after his 18th birthday.

On May 14th, 2022, 53-year-old Andre Mackneil went to the Tops grocery store in Buffalo, New York, to purchase a birthday cake for his grandson. He never returned home for his grandson's birthday due to the heinous acts of an 18-year-old mass shooter with an assault weapon.

That 18-year-old ended the lives of 10 innocent souls that day. Had a 21-year-old age requirement been in place, that 18-year-old shooter would not have been able to legally purchase that firearm just a few months earlier and the tragedy and trauma that occurred that day might have been avoided.

Some of the most horrific and heartbreaking mass shootings in our history were committed by 18-, 19-, and 20-year-olds using assault weapons, including the massacres at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, in 2012; at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, in 2018; and at Columbine High School in Colorado in 1999.

According to CNN, in November of 2022, up to that point, at least 3,179 people had been shot in mass shootings, resulting in 637 deaths and more than 2,500 people wounded. Already in 2023, there have been more than 170 mass shootings.

Some of my colleagues insist on choosing the Second Amendment over second graders. They insist on banning books in schools instead of banning assault weapons in schools. They talk about the weaponization of our government, but they are silent when actual weapons are used to lay waste to our schoolchildren.

□ 1030

Instead of supporting commonsense reforms to address our country's gun epidemic, some Members offer bills that would make the problem even worse, such as eliminating the ATF, the lead Federal law enforcement agency that fights against gun violence.

Time and time again, our communities are devastated by these mass killings. Some politicians send thoughts and prayers, but we should all

remember the wisdom in Paul's letter to James: ''Faith without works is dead.'' This bill alone won't fix the problem of gun violence, but we know that inaction will not stop the mass killings. The time for action is long overdue.

That is why this bill is supported by many gun violence prevention organizations, including the Giffords Law Center, which observes its 10th anniversary today, March for Our Lives, Newtown Action Alliance, Community Justice Action Fund, and several others. Some major retail chains like Walmart have even voluntarily raised the age from 18 to 21 to buy a firearm at their stores.

Raising the age to 21 also withstood judicial scrutiny recently. The 11th Circuit Court of Appeals recently upheld a similar law on the 21-year-old age requirement in Florida that was enacted shortly after the 2018 massacres in Parkland, Florida.

The Court determined that the act's restrictions on the sale of firearms to 18- to 20-year-olds ''is consistent with the Nation's historical tradition of firearm regulation.''

Raising the age to 21 to purchase these kinds of firearms is reasonable and a crucial step, and I encourage all of my colleagues to support this vital legislation.

ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. SANTOS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the beginning of Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day.

Since 1948, Israel has displayed great resilience and strength against its opposition. This incredible nation is our strongest ally in the Middle East. Our friends in Israel carry a long history of faith and resolve.

Here in the United States, we are forever grateful for their friendship and their continued partnership. We congratulate you on this tremendous milestone of 75 years of independence and democracy. In the State of New York, we are proud to be the home of the largest Jewish population outside of Israel.

For 75 years, Israel has been a tried and trusted ally of the United States. Together, we have Americans and Israelis united by our shared commitment to democracy, economic prosperity, and regional security.

Israel is America's base in the Middle East. As the only democracy in the region, Israel is the only country that embraces American values. We have witnessed the strongest relationship between America and Israel yet, not just in words but in actions.

The American Embassy officially moved to Jerusalem. America officially recognizes the Golan Heights as part of Israel. The 118th Congress is holding strong to the commitment of allegiance to Israel even in the face of adversity.

Mr. Speaker, here is to 75 more years of partnership.

DEBT CEILING CONCERNS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. MAGAZINER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose the Republican's default on America plan that will hurt Rhode Island's seniors. The MAGA Republicans that have taken control of this House have given us a false choice.

Either we go along with their plan for painful cuts for veterans, seniors, and children, or they will purposefully wreck the economy by defaulting on the debt. This false choice is wrong and we do not need to accept it.

In particular, their plan would enact painful cuts on senior citizens in Rhode Island. How?

By cutting funding to the Social Security Administration so that the quarter million elderly and disabled Rhode Islanders who depend on Social Security would face longer wait times for their benefits. Also, by cutting funding for seniors' nutrition programs like Meals on Wheels, housing, and slashing funding for home care, putting the lives of seniors at risk.

This is not about deficit reduction. If this was about deficit reduction, my Republican colleagues would be lining up to support President Biden's budget, which reduces the deficit by $3 trillion. No. This is an extreme agenda that puts working people, in particular seniors, in the back seat while doing the bidding of wealthy donors and billionaires and corporations.

We do not need to accept it. People will not stand for it. I will fight this default on America plan with everything that I have.

RECOGNIZING SHERIFF DEREK SANDERS

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

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, Thurston County Sheriff Derek Sanders was injured in a car accident while driving his patrol car. Since the accident, I have been in touch with Sheriff Sanders. He has incredible strength and resilience. Amazingly, just 2 weeks after being airlifted to Harborview Medical Center for his injuries he has been cleared to return to work.

Mr. Speaker, as I stand here in Washington, I will continue to send my thoughts and prayers to him and his family back home. I hope he has a speedy recovery. I am so grateful to Sheriff Sanders and officers like him who accept the risks of their job to keep our public safe.

VETERAN WAIT TIMES

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the long wait time veterans endure when trying to get through to the VA.

As the granddaughter of a veteran, I have deep respect for the sacrifice that comes from serving our Nation in uniform. We make a sacred promise to veterans: If they step up to serve, the Nation will be there for them when they take off the uniform.

Yet, the wait times for primary care appointments at the Vancouver VA hospital in my district are 3 weeks; physical therapy, 4 weeks; and mental health, 8 weeks.

To make matters worse, those times are absolutely an underestimate. The Veterans Health Administration reports average wait times on its website using the time at which an appointment is scheduled by staff rather than when the appointment is requested. This does not take into account the time veterans are forced to wait on hold just to get an appointment.

Last April, the Office of the Inspector General called this out in its report, but it still has not been remedied.

A lot of time is spent in this Chamber talking about our national debt, and rightly so, but we already have a kind of debt that we are failing to serve.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in keeping our end of the bargain and making healthcare more accessible for our veterans.

POSTAL SERVICE DELAYS

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the unacceptable state of the Postal Service in my community and across rural America. Those of you who live in urban communities might have experienced the mail just comes on time. I have constituents whose bills are delivered weeks or days after they are due, making it impossible to pay them on time and ruining their credit.

This summer, a mail carrier in my community got sick and there was no one to deliver the mail for months. In another instance, a postal master key was lost in Clark County, which has led to incredible, rampant mail theft in the area. In all of these cases the Postal Service seems unwilling or unable to fulfill their mandated duties.

Mr. Speaker, this isn't just about southwest Washington, it is all across rural America. This state of affairs is unacceptable. The United States Postal Service is a lifeline to our communities and a critical piece of infrastructure for connecting our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand up and find a bipartisan solution with me to fix these issues, reform the Postal Service, and improve service for Washingtonians.

CONSOLIDATION

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out of deep concern for growing consolidation of agricultural farms throughout the food supply chain.

These mergers put small farmers, small businesses, and workers at a

huge disadvantage. There are fewer options for processing plants, cold storage, distribution, and retail.

I have heard concerns about consolidation at farm bill listening sessions I have hosted in Centralia and Battle Ground. We are seeing consolidation everywhere, including meat processing plants, fruit processors, and beverages distributors.

In my community, Corwin, a local beverage distributor was just bought out by a huge conglomerate, and now their beer and wine division is closed. The potential merger between Kroger and Albertsons would only add to this pressure. It is hurting our small producers.

The cost to transport and distribute goods is no longer sustainable and is forcing small businesses to close. This drives up the cost at the checkout stand, and it makes it more challenging to rely on American-grown goods. This is a national security threat.

Mr. Speaker, I am here to serve the people of southwest Washington, not big businesses. Every merger that cuts costs and skirts accountability is a blow to working people; to farmers, to processing plants, grocery cashiers, and families at the checkout stand.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand with me to find a solution to these critical issues.

CELEBRATE LOGGERS

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate generations of loggers in Washington State, including my grandfather, Dale Gilmore. If you visit my office in Longworth, you will see a chainsaw that is almost 9 feet long. It is a McCulloch Model 99. It is the same model of chainsaw that my grandpa ran in the woods up and down the peninsula.

It was shipped here in a crate built by the Stevenson High School shop class under the leadership of Scott Midland. I brought it here to remind this Washington, D.C., what real work looks like.

The lifespan of men who ran these chainsaws could be pretty short, but they chose to sacrifice to provide for their families. The power that comes from mastering a skill should invoke humility and respect for all of the people who choose to work with their hands in the woods.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 40 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

God of us all, we pray Your grace over our labor and Your blessing on all that we seek to achieve this day. Should our sense of success be borne of our envy over another, we pray Your mercy. Should we find ourselves chasing the wind in our pride, we pray You humble us gently that we would submit even our best efforts to Your sovereign will.

When winning seems to be our only goal, when we are so often caught up in our vain desire to overcome any perceived or imagined adversary, remind us again that only in You do we find the promise of true victory.

By the power of Your love, You have already defeated all that we call hateful. So with Your standard of strength before us, may we follow You and greet any fear or frustration before us with the certainty found in You, face any anxiety or anguish that threatens us with the hope You provide, and encounter any enemy with the faith in Your promise of redemption.

In all contest and critique, defeat and disagreement, in all that seeks to overwhelm our spirit of unity and purpose, remind us that we are more than conquerors in You who have shown Your steadfast love for us.

In the strength of Your holy name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Washington (Mr. KILMER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KILMER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

RECOGNIZING MARTHA RUTHVEN

(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 recognize Martha Ruthven for her service for the Second Congressional District of South Carolina. Martha has been an invaluable team member for nearly 9 years, dedicated to constituent service.

Moving from North Carolina after her nuclear physicist stepfather accepted a position at the Savannah River Site, Martha began her love of the Palmetto State.

Working in the Congressional Aiken/Barnwell office, Martha quickly became embedded in the community, attending events, meetings, and advancing constituent services. As deputy district director, Martha has long been a trusted adviser to the many thousands she has assisted.

I appreciate she will remain in Aiken. In fact, she will be heading to Savannah River Nuclear Solutions to continue community relations. I wish the best to Martha and her husband, K.T., a respected Realtor and president of Aiken Republican Club.

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.

Our prayers for the courageous people of Ukraine resisting war criminal Putin, who is sacrificing young Russians for Putin's oil, money, and power.

HONORING PATTY ROSE

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

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor my friend Patty Rose for her decades of service to the working people of Pierce County, Washington.

Born and raised in Tacoma, Patty began her journey at the Service Employees International Union in 1974 where she held various roles, eventually becoming a union representative advocating for workers' rights.

In 1981, Patty joined the Pierce County Central Labor Council, serving as a delegate and executive board member before her election as the first female secretary-treasurer.

In this role, she has worked passionately to improve wages, benefits, and working conditions, making Pierce County a national leader in union membership with rates twice the national average.

Patty has emphasized inclusivity by partnering with communities often marginalized and increasing apprenticeship opportunities for young people.

Her empowering leadership has significantly shaped our community and helped workers. I am grateful for her partnership and her friendship and her invaluable advice throughout my career.

As Patty retires, we will miss her presence, but I am happy to report that she can enjoy more time with her family and traveling in her RV.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Patty Rose's remarkable career. I wish her a well-deserved retirement.

HONORING JOHN CAMACHO

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I take this time to recognize and honor the late, great John Camacho, also known as Chubado, who sadly left this world a few years ago. John left behind his lovely wife, Darleen, and children, Janice and Jeremy.

A proud son of Guam, John received numerous accolades for academic excellence during his time at Fresno State University where he obtained a bachelor of science in civil engineering.

In 1978, he and his friend Henry Simpson were the brain children of Smokin' Wheels, which consisted of off-road motorcycling, buggy, and truck endurance.

In 1979, John participated in the Baja 1000, which remains one of the most prestigious off-road obstacles in the world.

On behalf of the Nation and the island of Guam, and in these sacred Halls of democracy, I honor and recognize John Camacho as a founding father of motorsports on Guam and as a renaissance man for the sport in the region.

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, to go grocery shopping, some Americans walk down the block or drive a few miles to the store. But for those living in food apartheids, their experience is different.

I call them food apartheids, instead of food deserts, because deserts are naturally formed. There is nothing natural about food apartheid. It is manmade. It happens on purpose, often influenced by systemic racism.

Earlier this week, I was in Leominster, Massachusetts, to unveil a new food truck and refrigerated van for the Spanish American Center, a nonprofit with deep roots in the area, to make it easier to bring nutritious and culturally appropriate meals to everyone in the community.

Mr. Speaker, I was proud to secure $110,000 in Federal funding for this project. We should continue to increase Federal investments in our local antihunger infrastructure to help those who have a short trip to the grocery store and especially those who do not. We should do all we can to end hunger now.

MONTANA STUDENTS ON THE CUTTING EDGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, Montana students have always been on the cutting edge of science and technology. Today, I rise to give special recognition to a group of students from Helena who may soon impact the way that we all travel.

Earlier this month, a robotics team from Helena introduced new equipment that the TSA hopes will reduce wait times at airport security. The team, known as Fusion 4133, is renowned for its technical expertise, winning the 2023 Montana regional championship and qualifying for an international competition.

What makes Fusion's design for TSA so remarkable is its simplicity. Using a 3D printer, the students designed a ramp that will allow bags to flow seamlessly through airport screening systems.

The bright group of inventors are living proof that no one is too young to pioneer new technologies. I am confident their work will expedite travel for millions worldwide. It is my privilege to recognize them on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING RANDY SMITH

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor one of western New York's greatest athletes, Randy Smith.

A natural competitor, he came to Buffalo to play basketball, soccer, and track and field at Buffalo State before he was drafted into the National Basketball Association by the Buffalo Braves in the third round.

An underdog from the very start, Randy Smith became the heart and soul of the Braves, holding records and becoming the most valuable player in the 1978 NBA All-Star Game.

Randy Smith embodied western New York's hardworking spirit and community pride. He often spent time playing basketball in local parks and visiting city schools, serving as an inspiration and mentor to kids across the community.

Randy Smith passed away at the age of 60 in 2009. During a time when our community is still healing from heartbreak and loss, we must continue to keep his legacy alive.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Buffalo Braves all-star Randy Smith and his commitment to becoming the good neighbor to the City of Good Neighbors.

RECOGNIZING WORLD WAR II VETERAN ROBERT ROTHENBERG

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

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize World War II veteran Robert Rothenberg, an American hero from Ohio. Robert was a landing ship motor machinist's mate 2nd class on the USS *La Moure County* (LST–883).

Robert sailed the Western Pacific, from the Marshalls and the Marianas to battle-torn Okinawa.

After discharging the men and equipment on Okinawa, Robert traveled with the 6th Marine Division to Pearl Harbor.

After Japan surrendered, his ship delivered occupying troops to that country.

Despite his service in the war, Robert was never presented with any of the service medals and decorations he earned for his courage and sacrifice to our Nation. I am so pleased that we recently were able to finally present him with the American Campaign Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

I thank Robert for his service. Let us never forget the service and sacrifice of America's Greatest Generation.

SPENDING CUTS WOULD HURT VIRGINIANS

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

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the impact of the broad-brush cuts in Speaker MCCARTHY's plan, a plan that would hurt Virginians, including $30 billion in cuts for veteran spending that would hurt the veterans I represent and cuts to the vital Meals on Wheels program that would hurt seniors across Virginia's Seventh District.

To hear about the impact of this incredibly important program, I reached out to Virginians I serve to talk about the program, and I heard from hundreds of seniors, volunteers, doctors, and caregivers, who have seen the benefits of Meals on Wheels.

Carolyn from Woodbridge, who lost her husband a year before breaking her hip and turning to Meals on Wheels for support, called this service ''a true blessing as I heal.''

Anita from Fredericksburg whose 94-year-old aunt relies on the program said: ''Please vote against defunding Virginia's senior meal delivery services.''

When Shawn from Caroline County's grandmother suffered a stroke, Meals on Wheels made sure she had lunch so his parents would not have to quit their jobs to care for her.

At a time when thousands of Virginia seniors are at risk of hunger, the Meals on Wheels program should not be on the chopping block. I urge my colleagues to vote against this legislation.

MAKING IN ORDER AT ANY TIME CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 30, DIRECTING THE PRESIDENT, PURSUANT TO SECTION 5(C) OF THE WAR POWERS RESOLUTION, TO REMOVE ALL UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES, OTHER THAN UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES ASSIGNED TO PROTECT THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY, FROM SOMALIA

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at any time on April 27, 2023, to consider H. Con. Res. 30 in the House if called up by the chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, or his designee; that the concurrent resolution be considered as read; that the previous question be considered as ordered on the concurrent resolution to adoption without intervening motion, except for 80 minutes of debate with 20 minutes controlled by Representative MCCAUL of Texas, 20 minutes controlled by Representative MEEKS of New York, and 40 minutes controlled by Representative GAETZ of Florida, or their respective designees.

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

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2811, LIMIT, SAVE, GROW ACT OF 2023, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 39, DISAPPROVING THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE RELATING TO ''PROCEDURES COVERING SUSPENSION OF LIQUIDATION, DUTIES AND ESTIMATED DUTIES IN ACCORD WITH PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION 10414''

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 327 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 327

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 2811) to provide for a responsible increase to the debt ceiling, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) two hours of debate equally divided among and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget or their respective designees and the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 39) disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Commerce relating to ''Procedures Covering Suspension of Liquidation, Duties and Estimated Duties in Accord With Presidential Proclamation 10414''. All points of order against consideration of the joint resolution are waived. The joint resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the joint resolution are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

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

□ 1215

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my good friend, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), the distinguished ranking member of the Rules Committee, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, during consideration of this resolution, all time is yielded for the purposes of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLE. 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 on House Resolution 327.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, last night, the Rules Committee met and met and met and reported out a rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 2811, the Limit, Save, Grow Act of 2023, and H.J. Res. 39, a joint resolution of disapproval that ends President Biden's rule protecting Chinese solar manufacturers that are illegally violating U.S. trade law.

The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 2811 under a closed rule. It provides 2 hours of general debate and one motion to recommit. The rule also provides for consideration of H.J. Res. 39 under a closed rule with 1 hour of general debate and one motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, the United States Government hit our statutory debt limit of $31.3 trillion. That is an astonishing number. It is over 120 percent of our annual gross domestic product.

This level of spending is simply unsustainable, and the American people know it. Three out of every four Americans support taking action on the national debt. They know that if we do nothing and keep moving forward as we have been doing, the result will be leaving a huge burden for our children and grandchildren; a pile of debt, a weak economy, and a broken currency.

You would think, given all that, the staggering reality, that President Biden and congressional Democrats would acknowledge the need to do something to address this problem. You would think they would be open to doing what we have done many, many times in the past: to couple needed fiscal reforms with an agreement to lift the debt ceiling. You would even think that President Biden, who himself personally negotiated several debt ceiling increases over the years, would be willing to sit down with us and talk.

Instead, we have heard none of this. No, we will not negotiate with you. No, we will not talk about the Federal budget. No, we won't look at commonsense reforms. No. No. No.

Instead, President Biden and congressional Democrats insist it is their way or the highway. There will be no reforms, no changes to Federal spending, not even clawing back the unspent pandemic relief funds that are no longer necessary.

With the passage of the Limit, Save, Grow Act, the House will stand with the American people who desperately want us to fix our national debt problem. That fix starts here in today's bill.

Mr. Speaker, our second item for today, H.J. Res. 39, is a joint resolution of disapproval of a Biden administration rule that would suspend import duties on solar panels made with components from the People's Republic of China.

Mr. Speaker, Communist China does not play by the same rules as the rest of the world. Chinese leadership will do whatever it takes to advance the Chinese Communist Party's interest to the detriment of the American economy.

China has been unfairly subsidizing the production of solar cells and modules and dumping them on the U.S. market at below cost. It should come as no surprise that China is also attempting to get around the existing import duties by routing their subsidized solar components through four countries: Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Instead of holding them accountable for their actions, President Biden suspended the penalties for 2 years, presumably to appease climate activists who have no interest in America's job creators and manufacturers. If the House does not act, China's bad behavior will go unchallenged, and American solar manufacturers will continue to get a raw deal.

Mr. Speaker, we must stand up to Communist China. We must call out their inappropriate behavior on the global stage. When it is called for, we must protect American manufacturers against unfair competition. H.J. Res. 39 will accomplish all of these goals and will do so in a bipartisan manner.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this rule and the underlying legislation.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE), my good friend, for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let's begin. We are dealing with this default on America bill. It is a doozy, even by the measurements that we judge this current majority in Congress. How did we get here?

I will tell you how we got here. The process is lousy. It stinks. We heard promise after promise after promise about how great Republicans would be when they were in charge; about how open and transparent and fair things would be here. It is clear now that it was all a bunch of talk, all phony. They never meant any of it.

There was no hearing, no markup, no amendments, no nothing. The CBO score came out 5 minutes before the hearing started. The manager's amendment released at 12:45 a.m. The Rules Committee met for 6 hours and then we adjourned until 11:30 p.m. Democrats sat waiting in an empty room for 45 minutes.

We were told to come back at 1:45 in the morning.

In the midnight seance that the Republicans conducted in the chairman's office, out comes this new language that is supposed to satisfy the extreme rightwing of the extreme rightwing.

Basically, some of my Republican colleagues had an objection that the bill didn't screw people fast enough. Get this, after all their talk about how horrible the Inflation Reduction Act was, we find out that some of their Members actually love parts of the Inflation Reduction Act and demanded that we protect it, even if it meant changing the bill at 2 a.m. in the morning.

Let me tell everyone else, in case you missed it—because some people go to sleep before 2 a.m.—this all happened at 2 a.m. Shhh. Secret.

Speaker MCCARTHY said himself that you just can't throw something on the floor. Those were his words. But here we are and this bill is being thrown on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, 25 of the 32 rules this Congress has done have been completely closed. The Rules Committee has allowed to the floor only 91 amendments so far. When I was in charge, at this point we had allowed to the floor 199 amendments.

Mr. Speaker, 92 percent of all Democratic amendments have not been allowed to be debated. Republican Whip TOM EMMER told us yesterday that the bill was closed. It is not getting changed, he said. And then what did they do just a few hours later? They changed it.

Mr. Speaker, I asked Chairman SMITH last night in the Rules Committee if he liked the way this bill was being brought up. You know what he said to me?

I am not in charge.

Well, it is his committee. Who is in charge of whether or not they hold a hearing or a markup?

Just as a lesson for our new Members who demanded more regular order, this is not it. I would like a single Republican to come down here and defend the process that was used here. I bet they won't because they cannot.

Here we are debating this bill, the default on America act. We are happy to have a conversation on our spending priorities. Absolutely. We welcome that conversation. This isn't a conversation. They handed us a ransom note.

They say that in order to agree to pay our bills for 1 year, we have to make 10 years of deep cuts that will hurt our constituents. This is a ransom note. Then what happens a year from now? What is next? Do you want our first-born children in exchange for paying the bills on time?

Republicans have said that unless we screw regular people, working people, veterans, the environment—I could go right down the list—unless we do that, Republicans are going to push this economy off a cliff, damaging our credit rating, crashing Wall Street, resulting in all kinds of job loss, and putting us into a recession. That is the choice they are giving us here today.

Here is the deal, and this is what is really galling. Republicans are telling us that in order to get our fiscal house in order so we can pay our bills, not a single dollar can be saved at the Pentagon, that billionaires can't pay another cent in taxes. To get our fiscal house in order, we need to nickel-and-dime moms and dads, workers and veterans, and regular people.

Billionaires and CEOs received trillions in tax cuts when Republicans were in charge. Trillions. They want to screw the people that I came to Congress to represent—it takes my breath away, Mr. Speaker—regular people, working people, the farmers, and the veterans. They want to kick people off healthcare. They want to cut funding to stop drugs from coming into America. They want to fire teachers, and they want to take food away from women, infants, and children. What is wrong with them, Mr. Speaker?

I know my friend, Chairman COLE—and he is my friend—cares deeply about programs like Head Start. In his own State, this bill would cut 3,300 children off of Head Start. These are real kids for God's sake. Don't take my word for it. The National Head Start program says:

> Make no mistake, the current debt limit and budget legislation under consideration in the House of Representatives will cause irreparable damage to Head Start.

It is not mathematically possible to make the cuts that they are talking about without hurting our own constituents. All this so that we can appease the extreme MAGA wing of the Republican Party.

The contempt that so many on the other side of the aisle have for people who are poor, who are struggling, who are working hard but having trouble making ends meet because the other side won't even raise the minimum wage, it is stunning.

Mr. Speaker, we have a bill loaded up with all these new work requirements and hurdles for people to jump through. It will result in people losing SNAP, losing Meals on Wheels benefits, losing assistance to pay for infants and children. Yet, there has not been a single hearing on this topic. Not one.

Mr. Speaker, I asked: Who are these people in real life that you claim don't work who are on SNAP? Who are the people you are talking about?

The chairman of the Ways and Means Committee and the chairman of the Budget Committee gave me a blank stare. I asked: What is the average SNAP benefit? That is a pretty basic question if you feel strongly about this program. They had no idea. Not a clue. Not even a guess.

Mr. Speaker, I asked: What is the average length that someone is on SNAP? They had no idea. This is not about substance or reality, Mr. Speaker.

By the way, the average SNAP benefit per person per meal is about $2. The average time somebody is on the benefit is less than a year. This is not about substance or reality.

The bottom line is if this is what the American people want, as the Republicans say—many of them kept saying it over and over in the Rules Committee, which I could not believe because I think most people in this country are horrified about what they are trying to do here—if they think that is what the American people want, then they should win the White House and win the Senate.

They were supposed to win the House by a huge margin, but that red wave turned into a pink splash. I don't think you are going to be around in the leadership here much longer, quite frankly.

□ 1230

Enough is enough, Mr. Speaker. America pays our bills. This is a ransom note.

Republicans want to default on America, and all Democrats are asking for is that you listen to Trump. You know him. He is the guy you are all afraid of. He said: ''I can't imagine anybody ever even thinking of using the debt ceiling as a negotiation wedge. . . . That is a very, very sacred thing. . . . We could never play with it.''

That is the guy whom you are all afraid of. That is what he said.

Listen to Speaker MCCARTHY in 2015: ''When the United States makes promises, it keeps them, which is why the House voted today to avoid the threat of a debt default.''

That was Speaker MCCARTHY. I guess he forgot.

This is a simple, routine part of doing our job, something all of us should be able to get behind.

If you want to have a conversation about spending priorities, that is the

appropriations process or the budget process, but it is not holding our Nation hostage. It is not a ransom note.

Don't default on America, Speaker MCCARTHY. Do your job. Do what you said we would do: keep America's promises. Don't mess around with the full faith and credit of the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a ''no'' vote on this rule and a ''no'' vote on the underlying legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

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

I have great respect for my friend, Mr. MCGOVERN, but, of course, most of the things he mentioned simply aren't in the bill.

What really happened last night is that we have been trying to get you guys to negotiate for weeks and for months. We are going to raise the debt ceiling, something we said we were going to do and do in the legislation, and here is our opening offer.

Where is yours? We don't have one. We don't have one from the President. We have a Democratic Senate that can't produce one. So, we are going to put the ball over and see what you guys are actually going to do with it.

I remind my friends on the other side of the aisle that the work requirements we are including in this legislation are, in fact, less strict than the ones that then-Senator Biden supported in the 1990s. We should be helping people attain self-sufficiency as opposed to having them simply depend on the Federal Government.

That doesn't seem like a radical idea. That seems like common sense to me, and I think most Americans anyplace in the country would support it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY), who is my very good friend and a member of the Rules Committee.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I never know who I am, whether I am a rightwing MAGA extremist or a Ron DeSantis-supporting RINO. Today, where I am here on the floor is—I would just say this: ''I cannot agree to vote for a full increase in the debt without any assurance that steps will be taken . . . to reduce the alarming increase in the deficits and the debt.'' Those aren't my words. Those were Joe Biden's words in October 1984, when the debt was $1.5 trillion.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle are hiding. They want to hide behind process. What they don't want the American people to know is that this bill has been available since last Wednesday; that of the 20 debt ceiling increases since 2000, only two have gone through committee; that H.R. 1 in this bill went through regular order and passed off the floor; that the REINS Act, which is in this bill in its existing form, passed this very body on a bipartisan basis in 2017; that the spending repeals that we have in this bill are clean cuts, cutting the very things that this body with Democrat control passed with 158 proxy votes in August, calling people back and forcing some of us to have to fly back with the kind of process that we learned to expect under Speaker PELOSI.

Instead, here, what did we have last night? Yes, we had an agreement late at night. Do you know what that agreement was, Mr. Speaker? It was a recognition of the deal that had already been constructed, which was to say we are going to repeal the god-awful IRA subsidies destroying our economy, which are absolutely going to enrich a handful of corporate America, pushing their green subsidies, enriching themselves, and destroying the American economy and energy freedom.

That is what we are doing: restoring exactly what agreement had been reached that we had decided last week.

The simple fact is that the American people don't really care what my Democratic colleagues have to say because it is more of the same scare tactics.

They want to say that we are cutting spending to oblivion, yet the reality is what we are dealing with, Mr. Speaker, is if you kept the fiscal year 2023 defense level spending—last year's defense spending—and add to it the nondefense level of that MAGA extremist Barack Obama that he proposed in his last budget for fiscal year 2024, then you get exactly the $1.471 trillion level we are proposing. That is the truth.

Proposing pre-COVID nondefense level spending; proposing a defense to match China; proposing the kind of cuts the American people expect us to do in upfront first-year cuts, to cut student loans that are unfair to the plumber and making sure that they are biased toward kids who rack up debt; we are going to make sure that we are increasing our economic productivity by getting rid of the regulatory stranglehold with the regulations that are in the IRA regulations; and then we are going to make sure that we get rid of the COVID spending to $50 billion of unobligated dollars, in addition to making sure that the American people can carry out their business without constraint from government—in short, we are going to shrink Washington and grow America.

The American people are tired of the same. They want us to do our job. They are tired of CHUCK SCHUMER and President Biden doing absolutely nothing.

Republicans in the House are doing our job, and we are going to send this over to the Senate.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a report by The Balance titled: ''President Trump's Impact on the National Debt.''

[From the balance, Jan. 26, 2022]

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S IMPACT ON THE NATIONAL DEBT

(By Kimberly Amadeo)

The national debt increased by almost 36 percent during Trump's tenure.

Republican candidate Donald Trump promised during the 2016 presidential campaign that he would eliminate the nation's debt in eight years.

Instead, his budget estimates showed that he would actually add at least $8.3 trillion, increasing the U.S. debt to $28.5 trillion by 2025. But the national debt reached that figure much sooner. The national debt stood at $19.9 trillion when President Trump took office in January 2017, and it reached a high of $27 trillion in October 2020.

The national debt reached another high of $28 trillion less than two months after President Trump left office. In December 2021, Congress then increased the debt limit by $2.5 trillion, to almost $31.4 trillion, as debt rose again under President Joe Biden.

HOW DID THE NATIONAL DEBT INCREASE?

At first it seemed that Trump was lowering the debt. It fell $102 billion in the first six months after he took office. The debt was $19.9 trillion on Jan. 20, the day Trump was inaugurated. It was $19.8 trillion on July 30, thanks to the federal debt ceiling.

Trump signed a bill increasing the debt ceiling on Sept. 8, 2017. The debt exceeded $20 trillion for the first time in U.S. history later that day. Trump signed a bill on Feb. 9, 2018, suspending the debt ceiling until March 1, 2019. The total national debt was at $22 trillion by February 2019. Trump again suspended the debt ceiling in July 2019 until after the 2020 presidential election.

The debt hit a record $27 trillion on Oct. 1, 2020 before reaching further peaks in 2021 that caused Congress to act again to raise the debt limit in December.

Trump oversaw the fastest increase in the debt of any president, almost 36 percent from 2017 to 2020.

DID PRESIDENT TRUMP REDUCE THE NATIONAL DEBT?

Trump promised two strategies to reduce U.S. debt before taking office: He would increase growth by 4 percent to 6 percent, and he would eliminate wasteful federal spending.

INCREASING GROWTH

Trump promised while on the campaign trail to grow the economy by 4 percent to 6 percent annuallv to increase tax revenues. Once in office, he lowered his growth estimates to between 2 percent and 3 percent. These more realistic projections are within the 2 percent to 3 percent healthy growth rate.

President Trump also promised to achieve between 2 percent and 4 percent growth with tax cuts. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act cut the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 21 percent beginning in 2018. The top individual income tax rate dropped to 37 percent. The TCJA doubled the standard deduction and eliminated personal exemptions. The corporate cuts are permanent, but the individual changes expire at the end of 2025.

According to the Laffer curve, tax cuts only stimulate the economy enough to make up for lost revenue when the rates are above 50 percent . It worked during the Reagan administration because the highest tax rate was 70 percent at that time.

ELIMINATING WASTEFUL FEDERAL SPENDING

Trump's second strategy was to eliminate waste and redundancy in federal spending. He demonstrated this cost-consciousness during his campaign when he used his Twitter account and rallies instead of expensive television ads.

Trump was right that there is waste in federal spending. The problem isn't finding it. The problem is in cutting it. Each program has a constituency that lobbies Congress. Eliminating these benefits may lose voters and contributors. Congressional representatives may agree to cut spending in someone else's district, but they resist doing so on their own.

More than two-thirds of government spending goes to mandatory obligations made by previous acts of Congress. Social Security benefits cost $1.2 trillion in Fiscal Year 2021. Medicare cost $722 billion, and Medicaid cost $448 billion. The interest on the debt was $378 billion.

Military spending must also be cut to lower the debt because it's such a large portion of the budget. But Trump increased military spending in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 to $933 billion. That includes three components:

$636 billion base budget for the Department of Defense

$69 billion in overseas contingency operations for DoD to fight the Islamic State group

$229 billion to fund the other agencies that protect our nation, including the Department of Veterans Affairs ($105 billion), Homeland Security ($50 billion), the State Department ($44 billion), the National Nuclear Security Administration in the Department of Energy ($20 billion), and the FBI and Cybersecurity for the eDepartment of Justice ($10 billion)

Only $595 billion was left to pay for everything else budgeted for FY 2021 after mandatory and military spending. That includes agencies that process Social Security and other benefits. It also includes the necessary functions performed by the Department of Justice and the Internal Revenue Service. We'd have to eliminate it all to make a dent in the $966 billion deficit.

You can't reduce the deficit or debt without major cuts to defense and mandated benefits programs. Cutting waste isn't enough.

DID TRUMP'S BUSINESS DEBT AFFECT HIS APPROACH TO U.S. DEBT?

Trump said in an interview with CNBC during his 2016 campaign that he would ''borrow, knowing that if the economy crashed, you could make a deal.'' But sovereign debt is different from personal debt. It can't be handled the same way.

A 2016 Fortune magazine analysis revealed Trump's business was $1.11 billion in debt. That includes $846 million owed on five properties. These include Trump Tower, 40 Wall Street, and 1290 Avenue of the Americas in New York. It also includes the Trump Hotel in Washington, D.C., and 555 California Street in San Francisco. But the income generated by these properties easily pays their annual interest payment. Trump's debt is reasonable in the business world.

The U.S. debt-to-GDP ratio was 129 percent at the end of 2020. That's the $27.8 trillion U.S. debt as of December 2020, divided by the $21.5 trillion nominal GDP at the end of the second quarter this year.

The World Bank compares countries based on their total debt-to-gross domestic product ratio. It considers a country to be in trouble if that ratio is greater than 77 percent.

The high U.S. debt-to-GDP ratio didn't discourage investors. America is one of the safest economies in the world and its currency is the world's reserve currency. Investors purchase U.S. Treasurys in a flight to safety even during a U.S. economic crisis. That's one reason why interest rates plunged to historical lows in March 2020 after the coronavirus outbreak. Those falling interest rates meant that America's debt could increase, but interest payments remain stable.

The U.S. also has a massive fixed pension expense and health insurance costs. A business can renege on these benefits, ask for bankruptcy, and weather the resulting lawsuits, but a president and Congress can't cut back those costs without losing their jobs at the next election. As such, Trump's experience in handling business debt did not transfer to managing the U.S. debt.

HOW THE NATIONAL DEBT AFFECTS YOU

The national debt doesn't affect you directly until it reaches the tipping point. It slows economic growth once the debt-to-GDP ratio exceeds 77 percent, for an extended period of time. Every percentage point of debt above this level costs the country 0.017 percentage points in economic growth, according to a World Bank analysis.

The first sign of trouble is when interest rates start to rise significantly. Investors need a higher return to offset the greater perceived risk. They start to doubt that the debt can be paid off.

The second sign is that the U.S. dollar loses value. You will notice that as inflation rises, imported goods cost more. Gas and grocery prices rise. Travel to other countries also becomes much more expensive.

The cost of providing benefits and paying the interest on the debt will skyrocket as interest rates and inflation rise. That leaves less money for other services. The government will be forced to cut services or raise taxes at that point. This will further slow economic growth. Continued deficit spending will no longer work at that point.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, talk about spending. The national debt increased by almost 36 percent from 2017 to 2020 during Trump's tenure.

I say to the gentleman who just spoke—a lot of yelling here. The last time I heard that kind of tone was when he was yelling about the need to have more regular order here. I guess he has forgotten about that. Just because the gentleman yells doesn't mean he is right.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from the State of Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL).

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this rule to advance this cruel, extreme, and unworkable default on America act that will throw us into a recession, that will crash our economy, and that will throw 1.7 million women and children off of nutrition assistance and seniors off of Medicare.

It is hypocrisy for my Republican colleagues to say that they somehow suddenly care about the debt when they passed the 2017 tax scam that increased the deficit by $2 trillion. Nearly half of those tax cuts went to the top 5 percent, but now, all of a sudden, they care about debt and want to cut nutrition assistance to nearly 3 million women, children, and seniors.

Democrats cut child poverty in half, and we taxed the wealthiest billionaires and corporations to pay their fair share. We are building our economy while MAGA Republicans are threatening to throw us into chaos, and that is on the pocketbooks of regular, working Americans, who are going to suffer if we go into default, if we go into recession, and if we lose millions of jobs.

This is a bad bill. Vote ''no.''

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY), who is a distinguished member of the Rules Committee.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the rule, which provides consideration of the Limit, Save, Grow Act. It is a bill that is critical to our country's economic future.

President Biden characterized the Limit, Save, Grow Act as ''irresponsible,'' that this commonsense legislation was really asking hardworking Americans, seniors, and children to shoulder an enormous new burden. The only thing irresponsible would be to do nothing.

If we want to talk about a burden on the backs of hardworking Americans, then let's actually talk about it. Let's dig into it.

Let's talk about how folks in my home State of New York had to pay as much as 40 percent more this winter just to heat their homes while the Biden administration halted new pipeline construction and new exploration, and they brought the approval of new oil and gas infrastructure to a standstill.

Let's talk about how seniors in rural communities across my district living on fixed incomes can now afford less in an inflation-ridden economy where the basic cost of goods and groceries has exploded and crushed their budgets.

Let's talk about the $80 billion for the IRS to supply an army of new bureaucrats ready to rain down audit after audit onto middle-class families and small, mom-and-pop business owners.

These are the burdens shouldered by the American people for the trillions of dollars in spending that Democrats have foisted onto their backs and onto the backs of our children and grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, if we care about the future that we would like to leave our children and grandchildren, a future that isn't crushed by debt, inflation, and paying the price for today's excesses, then we should have no problem in supporting this critical step forward.

I strongly support the Limit, Save, Grow Act, a bill that saves hardworking Americans from continuing to shoulder the burden of Democrats' destructive spending policies.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to debunk this talking point that I hear over and over again from my friends. I just heard it right now when we were talking about spending.

Let's remember a couple of things.

First, when Donald Trump was in charge, $8 trillion was added to the national debt. That is a 39-percent increase. It is one-quarter of the entire debt from all of American history. So, please, give me a break.

Second, let's be clear: Inflation is a global problem. Mr. Speaker, if you think that the American Rescue Plan drove up prices in Italy or the U.K., then I have news for you. If you think emergency rescue checks are responsible for inflation in Brazil and Australia, maybe you got your economics

degree from Trump University. That is not how things work. Don't take my word for it. Look at the numbers. Actually, look at the research.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from the Social Security Administration, which states that Republican spending cuts would eliminate field offices, drive up wait times for initial disability and retirement claims processing, lengthen phone wait times, and create backlogs across the board.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION,
THE COMMISSIONER,
Baltimore, MD, March 17, 2023.

Hon. ROSA L. DELAURO,
Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR RANKING MEMBER DELAURO: Thank you for your January 19, 2023 letter asking for information to help Members of Congress understand the impacts of capping fiscal year (FY) 2024 discretionary spending at the FY 2022 enacted level, which would be approximately a six percent cut from our FY 2023 enacted funding. Returning SSA to the FY 2022 funding level or, more drastically, cutting funds by 22 percent from the 2023 enacted level, would greatly harm our ability to serve the public as we are already struggling to recover from the effects of the pandemic.

We are actively using the funding increase we received in FY 2023 to support our hiring efforts to increase staffing as we work to restore sufficient staffing from our lowest staffing levels in over 25 years, particularly in our field offices, teleservice centers, processing centers, and State disability determination services (DDS). Hiring new staff is necessary to improve major workload challenges that affect the public we serve, including people waiting far too long for a disability decision. Funding cuts of the magnitude described above would take us backwards and hurt our customers.

If we return to FY 2022 funding levels in FY 2024, we would:

Close field offices and shorten hours we are open to the public, cutting off vital access to face-to-face service delivery.

Increase the amount of time individuals wait for a decision on their initial disability claim, leading to an average wait time of 9 months, or up to 30 percent longer than today.

Implement a hiring freeze for the agency and the DDS, which means a reduction of over 5,000 employees who are essential to processing retirement claims, making disability decisions, answering the National 800 Number, and issuing new and replacement Social Security cards.

Furlough staff for over 4 weeks and lay off approximately 6,000 employees—producing even longer wait times than customers experience today on our National 800 Number and in our field offices, causing delays to decisions on retirement claims and delays in processing Social Security cards and verification of Social Security Numbers for individuals seeking employment.

Eliminate overtime pay, reducing our ability to keep pace with claims and other service requests.

As noted above, a cut to FY 2022 levels (a six percent cut below current funding) would significantly affect our ability to serve the public and undermine our core mission—producing longer wait times for benefits and to reach SSA representatives, as well as reduced access to in-person service.

Congress expressed an expectation for continued modernization of our IT by providing dedicated funding for this purpose. A six percent reduction would support IT funding only for basic operational requirements and would halt our efforts to improve the customer experience, expand our online services, and enhance our systems to improve employee efficiency. We would have to drastically cut IT at a time when we need it to help mitigate other cuts like office hour reductions, a hiring freeze, and layoffs.

The impacts would be even more significant with deeper cuts. If we are faced with a cut of more than six percent, it would be catastrophic for the agency and for the people depending on Social Security programs supporting their daily needs. For every $100 million below the 6 percent reduction, we would have to lay off an additional 1,000 people, further undermining services to the public. Every 1,000 staff lay off is the equivalent of closing over 40 field offices.

Cuts on this scale would dramatically undermine our ability to function effectively. It would cut in-person access to our field offices, drive up wait times for initial disability and retirement claims processing, lengthen phone wait times, prohibit development of online tools to compensate for the difficulties to reach us by phone and in-person, and create backlogs across the board. It would take years to recover and restore services to levels the public expects.

Millions of Americans depend on Social Security programs to provide income support essential to meeting daily needs, and significant budget cuts prohibit us from providing people with access to vital support. The payments and benefits our programs provide are integral to the economic fabric of our Nation. We appreciate the opportunity to explain the harm a return to FY 2022 funding levels or less would cause for the public we serve, as well as our employees.

Sincerely,
KILOLO KIJAKAZI, PH.D., M.S.W.,
Acting Commissioner.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Republicans are trying to make it harder for seniors to access the benefits that they have earned.

Mr. Speaker, I urge that we defeat the previous question. If we do, then I will offer an amendment to the rule to provide for consideration of a resolution that allows the House to state unequivocally that it is our responsibility to defend and preserve Social Security and Medicare for generations to come and reject any cuts to these vital programs.

By the way, these two programs have come under attack by Republican after Republican.

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. STANSBURY).

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a fierce defender from New Mexico to support this amendment to defend our Social Security and our Medicare.

As our colleagues across the aisle are trying to gut Social Security and Medicare, Democrats are looking for long-term solutions not only to expand these lifesaving programs but to ensure that they are solvent for generations to come.

These programs are lifelines for people in New Mexico. In fact, in New Mexico, we have the highest share of individuals who are on Medicaid by population in the country. That is 873,000 New Mexicans who depend on Medicaid. Our children in New Mexico depend on Medicaid. Over half of our children are on Medicaid.

These programs save lives.

I ask my colleagues: What kind of cruel ransom note are they putting forward that would gut these programs, that would gut programs that feed our children, and that would gut our environmental programs in the name of raising our debt ceiling?

Mr. Speaker, I ask: What is it that we are actually trying to do here today?

That is why I oppose the underlying bill that we are debating today and why I support this amendment.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to defeat the previous question and to return to the work of the people who elected us.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for a couple of points.

Mr. Speaker, my friend is concerned about the Social Security Act. We have a bill on that, a bill very similar to what President Biden himself voted for when he was in the United States Senate, both the creation of a commission and its final results. I invite my friend to look at it. Perhaps he would join it, and it would be inherently bipartisan.

My friend made the point that inflation is a global phenomenon. I agree. It absolutely is.

Mr. Speaker, if you screw up the greatest economy in the world, then it has global consequences. That is exactly what my friends did.

Don't take my word for it. They were warned by Larry Summers, the Secretary of the Treasury for Bill Clinton, a distinguished economist. They were warned by Steve Rattner, who managed the auto industry under President Obama. They were warned by Jason Furman, who was the Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers to President Biden.

If my friends pass something as large as the American Rescue Plan, then we are going to have inflation within a year. We did.

If my friends would listen to their own economists, then we could have avoided this, and we might not have had to take the drastic action we are today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. VAN ORDEN).

□ 1245

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Mr. Speaker, my favorite part of this building is not the rotunda or Statuary Hall or even this Chamber. It is a simple quote painted above a door downstairs. It is, ''When tillage begins, other arts follow. The farmers, therefore, are the founders of human civilization.'' It was written by

Daniel Webster in 1840. It is just simply time for some more truth-telling.

It is disingenuous to say publicly that we are ''all of the above'' for American energy if we do not embrace biofuels.

Simultaneously, it is disingenuous to set policy that de facto abolishes petrochemicals and yet admits that we will be dependent on them for at least another decade. Both positions have been made in this Chamber.

I find this to be either duplicitous or foolish, and I choose to be neither.

Our first President, who overlooks this body, was clear about public policy and agriculture. ''It will not be doubted . . . agriculture is of primary importance. In proportion as nations advance in population and other circumstances of maturity this truth becomes more apparent, and renders the cultivation of the soil more and more an object of public patronage.''

This was written 9 years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and when Washington says ''more and more'' he acknowledges that agriculture has always been an object of public patronage and must always be.

The initial writing of this bill did not acknowledge that. It did not stand with the farmers, and I will always stand with our farmers.

Early this morning, our Conference made great strides in recognizing our farmers by including elements of my amendment that protect our corn growers and biofuel industries.

With that said, if this final bill as returned from the Senate includes further provisions that do not show the proper respect for our farmers, our national security, or the future of nuclear energy, I will not vote for its passage. There will be no further negotiations from my office.

To be clear, I voted for KEVIN MCCARTHY for Speaker because I believed that he was the person called at this moment to lead this Conference and this body, and I don't feel that my 15 votes were in error. I have full confidence that he will take the opportunity to keep his word to this body and to the American people, and this confidence was earned by his willingness to remove several devastating provisions from this bill.

I remind my friends, as Members of this body, we did not take an oath to the Republican Party or the Democratic Party, we didn't take an oath to the President. We all took the same oath to the Constitution. With this oath came a responsibility to the people that we represent.

In reference to this current discussion on the debt ceiling, our first President articulated this in a manner that for such a young country can only be described as timeless: ''No pecuniary consideration is more urgent than the regular redemption and discharge of the public debt. On none can delay be more injurious or an economy of time more valuable.''

By President Biden refusing to negotiate with this body, he is adding to a growing train of usurpations of the constitutional authority vested in us by the people that sent us here to represent them. This is no more appropriate now than it was when Thomas Jefferson wrote it.

It is our obligation to get Speaker MCCARTHY to the table. It is Speaker MCCARTHY's burden to get the President to a place that can both meet our collective obligations articulated by George Washington and to secure the future for both our progenitors and our progeny.

I will support this bill. I will vote in favor of it, and I encourage all my colleagues to join me in doing so.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I am a little confused after the last speech.

Mr. Speaker, with the way the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE), my friend, has been talking, you might think that President Biden caused inflation all on his own. That is just simply not the case, and everybody here knows that.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an article from the nonpartisan, nonprofit Economic Policy Institute titled: ''Rising Inflation is a Global Problem, U.S. Policy Choices Are Not to Blame.''

[From the Economic Policy Institute, Aug. 4, 2022]

RISING INFLATION IS A GLOBAL PROBLEM. U.S. POLICY CHOICES ARE NOT TO BLAME

(By Josh Bivens, Asha Banerjee, And Mariia Dzholos)

KEY TAKEAWAYS

An international comparison among OECD countries shows that rising inflation is a global phenomenon, not unique to the United States.

This fact argues strongly that high inflation in the U.S. has not been driven by any unique American policy—not the American Rescue Plan and other generous fiscal relief during the pandemic recession and recovery nor anything else U.S.-centric.

Some have argued that the global rise of inflation means that many countries—including the U.S.—overstimulated their economies and generated excess aggregate demand. But this explanation is not supported by the data. The countries with larger declines in unemployment over the past 18 months have not seen larger inflation spikes.

Consumer price data for June 2022 showed another month of rapid inflation, with overall inflation rising 9.1 percent year-over-year and core inflation (which doesn't include volatile energy and food prices) rising by 5.9 percent. This level of inflation has obviously become a major political issue this year. But however this issue resonates politically, as an economic matter a common narrative that blames the Biden administration and its policy choices for causing the inflation is deeply misleading.

This is not simply a case for exonerating the Biden administration's choices—how the recent inflationary outbreak is interpreted will have huge consequences for how policymakers respond. A loud chorus of economic analysts and influential policymakers continue highlighting the need for the Federal Reserve to continue raising interest rates sharply to slow growth to ''rein in'' inflation. This approach risks terrible consequences and threatens to cast aside the amazing policy achievement of a full jobs recovery from the pandemic recession. In the COVID–19 recession, the economy lost over 22 million jobs. But by June 2022 (after 28 months), the level of employment in the U.S. matched the last month pre-pandemic (February 2020). Compare this with job growth after the Great Recession of 2008–09, when it took more than six years (75 months) to regain the just under 9 million jobs lost and match pre-recession employment levels. The far faster recovery from the COVID–19 recession was significantly driven by a much more aggressive fiscal policy response.

This more aggressive fiscal response is often blamed for the inflation outbreak over the past 18 months. The most persuasive evidence casting doubt on this interpretation is a comparison of inflation between the U.S. and a large set of other rich countries that undertook a wide array of fiscal responses. Despite the different fiscal responses, essentially all of these countries have experienced a rapid acceleration of core inflation. This means that today's inflation is not a uniquely U.S. problem, and therefore not connected to the necessary and effective economic policies that spearheaded the rapid economic recovery we see today.

In Figure A, we focus on core inflation (stripping out the prices of energy and food) because that is widely considered a better target for basing decisions about macroeconomic stabilization. Energy and food prices are not just volatile, they are also set on global markets, meaning that their price changes carry very little information about whether the U.S. economy specifically is currently experiencing macroeconomic imbalances. It's also useful to highlight core inflation because much commentary has claimed that inflation in other advanced economies is overwhelmingly about energy and food prices, and far less about core prices. This claim is not supported by the data in Figure A.

As Figure A shows, all but one Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) country saw an acceleration in core inflation. More significantly, this international comparison tells us that the U.S. is not an outlier in its experience with accelerating core inflation (the one obvious outlier in this data—Turkey—is currently experiencing inflation over 40 percent and is not included in the figure). The U.S. is on the higher side of inflation experiences, but far from the top and not that far above the average (or even the median) for all other OECD countries. The upshot of the figure is clear: A global phenomenon—accelerating inflation—demands a global explanation, and ''Biden policies'' obviously do not provide that.

Some have argued that the global rise in inflation is actually just evidence that the excess demand growth they see as driving inflation is also global. Of course, even this perspective provides some small bit of exoneration for American policymakers: if every advanced country in the entire world made similar policy decisions, then it seems hard to argue that the American approach was an avoidable mistake. But, another cut at the international data casts doubt on a simple story of macroeconomic imbalances driving the global inflation surge. Specifically, countries with larger declines in unemployment over the past 18 months have not seen larger inflation spikes.

In Figure B below, the vertical axis is the acceleration of core inflation relative to prepandemic trend that we showed previously in Figure A. On the horizontal axis, we subtract the average unemployment rate of March–May 2022 from the average unemployment rate that prevailed in 2018–2019. This can be taken as an indicator of how much unemployment has improved in a country in the

recent period relative to pre-pandemic conditions. The higher the number on the horizontal axis, the lower is current unemployment relative to pre-pandemic averages. If one interprets unemployment that is lower today than pre-pandemic times as evidence of strong demand growth, one would expect to see a positive relationship between the improvement in unemployment (horizontal axis) and the acceleration of inflation (vertical axis). But there is no such significant relationship (in fact, there is a weak relationship the other way, with countries with higher unemployment relative to pre-pandemic times seeing higher inflation).

This finding should further complicate the claim that the ''macroeconomic overheating'' argument should simply be applied globally. And if there is not strong evidence that today's global inflation is simply driven by excess global demand, the payoff to strongly reining in demand could be quite small, and the damage caused by this quite large.

Rather than the specific policies of the Biden administration driving inflation, the roots of today's inflation are a more complicated cocktail of other forces: from the spike in raw material, energy, and commodities prices due in large part to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, to lingering supply chain disruptions and distorted consumer demand patterns stemming from the pandemic. These shocks and their unexpectedly large ripple effects are the global explanation for rising inflation.

Again, this is not an academic exercise or simply providing political cover for any particular policymaker. Instead, there is real economic danger from misdiagnosing the inflation problem. An engineered, unnecessary recession will only cause more economic pain to those still just recovering from the COVID–19 recession, and will undercut the strong economic recovery underway.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an article by Mark Zandi of Moody's Analytics which states that Speaker MCCARTHY's radical cuts would meaningfully increase the likelihood of a recession and result in 780,000 fewer jobs by the end of 2024 compared with a clean bill to avoid a default.

[From Moody's Analytics]

THE DEBT LIMIT DRAMA HEATS UP

(By Mark Zandi and Bernard Yaros)

The political drama over the Treasury debt limit is suddenly heating up. With April tax receipts coming in weaker than expected, at least so far, it appears that the X-date, when the Treasury will run out of the cash needed to pay the government's bills on time, may hit as soon as early June. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy's recent unveiling of proposed legislation to increase the limit is thus none too soon. In exchange for increasing the debt limit just enough so that it will not be a problem again until about this time next year, the Speaker wants to significantly cut discretionary spending over the next decade, impose stricter work requirements on healthcare, food and other assistance for low-income households, and roll back much of the Biden's administration's agenda on climate change and student lending. In this note, we assess the macroeconomic consequences of the Speaker's debt limit legislation.

THE X-DATE

The Treasury debt limit—the maximum amount of debt that the Treasury can issue to the public or to other federal agencies—was hit on January 19, and since then the Treasury has been using ''extraordinary measures'' to come up with the additional cash needed to pay the government's bills. Nailing down precisely when these extraordinary measures will be exhausted, and Treasury will run out of cash and thus be unable to pay everyone on time—the so-called X-date—is difficult. It depends on the timing of highly uncertain tax receipts and government expenditures.

Since Moody's Analytics began estimating the X-date early this year, we have thought it to be in mid-August. But April tax receipts are running 35 percent below last year's pace, which is meaningfully weaker than anticipated. And despite weaker tax refunds than anticipated, it appears that the X-date may come as soon as early June. If not, and Treasury is able to squeak by with enough cash, then the X-date looks more likely to be in late July. That is because Treasury will get a cash infusion from nonwithheld tax payments around the June 15 estimated tax deadline, and then another tranche of extraordinary measures will become available, providing Treasury with a few more weeks of cash.

INVESTORS TAKE NOTICE

Regardless, time is running out for lawmakers to act and increase or suspend the debt limit, and global investors are suddenly focusing on the risks posed if they do not act in time. Credit default swaps on Treasury securities—the cost of buying insurance in case Treasury fails to pay its debt on time—have jumped in recent weeks. At close to 100 basis points, CDS spreads on six-month and one-year Treasury securities are already substantially more than in 2011 when that debt limit drama was so unnerving it caused rating agency Standard & Poor's to strip the U.S. of its AAA rating.

This may overstate investors' angst as the CDS market for buying insurance in the case of a Treasury default is not actively traded, and it does not take much trading to push up the cost of insurance. A few hedge funds speculating on the CDS could drive up the cost since they are purchasing something akin to a lottery ticket. Moreover, the current spread remains far from signaling that investors are attaching much of a probability on a default. For context, during the European debt crisis in 2011, the CDS spread on the sovereign debt of stressed countries in the periphery of the euro zone, including Greece, topped out at 1,400 basis points. Even the CDS for core euro zone countries such as Germany and France were more than 200 basis points at the time.

That said, the run up in Treasury CDS should not be dismissed out of hand. The recent sharp decline in one-month Treasury bill yields also signals mounting investor angst. As it has become clear in recent days that April tax receipts were coming in weak and the X-date may be just a few weeks away, investors have piled into the safety of one-month Treasury securities. Yields have plummeted, from 4.75 percent at the start of April to less than 3.4 percent currently. At the same time, yields on three-month Treasury bills have continued to rise. The difference between one- and three-month Treasury bill yields has never been as wide. Global investors thus appear to be attaching nonzero odds that the debt limit drama will end with a default sometime in June or July.

HOUSE REPUBLICAN PROPOSAL

It is thus none too soon that House Speaker McCarthy unveiled the ''Limit, Save, Grow Act of 2023'' on April 19. House Republicans hope the legislation will put political pressure on President Biden to negotiate changes in fiscal policy in exchange for an increase in the debt limit. The president continues to reject these efforts, arguing for a so-called clean debt limit increase—an increase in the debt limit without substantive changes to policy. His position is that increasing the debt limit is necessary to pay the government's bills resulting from past fiscal policy decisions, over which there can be no negotiation.

Speaker McCarthy's proposed legislation would increase the debt limit by $1.5 trillion or until March 31, 2024, whichever comes first. In exchange, it would cut government spending by $4.5 trillion over the next decade and implement a number of consequential changes to fiscal policy. The most significant spending cuts would come by setting fiscal 2024 discretionary spending equal to fiscal 2022 spending levels. Annual spending growth would then be capped at 1 percent for the next decade. While not stipulated in the legislation, Republicans would likely work to exclude discretionary spending on defense and veterans' benefits from the cuts, putting the burden of the cuts on nondefense, non-VA discretionary programs. If nondefense discretionary outlays were to bear the full brunt of the proposed budget cuts, they would fall to 2 percent of GDP by fiscal 2033, the lowest since at least the early 1960s.

The Speaker's debt limit legislation also works to roll back a number of President Biden's policy initiatives. On energy policy, the legislation would focus on increasing fossil fuel supplies through the enactment of House Republicans' energy package, which aims to boost oil and gas production and mining by cutting down on the time it takes to greenlight energy projects. It would also end tax breaks for clean-energy projects and qualifying electric vehicles included in the Inflation Reduction Act.

On student lending, the legislation would prevent a couple of key executive orders by the Biden administration, including the White House's plan to provide up to $20,000 in student loan forgiveness for some borrowers. That hit a roadblock last year when it was met with several legal challenges, and the Supreme Court is expected to decide its fate later this year. An income-driven repayment plan rolled out by the Education Department earlier this year is also in the crosshairs.

The Speaker's legislation also imposes restrictions on income support programs, including work requirements on Medicaid recipients who do not have children, an increase in the age limit for work rules under Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (food assistance), and a requirement that states report on work outcomes under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program. It eliminates much of the additional funding provided to the IRS last year to help increase tax enforcement efforts and improve taxpayer services, and it rescinds unspent COVID–19 relief funds. And the legislation would also require congressional approval before major regulations could take effect.

MACROECONOMIC IMPACTS

The Limit, Save, Grow Act of 2023 would cut into near-term economic growth if passed into law. Compared with a scenario that includes a clean debt limit increase and no other significant changes to fiscal policy under current law, real GDP in the year ending in the fourth quarter of 2024 would be 0.65 percentage point lower. That is, in the Clean Debt Limit scenario, real GDP is expected to grow 2.25 percent in the year compared with 1.6 percent if Speaker McCarthy's legislation becomes law.

While the economy skirts recession in both scenarios, recession risks are uncomfortably high, with a consensus of economists and many investors and business executives expecting a downturn beginning late this year or early next. The timing of the government spending cuts in the Limit, Save, Grow Act

is thus especially inopportune as it would meaningfully increase the likelihood of such a downturn. Indeed, under the legislation, GDP growth is so weak that employment declines in the first three quarter of 2024, and the unemployment rate rises by more than a percentage point to 4.6 percent by the fourth quarter of 2024. Compared with the Clean Debt Limit scenario, by year-end 2024, employment is 780,000 jobs lower, and the unemployment rate is 0.36 percentage point higher.

The significant government spending cuts in the Limit, Save, Grow Act are substantial headwinds to near-term economic growth. The cuts reduce nondefense outlays by $120 billion in fiscal 2024 compared with the Clean Debt Limit scenario, equal to about half a percentage point of GDP. The multipliers on this spending—the change in GDP a year after a change in spending—are estimated to be just over 1, as the programs suffering budget cuts are essential government services and tend to benefit lower-income households that quickly spend any support they receive from the government. Adding to the economic headwinds created by the legislation is the considerable uncertainty created by having to address the debt limit again a year from now. Given that 2024 is a presidential election year, that future debt limit drama may well be even more heated than the current one. This is sure to weigh on investor, business and consumer confidence and thus economic activity.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DELUZIO).

Mr. DELUZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule to advance this bill. I am opposed to the bill.

This bill includes massive cuts to veterans' care, 30 million fewer medical visits for my fellow veterans. We are going to see my fellow veterans wait longer to have their claims heard. They are going to see telehealth get worse, mental health services get worse, and homelessness issues get worse. This bill is a betrayal of the obligation this country has to everyone who served.

I have seen my fellow veterans used as props on folks' websites and in their ads, people wrap themselves in the flag.

Guess what? You don't get to claim you are here for veterans, standing up for veterans when you cut their care. That is what this bill does. It is a disgrace. Everyone in the country ought to know it. We ought to vote it down.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself quickly such time as I may consume just to correct my friend. I did not blame all inflation on President Biden. He had a lot of help. He had a Democratic House and a Democratic Senate that worked with him to get there, so he certainly didn't do it on his own.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK), my very good friend, and a distinguished member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, for the first time in my 15 years in Congress, I will vote for a debt limit increase because for the first time we have a bill that is serious about controlling the reckless spending that is destroying America's productivity and its prosperity—$4.8 trillion in savings.

How could anyone who cares about the debt not vote for this measure?

The debt limit is there for a reason. If your family is living beyond its means and needs to raise its credit limit, it better sit down around the kitchen table and have a serious discussion over the circumstances that have gotten it into this mess and what steps it needs to take to get out. The debt limit is there to assure that we have exactly that discussion as a Nation.

Now, the President and the Democrats across the aisle say they are not willing to engage in that discussion. Well, to coin a phrase, ''Come on, man.''

When Bill Clinton lost the House in 1994, he reached across the aisle to work with House Republicans. Together, a Democratic President and a Republican House accomplished wonderful things. They reformed the welfare system, as this bill does; they cut spending as a percentage of GDP; they produced the biggest capital gains tax cut in history; but most importantly, they balanced four budgets in a row and produced one of the greatest economic expansions in our Nation's history.

By the way, Clinton was reelected.

Americans are soon going to ask themselves, are we better off than we were 4 years ago?

Mr. Biden is going to need a better answer than doubling down on policies that two-thirds of Americans are desperately trying to tell him have put our country on the wrong track, and that answer is right here before us today.

Mr. Speaker, I beg the Democrats to join us to set our Nation's finances in order.

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

Mr. Speaker, I say to the gentleman, extortion is not a negotiation. President Biden actually has a budget that will reduce the deficit. It would be better if the Republicans actually came up with a budget, and we could talk about that. We are willing to have a conversation, but we are not willing to be extorted here.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt about the fact that this bill could monumentally hurt our Nation's heroes.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from the Paralyzed Veterans of America and a letter from the Veterans of Foreign Wars in opposition to this bill.

[From the Paralyzed Veterans of America, Apr. 25, 2023]

CONGRESS, PROTECT ALL SERVICES AND PROGRAMS NEEDED BY PARALYZED VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Today, Paralyzed Veterans of America Executive Director Carl Blake issued a statement in light of the House' consideration later today of the debt limit package (Limit, Save, Grow Act of 2023).

''Right now the House of Representatives is preparing to take action on legislation that would couple raising the debt limit with significant cuts in federal spending. PVA has received assurances from some Republican leaders that veterans' funding will not be a target of these cuts, and we appreciate these assurances! But the pending legislation provides no specific protections for veterans with catastrophic disabilities, specifically the services and supports they and their families depend on. Efforts to address the federal deficit must provide concrete protections for veterans, their families, and caregivers, which means explicit direction that the Department of Veterans Affairs' budget will not suffer significant cuts.

Although ensuring the VA will have the funding needed to meet its fiscal year 2024 needs is our foremost concern, we urge Congress to remember that veterans with significant disabilities depend upon many other Federal services and supports outside of the VA that protect their disability civil rights, employment support, affordable accessible housing, as well as provide benefits that help their families and caregivers. Our responsibility as a nation is to ensure that those who have already sacrificed so much for our way of life are not forced to do so again.''

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS,
April 25, 2023.

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

DEAR SPEAKER MCCARTHY: On behalf of the 1.5 million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliary, a significant number of whom rely on U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care and benefits, we write to express our grave concerns with the proposed reports of returning to Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) funding levels for the federal government and its potential effects on veterans programs. Congress has championed monumental advancements in veteran care and benefits in the past few years and we believe we need to continue pushing forward instead of taking steps backward in serving our veterans.

Plainly stated, the Honoring our PACT Act of 2022 did not exist when funding levels were set for FY 2022. The VFW is gravely concerned the Limit, Save, Grow Act of 2023 missed the mark by not protecting the advances in care and benefits for toxic-exposed veterans. This could set our collective hard work back years and make veterans once again have to fight for the care and benefits they have earned.

Through PACT Act reforms, we believe we are on the cusp of resolving many issues that have plagued VA for decades, thanks to the years of hard work from veteran advocates around the country, as well as our faithful supporters in the past few Congresses and across multiple Presidential Administrations. Military Toxic Exposure claim denials, VA processing backlogs, hiring delays, and unacceptable appointment wait times will hopefully be a thing of the past, and we will once again be able to point to VA as a world-class provider of healthcare and benefits. These advancements will fade away if they are not resourced properly, which is why the VFW believes returning funding levels to FY22 would likely jeopardize the care and benefits our nation's veterans have earned.

Bills aiming to return the budget to FY22 funding levels, without explicitly securing care and benefit programs for veterans are intolerable to our organization. The service members, veterans, and families we represent have seen the true cost of more than 20 years of war, and it is unacceptable to ask them to now pay the bill.

Mr. Speaker, the VFW understands your goal of fiscal responsibility, but we respectfully ask that in the context of Limit, Save,

Grow, that you provide explicit assurances on how Congress will continue to properly invest in VA programming—specifically, the reforms authorized through the PACT Act. The members of the VFW and our Auxiliary hope you will continue to honor the promise made to the men and women who served our country by reinforcing your long-standing support of those who stood in harm's way. Returning VA to FY22 funding levels will negatively affect millions of Americans across the country and we look forward to working with you to make sure this does not happen.

Sincerely,

RYAN M. GALLUCCI,
Executive Director, VFW Washington Office.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, it is clear our veterans are against this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON), a distinguished member of the Rules Committee.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the rule and the underlying bill.

This bill makes good on Speaker McCarthy's threat to hold the economy hostage. Several of my colleagues have spoken about the draconian cuts that this bill would make to our social safety net, to services for vulnerable veterans, seniors, families, and children, but it also jeopardizes critical investments that were just enacted as part of the historic and long-overdue climate rescue measures that were included in the Inflation Reduction Act, and those cuts have received less attention.

If you didn't know that this bill gutted billions of dollars of environmental measures, you are not alone. Those cuts were made in a deal the Speaker negotiated with the extremists who control his Conference sometime after midnight last night, around 2 a.m. this morning. I am not surprised that they are trying to sneak this provision into a bill that they are ramming through the House with no hearings.

The Speaker and his far-right allies argue that Federal spending poses the most significant threat to our country while blocking legislation to address gun violence, healthcare concerns, and other pressing concerns for all of our constituents, but climate change is an actual existential threat to our children and to all future generations.

I know the Republican Party isn't fond of looking at the science, but without intervention, the facts are clear: Our children will be forced to face more frequent climate disasters, new and devastating health threats, and untold economic loss. The extremist bill before us dismantles the clean energy climate rescue programs that we passed in the IRA that are essential for our children to thrive.

This bill eliminates a billion dollars to promote energy efficient construction, $5 billion for loans to back energy infrastructure projects, $1.9 billion to improve access to public transportation in low-income neighborhoods, and $5 billion to reduce climate pollution in addition to gutting environmental review protections.

Mr. Speaker, I am appalled that the Republican Party would so carelessly leverage our children's future, health, and safety to satisfy political extremists. I am disturbed by the shadowy process used to put this bill together.

I encourage all of my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this rule and the underlying bill.

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

Madam Speaker, in response to my friend's statement, we are certainly not trying to extort anything from anyone. Quite frankly, it is my Democratic friends who are trying to extract something from us that they can't get for themselves. If you believe a clean debt ceiling is the way to go, pass one in a Democratic Senate. You can't do it. The reality is there has to be a negotiation here. What we have said is: Hey, we are in good faith extending the debt ceiling; we are doing it in this bill. We have a lot of Members who have never voted to do that, who are actually doing it.

Here is our opening position in the negotiation. What is yours? We haven't heard that. It is just simply, well, give us what we want and pass the President's budget. If they genuinely want to talk, we are giving them the opportunity to actually do that.

I remind my friend, we look forward to discussion, but the first step is to raise the debt ceiling. That is what we are going to do here, then we will see what the Democrats do in the United States Senate in response. Then we can all go to conference and talk this thing out and hopefully come to a bipartisan solution.

The hysterics and theatrics might make good print. That is not the reality of the process here. We are operating within the spirit of the process. We hope our friends do the same.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ), a distinguished member of the Rules Committee.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, I left the Capitol at 3 a.m. this morning, after fighting Republicans' plans to default on America unless we impose drastic spending cuts, cuts that are so severe they will hurt farmers and ranchers, kids and families, and this beautiful place we call home. Nobody in any State will be protected from their draconian cuts.

When I asked how to explain the bill's drastic cuts to rural communities in my district, the Republicans' response was, ''You should tell them that we have to prioritize.''

The Rules Committee Republicans then blocked my amendment to protect rural water, housing, and business development programs. In essence, they said to rural America, you are not a priority.

The Republicans blocked my amendment to protect veterans' healthcare, the Indian Health Service, and clean energy investments. Veterans are clearly not their priority. Healthcare is clearly not their priority. Addressing the climate crisis that is fueling disasters across America, across the United States, and across this planet is clearly not their priority.

Do you like knowing your food is safe?

The Republicans' bill could cut 1,800 USDA food inspectors and cost our farmers, ranchers, and restaurants $89 billion in lost production and $2.2 billion in lost wages.

The majority blocked my amendment to protect the Food Safety and Inspection Service from cuts.

When Republicans now demand we cut spending on healthcare, safety, and housing, what is it for?

To pay for the tax cuts for the rich that they pushed through in 2017. Protecting the rich and the wealthy tax cheats clearly must be their priority.

□ 1300

Through backroom dealings, the Republican majority has now settled on a bill that backstabs working families. Their bill delivers poison, not prosperity.

Congress must not default on America. America pays its bills. America knows how to prioritize what is essential for our prosperity.

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

Madam Speaker, I think if you happen to be listening to the debate, you might get confused. It is as if we are going to impose our will on somebody.

The reality is the Democrats control the United States Senate. The Democratic President of the United States has a veto that he can sustain in either Chamber.

What we are saying is let's sit down and talk things through, and here is our opening position. That is all that is going on here.

We are not in a position here to do what my friends did last time, and that is both what they regret losing and fear might someday come to pass.

The last time my friends didn't have to negotiate 2 years ago, what did they do? An explosion of spending that generated the worst inflation in modern American history; the worst inflation in over 40 years.

Looking around this Chamber, I think I am probably the only one here old enough to remember it.

The reality is they took a crisis that was ending and used it to justify $1.9 trillion worth of spending that many of their own economists warned them would lead to inflation. They jammed it through without a single vote.

The next year, they called something an Inflation Reduction Act that we all know was a climate bill. They crammed through another $500 billion worth of spending.

That doesn't even include plussing up the regular discretionary accounts of the United States. My friends own the inflation that has impoverished every single American.

Every American family is worse off, not better off, given the economic stewardship of this administration and, frankly, the Democratic Congress.

We look forward to the debate. We look forward to something my friends aren't used to doing, that is actually negotiating, and that is what we are talking about.

We are going to extend the debt limit, just as we said we would. Here is our negotiation. Here are our ideas where we can save money. Do you have any ideas where we can save money?

Let's talk about that because you can't get what you want. You can't pass through a Democratic Senate a clean debt bill.

If you can't do it there, you are certainly not going to do it here, so let's begin the discussion sooner rather than later.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, my good friend from Oklahoma said that we are engaged in theatrics. Well, let me put that to rest. I mean, we are dealing with real numbers.

Last night in the Rules Committee, I asked the chairman of Ways and Means and the chairman of the Budget Committee some basic questions about the SNAP program. They had no clue.

People who don't have a clue shouldn't be writing legislation to determine policy. They should do the hearings and learn about what the facts are.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following:

A letter from the Department of Energy, which states that reductions of this magnitude in this bill would have significant setbacks on U.S. competitiveness to adversarial nations like Russia and China;

A letter from the Department of Labor which states that these cuts in this bill would prevent more than 4,000 veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness from receiving critical employment care;

A letter from the Department of Education, which states that under these radical cuts, funding for more than 100,000 teaching jobs nationwide would be eliminated, and it would reduce aid for more than 6.6 million Pell Grant recipients;

A letter from the Small Business Administration, which states that Republican spending cuts would mean that almost 300,000 fewer small businesses would be able to participate in their entrepreneurial development program;

A letter from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which states that 286,000 families will lose rental assistance under the Republicans' proposed budget cuts and thousands more would be at risk for homelessness;

A letter from the Department of Homeland Security, which states that the proposed cuts could lead to more illegal drugs entering our country, including 350,000 grams of fentanyl. That is over 200 million fatal doses of fentanyl that Republicans will be responsible for letting into our country.

Madam Speaker, I also include in the RECORD a letter from the Department of Agriculture detailing how these radical Republican budget cuts would lead to more than a million new mothers losing WIC assistance.

THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY,
Washington, DC, March 17, 2023.

Hon. ROSA L. DELAURO,
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DELAURO: I share the concern expressed in your letter dated January 19, 2023, about potential impacts of proposals that would cap fiscal year (FY) 2024 discretionary spending at the FY 2022 enacted levels. While Congressional Republicans have not released a specific plan, cuts on this scale would have very real and damaging impacts on our families, our communities, our economy, and our competitiveness—undermining a broad range of critical services the American people rely on in their everyday lives.

President Biden's FY 2024 Budget, which he released on March 9, details his plans to invest in America, continue to lower costs for families, protect and strengthen Social Security and Medicare, and reduce the deficit. Meanwhile, Congressional Republicans have reportedly proposed unprecedented cuts in FY 2024 funding for key services, programs, and protections such as education, public safety, research, nutrition and more. Such action would have serious consequences for Department of Energy programs and initiatives at the Federal, state, Tribal, and local levels, and would jeopardize recent bipartisan gains targeted at improving the lives of everyday Americans.

Impacts would be felt across the country and could rise to the level of jeopardizing the Department's ability to do its part in protecting national security interests from energy security and nuclear security threats.

Capping funding at this level would also hamper our ability to cut energy costs for families and businesses across the country, reduce the number of everyday Americans that can access tax breaks for clean energy, and reduce the impact of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Specific examples of potential impacts are listed below.

Scenario 1. Across-the-board cap on FY 2024 discretionary spending at FY 2022 levels. Example impacts are listed below:

A reduction to FY 2022 funding levels would delay all National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) major construction projects of at least one year, increasing operational risks and the likelihood of cost increases. The FY 2022 funding level represents a ⅓ reduction from planned execution in FY 2024.

The W93 and W87–1 warhead modernization programs would be delayed at least 1–2 years, with significant risks for the aging U.S. stockpile, DoD plans for delivery system modernization, and U.S. support for the United Kingdom's Replacement Warhead.

Hundreds of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy research projects and 2–3 large infrastructure projects at national labs would be cancelled or paused, resulting in up to one thousand (1,000) layoffs within the labs, partner organizations, and the local construction and support workforce across the country. This would negatively impact the ability of the national laboratories to continue to advance cutting edge research.

Scenario 2. Across-the-board 22 percent reduction to current enacted funding levels (FY 2023) for FY 2024. Example impacts of this scenario are listed below. Scenario 1 impacts would also be intensified:

At a minimum, research at Office of Science national laboratories and universities would be reduced by about $700 million, resulting in substantial reduction of nearly 5,200 scientists, students, and technical staff.

Many of the Administration research priorities would receive significantly less funding resulting in curtailed research efforts in the areas of Climate Change; Artificial Intelligence; High Performance Computing; emerging technologies in Quantum Information Science, Microelectronics, and Biotechnology; Fusion Energy; and Isotope Production.

At a minimum, Office of Science facility operations funding would be reduced, resulting in only 68 percent of operational funding and a substantial reduction of over 6,000 users of the over 38,000 annual users at the 28 scientific user facilities across the national laboratories.

All facilities would have a significant reduction in force of personnel, with loss of critical expertise. A review would be required to determine which facilities to close to maintain adequate operations at the remaining user facilities. Facilities cannot operate safely at this funding level. This action would result in major economic impact to the United States, both in the short-term and in the long-term as the U.S. will be subject to loss of scientific talent and leadership.

At a minimum, thousands of low-income households (anywhere from 4,400–8,800) would be deferred from weatherization services, and reductions in state energy programs more broadly would limit efforts to cut energy costs for families and businesses, disproportionately affecting smaller states and US territories.

Reductions of this magnitude would have significant setbacks of U.S. geopolitical competitiveness to adversarial nations like Russia and China.

This would include the reduction of the Idaho National Laboratory operational status to the minimal allowable for safe and secure support of DOE and national security programs and research.

It would also include elimination of all efforts to support the deployment of American nuclear energy technologies as the preferred alternative to Russian and Chinese technologies in countries looking to implement large scale power sources.

These are a few examples of the serious impacts of these scenarios on ongoing efforts by the Department in the areas of national security, safety of critical infrastructure, threats to the Nation's competitive edge, and impacts on consumers and industry.

Sincerely,

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CONGRESSIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROSA DELAURO,
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR RANKING MEMBER DELAURO: Thank you for contacting the Department of Labor (DOL) with important questions about the impact of capping discretionary spending levels at the fiscal year (FY) 2022 enacted level on workers and their families. The Department of Labor's mission is to foster, promote, and develop the welfare of the wage earners, job seekers, and retirees of the

United States; improve working conditions; advance opportunities for profitable employment; and assure work-related benefits and rights. This includes centering our work on the most vulnerable and marginalized workers, those facing barriers to employment, misclassified workers, and workers in temporary jobs or other jobs that heighten their economic insecurity and vulnerability.

On March 9, 2023, the President released his Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 budget. The FY 2024 budget request builds on the Biden-Harris Administration's successes, reinforces President Biden's investments in America, continues to lower costs for families, protects and strengthens Social Security and Medicare, and reduces the deficit. The Department's role in this effort is to ensure that all workers and job seekers in America—particularly those from disadvantaged communities—have access to high-quality jobs that can support a middle-class life. That includes accessing training and finding pathways to high-quality jobs as well as protecting workers' rights and benefits, health and safety, and wages once they are employed.

The potential cuts you describe in your letter would have very real and damaging impacts on our families, communities, economy, and competitiveness—undermining a broad range of critical services the American people rely on in their everyday lives.

These drastic reductions in spending proposed by certain Congressional Republicans would be devastating—undermining our ability to protect our nation's most vulnerable workers and hindering our efforts to address critical issues like exploitative child labor. These types of cuts would send an unmistakable message that the workers who were essential during the pandemic are expendable, diminishing the value of their work and failing to honor them by ensuring their wages, health, and safety are protected. Additionally, drastically cutting funding levels would mean fewer resources for workforce training programs designed to ensure there is a workforce armed with the skills needed to fill high-quality jobs in our growing economy.

Below please find specific examples of how funding cuts would impact Department of Labor programs and the workers we aim to serve. For each example, the Department analyzed two scenarios: (1) FY 2024 appropriations equal to 22 percent below currently enacted levels and (2) FY 2024 appropriations equal to the FY 2022 enacted levels.

LIMITING ACCESS TO TRAINING FOR JOB SEEKERS AND WORKERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

The Employment and Training Administration provides grants to states for running the Adult, Youth, and Dislocated Worker employment programs, which provide training and job assistance services. Reductions to each of those programs would result in people losing critical services they need to obtain and retain better jobs.

Workfbrce Development & Training: A 22 percent reduction would prevent about 750,000 job seekers from accessing services and training through ETA-funded programming. A return to FY 2022 enacted levels would result in about 125,000 fewer job seekers receiving services and training from the workforce development system.

Registered Apprenticeship: A 22 percent reduction would lead to over 100,000 fewer workers being employed through Registered Apprenticeships. A return to FY 2022 enacted levels would lead to 76,000 fewer workers being employed through Registered Apprenticeships.

Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP): A 22 percent reduction would lead to almost 10,000 fewer low-income older workers participating in paid community service work.

Office of Foreign Labor Certification (OFLC): If funding levels were reduced by 22 percent, there would be significant processing delays across the labor certification programs. Labor certification decisions for nonimmigrant visas, especially for seasonal nonagricultural businesses, would be delayed. Employers would have to wait up to 2 additional months for decisions on their ability to hire H–2B workers.

In the PERM immigrant program, labor certification decision would increase 73 percent, from 188 days (FY 2022) to approximately 325 days. Similarly, if funding levels reverted to the FY 2022 level, and workloads continued to rise, average processing times in the FLC programs would continue to increase. OFLC would prioritize available resources to address more time-sensitive H–2A and H–2B applications for farmers and seasonal nonagricultural businesses.

WEAKENING WAGE AND SAFETY PROTECTIONS FOR WORKERS

The Wage and Hour Division (WHD) promotes compliance with basic labor laws and ensures that workers receive the protections they are entitled to under the law. Last year, WHD staff recovered more than $213 million in back wages for nearly 153,000 workers—an average of $1.400 per worker. These recovered wages make a real difference for workers struggling to pay rent. buy food, pay for childcare, or cover gas or transportation costs to get to their jobs.

Cuts to WHD funding levels would undermine the agency's ability to ensure workers receive the wages that they've earned. WHD would be forced to reduce the number of compliance actions, investigations, and targeted inspections that result in recovery for thousands of workers.

Specifically, a 22 percent reduction in funding levels would result in about $156 million less in back wages for 135,000 workers or an average over $1,000 per worker. A return to FY 2022 enacted levels would result in $24.5 million less in back wages recovered for nearly 21,000 workers.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) works to assure safe and healthful working conditions. Every worker deserves to return home safely at the end of the day. Cutting OSHA's budget by one-fifth would mean fewer inspections, fewer staff, less enforcement, and less safe and healthy workplaces.

A 22 percent budget reduction would result in OSHA losing at least 270 inspectors and conducting 10,800 fewer inspections. This would be by far the lowest level of enforcement in OSHA's 52-year history. Fewer inspections would significantly reduce OSHA's ability to conduct proactive and more complex inspections such as those involving chemical exposure, heat, musculoskeletal injuries, and workplace violence. A return to 2022 enacted levels would result in 2,800 fewer safety inspections and 715 fewer health inspections.

OSHA would drastically cut back on responding to worker complaints and proactive inspections, including strategic priorities like silica, heat, and fall protection. Reducing OSHA's ability to conduct preventive inspections would result in more workplace injuries and illnesses—allowing unscrupulous employers to put workers in danger under a weaker, more predictable, and less strategic OSHA.

The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) works to prevent death, illness. and injury from mining and promote safe and healthful workplaces for U.S. miners. MSHA's enforcement responsibilities—statutorily mandated inspections, accident investigations, and responding to hazard complaints, among others—have contributed significantly to the reduction in fatal mining accidents.

Significant budget cuts would jeopardize the health and safety of the nation's miners. For example, under a 22 percent reduction, MSHA would not be able to complete approximately 4,400 mandatory inspections of surface and underground mines. Fatal accident investigation activities would continue but MSHA could not perform serious injury accident investigations and could only investigate 75 percent of hazard complaints in a timely manner. Targeted safety and health initiatives that address hazards associated with the leading causes of mining fatalities and occupational illnesses would not occur. Approximately one third of coal mine plan and addenda approvals, which are necessary for operators to continue mining operations, would be delayed by approximately a month.

At the FY 2022 funding level, MSHA would not be able to complete approximately 2,200 mandatory inspections of surface and underground mines. Fatal accident investigations would continue, but MSHA would be limited in its ability to perform any serious accident investigations and could only investigate 50 percent of the hazard complaints in a timely manner. Approximately 3,200 samples for respirable dust, silica, diesel particulate matter, and other toxic substances would not be taken, putting miners at risk of developing preventable debilitating occupational illnesses like Black Lung and silicosis.

ELIMINATING CRITICAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICES FOR VETERANS

The Department's Veterans' Employment and Training Service helps veterans transition to employment, protects their employment rights, and promotes their employment opportunities.

The Jobs for Veterans State Grants (JVSG) program provides intensive employment and job placement services for eligible veterans, and JVSG fund allow states to hire qualified veterans to provide these services. There are currently over 1,800 JVSG staff at 2,300 American Job Centers (AJC) nationwide. A 22 percent reduction would result in 4,282 fewer veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness receiving employment services through the Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP). A return to the 2022 enacted level would lead to a reduction of 16 staff serving veterans at AJCs as well as 1,428 fewer veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness receiving employment services through HVRP.

I have seen first-hand the positive impacts of the Biden-Harris plan. 202 1 and 2022 were the two strongest years of job growth in our nation's history. More than 12 million jobs have been created since President Biden took office—including nearly 800.000 manufacturing jobs. The unemployment rate has been below 4% for more than a year, and a record number of small businesses have started since President Biden took office. Black Americans and Hispanic Americans have near-record-low unemployment rates and people with disabilities are experiencing record-low unemployment.

The Department stands ready and committed to continuing the plan as laid out by the Biden-Harris Administration to build an economy and a labor market that is more just and equitable and creates opportunity for all.

LIZ WATSON,
Assistant Secretary, Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, U.S. Department of Labor.

THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION,
Washington, DC, March 17, 2023.

Hon. ROSA DELAURO,
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR RANKING MEMBER DELAURO: Thank you for your letter of January 19, 2023, requesting details regarding the potential impact of proposed budget cuts on the economy, neighborhoods, and other essential government functions that keep people healthy and safe.

President Biden's FY24 Budget lays out a detailed plan to invest in America, continue to lower costs for families, protect and strengthen Social Security and Medicare, and reduce the deficit. Meanwhile, Congressional Republicans have proposed unprecedented cuts in fiscal year (FY) 2024 funding for key services, programs, and protections such as education, public safety, research, nutrition and more. Cuts on this scale would have very real and damaging impacts on our families, our communities, our economy, and our competitiveness—undermining a broad range of critical services the American people rely on in their everyday lives.

Your letter specifically references a plan to cap fiscal year 2024 discretionary spending at the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. Your letter makes clear that the impact of such a plan on agency appropriation levels is at this time unknown, as the specifics of the plan have not been publicly released. If we assumed that defense funding would be shielded from budget cuts under this plan, it would equate to a cut of about 22 percent to non-defense discretionary funding. Accordingly, we analyzed impacts at two levels: 1) FY 2022 enacted and 2) 22 percent below the currently enacted level for FY 2023.

As you know, the Federal government has long played a critical role in supporting States, school districts, and postsecondary institutions in meeting the needs of students, especially underserved students and children in under-resourced communities, children with disabilities, English learners, and those experiencing homelessness. While representing but a small portion of overall education funding nationwide, Federal resources help States and school districts fill gaps in State and local support and meet critical needs for our most vulnerable students. From supporting additional staff positions and educational materials, to expanding after school programming, providing access to life-changing education and training, and helping students afford college, the Federal investment in education makes a positive difference in children's lives every day.

The Department of Education has examined several of our most significant programs to assess potential impacts resulting from 1) receiving FY 2022 funding and 2) receiving funding 22 percent below currently enacted levels:

ESEA Title I Grants to LEAs—a reduction to the FY 2022 enacted level would cut $850 million in funding from this program—a cut equivalent to removing more than 13,000 teachers and service providers from classrooms serving low-income children; a 22 percent reduction from the currently enacted level would cut approximately $4.0 billion in funding, impacting an estimated 25 million students and reducing program funding to its lowest level in almost a decade—a cut equivalent to removing more than 60,000 teachers and related service providers from classrooms serving low-income students.

IDEA Grants to States—a reduction to the FY 2022 enacted level would cut $850 million in funding from this program—a cut equivalent to removing more than 13,000 teachers and service providers from classrooms serving low-income children; a 22 percent reduction from the currently enacted level would cut more than $3.1 billion in funding, impacting an estimated 7.5 million children with disabilities and reducing Federal support to its lowest share since 1997—a cut equivalent to removing more than 48,000 teachers and related services providers from the classroom.

Title II–A (Supporting effective instruction State grants) and Title IV–A (Student support and academic enrichment grants)—a reduction to the FY 2022 enacted level would cut more than $35 million for these activities; a 22 percent reduction from the currently enacted level would cut more than $500 million in annual support for teachers and students, curtailing learning opportunities for teachers and school leaders, and hampering school districts' efforts to promote a well-rounded education for students in safe schools.

Pell Grants—a reduction to the FY 2022 enacted level would likely have a minimal effect on students and parents, while a reduction of 22 percent from currently enacted levels would likely reduce the maximum Pell award by nearly $1,000, decreasing aid to all 6.6 million Pell recipients and eliminating Pell Grants altogether for approximately 80,000 students. Cutting the discretionary funding by 22 percent without cutting the maximum award would eliminate the surplus and create a $17 billion shortfall by 2026. The program cannot function with a shortfall that large.

Administering Student Financial Aid—a reduction of 22 percent from currently enacted levels would cut $468 million in federal support to determine, disburse, and service student aid. This level of funding would have devastating effects on student and parent interactions with the Department, as well as on their ability to successfully apply for and receive student aid. However, even if funding were kept at the FY 2022 enacted level, more than 40 million student loan borrowers would be impacted through decreased service hours and longer turnaround times to make changes to student loan repayment plans, or obtain a deferment, forbearance, or discharge of student loans. More than 17 .6 million students and parents applying for student aid and calling the Department for information could experience multiple-hour wait times and reduced center hours, and student aid applicants requesting specific assistance with the FAFSA, student loan promissory notes, PLUS loan applications, or other student aid applications could see their requests take weeks longer to process. Additionally, the oversight of the more than 5,500 schools and enforcement of the Higher Education Act would suffer, putting taxpayer dollars at risk.

Federal Work-Study Program (FWS)—a reduction to the FY 2022 enacted level would provide less aid for all program recipients and eliminate FWS financial support for approximately 11,000 students; a cut of 22 percent from the currently enacted level would provide less aid for all program recipients and eliminate Work-Study financial support for approximately 85,000 students. Schools would be forced to make impossible decisions around whether to cut essential positions reliant on FWS funds or the amounts that students are able to earn under the program.

Should you have additional comments or questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs.

Sincerely,

MIGUEL A. CARDONA, Ed.D.,
U.S. Secretary of Education.

U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION,
Washington, DC, March 20, 2023.

Hon. ROSA L. DELAURO,
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE DELAURO: Thank you for your January 19, 2023 letter to the U.S. Small Business Administration (''SBA'') regarding plans by House Republican Leadership to cap Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 discretionary spending at the FY 2022 enacted level. President Biden's FY 2024 Budget lays out a detailed plan to invest in America and the small business economy, continue to lower costs for families, protect and strengthen Social Security and Medicare, and reduce the deficit.

Strong Federal support and investments by Congress ensure that America's 33 million small businesses have the resources they need to create jobs across our nation. SBA offers access to affordable capital, training, and technical assistance to help small businesses grow and thrive. These resources have been critical especially during the surge of new-start small businesses over the past two years under the Biden Administration. Congressional Republicans have proposed unprecedented cuts in FY 2024 funding for key services and programs. While Congressional Republicans haven't released a specific plan, cuts on this scale would have very real and damaging impacts on our small businesses, our communities, our economy, and our competitiveness—undermining a broad range of critical services the American people rely on in their everyday lives. That is why I share your concern that proposed budget cuts could have a negative impact on SBA's ability to deliver important services to American citizens and small businesses who rely on the SBA for guidance and support and capital.

One example of the potential impact is to the SBA's Entrepreneurial Development appropriation which funds critical programs that served 1.2 million small businesses in 2022. If Entrepreneurial Development program funding levels are capped at FY 2022 levels—a cut of $29.9 million from FY 2023 enacted funding levels—we estimate that up to 125,000 fewer entrepreneurs and small businesses would have access to free business counseling supported by SBA, including the Small Business Development Centers, that help bolster the small business economy. If Entrepreneurial Development Program funding levels were reduced by 22 percent from FY 2023 enacted, this would be a reduction of $70.4 million, which would equate to nearly 295,000 fewer small businesses being served. Either scenario would have a significant impact on the agency's ability to ensuring that undeserved communities such as Veterans, Women, and Native American entrepreneurs receive the support they deserve. We estimate that thousands of veterans and women entrepreneurs would be impacted negatively as they look to start or grow their own businesses. For instance, we would have fewer opportunities to further expand equity efforts for underserved and underrepresented small business communities, including specific reduction to support Veterans, Women, Native American entrepreneurs.

Additionally, reductions to SBA's Salaries and Expense funding would be detrimental to SBA's operations. If funding is reduced to FY 2022 enacted funding levels in FY 2024, SBA will not have sufficient funding to fully support the Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business Certification program. A cut to funding in this program could significantly impact SBA's ability to certify service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses. This certification is crucial to the 35,000 veterans and service-disabled veterans that

compete for and provide integral services to the Federal Government.

Reverting to FY 2022 spending levels would also shrink SBA's staffing by up to 203 positions which has a direct impact on the agency's ability to deliver and oversee services for small businesses. Staff reductions will result in SBA customer service degradation in loan processing, small business outreach, training and counseling, processing government contracting, and validating small business certifications. Small businesses and resource partners will likely experience longer wait times, and SBA may become to network and cybersecurity infrastructure threats and attacks at the risk of all SBA stakeholders.

A 22 percent reduction from FY 2023 enacted levels would reduce Salaries and Expenses by nearly 385 positions, which could not be attained without a reduction in force and further reductions to services and outreach to small businesses provided across the board. This would also reduce Disaster Loan Program Administration by nearly $8 million, or over 45 positions, hurting SBA's ability to respond quickly when a disaster strikes to ensure access to capital for disaster survivors.

Finally, maintaining SBA's Office of Inspector General (OIG) funding at the FY 2022 enacted level would decrease OIG's investigative and fraud enforcement capabilities by over $25 million in FY 2024, and would undermine the SBA's OIG mission to fight fraud and abuse, including in COVID–19 relief programs. SBA is committed to combating fraud, waste, and abuse, and the taxpayers benefit greatly from the Inspector General's ongoing efforts. We need to ensure that we continue to build on that commitment.

I stand ready to provide Congress with any further information to ensure the small business owners and entrepreneurs can continue to be supported. Thank you for your partnership in helping the American people and the economy.

Sincerely,

ISABELLA CASILLAS GUZMAN,
Administrator.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, THE SECRETARY,
Washington, DC, March 17, 2023.

Hon. ROSA L. DELAURO,
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR RANKING MEMBER DELAURO: Thank you for your letter requesting the impact of the proposed House Republican Leadership 2024 budget cuts on Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs and assisted families. In short, the reduced funding scenarios would represent the most devastating impacts in HUD's history.

On March 9th, President Biden released his Budget showing his plans to invest in America, continue to lower costs for families, protect and strengthen Social Security and Medicare, and reduce the deficit. Congressional Republicans are reportedly planning unprecedented cuts in 2024 funding for key services, programs, and protections such as education, public safety, research, nutrition and more. While Congressional Republicans have not released one specific plan, cuts on this scale would have very real and damaging impacts on our families, our communities, our economy, and our competitiveness—undermining a broad range of critical services the American people rely on in their everyday lives. This letter will consider two scenarios, a reduction to 2022 enacted levels and a 22 percent reduction to 2023 enacted levels.

Most HUD programs received modest increases in 2023. Increases in the 2023 enacted budget levels relative to 2022 primarily serve to maintain existing programs, not to permit program expansions. Except for targeted funding increases for homeless assistance and tenant-based Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV), almost all of HUD's programs remained at or near level funding with zero or minimal increases. Consequently, any cuts to the 2023 level do not eliminate ''extra'' funding added in 2023 but translate to direct cuts to the 2022 baseline. These cuts, in turn, would reduce existing services that families and communities rely on, including programs housing low-income families.

Today's HUD rental housing programs' funding levels are necessary to maintain existing rental assistance to keep currently assisted families in their homes. Under the 22 percent potential funding cut scenario, it would be impossible to stave off mass evictions.

IF THESE DRACONIAN CUTS WERE MADE—

THOUSANDS WOULD LOSE HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHERS

Nearly the entire increase in voucher funding between 2022 and 2023 (aside from small amounts for homeless veterans and at-risk youth) supported renewal of existing assistance to families in their current units. The dollar increase relative to 2022 was necessary to match major cost increases in the housing market. For example, between 2022 and 2023 the national population-weighted average Fair Market Rent (FMR) increased by nearly 10 percent, with 16 HUD Metro FMR Areas increasing by 20 percent or more. Rents are expected to stay high in 2024, even as growth slows down. Any cut to the 2023 funding level will not simply revert to the same number of families that could be supported in 2022, but will put large numbers of the most vulnerable and lowest income American families at risk of losing their rental assistance entirely. HUD rental assistance serves the most vulnerable low-income families, with an average income of only $15,000 per year, and includes older adults, persons with disabilities, and families with children. The Housing Choice Voucher program currently assists approximately 2.3 million families.

2022 flat—eliminates funding for 350,000 families.

22 percent cut to 2023 funding—eliminates funding for 640,000 families.

FAMILIES LIVING IN PUBLIC HOUSING WOULD BE EXPOSED TO UNSAFE LIVING CONDITIONS

The needs of public housing portfolio continue to grow, so major cuts to this program threaten to remove important affordable housing assets from the inventory. If there is a 22 percent cut, HUD calculates an expected 78 percent proration for the Operating Fund. At this level, there would be significant impacts to PHA operations. All PHAs would need to drastically cut operations, including regular property maintenance, services to families, and likely staff layoffs to right-size operations to expected revenues. Deferred maintenance would decrease housing quality, potentially exposing families to unsafe living conditions such as mold and lead-based paint. Finally, there would be the likelihood of PHA insolvency or other program failures. The projected $700 million cut from the capital grants would leave no funding to address backlog needs and $2 billion in unfunded accrual needs. Unmet capital needs mean the further deterioration of the inventory and contribute to lower occupancy rates, higher costs for utilities, less resilience to climate change, and increased health and safety risks for residents.

THERE WOULD BE AN UNPRECEDENTED LOSS OF EXISTING AFFORDABLE HOUSING, LEADING TO MASS EVICTIONS

HUD's Project-Based Rental Assistance (PBRA) program, which serves approximately 1.3 million families, needed almost $1 billion above 2022 levels to just renew the existing owner contracts for 2023. These increases are statutory and reflect increased costs, and HUD cannot avoid them within the contracts. As a result, any cuts to the 2023 level would force HUD to short fund or cancel existing contracts between the federal government and private property owners. The termination of contracts with rental owners will likely lead the owners to convert their housing to market-rate, leaving currently supported tenants in units that are now unaffordable to them, likely resulting in evictions. This would represent an historically unprecedented loss of existing affordable housing, a breach of federal contracts, and a repudiation of decades of long-term bipartisan federal investment.

2022 flat—eliminates funding for approximately 87,000 families

22 percent cut to 2023 funding—eliminates funding for approximately 286,000 families

STATES AND LOCALITIES WOULD BE PREVENTED FROM MAKING BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

In addition to rental assistance, HUD's programs also include the most popular and effective funding programs for states, cities, counties, and towns: Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships. CDBG and HOME provide flexible block grant assistance whereby funding decisions are locally controlled.

CDBG: The median CDBG annual grant is $1 million provided through a block grant allocation formula. Urban and rural municipalities and counties rely on the funding for basic housing-related infrastructure such as rehabilitation of existing affordable housing, water and sewer connections, sidewalks, as well as direct assistance for small businesses, economic development, and essential services. The estimated impact of the funding cut of 22 percent will reduce the average grant by approximately $440,000.

HOME: As with CDBG, the vital HOME Program received zero increase in 2023. Funding cuts to HOME would result in fewer new affordable rental and homeownership opportunities for low-income families, fewer grants for repair and rehabilitation of existing affordable housing, and less tenant-based rental assistance available, resulting in increased risk of homelessness. This will directly exacerbate the existing national affordable housing crisis. The estimated impact of the funding cut of 22 percent from 2023 to the average HOME formula grant of $1.5 million will reduce the average grant by $330,000 and will result in more than 6,700 fewer units of affordable housing produced.

THOUSANDS MORE AMERICANS WOULD BE SLEEPING ON THE STREETS

HUD received a targeted increase in funding for Homeless Assistance Grants in 2023, which would sustain existing resources for emergency shelter, increase availability of permanent supportive housing, and continue to provide other homeless assistance to the most vulnerable Americans. Undoing this increase will severely curtail the services that communities across the country would be able to provide to those experiencing homelessness. Cuts to the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program from the 2023 baseline would result in less emergency shelter, homelessness prevention, and rapid rehousing. A funding cut of 22 percent would result in over 24,000 fewer people receiving assistance, likely leading to large increases in the number of people sleeping on the streets.

In the Continuum of Care and Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program, funding provides permanent supportive housing for people with severe disabilities and illnesses, and rapid rehousing and transitional

housing for youth and adults to help them achieve housing stability and self-sufficiency. In recent years, HUD has significantly expanded assistance to people fleeing domestic violence. Providing funding at the 2022 level for CoC renewals would result in at least 54,000 fewer homeless people and domestic violence survivors receiving assistance than in 2023, and a 22 percent cut from 2023 levels would result in nearly 95,000 fewer people receiving assistance. These cuts would eliminate new funding for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program, an effort that has helped reduce the number of homeless unaccompanied youth by more than 25 percent since 2017.

DIRE HOUSING CONDITIONS IN INDIAN COUNTRY WOULD BE EXACERBATED

Housing conditions in Indian Country are among the most dire in the United States. Thus, any cuts to the 2023 formula funding level would have a significant impact on the program, which is the single largest source of funding for Indian housing assistance. It would make it almost impossible for most Tribal grantees to construct new affordable housing units and a challenge to meet the basic operations and maintenance needs of their existing housing. It would also make it extremely difficult to leverage other non-Federal resources to develop affordable housing. Funding for the formula block grant component would be reduced by $173 million with a 22-percent cut, which would reduce funding for Native American Housing Block Grants to its lowest level since it was implemented in 1996 (adjusting for inflation).

EFFORTS TO ABATE LEAD HAZARDS WOULD BE SLOWED

HUD's Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes programs to reduce lead poisoning hazards for children in lower income families, together with a variety of programs aimed at reducing indoor home health hazards. Home health hazards are scientifically proven to cause lifelong damage when ongoing exposure occurs during childhood. For example, even low levels of lead exposure during childhood have been linked with lifelong impacts on intelligence, attention, and academic achievement. Further cuts below the previous 2022 level would substantially slow and adversely affect the Federal government's planned efforts to abate lead hazards and prevent home health hazards from negatively affecting child development.

CRITICAL RESEARCH WOULD BE JEOPARDIZED

The Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R) enables the Congress, the Secretary, and other HUD principal staff to make evidence-informed decisions on budget and legislative proposals and strengthens housing and community development policy. The total investment for research, evaluation, and technical assistance was essentially level between 2022 and 2023. Thus, any cuts would substantially reduce HUD's ability to conduct research, program evaluations, and provide critical technical assistance (TA) and capacity building support, including, for example, through the Distressed Cities TA program that supports small, rural and underserved localities. A 22 percent cut to PD&R's 2023 funding would result in a $32 million cut to existing activities and investments, placing major PD&R-funded survey efforts at risk, such as the American Housing Survey, jeopardizing critical research providing the next generation of evidence on how HUD can most effectively support affordable homeownership and quality rental housing.

EFFORTS TO COMBAT HOUSING DISCRIMINATION WOULD BE SEVERELY IMPACTED

A 22 percent cut to Fair Housing Programs would severely impact the ability of the Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP) to support state and local agency enforcement of the Fair Housing Act nationwide. FHAP agencies currently investigate about 75 percent of all fair housing complaints filed under the Fair Housing Act, and this level of funding would jeopardize the FHAP agencies' ability to conduct investigations, litigate complaints, retain staff, and keep up with inflation. This level of funding would also hinder the Department's ability to admit new FHAP agencies into the program.

A 22 percent cut to the Fair Housing Initiatives Program (FHIP) would significantly impact the geographical representation of and activities performed by fair housing organizations nationally. Last year, as usual, HUD was unable to fund all Education and Outreach Initiative (EOI) qualified applicants. A reduction would further limit HUD's ability to fund organizations in underserved and unserved communities. This also could prevent HUD from maintaining the current maximum level of funding under the Private Enforcement Initiative (PEI), which funds fair housing organizations to conduct testing, investigations, and public education and outreach on the rights and responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act. Lastly, the Fair Housing Accessibility FIRST program would be severely limited in maintaining a broad scope of services, especially focused on addressing accessibility compliance in federally-assisted affordable housing programs.

HIGHLIGHTED IMPACTS ON HUD OPERATIONS

Salaries and Expenses (S&E)

If HUD's 2024 appropriation were equal to the 2022 appropriation, that would result in a reduction of $152 million from our current 2023 enacted level and require HUD to absorb a staffing reduction of over 650 full time equivalents (FTE), which would have devastating impacts on HUD services in all Program Offices. A reduction of this size would require an immediate hiring freeze and the potential for at least some furlough days, which would cause HUD services to the public to be suspended or delayed, including providing assistance to existing FHA homeowners, increasing homeownership opportunities for potential homebuyers, processing fair housing complaints and conducting complex closings of multifamily properties.

A 22 percent reduction from the 2023 enacted level would reduce S&E by $390 million and require a staffing reduction of more than 1,700 FTE. Given HUD is unable to attrit that amount of FTE during a fiscal year, it would require either implementing a Reduction in Force (RIF), incurring up to 60 furlough days, or a combination of the two, which would cause HUD services to the public to be delayed or suspended. Additionally, it would result in dramatic reductions in contractor support services to include areas such as federal protection services for building security and financial oversight and audit support services.

Information Technology (IT)

Reducing the Department's IT resources to the 2022 level represents a significant operational vulnerability. Such a reduction will have agency-wide implications on HUD operations and program administration. At this reduced funding level, the current operations and maintenance contracts will be scaled back resulting in a diminished service level for software and systems across the Department. While HUD will make every effort to keep public facing systems operational and available for external partners and the public, HUD cannot guarantee full functionality of these systems with budget reductions of this magnitude.

A 22 percent reduction in IT resources creates an extremely high level of risk to the Department's core technology infrastructure and services. At this level, a portion of HUD's existing operations and maintenance contracts will stop work due to insufficient funds. The likely impacts include prioritization of contractor support for existing major systems and cancelation of support for systems within the nonmajor portfolio. This diminished support will lead to grantee and stakeholder interruptions due to inability to access HUD grant systems and financial interfaces. Such challenges may delay state, local, and non-profit partners access to formula grant funding and rental assistance due to service disruption in relevant IT systems and contractor support. Local governments would face delays in implementing the plans that they put in place to, for example, construct affordable housing or provide support to Meals on Wheels, as they waited for HUD's systems. New homebuyers and affordable housing developers could experience delays in FHA and multifamily loan processing to service disruptions to associated systems.

All IT development will stop and existing contract support for these and any new efforts will terminate. As you can see, the proposed funding cuts would have a catastrophic impact on the ability of HUD to provide quality, affordable homes for all and to develop equitable, inclusive communities. Please do not hesitate to reach out for any additional assistance.

Sincerely,

MARCIA L. FUDGE.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, March 19, 2023.

Hon. ROSA L. DELAURO,
Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR RANKING MEMBER DELAURO: Thank you for your January 19, 2023, letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Secretary Mayorkas asked that I respond on his behalf.

On March 9, President Biden released his Budget for DHS that equips our Department to address the threats of today and prepare for the threats of tomorrow. The President's budget invests in programs that protect us against the threat of terrorism, strengthen the security of our borders, ensures the swift response to and recovery from natural disasters, and more.

As requested, DHS conducted an analysis of what capping FY 2024 discretionary spending at the FY 2022 enacted level would mean to the services the Department provides to the American people.

The entire Department and the critical services we provide would be impacted, including but not limited to the following:

A reduction in CBP frontline law enforcement staffing levels of up to 2,400 agents and officers;

A reduction in our Department's ability to prevent drugs from entering the country;

Cuts in federal assistance to state, local, tribal, territorial, and private sector partners for disaster preparedness; and

Reductions in TSA personnel that would result in wait times in excess of 2 hours at large airports across the country.

The analysis in the enclosure provides additional details on just some of the significant impacts that may occur.

OPERATIONAL IMPACTS OF RETURNING TO FY 2022 FUNDING LEVELS—DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION (CBP)

Sea and Land Ports of Entry: CBP's Office of Field Operations (OFO) may need to reduce hours of service at all sea and land ports of entry (220 ports in total) and would

deny landing rights at all 241 airports outside of core hours of operation based on personnel availability. With reduced hours, wait times would increase and some land ports of entry may close with commercial and private traffic still in queues, which would result in exacerbated supply chain issues potentially impacting food stuffs and American manufacturing.

Staffing: CBP may be forced to implement a hiring freeze, which would impact the agency's ability to hire the additional 300 Border Patrol Agents (BPAs) provided for in the FY 2023 budget and the 150 CBP Officers (CBPOs) and BPAs requested in the FY 2024 Budget. A hiring freeze would also result in attrition of frontline law enforcement officers by perhaps as much as 1,000 CBPOs and 1,400 BPAs.

Fentanyl Impacts:

Any impacts on CBPO staffing levels, described above, would negatively impact fentanyl seizures as well as other narcotics seizures.

Impacts could also affect the operations at ports of entry for lawful travel and goods presented for admission to the United States. Approximately 90 percent of resources at ports of entry go through these regular operations, which impact the special operations teams responsible for targeting, enforcement, and analysis. Reductions to these special operations teams will result in a reduction in targeting opioids for both inbound and outbound operations.

With limited resources, OFO would only be able to perform enhanced inspections upon primary or threshold level targets. Reducing or eliminating outbound operations will result in more money not being interdicted leaving the U.S. and enable more trafficking and deeper concealments, likely increasing the amount of fentanyl entering the country.

Air and Marine Operations: CBP's Office of Air and Marine Operations would experience 56 percent reduction in operational capabilities equating to 45,833 unexecuted aircraft hours and 11,448 boat hours. A reduction of this magnitude would result in a reduction in our operations equivalent to the following:

154,657 lbs. of cocaine not seized

859 lbs. of fentanyl and 1,948 lbs. of heroin not seized

17,148 lbs. of methamphetamine not seized

$9M in currency not seized

561 criminals not arrested, and 57,594 apprehensions not made

361 people not rescued

Trade: CBP enforces trade laws and implements measures such as penalties, suspensions, and debarment while enforcing antidumping and countervailing duties as well as forced labor laws. Decreasing the capacity of the Office of Trade would result in unprecedented gaps in defending America's economic security, resulting in revenue loss to the U.S. government and economy. Additional impacts include degradation of trade enforcement operations resulting in increased violations of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) such as the production of counterfeit goods, duty evasion through transshipment, misclassification, country of origin claims, and use of forced labor in the production of goods in U.S. supply chains.

Agriculture: Due to decreased inspectional staff and capacity, these cuts would result in increased risk of introductions of foreign animal disease, including African Swine Fever, and plant pests due to significant increases in cargo and passenger wait times.

CYBERSECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AGENCY (CISA)

Cyber Resiliency: Budget cuts would stifle CISA's early efforts to support cyber resiliency across state, local, tribal, and territorial governments. This critical support ensures resource-poor jurisdictions (or their management service providers) are cognizant of threats and prepared to face them, and are hardening the defenses of the national critical functions under their stewardship (e.g., water supply, wastewater treatment, and emergency communications). Specifically, cyber resiliency provides support to stakeholders and mission partners in their efforts to predict, adapt, and dynamically recover from threats in high-risk areas who are significantly underserved with current resources. Without this funding, CISA will not be able to:

Design targeted assessments for highlighting cybersecurity threats and vulnerabilities to emergency communications systems nor identify mitigating actions;

Identify requirements, develop, and deliver curriculum that improves cybersecurity and interoperability in the face of evolving IP-hosted communications technology used during responses of varying size/complexity;

Design specific assessments for urban areas to evaluate and enhance cybersecurity; nor,

Expand Emergency Communications Coordinators' support to stakeholders via CISA's regional service delivery model.

In addition, the reduction of funding would eliminate the Supply Chain Risk Management (SCRM)/Federal Acquisition Security Council (FASC) program. This would impact CISA's execution of DHS's responsibility as the FASC's Information Sharing Agency (ISA) and would terminate support on the development of a doctrine required to respond to Federal Government-wide supply chain risks and planning coordination.

Cyber Protection: CISA would not have the resources to implement requirements of the Cyber Incident Reporting for Critical Infrastructure Act of 2022 (CIRCIA). CIRCIA requires CISA to develop and implement regulations requiring covered entities to report cyber incidents and ransomware payments to CISA. These reports enable CISA to rapidly deploy resources and render assistance to victims suffering attacks, analyze cross-sector trends, and quickly share information with network defenders to warn other potential victims. Implementation of this new congressional mandate will result in an exponential increase in the number of incident reports coming from critical infrastructure. If funding is held at FY 2022 levels, CISA would not have any dedicated funding to respond to this new requirement and therefore would be unable to collect and rapidly share information with critical infrastructure owners and operators.

Cyber Incident Response: CISA's Operations Center would lose the ability to ingest, triage, collate. record, and visualize information from over 50,000 cyber incidents over a one-year period. CISA would be unable to provide critical infrastructure owners and operators with analyzed reports, statistics, or trends, leading to a significant decrease in their ability to proactively avoid known and emerging threats and vulnerabilities to the nation's critical infrastructure.

State and Local Impacts: Budget cuts would lead to a 13 percent reduction in CISA's regional field forces. The regional workforce is a critical component of CISA's service delivery model. With reduced funding, CISA would have to reduce assistance provided in response to ransomware and other cyberattacks. It would also have to reduce security assessments and chemical inspections, thereby impacting businesses, healthcare providers, K–12 institutions, state and local governments, municipalities, and critical infrastructure entities. In addition, CISA would have to reduce the number of engagements and support of pre-election security assessments of polling places in communities nationwide. This would result in limiting interactions with local election officials where CISA helps to assure the security of election offices, polling places, and election infrastructure. The number of impacted jurisdictions would vary by state, as some states have tens of election jurisdictions, and some states have more than a thousand.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)

FEMA grant assistance to support and help state, local, tribal, and territorial governments (SLTT) and the private sector could be reduced by half. This would negatively impact SLTT capabilities to implement preparedness strategies successfully and reduce or eliminate longterm risks to people and property from hazards and their effects.

TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION (TSA)

Passenger Security Wait Times and Aviation Security:

In FY 2024, passenger volume is anticipated to increase by 9.2 percent over FY 2022 levels. Fewer Transportation Security Officers would increase passenger wait times from 10 minutes in FY 2023 to upwards of 30 minutes in FY 2024. At larger airports, passengers would experience wait times in excess of two hours where a steady influx of passengers makes it impossible to recover without the necessary staffing. These high wait times would also result in large crowds of unscreened people in the checkpoint queues, increasing potential soft targets.

Transportation security equipment maintenance would have to be reduced, impacting equipment reliability and increasing passenger wait times while resulting in costly actions to modify contracts.

Furloughed positions would impact transportation security now and in the future as TSA would see fewer staff at checkpoints. Additionally, TSA would have a greater gap between experienced staff and staff with minimal experience.

U.S. SECRET SERVICE (USSS)

Cyber Fraud Task Forces: Secret Service would eliminate or severely reduce the capacity of the 42 Cyber Fraud Task Forces across the country that partner with private industry, state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies and federal and state prosecutors to prevent, detect, and mitigate complex cyber-enabled financial crimes.

Cyber Forensics Training: Secret Service would shut down the National Computer Forensics Institute (NCFI) and eliminate training for state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges used to combat cyber threats. NCFI graduates conduct cyber forensic exams across the USSS, completing over 150,000 exams in FY 2022 that were for cases involving murder, rape, and child exploitation.

COVID–19 Fraud: Cuts would reduce the ability of Secret Service to combat COVID–19 related crime by over 50 percent. USSS is currently focused on four broad areas of COVID–19 related crime and to date has arrested over 500 criminals, recovered $1B and responded to over 5,000 investigations and inquiries.

U.S. COAST GUARD (USCG)

The United States Coast Guard would immediately cease the advancement of acquisitions, procurement, and construction resulting in a reduction to operational readiness along the maritime borders. Specifically, the inability to progress the Coast Guard's two highest acquisition priorities, the Offshore Patrol Cutter and the Polar Security Cutter, would create an operational gap and further delay of the U.S. presence in the polar regions and reduce the ability detect, deter,

prevent, and disrupt terrorist attacks and other criminal acts in the U.S. maritime domain as well as our National Defense Strategy.

USDA,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, DC, March 17, 2023.

Hon. ROSA L. DELAURO,
Ranking Member, House Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR RANKING MEMBER DELAURO: Thank you for your letter of January 19, 2023, requesting an analysis of the impact of potential non-Defense spending cuts on the American people that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) serves. I am very concerned about the unprecedented cuts in FY 2024 funding that Congressional Republicans have proposed. While Congressional Republicans haven't released a specific plan, cuts on the scale suggested would have a very real and damaging impacts on our families, our communities, our economy, and our competitiveness—undermining a broad range of critical services the American people rely on in their everyday lives such as food and nutrition security, protection of life and property from catastrophic wildland fires, a safe food supply, and more. President Biden released a Budget on March 9th that demonstrates his commitment to invest in America, continuing to provide the critical services the American people depend on, and reducing the deficit.

USDA analyzed two possible House Republican Leadership plan scenarios. One assumes a funding level equal to that of fiscal year 2022 and while the other assumes a 22 percent reduction in funding for Government programs, which would mean a reduction of about $6.15 billion for USDA in FY 2024. A decrease of that magnitude would threaten the safety and well-being of tens of millions of Americans, raise the risk of homelessness for tens of thousands of Americans, and lead to thousands of farm families not having access to the credit and help they need to continue to farm.

The attachment provides a few examples of impacts but does not capture the entirety of the detrimental effects should the House Republicans' plan come to fruition. I would be happy to meet with you to discuss further or, if requested, provide more information in writing.

I deeply profoundly hope that Congressional leaders will reach an agreement that will does not result in these draconian reductions to USDA. I look forward to working with Congress to preserve the many priorities of rural America.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

THOMAS J. VILSACK,
Secretary.

ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS OF POTENTIAL SPENDING CUTS

Bureau: Food and Nutrition Service
Program: Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
Reduction Amount: Up to $1.4 billion

WIC is a federally funded nutrition assistance program with an average monthly participation currently projected to be 6.5 million in fiscal year (FY) 2024. Under both reduction scenarios (FY22 level and a 22 percent reduction), State WIC programs would have to reduce participation and establish waiting lists using the priority system provided in regulation. In the first scenario, nearly 250,000 monthly participants would not receive benefits. A 22 percent decrease would only allow the program to support about 5.07 million participants—a reduction of approximately 1,180,000 participants from the FY22 monthly average and 1,500,000 participants from current FY24 participation projections.

Since the late 1990's, the appropriations committees' bipartisan practice has been to provide enough funds for WIC to serve all eligible applicants. When funds are not sufficient to support caseload, WIC agencies implement a priority waiting list of individuals. The first to lose benefits would be non-breastfeeding postpartum women and individuals certified solely due to homelessness or migrancy, followed by children. This means some of the participants needing benefits the most would be cut off.

In addition, Nutrition Services and Administration funding provided to States would be reduced, which would hinder State agencies' ability to provide services in a timely manner and result in losses of WIC-related State and local jobs.

Bureau: Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)
Program: Salaries and Expenses
Reduction Amount: Up to $250 million

Drastic changes to the FSIS' funding level would result in an across-the-board furlough of as many as 400 and 1,800 Food Safety inspectors at the FY22 and 22 percent reduction scenarios, respectively. Since, Federal law mandates inspection of meat, poultry, and egg products, approximately 6,800 establishments nationwide would experience production impacts. At the higher threshold of the cut, USDA estimates a lost production volume of more than 11.5 billion pounds of meat, an additional 11.1 billion pounds of poultry and over 590 million pounds of egg products. Together, the industry would experience a production loss of over $89 billion with a total extended loss including distribution and retail of $416 billion. Consumers would experience a shortage of meat, poultry, and egg products available for public consumption, and the shortage may result in price increases for these products. Restaurants, grocers, local merchants, and others who rely on FSIS-inspected products would suffer multiplier effects from the shortfall in production. The impact could force smaller businesses and merchants out of business. Industry workers would also be furloughed, resulting in over $2.2 billion in lost wages. The livestock industry would also incur additional costs for disruption of the pipeline from farms to production establishments as farmers and livestock producers would have to feed and store animals longer than anticipated.

The FSIS would also eliminate export inspections, resulting in losses for U.S. producers and causing additional storage costs and or loss of product. Export inspections could adversely affect other nations since the volume of products would decline. Furthermore, public food safety could be compromised by the illegal selling and distribution of uninspected meat, poultry, and egg products. Because the FSIS is also responsible for verifying the safety of imported products, cutting import inspections would result in a reduction of 1.1 billion pounds of imported meat, poultry, and egg products entering the country, in addition to the lost production capacity within the United States. Cutting import inspections might be construed as an international trade issue. Moreover, there is limited storage space along the border so unless foreign countries stopped shipments, chill/frozen storage capacity and refrigerated truck/train/ship capacity would be compromised.

Bureau: Rural Development, Rural Housing Service
Program: Rental Assistance
Reduction Amount: Up to $325 million

The Rental Assistance Program helps eligible low-income tenants, in the USDA-financed multi-family housing, pay no more than 30 percent of their incomes for rent. Approximately 288,000 tenants receive the benefit of rental assistance in almost all the apartment complexes financed by Rural Development. The House Republican leadership's planned reduction would cause between 40,000 and 63,000 current recipients to lose rental assistance. The average annual income of families and individuals receiving rental assistance (generally female-headed households, elderly, and the disabled) is approximately $12,501. These Americans are the least able to absorb any increase in the rent due to the loss of rental assistance. Loss of this rent supplement may cause property owners to increase rents, making the units unaffordable to the very low-income residents who have few options for decent, affordable housing.

With the loss of rental assistance, or higher vacancies resulting from very low-income Americans being unable to afford higher rents, many properties would be unable to pay all their operating costs. Owners may be unable to maintain the property and allow it to fall into despair, or the properties may become delinquent in their loan payments. Currently, the USDA has 160 multifamily properties in the foreclosure process, which may increase with reduction in rental assistance. Ongoing delinquencies will lead to defaults and foreclosure and may result in long-term loss of affordable housing in rural communities in future years.

Bureau: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Program: Conservation Operations
Reduction Amount: Up to $225 million

Most of the NRCS' funding is appropriated for the Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) which is the agency's primary program to work with private landowners across the country through the USDA's unique delivery system of local field offices. Working one-on-one, NRCS helps producers use new technologies and implement conservation practices such as organic production systems, on farm energy management, air, soil, and water quality improvement, and enhancement of pollinator populations.

A reduction of up to $225 million would reduce Technical Assistance Support, resulting in up to 84,000 fewer producers (54 percent) receiving conservation planning assistance (impacting up to 54,000,000 acres). These reductions will have a deleterious impact on landscape-scale conservation, water quality improvements, wildlife habitat protection, open space protection, as well as natural infrastructure restoration, carbon sequestration, weather prediction capacity, plant material development and other programs and services that support extreme weather and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Funding cuts of this nature will hurt farm programs and rural America. The Administration is committed to working with Congress to improve options and better target farm programs, saving money for the Federal Government while maintaining a robust farm safety net. Program improvements can level the playing field by ensuring payments and technical assistance support the farmers and ranchers who need them most—not wealthy people, passive investors, or large and profitable agribusinesses. We can strengthen program integrity by excluding non-farmers and investors, addressing duplicative payments and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the USDA's risk management and mitigation tools.

Bureau: Farm Service Agency (FSA)
Program: Farm Loan, Salaries and Expenses, and Grant Programs
Reduction Amount: Up to $370 million

Funding cuts would drastically impact service levels currently provided by the FSA.

At the upper level of the proposed cut, there would be 5,100 fewer direct farm operating loans and 1,500 other farm loans (Emergency Loans, Guaranteed Operating Loans, Highly Fractionated Indian Land, Heirs' Property Relending Program) that could be made. The reduction of farm loan funding could result in a loss of up to 26,250 private sector jobs (plus the hundreds of farmers that would be forced out of farming and into the off-farm job market), reduce the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by more than $1.6 billion, and reduce household income by more than $1.3 billion.

Bureau: Forest Service
Program: Wildland Fire Management
Sequestration Amount: Up to $515 million for Wildland Fire Management Salaries and Expenses, and Preparedness, and Hazardous Fuels

Funding cuts under either scenario would place the United States Forest Service (USFS) wildland fire fighting mission in a decreased state of readiness and reduce agency capacity to protect life and property. At the FY22 funding level, efforts to modernize the workforce through pay reform and additional hiring will virtually stop, and the strategy for aerial wildland firefighting resource procurement and usage will need to be significantly revised. The number of firefighters, helicopters and airtankers will all need to decrease which could lead to more fires that escape initial attack and yield more large fires take weeks to contain, endanger nearby communities, damage watersheds and diminish other forest ecosystem services, and increase suppression costs. At a 22 percent reduction, 2,200–2,700 wildland firefighters would be furloughed. For both funding scenarios, fewer firefighters would also reduce performance of hazardous fuel treatments and maintenance of acres already treated, including new priority acres that are at high and very high fire risk (as high as 350,000 acres annually).

Mr. MCGOVERN. These are actual numbers. These are real statistics compiled by real experts. When we talk about the fact that no one needs to worry about what is being debated here, this is why we are worried.

This is the impact of what they are trying to do. What they are trying to do will hurt regular people, will hurt veterans, will hurt people who are struggling to put food on the table, will hurt teachers, will hurt the people that we represent. It will hurt children.

This is unconscionable, what is going on here. We cannot just sit by while everybody on the other side says: Oh, don't worry, be happy. It will all just work out. No, it won't.

We don't share these values of these cuts. We have a separate set of values if my friends think that it is okay to cut these programs and hurt these people.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

My friend and I have had a very long day and have spent a lot of time together.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. SPARTZ). The gentleman from Massachusetts has 6 minutes remaining.

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

Madam Speaker, what we have heard on the floor today is incredible, astounding, unbelievable, unconscionable contempt for the people that we are supposed to be here to fight for.

When people tell me that both parties are the same, that both parties are equally bad or believe the same things, watch this debate and then tell me what you think.

Democrats have different values than Republicans. They have no problem racking up $2 trillion in debt when it comes to tax giveaways for Wall Street and CEOs.

Nobody on the other side is talking about having billionaires pay one cent toward reducing our deficit. Maybe that is why Speaker MCCARTHY went to Wall Street to announce his plans essentially to screw Main Street.

Now they want to demand—and I say demand because this is a ransom note—demand 10 years of cuts unless we stick it to our own constituents, unless we take away food from hungry people, unless we kick people off of healthcare.

They didn't win the Senate, they didn't win the White House, and they didn't win a big majority as they wanted in the House.

To get what they want, they want to default on America so they can push through their radical MAGA agenda.

I have to be honest with you. I was disgusted by the debate in the Rules Committee last night and even what has been said here on the floor today.

This is unconscionably bad. This is not who we are. If you want to have a discussion on the debt, let's have that discussion, but this is an extortion.

You are saying if we don't agree to all these draconian cuts that are going to hurt people that we fight for every day on this side of the aisle, if we don't do that, you are going to run this economy off a cliff.

That is just an all-time high in recklessness and stupidity, Madam Speaker. We cannot accept that. The people we represent are the people who will be impacted by these cuts that I just mentioned by including in the RECORD all of the letters from the various agencies in our government. Those are our people.

Billionaires don't need us, but regular people do. People who are struggling to put food on the table are counting on us to be on their side, not to be making their life more complicated or more difficult.

Yet, this represents kind of the antithesis of everything that I believe is right. This is so wrong. It is so wrong.

I am not going to sit back and say, oh, well, let the process work its will, and maybe it won't be so bad at the end of the day.

This is bad. This is unconscionable. This is not deserving of a vote on the House floor today. People should reject it.

I urge my Republican colleagues on the other side of the aisle: Reject this. You represent these same people too. They deserve to have you on their side, not working against them.

Wall Street, they have enough support. They have enough people rooting for them to succeed. Regular people, people who are struggling in poverty, they need us. They are counting on us.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this rule, ''no'' on the previous question, and ''no'' on the underlying resolution. We have to do better than this. This is beneath the dignity of this institution.

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

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

I begin by thanking my friend for engaging, as he always does, in a spirited debate. We don't agree on a lot of things, but I admire my friend's passion and appreciate his partnership on the Rules Committee, both when I was in the minority and now that I am fortunate enough to be in the majority.

We do look at the world a little bit differently. My friend worries about a $2 trillion tax cut which, by the way, was stretched out over 10 years, much of which paid itself back in economic growth, but forgets about a single bill that spent $1.9 trillion last year that they managed to do.

Look at the results. When the President walked in pre-COVID, the economy had the lowest unemployment rate in 50 years, growing.

Even after going through that, the Biden administration walks into a V-shaped recovery and a 1.4 percent inflation rate.

In less than 2 years, they managed to flatten that out and give us the highest inflation rate in over 40 years.

How did that happen? That happened by unrestrained Democratic spending, out-of-control budget proposals by the President, a Democratic Senate, and a Democratic House that wouldn't say ''no.''

Well, those days are behind us. I understand the agony of my friends, that they actually have to sit down now and talk with the Republicans and come to agreement.

Now, we have come forward with a proposal that we think makes a lot of sense. My friend is worried about us driving up the debt.

Why are we passing an extension of the debt ceiling? That is exactly what this legislation does. We are saying we just want to talk. Here is our opening proposal.

We don't expect you will take everything or agree with everything. We know you control the United States Senate. We know the President of the United States has a veto, but you are going to talk with us, and you are not going to get a clean debt ceiling.

We are not going to give you what you can't get yourself in a Democratic United States Senate. We are going to have a real discussion about what we need to do as a country.

Now, my friend says we have different values. In some ways, we do. We have a common commitment to the institution. We have a common belief in democracy. I think we believe in civil discourse, even when we disagree.

We have many things beyond that that we agree on, but we do differ in some ways. We believe we ought to live within our means, and that is a good thing to try and do.

We think the American people ought to be able to keep more of their own money to spend on their own family and their own investments.

We are willing to put some ideas forward how to do it. We think out-of-control spending is going to make life worse.

The cruelest tax of all is inflation. My friends are worried about the poorest of the poor. I know that is sincere.

I also know the inflation that this Democratic House and Senate of 2 years ago and the administration inflicted on the American public is a curse to the poorest of the poor.

Let's sit down, find some common ground. We have done it before. We act as if it is extraordinary to actually debate around debt ceiling spending restraints.

That is the way it is normally done, particularly in divided government. That is what the American people have given us. I suspect they want us to work together.

We have done our part of the bargain. We will finish that out today. We will extend the debt ceiling, as we promised we would do.

We will put forward a series of suggestions and proposals. We think they are good. Our friends won't agree with them all, but at the end of the day, they are going to have to come to the table.

If they can't pass a clean debt ceiling—or if you can pass a clean debt ceiling in the Senate, go ahead and do it and come to the table with that, but I don't think you will be able to.

We are going to sit down and find some ways to begin to restrain this out-of-control spending, and we are going to do it because there is a Republican majority in the House that demands that we do it; that we begin to live responsibly; that we not inflict inflation on the American people; that we prioritize our spending in some reasonable and rational way.

The material previously referred to by Mr. MCGOVERN is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 327 OFFERED BY MR. MCGOVERN OF MASSACHUSETTS

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 3. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall proceed to the consideration in the House of the resolution (H. Res. 178) affirming the House of Representatives' commitment to protect and strengthen Social Security and Medicare. The resolution shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution and preamble to adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means or their respective designees.

SEC. 4. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H. Res. 178.

Mr. COLE. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time. I urge the passage of the rule and the underlying legislation, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1329

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. OWENS) at 1 o'clock and 29 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:

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 327;

Adoption of House Resolution 327, if ordered; and

The motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1353.

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.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2811, LIMIT, SAVE, GROW ACT OF 2023, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 39, DISAPPROVING THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE RELATING TO ''PROCEDURES COVERING SUSPENSION OF LIQUIDATION, DUTIES AND ESTIMATED DUTIES IN ACCORD WITH PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION 10414''

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 327) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2811) to provide for a responsible increase to the debt ceiling, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 39) disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Commerce relating to ''Procedures Covering Suspension of Liquidation, Duties and Estimated Duties in Accord With Presidential Proclamation 10414'', on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 218, nays 210, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 195]

YEAS—218

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

Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—210

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

NOT VOTING—6

Estes
Kelly (PA)
Kildee
Peters
Simpson
Watson Coleman

□ 1357

Ms. ROSS, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, and Mr. DOGGETT changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mrs. BOEBERT, and Mr. McHENRY changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CISCOMANI). The question is on the resolution.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 219, noes 210, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 196]

AYES—219

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bean (FL)
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davidson
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia, Mike
Gimenez
Gonzales, Tony
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kean (NJ)
Kelly (MS)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Langworthy
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lesko
Letlow
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Malliotakis
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McHenry
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moran
Murphy
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ogles
Owens
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Santos
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Strong
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NOES—210

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

NOT VOTING—5

Estes
Kelly (PA)
Kildee
Peters
Watson Coleman

□ 1407

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ADVANCED, LOCAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE TELECOMMUNICATIONS PARITY 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. 1353) to direct the Federal Communications Commission to issue

rules for the provision of emergency connectivity service, and for other purposes, as amended, 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 Ohio (Mr. LATTA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 422, nays 1, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 197]

YEAS—422

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Alford
Allen
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Auchincloss
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Balint
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bean (FL)
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NC)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Boebert
Bonamici
Bost
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brecheen
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budzinski
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Bush
Calvert
Cammack
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carey
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Cicilline
Ciscomani
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cloud
Clyburn
Clyde
Cohen
Collins
Comer
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis (IL)
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
Espaillat
Evans
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flood
Foster
Foushee
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, C. Scott
Frost
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Mike
Garcia, Robert
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzalez, Vicente
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harder (CA)
Harris
Harshbarger
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 (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Kean (NJ)
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Landsman
Langworthy
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (CA)
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Lesko
Letlow
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Lynch
Mace
Magaziner
Malliotakis
Mann
Manning
Massie
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCaul
McClain
McClellan
McClintock
McCollum
McCormick
McGarvey
McGovern
McHenry
Meeks
Menendez
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Moran
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Nickel
Norcross
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Ogles
Omar
Owens
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Peltola
Pence
Perez
Perry
Pettersen
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Ross
Rouzer
Roy
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Salinas
Sánchez
Santos
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Self
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Spartz
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Stewart
Strickland
Strong
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Tenney
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—1

Biggs

NOT VOTING—11

Cline
Cole
Estes
Gonzales, Tony
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kildee
Meng
Peters
Rodgers (WA)
Watson Coleman

□ 1415

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.

Stated for:

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained during the vote on H.R. 1353. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 197.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for the following rollcall votes. Had I been present for:

Rollcall vote No. 195 on Ordering the Previous Question, I would have voted "yea";

Rollcall vote No. 196 on Agreeing to the Resolution, I would have voted "yea"; and

Rollcall vote No. 197 on the Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as amended, H.R. 1353, Advanced, Local Emergency Response Telecommunications Parity Act, I would have voted "yea."

LIMIT, SAVE, GROW ACT OF 2023

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 327, I call up the bill (H.R. 2811) to provide for a responsible increase to the debt ceiling, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 327, the amendment printed in House Report 118–43 is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

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

H.R. 2811

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 ''Limit, Save, Grow Act of 2023''.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.
Sec. 2. Table of contents.
Sec. 3. References.

DIVISION A—LIMIT FEDERAL SPENDING

TITLE I—DISCRETIONARY SPENDING LIMITS FOR DISCRETIONARY CATEGORY

Sec. 101. Discretionary spending limits.

DIVISION B—SAVE TAXPAYER DOLLARS

TITLE I—RESCISSION OF UNOBLIGATED CORONAVIRUS FUNDS

Sec. 201. Rescission of unobligated coronavirus funds.
Sec. 202. Rescission of inflation reduction act funds.

TITLE II—PROHIBIT UNFAIR STUDENT LOAN GIVEAWAYS

Sec. 211. Nullification of certain executive actions and rules relating to Federal student loans.
Sec. 212. Limitation on authority of Secretary to propose or issue regulations and executive actions.

TITLE III—REPEAL MARKET DISTORTING GREEN TAX CREDITS

Sec. 221. Amendment of 1986 Code.
Sec. 222. Modification of credit for electricity produced from certain renewable resources.
Sec. 223. Modification of energy credit.
Sec. 224. Repeal of increase in energy credit for solar and wind facilities placed in service in connection with low-income communities.
Sec. 226. Zero-emission nuclear power production credit repealed.
Sec. 229. Repeal of sustainable aviation fuel credit.
Sec. 230. Clean hydrogen repeals.
Sec. 231. Nonbusiness energy property credit.
Sec. 232. Residential clean energy credit reverted to credit for residential energy efficient property.
Sec. 233. Energy efficient commercial buildings deduction.
Sec. 234. Modifications to new energy efficient home credit.

Sec. 235. Clean vehicle credit.
Sec. 236. Repeal of credit for previously-owned clean vehicles.
Sec. 237. Repeal of credit for qualified commercial clean vehicles.
Sec. 238. Alternative fuel refueling property credit.
Sec. 239. Advanced energy project credit extension reversed.
Sec. 240. Repeal of advanced manufacturing production credit.
Sec. 241. Repeal of clean electricity production credit.
Sec. 242. Repeal of clean electricity investment credit.
Sec. 243. Cost recovery for qualified facilities, qualified property, and energy storage technology removed.
Sec. 244. Repeal of clean fuel production credit.
Sec. 245. Repeal of sections relating to elective payment for energy property and electricity produced from certain renewable resources; transfer of credits.
Sec. 246. Transition rule.

TITLE IV—FAMILY AND SMALL BUSINESS TAXPAYER PROTECTION

Sec. 251. Rescission of certain balances made available to the Internal Revenue Service.

DIVISION C—GROW THE ECONOMY

TITLE I—TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES

Sec. 301. Recalibration of the caseload reduction credit.
Sec. 302. Eliminating excess maintenance of effort spending in determining caseload reduction credit.
Sec. 303. Elimination of small checks scheme.
Sec. 304. Reporting of work outcomes.
Sec. 305. Effective date.

TITLE II—SNAP EXEMPTIONS

Sec. 311. Age-related exemption from work requirement to receive SNAP.
Sec. 312. Rule of construction for exemption adjustment.
Sec. 313. Supplemental nutrition assistance program under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2006.

TITLE III—COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REQUIREMENT FOR APPLICABLE INDIVIDUALS

Sec. 321. Community engagement requirement for applicable individuals.

TITLE IV—REGULATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE IN NEED OF SCRUTINY

Sec. 331. Short title.
Sec. 332. Purpose.
Sec. 333. Congressional review of agency rulemaking.
Sec. 334. Budgetary effects of rules subject to section 802 of title 5, United States Code.
Sec. 335. Government Accountability Office study of rules.

DIVISION D—H.R. 1, THE LOWER ENERGY COSTS ACT

TITLE I—INCREASING AMERICAN ENERGY PRODUCTION, EXPORTS, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND CRITICAL MINERALS PROCESSING

Sec. 10001. Securing America's critical minerals supply.
Sec. 10002. Protecting American energy production.
Sec. 10003. Researching Efficient Federal Improvements for Necessary Energy Refining.
Sec. 10004. Promoting cross-border energy infrastructure.
Sec. 10005. Sense of Congress expressing disapproval of the revocation of the Presidential permit for the Keystone XL pipeline.
Sec. 10006. Sense of Congress opposing restrictions on the export of crude oil or other petroleum products.
Sec. 10007. Unlocking our domestic LNG potential.
Sec. 10008. Sense of Congress expressing disapproval of the denial of Jordan Cove permits.
Sec. 10009. Promoting interagency coordination for review of natural gas pipelines.
Sec. 10010. Interim hazardous waste permits for critical energy resource facilities.
Sec. 10011. Flexible air permits for critical energy resource facilities.
Sec. 10012. National security or energy security waivers to produce critical energy resources.
Sec. 10013. Natural gas tax repeal.
Sec. 10014. Repeal of greenhouse gas reduction fund.
Sec. 10015. Ending future delays in chemical substance review for critical energy resources.
Sec. 10016. Keeping America's refineries operating.
Sec. 10017. Homeowner energy freedom.
Sec. 10018. Study.
Sec. 10019. State primary enforcement responsibility.
Sec. 10020. Use of index-based pricing in acquisition of petroleum products for the SPR.
Sec. 10021. Prohibition on certain exports.
Sec. 10022. Sense of Congress expressing disapproval of the proposed tax hikes on the oil and natural gas industry in the President's fiscal year 2024 budget request.
Sec. 10023. Domestic Energy Independence report.
Sec. 10024. GAO study.
Sec. 10025. Gas kitchen ranges and ovens.

TITLE II—TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY, PERMITTING, AND PRODUCTION OF AMERICAN RESOURCES

Sec. 20001. Short title.

Subtitle A—Onshore and Offshore Leasing and Oversight

Sec. 20101. Onshore oil and gas leasing.
Sec. 20102. Lease reinstatement.
Sec. 20103. Protested lease sales.
Sec. 20104. Suspension of operations.
Sec. 20105. Administrative protest process reform.
Sec. 20106. Leasing and permitting transparency.
Sec. 20107. Offshore oil and gas leasing.
Sec. 20108. Five-year plan for offshore oil and gas leasing.
Sec. 20109. Geothermal leasing.
Sec. 20110. Leasing for certain qualified coal applications.
Sec. 20111. Future coal leasing.
Sec. 20112. Staff planning report.
Sec. 20113. Prohibition on Chinese communist party ownership interest.
Sec. 20114. Effect on other law.
Sec. 20115. Requirement for GAO report on wind energy impacts.
Sec. 20116. Sense of Congress on wind energy development supply chain.
Sec. 20117. Sense of Congress on oil and gas royalty rates.
Sec. 20118. Offshore wind environmental review process study.
Sec. 20119. GAO report on wind energy impacts.

Subtitle B—Permitting Streamlining

Sec. 20201. Definitions.
Sec. 20202. BUILDER Act.
Sec. 20203. Codification of National Environmental Policy Act regulations.
Sec. 20204. Non-major Federal actions.
Sec. 20205. No net loss determination for existing rights-of-way.
Sec. 20206. Determination of National Environmental Policy Act adequacy.
Sec. 20207. Determination regarding rights-of-way.
Sec. 20208. Terms of rights-of-way.
Sec. 20209. Funding to process permits and develop information technology.
Sec. 20210. Offshore geological and geophysical survey licensing.
Sec. 20211. Deferral of applications for permits to drill.
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Sec. 20213. Amendments to the Energy Policy Act of 2005.
Sec. 20214. Access to Federal energy resources from non-Federal surface estate.
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Sec. 20219. Government Accountability Office report on permits to drill.
Sec. 20220. E–NEPA.
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Sec. 20402. Prohibitions on delay of mineral development of certain Federal land.
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Sec. 20601. Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf revenue.

Sec. 20602. Parity in offshore wind revenue sharing.
Sec. 20603. Elimination of administrative fee under the Mineral Leasing Act.
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TITLE III—WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION AND ENERGY PROJECT IMPROVEMENT
Sec. 30001. Short title.
Sec. 30002. Certification.
Sec. 30003. Federal general permits.
DIVISION E—INCREASE IN DEBT LIMIT
Sec. 40001. Limited suspension of debt ceiling.

SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to ''this Act'' contained in any division of this Act shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division.

DIVISION A—LIMIT FEDERAL SPENDING

TITLE I—DISCRETIONARY SPENDING LIMITS FOR DISCRETIONARY CATEGORY

SEC. 101. DISCRETIONARY SPENDING LIMITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 251(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7)(B), by striking ''and'' at the end; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (8) the following:

''(9) for fiscal year 2024, for the discretionary category, $1,470,979,000,000 in new budget authority;

''(10) for fiscal year 2025, for the discretionary category, $1,485,689,000,000 in new budget authority;

''(11) for fiscal year 2026, for the discretionary category, $1,500,546,000,000 in new budget authority;

''(12) for fiscal year 2027, for the discretionary category, $1,515,551,000,000 in new budget authority;

''(13) for fiscal year 2028, for the discretionary category, $1,530,707,000,000 in new budget authority;

''(14) for fiscal year 2029, for the discretionary category, $1,546,014,000,000 in new budget authority;

''(15) for fiscal year 2030, for the discretionary category, $1,561,474,000,000 in new budget authority;

''(16) for fiscal year 2031, for the discretionary category, $1,577,089,000,000 in new budget authority;

''(17) for fiscal year 2032, for the discretionary category, $1,592,859,000,000 in new budget authority; and

''(18) for fiscal year 2033, for the discretionary category, $1,608,788,000,000 in new budget authority;''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO ADJUSTMENTS.—

(1) CONTINUING DISABILITY REVIEWS AND REDERMINATIONS.—Section 251(b)(2)(B)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 is amended—

(A) in subclause (IX), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in subclause (X), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by inserting after subclause (X) the following:

''(XI) for fiscal year 2024, $1,578,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

''(XII) for fiscal year 2025, $1,630,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

''(XIII) for fiscal year 2026, $1,682,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

''(XIV) for fiscal year 2027, $1,734,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

''(XV) for fiscal year 2028, $1,788,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

''(XVI) for fiscal year 2029, $1,842,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

''(XVII) for fiscal year 2030, $1,898,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

''(XVIII) for fiscal year 2031, $1,955,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

''(XIX) for fiscal year 2032, $2,014,000,000 in additional new budget authority; and

''(XX) for fiscal year 2033, $2,076,000,000 in additional new budget authority.''.

(2) HEALTH CARE FRAUD AND ABUSE CONTROL.—Section 251(b)(2)(C)(i) of such Act is amended—

(A) in subclause (IX), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in subclause (X), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by inserting after subclause (X) the following:

''(XI) for fiscal year 2024, $604,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

''(XII) for fiscal year 2025, $630,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

''(XIII) for fiscal year 2026, $658,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

''(XIV) for fiscal year 2027, $686,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

''(XV) for fiscal year 2028, $714,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

''(XVI) for fiscal year 2029, $743,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

''(XVII) for fiscal year 2030, $771,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

''(XVIII) for fiscal year 2031, $798,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

''(XIX) for fiscal year 2032, $826,000,000 in additional new budget authority; and

''(XX) for fiscal year 2033, $853,000,000 in additional new budget authority.''.

(3) DISASTER FUNDING.—Section 251(b)(2)(D)(i) of such Act is amended by inserting after ''2021'' the following: ''and fiscal years 2024 through 2033''.

(4) REEMPLOYMENT SERVICES AND ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENTS.—Section 251(b)(2)(E)(i) of such Act is amended—

(A) in subclause (III), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in subclause (IV), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by inserting after subclause (IV) the following:

''(V) for fiscal year 2024, $265,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

''(VI) for fiscal year 2025, $271,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

''(VII) for fiscal year 2026, $276,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

''(VIII) for fiscal year 2027, $282,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

''(IX) for fiscal year 2028, $288,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

''(X) for fiscal year 2029, $293,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

''(XI) for fiscal year 2030, $299,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

''(XII) for fiscal year 2031, $305,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

''(XIII) for fiscal year 2032, $311,000,000 in additional new budget authority; and

''(XIV) for fiscal year 2033, $317,000,000 in additional new budget authority.''.

(5) WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION.—Section 251(b)(2)(F)(i) of such Act is amended—

(A) by striking ''through 2027'' and inserting ''through 2033'';

(B) in subclause (VII), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(C) in subclause (VIII), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(D) by inserting after subclause (VIII) the following:

''(IX) for fiscal year 2028, $2,957,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

''(X) for fiscal year 2029, $3,036,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

''(XI) for fiscal year 2030, $3,118,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

''(XII) for fiscal year 2031, $3,202,000,000 in additional new budget authority;

''(XIII) for fiscal year 2032, $3,287,000,000 in additional new budget authority; and

''(XIV) for fiscal year 2033, $3,376,000,000 in additional new budget authority.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS RELATING TO SEQUESTRATION REPORTS.—Section 254 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 904) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(2), by striking ''2021'' and inserting ''2033''; and

(2) in subsection (f)(2)(A), by striking ''2021'' and inserting ''2033''.

DIVISION B—SAVE TAXPAYER DOLLARS

TITLE I—RESCISSION OF UNOBLIGATED CORONAVIRUS FUNDS

SEC. 201. RESCISSION OF UNOBLIGATED CORONAVIRUS FUNDS.

The unobligated balances of amounts appropriated or otherwise made available by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117–2), and by each of Public Laws 116–123, 116–127, 116–136, and 116–139 and divisions M and N of Public Law 116–260, are hereby permanently rescinded.

SEC. 202. RECISSION OF INFLATION REDUCTION ACT FUNDS.

The unobligated balances of amounts appropriated or otherwise made available by each of the following provisions of Public Law 117–169 (commonly referred to as the ''Inflation Reduction Act'') are hereby permanently rescinded:

Section 50131.
Section 50144.
Section 50224.
Section 60114.
Section 60501.

TITLE II—PROHIBIT UNFAIR STUDENT LOAN GIVEAWAYS

SEC. 211. NULLIFICATION OF CERTAIN EXECUTIVE ACTIONS AND RULES RELATING TO FEDERAL STUDENT LOANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The following shall have no force or effect:

(1) The waivers and modifications of statutory and regulatory provisions relating to an extension of the suspension of payments on certain loans and waivers of interest on such loans under section 3513 of the CARES Act (20 U.S.C. 1001 note)—

(A) described by the Department of Education in the Federal Register on October 12, 2022 (87 Fed. Reg. 61513 et seq.); and

(B) issued on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) The modifications of statutory and regulatory provisions relating to debt discharge described by the Department of Education in the Federal Register on October 12, 2022 (87 Fed. Reg. 61514).

(3) A final rule that is substantially similar to the proposed rule on ''Improving Income-Driven Repayment for the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program'' published by the Department of Education in the Federal Register on January 11, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 1894 et seq.).

(b) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary of Education may not implement any executive action or rule specified in paragraph (1), (2), or (3) of subsection (a) (or a substantially similar executive action or rule), except as expressly authorized by an Act of Congress.

SEC. 212. LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY TO PROPOSE OR ISSUE REGULATIONS AND EXECUTIVE ACTIONS.

Part G of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1088 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 492 the following:

''SEC. 492A. LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY TO PROPOSE OR ISSUE REGULATIONS AND EXECUTIVE ACTIONS.

''(a) DRAFT REGULATIONS.—Beginning after the date of enactment of this section, a draft regulation implementing this title (as described in section 492(b)(1)) that is determined by the Secretary to be economically

significant shall be subject to the following requirements (regardless of whether negotiated rulemaking occurs):

''(1) The Secretary shall determine whether the draft regulation, if implemented, would result in an increase in a subsidy cost resulting from a loan modification.

''(2) If the Secretary determines under paragraph (1) that the draft regulation would result in an increase in a subsidy cost resulting from a loan modification, then the Secretary may take no further action with respect to such regulation.

''(b) PROPOSED OR FINAL REGULATIONS AND EXECUTIVE ACTIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, beginning after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary may not issue a proposed rule, final regulation, or executive action implementing this title if the Secretary determines that the rule, regulation, or executive action—

''(1) is economically significant; and

''(2) would result in an increase in a subsidy cost resulting from a loan modification.

''(c) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—The analyses required under subsections (a) and (b) shall be in addition to any other cost analysis required under law for a regulation implementing this title, including any cost analysis that may be required pursuant to Executive Order 12866 (58 Fed. Reg. 51735; relating to regulatory planning and review), Executive Order 13563 (76 Fed. Reg. 3821; relating to improving regulation and regulatory review), or any related or successor orders.

''(d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term 'economically significant', when used with respect to a draft, proposed, or final regulation or executive action, means that the regulation or executive action is likely, as determined by the Secretary—

''(1) to have an annual effect on the economy of $100,000,000 or more; or

''(2) adversely to affect in a material way the economy, a sector of the economy, productivity, competition, jobs, the environment, public health or safety, or State, local, or tribal governments or communities.''.

TITLE III—REPEAL MARKET DISTORTING GREEN TAX CREDITS

SEC. 221. AMENDMENT OF 1986 CODE.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this title an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

SEC. 222. MODIFICATION OF CREDIT FOR ELECTRICITY PRODUCED FROM CERTAIN RENEWABLE RESOURCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The following provisions of section 45(d) are each amended by striking ''January 1, 2025'' each place it appears and inserting ''January 1, 2022'':

(1) Paragraph (2)(A).

(2) Paragraph (3)(A).

(3) Paragraph (6).

(4) Paragraph (7).

(5) Paragraph (9).

(6) Paragraph (11)(B).

(b) BASE CREDIT AMOUNT.—Section 45 is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking ''0.3 cents'' and inserting ''1.5 cents'', and

(2) in subsection (b)(2), by striking ''0.3 cent'' each place it appears and inserting ''1.5 cent''.

(c) APPLICATION TO GEOTHERMAL AND SOLAR.—Section 45(d)(4) is amended by striking ''and the construction of which begins before January 1, 2025'' and all that follows and inserting ''and which—

''(A) in the case of a facility using solar energy, is placed in service before January 1, 2006, or

''(B) in the case of a facility using geothermal energy, the construction of which begins before January 1, 2022.

Such term shall not include any property described in section 48(a)(3) the basis of which is taken into account by the taxpayer for purposes of determining the energy credit under section 48.''.

(d) ELECTION TO TREAT QUALIFIED FACILITIES AS ENERGY PROPERTY.—Section 48(a)(5)(C)(ii) is amended by striking ''January 1, 2025'' and inserting ''January 1, 2022''.

(e) WIND FACILITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 45(d)(1) is amended by striking ''January 1, 2025'' and inserting ''January 1, 2022''.

(2) APPLICATION OF PHASEOUT PERCENTAGE.—

(A) RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION CREDIT.—Section 45(b)(5) is amended by striking ''which is placed in service before January 1, 2022''.

(B) ENERGY CREDIT.—Section 48(a)(5)(E) is amended by striking ''placed in service before January 1, 2022, and''.

(3) QUALIFIED OFFSHORE WIND FACILITIES UNDER ENERGY CREDIT.—Section 48(a)(5)(F)(i) is amended by striking ''offshore wind facility, subparagraph (E) shall not apply.'' and inserting ''offshore wind facility—

''(I) subparagraph (C)(ii) shall be applied by substituting 'January 1, 2026' for 'January 1, 2022',

''(II) subparagraph (E) shall not apply, and

''(III) for purposes of this paragraph, section 45(d)(1) shall be applied by substituting 'January 1, 2026' for 'January 1, 2022'.''.

(f) WAGE AND APPRENTICESHIP REQUIREMENTS.—Section 45(b) is amended by striking paragraphs (6), (7), and (8).

(g) DOMESTIC CONTENT, PHASEOUT, AND ENERGY COMMUNITIES.—Section 45(b) is amended by striking paragraphs (9), (10), (11), and (12).

(h) CREDIT REDUCED FOR GRANTS, TAX-EXEMPT BONDS, SUBSIDIZED ENERGY FINANCING, AND OTHER CREDITS.—Section 45(b)(3) is amended to read as follows:

''(3) CREDIT REDUCED FOR GRANTS, TAX-EXEMPT BONDS, SUBSIDIZED ENERGY FINANCING, AND OTHER CREDITS.—The amount of the credit determined under subsection (a) with respect to any project for any taxable year (determined after the application of paragraphs (1) and (2)) shall be reduced by the amount which is the product of the amount so determined for such year and the lesser of ½ or a fraction—

''(A) the numerator of which is the sum, for the taxable year and all prior taxable years, of—

''(i) grants provided by the United States, a State, or a political subdivision of a State for use in connection with the project,

''(ii) proceeds of an issue of State or local government obligations used to provide financing for the project the interest on which is exempt from tax under section 103,

''(iii) the aggregate amount of subsidized energy financing provided (directly or indirectly) under a Federal, State, or local program provided in connection with the project, and

''(iv) the amount of any other credit allowable with respect to any property which is part of the project, and

''(B) the denominator of which is the aggregate amount of additions to the capital account for the project for the taxable year and all prior taxable years.

The amounts under the preceding sentence for any taxable year shall be determined as of the close of the taxable year. This paragraph shall not apply with respect to any facility described in subsection (d)(2)(A)(ii).''.

(i) ROUNDING ADJUSTMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 45(b)(2) is amended to read as follows:

''(2) CREDIT AND PHASEOUT ADJUSTMENT BASED ON INFLATION.—The 1.5 cent amount in subsection (a), the 8 cent amount in paragraph (1), the $4.375 amount in subsection (e)(8)(A), the $2 amount in subsection (e)(8)(D)(ii)(I), and in subsection (e)(8)(B)(i) the reference price of fuel used as a feedstock (within the meaning of subsection (c)(7)(A)) in 2002 shall each be adjusted by multiplying such amount by the inflation adjustment factor for the calendar year in which the sale occurs. If any amount as increased under the preceding sentence is not a multiple of 0.1 cent, such amount shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of 0.1 cent.''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 45(b)(4)(A) is amended by striking ''last two sentences'' and inserting ''last sentence''.

(j) HYDROPOWER.—

(1) CREDIT RATE REDUCTION FOR QUALIFIED HYDROELECTRIC PRODUCTION AND MARINE AND HYDROKINETIC RENEWABLE ENERGY.—Section 45(b)(4)(A) is amended by striking ''or (7)'' and inserting ''(7), (9), or (11)''.

(2) MARINE AND HYDROKINETIC RENEWABLE ENERGY.—Section 45 is amended—

(A) in subsection (c)(10)(A)—

(i) in clause (iii), by adding ''or'' at the end,

(ii) in clause (iv), by striking '', or'' and inserting a period, and

(iii) by striking clause (v), and

(B) in subsection (d)(11)(A), by striking ''25'' and inserting ''150''.

(k) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), the amendments made by this section shall apply to facilities placed in service after December 31, 2021.

(2) CREDIT REDUCED FOR GRANTS, TAX-EXEMPT BONDS, SUBSIDIZED ENERGY FINANCING, AND OTHER CREDITS.—The amendment made by subsection (h) shall apply to facilities the construction of which begins after August 16, 2022.

(3) DOMESTIC CONTENT, PHASEOUT, ENERGY COMMUNITIES.—The amendments made by subsections (g) and (j) shall apply to facilities placed in service after December 31, 2022.

SEC. 223. MODIFICATION OF ENERGY CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The following provisions of section 48 are each amended by striking ''January 1, 2025'' each place it appears and inserting ''January 1, 2024'':

(1) Subsection (a)(2)(A)(i)(II).

(2) Subsection (a)(3)(A)(ii).

(3) Subsection (c)(1)(E).

(4) Subsection (c)(2)(D).

(5) Subsection (c)(3)(A)(iv).

(6) Subsection (c)(4)(C).

(7) Subsection (c)(5)(D).

(b) CERTAIN ENERGY PROPERTY.—Section 48(a)(3)(A)(vii) is amended by striking ''January 1, 2035'' and inserting ''January 1, 2024''.

(c) PHASEOUT OF CREDIT.—Section 48(a) is amended by striking paragraphs (6) and (7) and inserting the following new paragraphs:

''(6) PHASEOUT FOR SOLAR ENERGY PROPERTY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), in the case of any energy property described in paragraph (3)(A)(i) the construction of which begins before January 1, 2024, the energy percentage determined under paragraph (2) shall be equal to—

''(i) in the case of any property the construction of which begins after December 31, 2019, and before January 1, 2023, 26 percent, and

''(ii) in the case of any property the construction of which begins after December 31, 2022, and before January 1, 2024, 22 percent.

''(B) PLACED IN SERVICE DEADLINE.—In the case of any energy property described in paragraph (3)(A)(i) the construction of which begins before January 1, 2024, and which is not placed in service before January 1, 2026,

the energy percentage determined under paragraph (2) shall be equal to 10 percent.

''(7) PHASEOUT FOR CERTAIN OTHER ENERGY PROPERTY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), in the case of any qualified fuel cell property, qualified small wind property, waste energy recovery property, or energy property described in paragraph (3)(A)(ii), the energy percentage determined under paragraph (2) shall be equal to—

''(i) in the case of any property the construction of which begins after December 31, 2019, and before January 1, 2023, 26 percent, and

''(ii) in the case of any property the construction of which begins after December 31, 2022, and before January 1, 2024, 22 percent.

''(B) PLACED IN SERVICE DEADLINE.—In the case of any energy property described in subparagraph (A) which is not placed in service before January 1, 2026, the energy percentage determined under paragraph (2) shall be equal to 0 percent.''.

(d) BASE ENERGY PERCENTAGE AMOUNT.—Section 48(a) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(A)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking ''6 percent'' and inserting ''30 percent'', and

(B) in clause (ii), by striking ''2 percent'' and inserting ''10 percent'', and

(2) in paragraph (5)(A)(ii), by striking ''6 percent'' and inserting ''30 percent''.

(e) CREDIT FOR GEOTHERMAL.—Section 48(a)(2)(A)(i)(II) is amended by striking ''clause (i) or (iii) of paragraph (3)(A)'' and inserting ''paragraph (3)(A)(i)''.

(f) ENERGY STORAGE TECHNOLOGIES, QUALIFIED BIOGAS PROPERTY; MICROGRID CONTROLLERS REMOVED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 48(a)(3)(A) is amended by inserting ''or'' at the end of clause (vii) and by striking clauses (ix), (x), and (xi).

(2) CONFORMING CHANGES.—

(A) Section 48(a)(2)(A)(i) is amended by inserting ''and'' at the end of subclauses (IV) and (V) and by striking subclauses (VI), (VII), (VIII), and (IX).

(B) Section 48(c) is amended by striking paragraphs (6), (7), and (8).

(C) Section 45(e) is amended by striking paragraph (12).

(D) Section 50(d)(2) is amended by striking ''At the election of a taxpayer'' and all that follows through ''equal to or less than 500 kilowatt hours.''

(g) FUEL CELLS USING ELECTROMECHANICAL PROCESSES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 48(c)(1) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(i)—

(i) by striking ''or electromechanical'', and

(ii) by striking ''(1 kilowatt in the case of a fuel cell power plant with a linear generator assembly)'', and

(B) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) by striking '', or linear generator assembly'', and

(ii) by striking ''or electromechanical''.

(2) LINEAR GENERATOR ASSEMBLY LIMITATION.—Section 48(c)(1) is amended by striking subparagraph (D) and by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (D).

(h) DYNAMIC GLASS.—Section 48(a)(3)(A)(ii) is amended by striking ''or electrochromic glass which uses electricity to change its light transmittance properties in order to heat or cool a structure,''.

(i) COORDINATION RULE REMOVED.—Paragraph (3) of section 50(c) is amended—

(1) by inserting ''and'' at the end of subparagraph (A),

(2) by striking '', and'' at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting a period, and

(3) by striking subparagraph (C).

(j) INTERCONNECTION PROPERTY.—Section 48(a) is amended by striking paragraph (8).

(k) ENERGY PROJECTS, WAGE REQUIREMENTS, AND APPRENTICESHIP REQUIREMENTS.—Section 48(a) is amended by striking paragraphs (9), (10), and (11).

(l) DOMESTIC CONTENT, PHASEOUT FOR ELECTIVE PAYMENT.—Section 48(a) is amended by striking paragraphs (12) and (13).

(m) RULE FOR PROPERTY FINANCED BY TAX-EXEMPT BONDS REMOVED; TEXT OF SPECIAL RULE FOR PROPERTY FINANCED BY SUBSIDIZED ENERGY FINANCING OR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BONDS RESTORED.—Section 48(a)(4) is amended to read as follows:

''(4) SPECIAL RULE FOR PROPERTY FINANCED BY SUBSIDIZED ENERGY FINANCING OR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BONDS.—

''(A) REDUCTION OF BASIS.—For purposes of applying the energy percentage to any property, if such property is financed in whole or in part by—

''(i) subsidized energy financing, or

''(ii) the proceeds of a private activity bond (within the meaning of section 141) the interest on which is exempt from tax under section 103,

the amount taken into account as the basis of such property shall not exceed the amount which (but for this subparagraph) would be so taken into account multiplied by the fraction determined under subparagraph (B).

''(B) DETERMINATION OF FRACTION.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the fraction determined under this subparagraph is 1 reduced by a fraction—

''(i) the numerator of which is that portion of the basis of the property which is allocable to such financing or proceeds, and

''(ii) the denominator of which is the basis of the property.

''(C) SUBSIDIZED ENERGY FINANCING.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term 'subsidized energy financing' means financing provided under a Federal, State, or local program a principal purpose of which is to provide subsidized financing for projects designed to conserve or produce energy.

''(D) TERMINATION.—This paragraph shall not apply to periods after December 31, 2008, under rules similar to the rules of section 48(m) (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Revenue Reconciliation Act of 1990).''.

(n) TREATMENT OF CONTRACTS INVOLVING ENERGY STORAGE.—Section 7701(e) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(i), by inserting ''or'' at the end of subclause (II), by striking ''or'' at the end of subclause (III) and inserting ''and'', and by striking subclause (IV), and

(B) by striking subparagraph (F), and

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking ''water treatment works facility, or storage facility'' and inserting ''or water treatment works facility''.

(o) REMOVAL OF INCREASED CREDIT RATE FOR ENERGY COMMUNITIES.—Section 48(a) is amended by striking paragraph (14).

(p) REGULATIONS.—Section 48(a) is amended by striking paragraph (15).

(q) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), the amendments made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after December 31, 2021.

(2) OTHER PROPERTY.—The amendments made by subsections (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (l), (n), and (o) shall apply to property placed in service after December 31, 2022.

(3) REMOVAL OF RULE FOR PROPERTY FINANCED BY TAX EXEMPT BONDS.—The amendment made by subsection (m) shall apply to property the construction of which begins after August 16, 2022.

SEC. 224. REPEAL OF INCREASE IN ENERGY CREDIT FOR SOLAR AND WIND FACILITIES PLACED IN SERVICE IN CONNECTION WITH LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 48 is amended by striking subsection (e).

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on January 1, 2023.

SEC. 226. ZERO-EMISSION NUCLEAR POWER PRODUCTION CREDIT REPEALED.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 is amended by striking section 45U (and by striking the item relating to such section in the table of sections for such subpart).

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 38(b) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (32), by adding ''plus'' at the end,

(2) in paragraph (33), by striking the comma at the end and inserting a period, and

(3) by striking paragraph (34).

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to electricity produced and sold after December 31, 2023, in taxable years beginning after such date.

SEC. 229. REPEAL OF SUSTAINABLE AVIATION FUEL CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 is amended by striking section 40B (and by striking the item relating to such section in the table of sections for such subpart).

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 38(b) is amended by striking paragraph (35).

(c) COORDINATION WITH BIODIESEL REMOVED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 40A(d)(1) is amended by striking ''or 40B''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 40A(f) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) CERTAIN AVIATION FUEL.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in the last 3 sentences of paragraph (3), the term 'renewable diesel' shall include fuel derived from biomass which meets the requirements of a Department of Defense specification for military jet fuel or an American Society of Testing and Materials specification for aviation turbine fuel.

''(B) APPLICATION OF MIXTURE CREDITS.—In the case of fuel which is treated as renewable diesel solely by reason of subparagraph (A), subsection (b)(1) and section 6426(c) shall be applied with respect to such fuel by treating kerosene as though it were diesel fuel.''.

(3) SUSTAINABLE AVIATION FUEL CREDIT PROVISIONS REMOVED.—Section 6426 is amended by striking subsection (k).

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 6426 is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(1), by striking ''(e), and (k)'' and inserting ''and (e)'', and

(B) in subsection (h), by striking ''under section 40, 40A, or 40B'' and inserting ''under section 40 or 40A''.

(2) Section 6427(e) is amended—

(A) in the heading, by striking ''ALTERNATIVE FUEL, OR SUSTAINABLE AVIATION FUEL'' and inserting ''OR ALTERNATIVE FUEL'',

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking ''or the sustainable aviation fuel mixture credit'', and

(C) in paragraph (6)—

(i) in subparagraph (C), by adding ''and'' at the end,

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking '', and'' and inserting a period, and

(iii) by striking subparagraph (E).

(3) Section 4101(a)(1) is amended by striking ''every person producing or importing sustainable aviation fuel (as defined in section 40B),''.

(4) Section 87 is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by adding ''and'' at the end,

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking '', and'' and inserting a period, and

(C) by striking paragraph (3).

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to fuel sold or used after December 31, 2022.

SEC. 230. CLEAN HYDROGEN REPEALS.

(a) CREDIT FOR PRODUCTION OF CLEAN HYDROGEN REPEALED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 is amended by striking section 45V (and by striking the item relating to such section in the table of sections for such subpart).

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 38(b) is amended by striking paragraph (36).

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to hydrogen produced after December 31, 2022.

(b) CREDIT FOR ELECTRICITY PRODUCED FROM RENEWABLE RESOURCES ALLOWED IF ELECTRICITY IS USED TO PRODUCE CLEAN HYDROGEN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 45(e) is amended by striking paragraph (13).

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to electricity produced after December 31, 2022.

(c) ELECTION TO TREAT CLEAN HYDROGEN PRODUCTION FACILITIES AS ENERGY PROPERTY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 48(a) is amended by striking paragraph (15) and by redesignating paragraph (16) as paragraph (15).

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to property placed in service after December 31, 2022.

(d) REINSTATEMENT OF ALTERNATIVE FUEL CREDIT FOR LIQUEFIED HYDROGEN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 6426(d)(2) is amended by redesignating subparagraphs (D), (E), and (F) as subparagraphs (E), (F), and (G), respectively, and by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

''(D) liquefied hydrogen,''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 6426(e)(2) is amended by striking ''(E)'' and inserting ''(F)''.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to fuel sold or used after December 31, 2022.

SEC. 231. NONBUSINESS ENERGY PROPERTY CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 25C is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 25C. NONBUSINESS ENERGY PROPERTY.

''(a) ALLOWANCE OF CREDIT.—In the case of an individual, there shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by this chapter for the taxable year an amount equal to the sum of—

''(1) 10 percent of the amount paid or incurred by the taxpayer for qualified energy efficiency improvements installed during such taxable year, and

''(2) the amount of the residential energy property expenditures paid or incurred by the taxpayer during such taxable year.

''(b) LIMITATIONS.—

''(1) LIFETIME LIMITATION.—The credit allowed under this section with respect to any taxpayer for any taxable year shall not exceed the excess (if any) of $500 over the aggregate credits allowed under this section with respect to such taxpayer for all prior taxable years ending after December 31, 2005.

''(2) WINDOWS.—In the case of amounts paid or incurred for components described in subsection (c)(3)(B) by any taxpayer for any taxable year, the credit allowed under this section with respect to such amounts for such year shall not exceed the excess (if any) of $200 over the aggregate credits allowed under this section with respect to such amounts for all prior taxable years ending after December 31, 2005.

''(3) LIMITATION ON RESIDENTIAL ENERGY PROPERTY EXPENDITURES.—The amount of the credit allowed under this section by reason of subsection (a)(2) shall not exceed—

''(A) $50 for any advanced main air circulating fan,

''(B) $150 for any qualified natural gas, propane, or oil furnace or hot water boiler, and

''(C) $300 for any item of energy-efficient building property.

''(c) QUALIFIED ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS.—For purposes of this section—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The term 'qualified energy efficiency improvements' means any energy efficient building envelope component, if—

''(A) such component is installed in or on a dwelling unit located in the United States and owned and used by the taxpayer as the taxpayer's principal residence (within the meaning of section 121),

''(B) the original use of such component commences with the taxpayer, and

''(C) such component reasonably can be expected to remain in use for at least 5 years.

''(2) ENERGY EFFICIENT BUILDING ENVELOPE COMPONENT.—The term 'energy efficient building envelope component' means a building envelope component which meets—

''(A) applicable Energy Star program requirements, in the case of a roof or roof products,

''(B) version 6.0 Energy Star program requirements, in the case of an exterior window, a skylight, or an exterior door, and

''(C) the prescriptive criteria for such component established by the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code, as such Code (including supplements) is in effect on the date of the enactment of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Tax Act of 2009, in the case of any other component.

''(3) BUILDING ENVELOPE COMPONENT.—The term 'building envelope component' means—

''(A) any insulation material or system which is specifically and primarily designed to reduce the heat loss or gain of a dwelling unit when installed in or on such dwelling unit,

''(B) exterior windows (including skylights),

''(C) exterior doors, and

''(D) any metal roof or asphalt roof installed on a dwelling unit, but only if such roof has appropriate pigmented coatings or cooling granules which are specifically and primarily designed to reduce the heat gain of such dwelling unit.

''(4) MANUFACTURED HOMES INCLUDED.—The term 'dwelling unit' includes a manufactured home which conforms to Federal Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards (part 3280 of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations).

''(d) RESIDENTIAL ENERGY PROPERTY EXPENDITURES.—For purposes of this section—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The term 'residential energy property expenditures' means expenditures made by the taxpayer for qualified energy property which is—

''(A) installed on or in connection with a dwelling unit located in the United States and owned and used by the taxpayer as the taxpayer's principal residence (within the meaning of section 121), and

''(B) originally placed in service by the taxpayer.

Such term includes expenditures for labor costs properly allocable to the onsite preparation, assembly, or original installation of the property.

''(2) QUALIFIED ENERGY PROPERTY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'qualified energy property' means—

''(i) energy-efficient building property,

''(ii) a qualified natural gas, propane, or oil furnace or hot water boiler, or

''(iii) an advanced main air circulating fan.

''(B) PERFORMANCE AND QUALITY STANDARDS.—Property described under subparagraph (A) shall meet the performance and quality standards, and the certification requirements (if any), which—

''(i) have been prescribed by the Secretary by regulations (after consultation with the Secretary of Energy or the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, as appropriate), and

''(ii) are in effect at the time of the acquisition of the property, or at the time of the completion of the construction, reconstruction, or erection of the property, as the case may be.

''(C) REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS FOR AIR CONDITIONERS AND HEAT PUMPS.—The standards and requirements prescribed by the Secretary under subparagraph (B) with respect to the energy efficiency ratio (EER) for central air conditioners and electric heat pumps—

''(i) shall require measurements to be based on published data which is tested by manufacturers at 95 degrees Fahrenheit, and

''(ii) may be based on the certified data of the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Institute that are prepared in partnership with the Consortium for Energy Efficiency.

''(3) ENERGY-EFFICIENT BUILDING PROPERTY.—The term 'energy-efficient building property' means—

''(A) an electric heat pump water heater which yields a Uniform Energy Factor of at least 2.2 in the standard Department of Energy test procedure,

''(B) an electric heat pump which achieves the highest efficiency tier established by the Consortium for Energy Efficiency, as in effect on January 1, 2009,

''(C) a central air conditioner which achieves the highest efficiency tier established by the Consortium for Energy Efficiency, as in effect on January 1, 2009, and

''(D) a natural gas, propane, or oil water heater which has either a Uniform Energy Factor of at least 0.82 or a thermal efficiency of at least 90 percent.

''(4) QUALIFIED NATURAL GAS, PROPANE, OR OIL FURNACE OR HOT WATER BOILER.—The term 'qualified natural gas, propane, or oil furnace or hot water boiler' means a natural gas, propane, or oil furnace or hot water boiler which achieves an annual fuel utilization efficiency rate of not less than 95.

''(5) ADVANCED MAIN AIR CIRCULATING FAN.—The term 'advanced main air circulating fan' means a fan used in a natural gas, propane, or oil furnace and which has an annual electricity use of no more than 2 percent of the total annual energy use of the furnace (as determined in the standard Department of Energy test procedures).

''(e) SPECIAL RULES.—For purposes of this section—

''(1) APPLICATION OF RULES.—Rules similar to the rules under paragraphs (4), (5), (6), (7), and (8) of section 25D(e) shall apply.

''(2) JOINT OWNERSHIP OF ENERGY ITEMS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Any expenditure otherwise qualifying as an expenditure under this section shall not be treated as failing to so qualify merely because such expenditure was made with respect to two or more dwelling units.

''(B) LIMITS APPLIED SEPARATELY.—In the case of any expenditure described in subparagraph (A), the amount of the credit allowable under subsection (a) shall (subject to paragraph (1)) be computed separately with respect to the amount of the expenditure made for each dwelling unit.

''(3) PROPERTY FINANCED BY SUBSIDIZED ENERGY FINANCING.—For purposes of determining the amount of expenditures made by

any individual with respect to any property, there shall not be taken into account expenditures which are made from subsidized energy financing (as defined in section 48(a)(4)(C)).

''(f) BASIS ADJUSTMENTS.—For purposes of this subtitle, if a credit is allowed under this section for any expenditure with respect to any property, the increase in the basis of such property which would (but for this subsection) result from such expenditure shall be reduced by the amount of the credit so allowed.

''(g) TERMINATION.—This section shall not apply with respect to any property placed in service—

''(1) after December 31, 2007, and before January 1, 2009, or

''(2) after December 31, 2021.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 1016(a)(33) is amended by striking ''section 25C(g)'' and inserting ''25C(f)''.

(2) Section 6213(g)(2) is amended—

(A) by adding ''and'' at the end of subparagraph (P),

(B) by striking the comma at the end of subparagraph (Q) and inserting a period, and

(C) by striking subparagraphs (R) and (S).

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after December 31, 2021.

SEC. 232. RESIDENTIAL CLEAN ENERGY CREDIT REVERTED TO CREDIT FOR RESIDENTIAL ENERGY EFFICIENT PROPERTY.

(a) EXTENSION REVERSED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 25D(h) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2034'' and inserting ''December 31, 2023''.

(2) PHASEOUT RESTORED.—Section 25D(g) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by adding ''and'' at the end,

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''before January 1, 2022, 26 percent,'' and inserting ''before January 1, 2023, 26 percent, and'',

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking ''December 31, 2021, and before January 1, 2033, 30 percent,'' and inserting ''December 31, 2022, and before January 1, 2024, 22 percent.'', and

(D) by striking paragraphs (4) and (5).

(b) RESIDENTIAL CLEAN ENERGY CREDIT FOR BATTERY STORAGE TECHNOLOGY REMOVED; BIOMASS EXPENDITURE PROVISIONS RESTORED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (6) of section 25D(a) is amended to read as follows:

''(6) the qualified biomass fuel property expenditures,'',

(2) DEFINITION OF QUALIFIED BIOMASS FUEL PROPERTY EXPENDITURES RESTORED.—Paragraph (6) of section 25D(d) is amended to read as follows:

''(6) QUALIFIED BIOMASS FUEL PROPERTY EXPENDITURE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'qualified biomass fuel property expenditure' means an expenditure for property—

''(i) which uses the burning of biomass fuel to heat a dwelling unit located in the United States and used as a residence by the taxpayer, or to heat water for use in such a dwelling unit, and

''(ii) which has a thermal efficiency rating of at least 75 percent (measured by the higher heating value of the fuel).

''(B) BIOMASS FUEL.—For purposes of this section, the term 'biomass fuel' means any plant-derived fuel available on a renewable or recurring basis.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 25D(d)(3) is amended by striking '', without regard to subparagraph (D) thereof''.

(2) The heading for section 25D is amended by striking ''**CLEAN ENERGY CREDIT**'' and inserting ''**ENERGY EFFICIENT PROPERTY**''.

(3) The table of sections for subpart A of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 is amended by striking the item relating to section 25D and inserting the following:

''Sec. 25D. Residential energy efficient property.''

(d) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendments made by this section shall apply to expenditures made after December 31, 2021.

(2) RESIDENTIAL CLEAN ENERGY CREDIT FOR BATTERY STORAGE TECHNOLOGY REMOVED; BIOMASS EXPENDITURE PROVISIONS RESTORED.—The amendments made by subsection (b) shall apply to expenditures made after December 31, 2022.

SEC. 233. ENERGY EFFICIENT COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS DEDUCTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF DEDUCTION RULES RESTORED.—Section 179D(b) is amended to read as follows:

''(b) MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF DEDUCTION.—The deduction under subsection (a) with respect to any building for any taxable year shall not exceed the excess (if any) of—

''(1) the product of—

''(A) $1.80, and

''(B) the square footage of the building, over

''(2) the aggregate amount of the deductions under subsection (a) with respect to the building for all prior taxable years.''.

(2) MODIFICATION OF EFFICIENCY STANDARD.—Section 179D(c)(1)(D) is amended by striking ''25 percent'' and inserting ''50 percent''.

(3) REFERENCE STANDARD.—Section 179D(c)(2) is amended to read as follows:

''(2) REFERENCE STANDARD 90.1.—The term 'Reference Standard 90.1' means, with respect to any property, the most recent Standard 90.1 published by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers and the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America which has been affirmed by the Secretary, after consultation with the Secretary of Energy, for purposes of this section not later than the date that is 2 years before the date that construction of such property begins.''.

(4) PARTIAL ALLOWANCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 179D(d) is amended—

(i) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (5) as paragraphs (2) through (6), respectively, and

(ii) by inserting before paragraph (2) the following:

''(1) PARTIAL ALLOWANCE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (f), if—

''(i) the requirement of subsection (c)(1)(D) is not met, but

''(ii) there is a certification in accordance with paragraph (6) that any system referred to in subsection (c)(1)(C) satisfies the energy-savings targets established by the Secretary under subparagraph (B) with respect to such system,

then the requirement of subsection (c)(1)(D) shall be treated as met with respect to such system, and the deduction under subsection (a) shall be allowed with respect to energy efficient commercial building property installed as part of such system and as part of a plan to meet such targets, except that subsection (b) shall be applied to such property by substituting '$.60' for '$1.80'.

''(B) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary, after consultation with the Secretary of Energy, shall establish a target for each system described in subsection (c)(1)(C) such that, if such targets were met for all such systems, the building would meet the requirements of subsection (c)(1)(D).''.

(B) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(i) Section 179D(c)(1)(D) is amended—

(I) by striking ''subsection (d)(5)'' and inserting ''subsection (d)(6)'', and

(II) by striking ''subsection (d)(1)'' and inserting ''subsection (d)(2)''.

(ii) Paragraph (3)(A) of section 179D(d), as redesignated by subparagraph (A), is amended by striking ''paragraph (1)'' and inserting ''paragraph (2)''.

(iii) Paragraph (5) of section 179D(d), as redesignated by subparagraph (A), is amended by striking ''paragraph (2)(B)(iii)'' and inserting ''paragraph (3)(B)(iii)''.

(iv) Section 179D(h)(2) is amended by inserting ''or (d)(1)(A)'' after ''subsection (c)(1)(D)''.

(5) ALLOCATION OF DEDUCTION FOR PUBLIC PROPERTY.—Paragraph (4) of section 179D(d), as redesignated by paragraph (4)(A), is amended to read as follows:

''(4) ALLOCATION OF DEDUCTION FOR PUBLIC PROPERTY.—In the case of energy efficient commercial building property installed on or in property owned by a Federal, State, or local government or a political subdivision thereof, the Secretary shall promulgate a regulation to allow the allocation of the deduction to the person primarily responsible for designing the property in lieu of the owner of such property. Such person shall be treated as the taxpayer for purposes of this section.''.

(6) ALTERNATIVE DEDUCTION FOR ENERGY EFFICIENT BUILDING RETROFIT PROPERTY REPEALED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 179D is amended by striking subsection (f).

(B) RESTORATION OF TEXT RELATING TO INTERIM RULES FOR LIGHTING SYSTEMS.—Section 179D is amended by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

''(f) INTERIM RULES FOR LIGHTING SYSTEMS.—Until such time as the Secretary issues final regulations under subsection (d)(1)(B) with respect to property which is part of a lighting system—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The lighting system target under subsection (d)(1)(A)(ii) shall be a reduction in lighting power density of 25 percent (50 percent in the case of a warehouse) of the minimum requirements in Table 9.5.1 or Table 9.6.1 (not including additional interior lighting power allowances) of Standard 90.1–2007.

''(2) REDUCTION IN DEDUCTION IF REDUCTION LESS THAN 40 PERCENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If, with respect to the lighting system of any building other than a warehouse, the reduction in lighting power density of the lighting system is not at least 40 percent, only the applicable percentage of the amount of deduction otherwise allowable under this section with respect to such property shall be allowed.

''(B) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the applicable percentage is the number of percentage points (not greater than 100) equal to the sum of—

''(i) 50, and

''(ii) the amount which bears the same ratio to 50 as the excess of the reduction of lighting power density of the lighting system over 25 percentage points bears to 15.

''(C) EXCEPTIONS.—This subsection shall not apply to any system—

''(i) the controls and circuiting of which do not comply fully with the mandatory and prescriptive requirements of Standard 90.1–2007 and which do not include provision for bilevel switching in all occupancies except hotel and motel guest rooms, store rooms, restrooms, and public lobbies, or

''(ii) which does not meet the minimum requirements for calculated lighting levels as set forth in the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America Lighting Handbook, Performance and Application, Ninth Edition, 2000.''.

(7) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—Section 179D(g) is amended—

(A) by inserting ''or subsection (d)(1)(A)'' after ''subsection (b)'',

(B) by striking ''2022'' and inserting ''2020'', and

(C) by striking ''calendar year 2021'' and inserting ''calendar year 2019''.

(b) SPECIAL RULE FOR REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUSTS REMOVED.—Section 312(k)(3)(B) is amended to read as follows:

''(B) TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS DEDUCTIBLE UNDER SECTION 179, 179B, 179C, 179D, OR 179E.—For purposes of computing the earnings and profits of a corporation, any amount deductible under section 179, 179B, 179C, 179D, or 179E shall be allowed as a deduction ratably over the period of 5 taxable years (beginning with the taxable year for which such amount is deductible under section 179, 179B, 179C, 179D, or 179E, as the case may be).''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (2) of section 179D(d), as redesignated by subsection (a)(4)(A), is amended by striking ''not later than the date that is 4 years before the date such property is placed in service'' and inserting ''not later than the date that is 2 years before the date that construction of such property begins''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATES.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2022.

SEC. 234. MODIFICATIONS TO NEW ENERGY EFFICIENT HOME CREDIT.

(a) EXTENSION REVERSED.—Section 45L(h) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2032'' and inserting ''December 31, 2021''.

(b) DECREASE IN CREDIT AMOUNTS.—Paragraph (2) of section 45L(a) is amended to read as follows:

''(2) APPLICABLE AMOUNT.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the applicable amount is an amount equal to—

''(A) in the case of a dwelling unit described in paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (c), $2,000, and

''(B) in the case of a dwelling unit described in paragraph (3) of subsection (c), $1,000.''.

(c) REVERSAL OF MODIFICATION OF ENERGY SAVING REQUIREMENTS.—Section 45L(c) is amended to read as follows:

''(c) ENERGY SAVING REQUIREMENTS.—A dwelling unit meets the energy saving requirements of this subsection if such unit is—

''(1) certified—

''(A) to have a level of annual heating and cooling energy consumption which is at least 50 percent below the annual level of heating and cooling energy consumption of a comparable dwelling unit—

''(i) which is constructed in accordance with the standards of chapter 4 of the 2006 International Energy Conservation Code, as such Code (including supplements) is in effect on January 1, 2006, and

''(ii) for which the heating and cooling equipment efficiencies correspond to the minimum allowed under the regulations established by the Department of Energy pursuant to the National Appliance Energy Conservation Act of 1987 and in effect at the time of completion of construction, and

''(B) to have building envelope component improvements account for at least ⅕ of such 50 percent,

''(2) a manufactured home which conforms to Federal Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards (part 3280 of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations) and which meets the requirements of paragraph (1), or

''(3) a manufactured home which conforms to Federal Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards (part 3280 of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations) and which—

''(A) meets the requirements of paragraph (1) applied by substituting '30 percent' for '50 percent' both places it appears therein and by substituting '⅓' for '⅕' in subparagraph (B) thereof, or

''(B) meets the requirements established by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency under the Energy Star Labeled Homes program.''.

(d) PREVAILING WAGE REQUIREMENT REMOVED.—Section 45L is amended by striking subsection (g) and redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (g).

(e) BASIS ADJUSTMENT.—Section 45L(e) is amended by striking ''This subsection shall not apply for purposes of determining the adjusted basis of any building under section 42''.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATES.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to dwelling units acquired after December 31, 2021.

SEC. 235. CLEAN VEHICLE CREDIT.

(a) PER VEHICLE DOLLAR LIMITATION.—Section 30D(b) is amended by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and inserting the following:

''(2) BASE AMOUNT.—The amount determined under this paragraph is $2,500.

''(3) BATTERY CAPACITY.—In the case of a vehicle which draws propulsion energy from a battery with not less than 5 kilowatt hours of capacity, the amount determined under this paragraph is $417, plus $417 for each kilowatt hour of capacity in excess of 5 kilowatt hours. The amount determined under this paragraph shall not exceed $5,000.''.

(b) FINAL ASSEMBLY.—Section 30D(d) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (E), by adding ''and'' at the end,

(B) in subparagraph (F)(ii), by striking the comma at the end and inserting a period, and

(C) by striking subparagraph (G), and

(2) by striking paragraph (5).

(c) DEFINITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 30D(d), as amended by subsection (b), is amended—

(A) in the heading, by striking ''CLEAN'' and inserting ''QUALIFIED PLUG-IN ELECTRIC DRIVE MOTOR'',

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''clean'' and inserting ''qualified plug-in electric drive motor'',

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''qualified'' before ''manufacturer'',

(iii) in subparagraph (F)(i), by striking ''7'' and inserting ''4'', and

(iv) by striking subparagraph (H),

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in the heading, by striking ''QUALIFIED MANUFACTURER'' and inserting ''MANUFACTURER'', and

(ii) by striking ''The term 'qualified manufacturer' means'' and all that follows through the period and inserting ''The term 'manufacturer' has the meaning given such term in regulations prescribed by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for purposes of the administration of title II of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7521 et seq.).'', and

(D) by striking paragraph (6).

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 30D is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking ''new clean vehicle'' and inserting ''new qualified plug-in electric drive motor vehicle'', and

(B) in subsection (b)(1), by striking ''new clean vehicle'' and inserting ''new qualified plug-in electric drive motor vehicle''.

(d) CRITICAL MINERAL REQUIREMENTS REMOVED.—Section 30D is amended by striking subsection (e).

(e) LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF VEHICLES ELIGIBLE FOR CREDIT RESTORED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 30D is amended by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

''(e) LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF NEW QUALIFIED PLUG-IN ELECTRIC DRIVE MOTOR VEHICLES ELIGIBLE FOR CREDIT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a new qualified plug-in electric drive motor vehicle sold during the phaseout period, only the applicable percentage of the credit otherwise allowable under subsection (a) shall be allowed.

''(2) PHASEOUT PERIOD.—For purposes of this subsection, the phaseout period is the period beginning with the second calendar quarter following the calendar quarter which includes the first date on which the number of new qualified plug-in electric drive motor vehicles manufactured by the manufacturer of the vehicle referred to in paragraph (1) sold for use in the United States after December 31, 2009, is at least 200,000.

''(3) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the applicable percentage is—

''(A) 50 percent for the first 2 calendar quarters of the phaseout period,

''(B) 25 percent for the 3rd and 4th calendar quarters of the phaseout period, and (C)

''(C) 0 percent for each calendar quarter thereafter.

''(4) CONTROLLED GROUPS.—Rules similar to the rules of section 30B(f)(4) shall apply for purposes of this subsection.''.

(2) EXCLUDED ENTITIES.—Section 30D(d), as amended by Public Law 117–169, is amended by striking paragraph (7).

(f) SPECIAL RULES REPEALED.—Section 30D(f) is amended by striking paragraphs (8), (9), (10), and (11).

(g) TRANSFER OF CREDIT REPEALED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 30D is amended by striking subsection (g).

(2) RESTORATION OF TEXT RELATING TO PLUG-IN ELECTRIC VEHICLES.—Section 30D is amended by inserting after subsection (f) the following:

''(g) CREDIT ALLOWED FOR 2- AND 3-WHEELED PLUG-IN ELECTRIC VEHICLES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a qualified 2- or 3-wheeled plug-in electric vehicle—

''(A) there shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by this chapter for the taxable year an amount equal to the sum of the applicable amount with respect to each such qualified 2- or 3-wheeled plug-in electric vehicle placed in service by the taxpayer during the taxable year, and

''(B) the amount of the credit allowed under subparagraph (A) shall be treated as a credit allowed under subsection (a).

''(2) APPLICABLE AMOUNT.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the applicable amount is an amount equal to the lesser of—

''(A) 10 percent of the cost of the qualified 2- or 3-wheeled plug-in electric vehicle, or

''(B) $2,500.

''(3) QUALIFIED 2- OR 3-WHEELED PLUG-IN ELECTRIC VEHICLE.—The term 'qualified 2- or 3-wheeled plug-in electric vehicle' means any vehicle which—

''(A) has 2 or 3 wheels,

''(B) meets the requirements of subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), (E), and (F) of subsection (d)(1) (determined by substituting '2.5 kilowatt hours' for '4 kilowatt hours' in subparagraph (F)(i)),

''(C) is manufactured primarily for use on public streets, roads, and highways,

''(D) is capable of achieving a speed of 45 miles per hour or greater, and

''(E) is acquired—

''(i) after December 31, 2011, and before January 1, 2014, or

''(ii) in the case of a vehicle that has 2 wheels, after December 31, 2014, and before January 1, 2022.''.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS REVERSED.—Section 30D(f), as amended by Public Law 117–169, is amended—

(A) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

''(3) PROPERTY USED BY TAX-EXEMPT ENTITY.—In the case of a vehicle the use of which

is described in paragraph (3) or (4) of section 50(b) and which is not subject to a lease, the person who sold such vehicle to the person or entity using such vehicle shall be treated as the taxpayer that placed such vehicle in service, but only if such person clearly discloses to such person or entity in a document the amount of any credit allowable under subsection (a) with respect to such vehicle (determined without regard to subsection (c)). For purposes of subsection (c), property to which this paragraph applies shall be treated as of a character subject to an allowance for depreciation.'', and

(B) in paragraph (8), by striking '', including any vehicle with respect to which the taxpayer elects the application of subsection (g)''.

(h) TERMINATION REPEALED.—Section 30D is amended by striking subsection (h).

(i) ADDITIONAL CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) The heading of section 30D is amended by striking ''**CLEAN VEHICLE CREDIT**'' and inserting ''**NEW QUALIFIED PLUG-IN ELECTRIC DRIVE MOTOR VEHICLES**''.

(2) Section 30B is amended—

(A) in subsection (h)(8) by inserting '', except that no benefit shall be recaptured if such property ceases to be eligible for such credit by reason of conversion to a qualified plug-in electric drive motor vehicle'', before the period at the end, and

(B) by inserting after subsection (h) the following subsection:

''(i) PLUG-IN CONVERSION CREDIT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subsection (a), the plug-in conversion credit determined under this subsection with respect to any motor vehicle which is converted to a qualified plug-in electric drive motor vehicle is 10 percent of so much of the cost of the converting such vehicle as does not exceed $40,000.

''(2) QUALIFIED PLUG-IN ELECTRIC DRIVE MOTOR VEHICLE.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'qualified plug-in electric drive motor vehicle' means any new qualified plug-in electric drive motor vehicle (as defined in section 30D, determined without regard to whether such vehicle is made by a manufacturer or whether the original use of such vehicle commences with the taxpayer).

''(3) CREDIT ALLOWED IN ADDITION TO OTHER CREDITS.—The credit allowed under this subsection shall be allowed with respect to a motor vehicle notwithstanding whether a credit has been allowed with respect to such motor vehicle under this section (other than this subsection) in any preceding taxable year.

''(4) TERMINATION.—This subsection shall not apply to conversions made after December 31, 2011.''.

(3) Section 38(b)(30) is amended by striking ''clean'' and inserting ''qualified plug-in electric drive motor''.

(4) Section 6213(g)(2) is amended by striking subparagraph (T).

(5) Section 6501(m) is amended by striking ''30D(f)(6)'' and inserting ''30D(e)(4)''.

(6) The table of sections for subpart B of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 is amended by striking the item relating to section 30D and inserting after the item relating to section 30C the following item:

''Sec. 30D. New qualified plug-in electric drive motor vehicles.''.

(j) GROSS UP REPEALED.—Section 13401 of Public Law 117–169 is amended by striking subsection (j).

(k) TRANSITION RULE REPEALED.—Section 13401 of Public Law 117–169 is amended by striking subsection (l).

(l) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2), (3), (4), and (5), the amendments made by this section shall apply to vehicles placed in service after December 31, 2022.

(2) FINAL ASSEMBLY.—The amendments made by subsection (b) shall apply to vehicles sold after August 16, 2022.

(3) MANUFACTURER LIMITATION.—The amendment made by subsections (d) and (e) shall apply to vehicles sold after December 31, 2022.

(4) TRANSFER OF CREDIT.—The amendments made by subsection (g) shall apply to vehicles placed in service after December 31, 2023.

(5) TRANSITION RULE.—The amendment made by subsection (k) shall take effect as if included in Public Law 117–169.

SEC. 236. REPEAL OF CREDIT FOR PREVIOUSLY-OWNED CLEAN VEHICLES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart A of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 is amended by striking section 25E (and by striking the item relating to such section in the table of sections for such subpart).

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 6213(g)(2) is amended by striking subparagraph (U).

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to vehicles acquired after December 31, 2022.

SEC. 237. REPEAL OF CREDIT FOR QUALIFIED COMMERCIAL CLEAN VEHICLES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 is amended by striking section 45W (and by striking the item relating to such section in the table of sections for such subpart).

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 38(b) is amended by striking paragraph (37).

(2) Section 6213(g)(2) is amended by striking subparagraph (V).

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to vehicles acquired after December 31, 2022.

SEC. 238. ALTERNATIVE FUEL REFUELING PROPERTY CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 30C(i) is amended by striking ''December 31, 2032'' and inserting ''December 31, 2021''.

(b) PROPERTY OF A CHARACTER SUBJECT TO DEPRECIATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 30C(a) is amended by striking ''(6 percent in the case of property of a character subject to depreciation)''.

(2) MODIFICATION OF CREDIT LIMITATION.—Subsection (b) of section 30C is amended—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking ''with respect to any single item of'' and inserting ''with respect to all'', and

(ii) by inserting ''at a location'' before ''shall not exceed'', and

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking ''$100,000 in the case of any such item of property'' and inserting ''$30,000 in the case of a property''.

(3) BIDIRECTIONAL CHARGING EQUIPMENT NOT INCLUDED; ELIGIBLE CENSUS TRACT REQUIREMENT REMOVED.—Section 30C(c) is amended to read as follows:

''(c) QUALIFIED ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLE REFUELING PROPERTY.—For purposes of this section, the term 'qualified alternative fuel vehicle refueling property' has the same meaning as the term 'qualified clean-fuel vehicle refueling property' would have under section 179A if—

''(1) paragraph (1) of section 179A(d) did not apply to property installed on property which is used as the principal residence (within the meaning of section 121) of the taxpayer, and

''(2) only the following were treated as clean-burning fuels for purposes of section 179A(d):

''(A) Any fuel at least 85 percent of the volume of which consists of one or more of the following: ethanol, natural gas, compressed natural gas, liquified natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas, or hydrogen.

''(B) Any mixture—

''(i) which consists of two or more of the following: biodiesel (as defined in section 40A(d)(1)), diesel fuel (as defined in section 4083(a)(3)), or kerosene, and

''(ii) at least 20 percent of the volume of which consists of biodiesel (as so defined) determined without regard to any kerosene in such mixture.

''(C) Electricity.''.

(c) CERTAIN ELECTRIC CHARGING STATIONS NOT INCLUDED AS QUALIFIED ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLE REFUELING PROPERTY; WAGE AND APPRENTICESHIP REQUIREMENTS REMOVED.—Section 30C is amended by striking subsections (f) and (g) and redesignating subsections (h) and (i) as subsections (f) and (g), respectively.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after December 31, 2021.

SEC. 239. ADVANCED ENERGY PROJECT CREDIT EXTENSION REVERSED.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 48C is amended by striking subsection (e) and redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (e).

(b) MODIFICATION OF QUALIFYING ADVANCED ENERGY PROJECTS.—Section 48C(c)(1)(A) is amended—

(1) by striking '', any portion of the qualified investment of which is certified by the Secretary under subsection (e) as eligible for a credit under this section'',

(2) in clause (i)—

(A) by striking ''an industrial or manufacturing facility for the production or recycling of'' and inserting ''a manufacturing facility for the production of'',

(B) in subclause (I), by striking ''water,'',

(C) in subclause (II), by striking ''energy storage systems and components'' and inserting ''an energy storage system for use with electric or hybrid-electric motor vehicles'',

(D) in subclause (III), by striking ''grid modernization equipment or components'' and inserting ''grids to support the transmission of intermittent sources of renewable energy, including storage of such energy'',

(E) in subclause (IV), by striking '', remove, use, or sequester carbon oxide emissions'' and inserting ''and sequester carbon dioxide emissions'',

(F) by striking subclause (V) and inserting the following:

''(V) property designed to refine or blend renewable fuels or to produce energy conservation technologies (including energy-conserving lighting technologies and smart grid technologies),'',

(G) by striking subclauses (VI), (VII), and (VIII),

(H) by inserting after subclause (V) the following:

''(VI) new qualified plug-in electric drive motor vehicles (as defined by section 30D) or components which are designed specifically for use with such vehicles, including electric motors, generators, and power control units, or'', and

(I) by redesignating subclause (IX) as subclause (VII), and inserting '', and'' at the end of such subclause, and

(3) by striking clauses (ii) and (iii) and inserting the following:

''(ii) any portion of the qualified investment of which is certified by the Secretary under subsection (d) as eligible for a credit under this section.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subparagraph (A) of section 48C(c)(2) is amended to read as follows:

''(A) which is necessary for the production of property described in paragraph (1)(A)(i),''.

(d) DENIAL OF DOUBLE BENEFIT.—Section 48C(e), as redesignated by this section, is amended by striking ''48B, 48E, 45Q, or 45V'' and inserting ''or 48B''.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on January 1, 2023.

SEC. 240. REPEAL OF ADVANCED MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 is amended by striking section 45X (and by striking the item relating to such section in the table of sections for such subpart).

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 38(b) is amended by striking paragraph (38).

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to components produced and sold after December 31, 2022.

SEC. 241. REPEAL OF CLEAN ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 is amended by striking section 45Y (and by striking the item relating to such section in the table of sections for such subpart).

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 38(b) is amended by striking paragraph (39).

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to facilities placed in service after December 31, 2024.

SEC. 242. REPEAL OF CLEAN ELECTRICITY INVESTMENT CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart E of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 is amended by striking section 48E (and by striking the item relating to such section in the table of sections for such subpart).

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 46, as amended by Public Law 117–169, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (5), by adding ''and'' at the end,

(B) in paragraph (6), by striking '', and'' and inserting a period, and

(C) by striking paragraph (7).

(2) Section 49(a)(1)(C), as amended by Public Law 117–169, is amended—

(A) by adding ''and'' at the end of clause (v),

(B) by striking the comma at the end of clause (vi) and inserting a period, and

(C) by striking clauses (vii) and (viii).

(3) Section 50(a)(2)(E), as amended by Public Law 117–169, is amended by striking ''48D(b)(5), or 48E(e)'' and inserting ''or 48D(b)(5)''.

(4) Section 50(c)(3), as amended by Public Law 117–169, is amended by striking ''or clean electricity investment credit''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to facilities and property placed in service after December 31, 2024.

SEC. 243. COST RECOVERY FOR QUALIFIED FACILITIES, QUALIFIED PROPERTY, AND ENERGY STORAGE TECHNOLOGY REMOVED.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 168(e)(3)(B), as amended by Public Law 117–169, is amended—

(1) in clause (vi)(III), by adding ''and'' at the end,

(2) in clause (vii), by striking '', and,'' at the end and inserting a period, and

(3) by striking clause (viii).

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to facilities and property placed in service after December 31, 2024.

SEC. 244. REPEAL OF CLEAN FUEL PRODUCTION CREDIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 is amended by striking section 45Z (and by striking the item relating to such section in the table of sections for such subpart).

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 30C(c)(1)(B), as amended by Public Law 117–169, is amended by striking clause (iv).

(2) Section 38(b), as amended by Public Law 117–169, is amended by striking paragraph (40).

(3) Section 4101(a)(1), as amended by Public Law 117–169, is amended by striking ''every person producing a fuel eligible for the clean fuel production credit (pursuant to section 45Z),''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to transportation fuel produced after December 31, 2024.

SEC. 245. REPEAL OF SECTIONS RELATING TO ELECTIVE PAYMENT FOR ENERGY PROPERTY AND ELECTRICITY PRODUCED FROM CERTAIN RENEWABLE RESOURCES; TRANSFER OF CREDITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter B of chapter 65 is amended by striking sections 6417 and 6418 (and by striking the items relating to such sections in the table of sections for such subchapter).

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 50(d) is amended by striking ''In the case of a real estate investment trust making an election under section 6418, paragraphs (1)(B) and (2)(B) of the section 46(e) referred to in paragraph (1) of this subsection shall not apply to any investment credit property of such real estate investment trust to which such election applies''.

(2) Section 39(a) is amended by striking paragraph (4).

(3) Section 13801 of Public Law 117–169 is amended by striking subsection (f).

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2022.

SEC. 246. TRANSITION RULE.

In the case of a taxpayer who entered into a binding written contract or made other concrete investment action after August 26, 2022, and before April 19, 2023 to engage in an activity for which a credit would otherwise be available if not for the application of sections 229 and 244 of this Act, such sections shall not apply.

TITLE IV—FAMILY AND SMALL BUSINESS TAXPAYER PROTECTION

SEC. 251. RESCISSION OF CERTAIN BALANCES MADE AVAILABLE TO THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE.

The unobligated balances of amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for activities of the Internal Revenue Service by paragraphs (1)(A)(ii), (1)(A)(iii), (1)(B), (2), (3), (4), and (5) of section 10301 of Public Law 117–169 (commonly known as the ''Inflation Reduction Act of 2022'') as of the date of the enactment of this Act are rescinded.

DIVISION C—GROW THE ECONOMY

TITLE I—TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES

SEC. 301. RECALIBRATION OF THE CASELOAD REDUCTION CREDIT.

Section 407(b)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 607(b)(3)) is amended in each of subparagraphs (A)(ii) and (B), by striking ''2005'' and inserting ''2022''.

SEC. 302. ELIMINATING EXCESS MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT SPENDING IN DETERMINING CASELOAD REDUCTION CREDIT.

Section 407(b)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 607(b)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(C) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN CASES.—The Secretary shall determine the minimum participation rate of a State for a fiscal year under this subsection without regard to cases that are funded by an amount expended in excess of the applicable percentage of the historic expenditures (as defined in section 409(a)(7)(B)(ii)) of the State for the fiscal year.''.

SEC. 303. ELIMINATION OF SMALL CHECKS SCHEME.

Section 407(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 607(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(6) SPECIAL RULE REGARDING CALCULATION OF THE MINIMUM PARTICIPATION RATE.—The Secretary shall determine participation rates under this section without regard to any individual engaged in work who is described in section 408(a)(2), who is not in compliance with section 408(a)(3), or with respect to whom the assessment required by section 408(b)(1) has not been made.''.

SEC. 304. REPORTING OF WORK OUTCOMES.

Section 411 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 611) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) REPORTING PERFORMANCE INDICATORS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Each Sate, in consultation with the Secretary, shall collect and submit to the Secretary the information necessary for each indicator described in paragraph (2), for fiscal year 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter.

''(2) INDICATORS OF PERFORMANCE.—The indicators described in this paragraph for a fiscal year are the following:

''(A) The percentage of individuals who were work-eligible individuals as of the time of exit from the program, who are in unsubsidized employment during the second quarter after the exit.

''(B) The percentage of individuals who were work-eligible individuals who were in unsubsidized employment in the second quarter after the exit, who are also in unsubsidized employment during the fourth quarter after the exit.

''(C) The median earnings of individuals who were work-eligible individuals as of the time of exit from the program, who are in unsubsidized employment during the second quarter after the exit.

''(D) The percentage of individuals who have not attained 24 years of age, are attending high school or enrolled in an equivalency program, and are work-eligible individuals or were work-eligible individuals as of the time of exit from the program, who obtain a high school degree or its recognized equivalent while receiving assistance under the State program funded under this part or within 1 year after the exit.

''(3) DEFINITION OF EXIT.—In paragraph (2), the term 'exit' means, with respect to a State program funded under this part, ceases to receive assistance under the program funded by this part.

''(4) REGULATIONS.—In order to ensure nationwide comparability of data, the Secretary, after consultation with the Secretary of Labor and with States, shall issue regulations governing the reporting of performance indicators under this subsection.''.

SEC. 305. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this title shall take effect on October 1, 2024.

TITLE II—SNAP EXEMPTIONS

SEC. 311. AGE-RELATED EXEMPTION FROM WORK REQUIREMENT TO RECEIVE SNAP.

Section 6(o)(3)(A) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015(6)(o)(3)(A)) is amended by striking ''50'' and inserting ''56''.

SEC. 312. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION FOR EXEMPTION ADJUSTMENT.

Section 6(o)(6) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015(6)(o)(6)) is amended by adding at end the following:

''(I) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION FOR EXEMPTION ADJUSTMENT.—During fiscal year 2024 and each subsequent fiscal year, nothing in this paragraph shall be interpreted to allow a State agency to accumulate unused exemptions to be provided beyond the subsequent fiscal year.''.

SEC. 312. SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UNDER THE FOOD AND NUTRITION ACT OF 2008.

Section 2 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011) is amended by adding at the end the following: ''That program includes as a purpose to assist low-income adults in obtaining employment and increasing their earnings. Such employment and earnings, along with program benefits, will permit low-income households to obtain a more nutritious diet through normal channels of trade by increasing food purchasing power for all eligible households who apply for participation.''.

TITLE III—COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REQUIREMENT FOR APPLICABLE INDIVIDUALS

SECTION 321. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REQUIREMENT FOR APPLICABLE INDIVIDUALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1903(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396b(i)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (26), by striking ''; or'' and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (27), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or'';

(3) by inserting after paragraph (27) the following new paragraph:

''(28) with respect to any amount expended for medical assistance for an applicable individual for a month in a calendar year if such individual did not meet the community engagement requirement under section 1905(jj) for 3 or more preceding months during such calendar year while such individual was an applicable individual and was enrolled in a State plan (or waiver of such plan) under this title.''; and

(4) in the flush left matter at the end, by striking ''and (18),'' and inserting ''(18), and (28)''.

(b) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REQUIREMENT.—Section 1905 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(jj) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REQUIREMENT FOR APPLICABLE INDIVIDUALS.—

''(1) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REQUIREMENT DESCRIBED.—For purposes of section 1903(i)(28), the community engagement requirement described in this subsection with respect to an applicable individual and a month is that such individual satisfies at least one of the following with respect to such month:

''(A) The individual works 80 hours or more per month, or has a monthly income that is at least equal to the Federal minimum wage under section 6 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, multiplied by 80 hours.

''(B) The individual completes 80 hours or more of community service per month.

''(C) The individual participates in a work program for at least 80 hours per month.

''(D) The individual participates in a combination of work, including community service, and a work program for a total of at least 80 hours per month.

''(2) VERIFICATION.—For purposes of verifying the compliance of an applicable individual with the community engagement requirement under paragraph (1), a State Medicaid agency shall, whenever possible, prioritize the utilization of existing databases or other verification measures, including the National Change of Address Database Maintained by the United States Postal Service, State health and human services agencies, payroll databases, or other reliable sources of information, prior to seeking additional verification from such individual.

''(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) APPLICABLE INDIVIDUAL.—The term 'applicable individual' means any individual who is not—

''(i) under 19 years of age or age 56 or older;

''(ii) physically or mentally unfit for employment, as determined by a physician or other medical professional;

''(iii) pregnant;

''(iv) the parent or caretaker of a dependent child;

''(v) the parent or caretaker of an incapacitated person;

''(vi) complying with work requirements under a different program under Federal law;

''(vii) participating in a drug or alcohol treatment and rehabilitation program (as defined in section 3(h) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008); or

''(viii) enrolled in an educational program at least half time.

''(B) EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM.—The term 'educational program' means—

''(i) an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965);

''(ii) a program of career and technical education (as defined in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006); or

''(iii) any other educational program approved by the Secretary.

''(C) STATE MEDICAID AGENCY.—The term 'State Medicaid agency' means the State agency responsible for administering the State Medicaid plan.

''(D) WORK PROGRAM.—The term 'work program' has the meaning given such term in section 6(o)(1) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008.''.

(c) STATE OPTION TO DISENROLL CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.—Section 1902(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)) is amended by adding at the end of the flush left text following paragraph (87) the following: ''Notwithstanding any of the preceding provisions of this subsection, at the option of a State, such State may elect to disenroll an applicable individual for a month if, with respect to medical assistance furnished to such individual for such month, no Federal financial participation would be available, pursuant to section 1903(i)(28).''.

TITLE IV—REGULATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE IN NEED OF SCRUTINY

SEC. 331. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2023''.

SEC. 332. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this title is to increase accountability for and transparency in the Federal regulatory process. Section 1 of article I of the United States Constitution grants all legislative powers to Congress. Over time, Congress has excessively delegated its constitutional charge while failing to conduct appropriate oversight and retain accountability for the content of the laws it passes. By requiring a vote in Congress, the REINS Act will result in more carefully drafted and detailed legislation, an improved regulatory process, and a legislative branch that is truly accountable to the American people for the laws imposed upon them.

SEC. 333. CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF AGENCY RULEMAKING.

Chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''CHAPTER 8—CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF AGENCY RULEMAKING

''Sec.
''801. Congressional review.
''802. Congressional approval procedure for major rules.
''803. Congressional disapproval procedure for nonmajor rules.
''804. Definitions.
''805. Judicial review.
''806. Exemption for monetary policy.
''807. Effective date of certain rules.

''§ 801. Congressional review

''(a)(1)(A) Before a rule may take effect, the Federal agency promulgating such rule shall publish in the Federal Register a list of information on which the rule is based, including data, scientific and economic studies, and cost-benefit analyses, and identify how the public can access such information online, and shall submit to each House of the Congress and to the Comptroller General a report containing—

''(i) a copy of the rule;

''(ii) a concise general statement relating to the rule;

''(iii) a classification of the rule as a major or nonmajor rule, including an explanation of the classification specifically addressing each criteria for a major rule contained within subparagraphs (A) through (C) of section 804(2);

''(iv) a list of any other related regulatory actions intended to implement the same statutory provision or regulatory objective as well as the individual and aggregate economic effects of those actions; and

''(v) the proposed effective date of the rule.

''(B) On the date of the submission of the report under subparagraph (A), the Federal agency promulgating the rule shall submit to the Comptroller General and make available to each House of Congress—

''(i) a complete copy of the cost-benefit analysis of the rule, if any, including an analysis of any jobs added or lost, differentiating between public and private sector jobs;

''(ii) the agency's actions pursuant to sections 603, 604, 605, 607, and 609 of this title;

''(iii) the agency's actions pursuant to sections 202, 203, 204, and 205 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995; and

''(iv) any other relevant information or requirements under any other Act and any relevant Executive orders.

''(C) Upon receipt of a report submitted under subparagraph (A), each House shall provide copies of the report to the chairman and ranking member of each standing committee with jurisdiction under the rules of the House of Representatives or the Senate to report a bill to amend the provision of law under which the rule is issued.

''(2)(A) The Comptroller General shall provide a report on each major rule to the committees of jurisdiction by the end of 15 calendar days after the submission or publication date. The report of the Comptroller General shall include an assessment of the agency's compliance with procedural steps required by paragraph (1)(B) and an assessment of whether the major rule imposes any new limits or mandates on private-sector activity.

''(B) Federal agencies shall cooperate with the Comptroller General by providing information relevant to the Comptroller General's report under subparagraph (A).

''(3) A major rule relating to a report submitted under paragraph (1) shall take effect upon enactment of a joint resolution of approval described in section 802 or as provided for in the rule following enactment of a joint resolution of approval described in section 802, whichever is later.

''(4) A nonmajor rule shall take effect as provided by section 803 after submission to Congress under paragraph (1).

''(5) If a joint resolution of approval relating to a major rule is not enacted within the period provided in subsection (b)(2), then a joint resolution of approval relating to the same rule may not be considered under this chapter in the same Congress by either the House of Representatives or the Senate.

''(b)(1) A major rule shall not take effect unless the Congress enacts a joint resolution of approval described under section 802.

''(2) If a joint resolution described in subsection (a) is not enacted into law by the end of 70 session days or legislative days, as applicable, beginning on the date on which the report referred to in subsection (a)(1)(A) is received by Congress (excluding days either House of Congress is adjourned for more than 3 days during a session of Congress), then the rule described in that resolution shall be deemed not to be approved and such rule shall not take effect.

''(c)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section (except subject to paragraph (3)), a major rule may take effect for one 90-calendar-day period if the President makes a determination under paragraph (2) and submits written notice of such determination to the Congress.

''(2) Paragraph (1) applies to a determination made by the President by Executive order that the major rule should take effect because such rule is—

''(A) necessary because of an imminent threat to health or safety or other emergency;

''(B) necessary for the enforcement of criminal laws;

''(C) necessary for national security; or

''(D) issued pursuant to any statute implementing an international trade agreement.

''(3) An exercise by the President of the authority under this subsection shall have no effect on the procedures under section 802.

''(d)(1) In addition to the opportunity for review otherwise provided under this chapter, in the case of any rule for which a report was submitted in accordance with subsection (a)(1)(A) during the period beginning on the date occurring—

''(A) in the case of the Senate, 60 session days; or

''(B) in the case of the House of Representatives, 60 legislative days,

before the date the Congress is scheduled to adjourn a session of Congress through the date on which the same or succeeding Congress first convenes its next session, sections 802 and 803 shall apply to such rule in the succeeding session of Congress.

''(2)(A) In applying sections 802 and 803 for purposes of such additional review, a rule described under paragraph (1) shall be treated as though—

''(i) such rule were published in the Federal Register on—

''(I) in the case of the Senate, the 15th session day; or

''(II) in the case of the House of Representatives, the 15th legislative day,

after the succeeding session of Congress first convenes; and

''(ii) a report on such rule were submitted to Congress under subsection (a)(1) on such date.

''(B) Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to affect the requirement under subsection (a)(1) that a report shall be submitted to Congress before a rule can take effect.

''(3) A rule described under paragraph (1) shall take effect as otherwise provided by law (including other subsections of this section).

''§ 802. Congressional approval procedure for major rules

''(a)(1) For purposes of this section, the term 'joint resolution' means only a joint resolution addressing a report classifying a rule as major pursuant to section 801(a)(1)(A)(iii) that—

''(A) bears no preamble;

''(B) bears the following title (with blanks filled as appropriate): 'Approving the rule submitted by _____ relating to _____.';

''(C) includes after its resolving clause only the following (with blanks filled as appropriate): 'That Congress approves the rule submitted by _____ relating to _____.'; and

''(D) is introduced pursuant to paragraph (2).

''(2) After a House of Congress receives a report classifying a rule as major pursuant to section 801(a)(1)(A)(iii), the majority leader of that House (or his or her respective designee) shall introduce (by request, if appropriate) a joint resolution described in paragraph (1)—

''(A) in the case of the House of Representatives, within 3 legislative days; and

''(B) in the case of the Senate, within 3 session days.

''(3) A joint resolution described in paragraph (1) shall not be subject to amendment at any stage of proceeding.

''(b) A joint resolution described in subsection (a) shall be referred in each House of Congress to the committees having jurisdiction over the provision of law under which the rule is issued.

''(c) In the Senate, if the committee or committees to which a joint resolution described in subsection (a) has been referred have not reported it at the end of 15 session days after its introduction, such committee or committees shall be automatically discharged from further consideration of the resolution and it shall be placed on the calendar. A vote on final passage of the resolution shall be taken on or before the close of the 15th session day after the resolution is reported by the committee or committees to which it was referred, or after such committee or committees have been discharged from further consideration of the resolution.

''(d)(1) In the Senate, when the committee or committees to which a joint resolution is referred have reported, or when a committee or committees are discharged (under subsection (c)) from further consideration of a joint resolution described in subsection (a), it is at any time thereafter in order (even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to) for a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution, and all points of order against the joint resolution (and against consideration of the joint resolution) are waived. The motion is not subject to amendment, or to a motion to postpone, or to a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution is agreed to, the joint resolution shall remain the unfinished business of the Senate until disposed of.

''(2) In the Senate, debate on the joint resolution, and on all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 2 hours, which shall be divided equally between those favoring and those opposing the joint resolution. A motion to further limit debate is in order and not debatable. An amendment to, or a motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a motion to recommit the joint resolution is not in order.

''(3) In the Senate, immediately following the conclusion of the debate on a joint resolution described in subsection (a), and a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate if requested in accordance with the rules of the Senate, the vote on final passage of the joint resolution shall occur.

''(4) Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of the rules of the Senate to the procedure relating to a joint resolution described in subsection (a) shall be decided without debate.

''(e) In the House of Representatives, if any committee to which a joint resolution described in subsection (a) has been referred has not reported it to the House at the end of 15 legislative days after its introduction, such committee shall be discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution, and it shall be placed on the appropriate calendar. On the second and fourth Thursdays of each month it shall be in order at any time for the Speaker to recognize a Member who favors passage of a joint resolution that has appeared on the calendar for at least 5 legislative days to call up that joint resolution for immediate consideration in the House without intervention of any point of order. When so called up a joint resolution shall be considered as read and shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and the previous question shall be considered as ordered to its passage without intervening motion. It shall not be in order to reconsider the vote on passage. If a vote on final passage of the joint resolution has not been taken by the third Thursday on which the Speaker may recognize a Member under this subsection, such vote shall be taken on that day.

''(f)(1) If, before passing a joint resolution described in subsection (a), one House receives from the other a joint resolution having the same text, then—

''(A) the joint resolution of the other House shall not be referred to a committee; and

''(B) the procedure in the receiving House shall be the same as if no joint resolution had been received from the other House until the vote on passage, when the joint resolution received from the other House shall supplant the joint resolution of the receiving House.

''(2) This subsection shall not apply to the House of Representatives if the joint resolution received from the Senate is a revenue measure.

''(g) If either House has not taken a vote on final passage of the joint resolution by the last day of the period described in section 801(b)(2), then such vote shall be taken on that day.

''(h) This section and section 803 are enacted by Congress—

''(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and House of Representatives, respectively, and as such are deemed to be part of the rules of each House, respectively, but applicable only with respect to the procedure to be followed in that House in the case of a joint resolution described in subsection (a) and superseding other rules only where explicitly so; and

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

''§ 803. Congressional disapproval procedure for nonmajor rules

''(a) For purposes of this section, the term 'joint resolution' means only a joint resolution introduced in the period beginning on the date on which the report referred to in section 801(a)(1)(A) is received by Congress and ending 60 days thereafter (excluding days either House of Congress is adjourned for more than 3 days during a session of Congress), the matter after the resolving clause of which is as follows: 'That Congress disapproves the nonmajor rule submitted by the _____ relating to _____, and such rule shall have no force or effect.' (The blank spaces being appropriately filled in).

''(b) A joint resolution described in subsection (a) shall be referred to the committees in each House of Congress with jurisdiction.

''(c) In the Senate, if the committee to which is referred a joint resolution described in subsection (a) has not reported such joint resolution (or an identical joint resolution)

at the end of 15 session days after the date of introduction of the joint resolution, such committee may be discharged from further consideration of such joint resolution upon a petition supported in writing by 30 Members of the Senate, and such joint resolution shall be placed on the calendar.

''(d)(1) In the Senate, when the committee to which a joint resolution is referred has reported, or when a committee is discharged (under subsection (c)) from further consideration of a joint resolution described in subsection (a), it is at any time thereafter in order (even though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to) for a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution, and all points of order against the joint resolution (and against consideration of the joint resolution) are waived. The motion is not subject to amendment, or to a motion to postpone, or to a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consideration of the joint resolution is agreed to, the joint resolution shall remain the unfinished business of the Senate until disposed of.

''(2) In the Senate, debate on the joint resolution, and on all debatable motions and appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 10 hours, which shall be divided equally between those favoring and those opposing the joint resolution. A motion to further limit debate is in order and not debatable. An amendment to, or a motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a motion to recommit the joint resolution is not in order.

''(3) In the Senate, immediately following the conclusion of the debate on a joint resolution described in subsection (a), and a single quorum call at the conclusion of the debate if requested in accordance with the rules of the Senate, the vote on final passage of the joint resolution shall occur.

''(4) Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of the rules of the Senate to the procedure relating to a joint resolution described in subsection (a) shall be decided without debate.

''(e) In the Senate, the procedure specified in subsection (c) or (d) shall not apply to the consideration of a joint resolution respecting a nonmajor rule—

''(1) after the expiration of the 60 session days beginning with the applicable submission or publication date; or

''(2) if the report under section 801(a)(1)(A) was submitted during the period referred to in section 801(d)(1), after the expiration of the 60 session days beginning on the 15th session day after the succeeding session of Congress first convenes.

''(f) If, before the passage by one House of a joint resolution of that House described in subsection (a), that House receives from the other House a joint resolution described in subsection (a), then the following procedures shall apply:

''(1) The joint resolution of the other House shall not be referred to a committee.

''(2) With respect to a joint resolution described in subsection (a) of the House receiving the joint resolution—

''(A) the procedure in that House shall be the same as if no joint resolution had been received from the other House; but

''(B) the vote on final passage shall be on the joint resolution of the other House.

''§ 804. Definitions

''For purposes of this chapter:

''(1) The term 'Federal agency' means any agency as that term is defined in section 551(1).

''(2) The term 'major rule' means any rule, including an interim final rule, that the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the Office of Management and Budget finds has resulted in or is likely to result in—

''(A) an annual effect on the economy of $100 million or more;

''(B) a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, Federal, State, or local government agencies, or geographic regions; or

''(C) significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or the ability of United States-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises in domestic and export markets.

''(3) The term 'nonmajor rule' means any rule that is not a major rule.

''(4) The term 'rule' has the meaning given such term in section 551, except that such term does not include—

''(A) any rule of particular applicability, including a rule that approves or prescribes for the future rates, wages, prices, services, or allowances therefore, corporate or financial structures, reorganizations, mergers, or acquisitions thereof, or accounting practices or disclosures bearing on any of the foregoing;

''(B) any rule relating to agency management or personnel; or

''(C) any rule of agency organization, procedure, or practice that does not substantially affect the rights or obligations of nonagency parties.

''(5) The term 'submission or publication date', except as otherwise provided in this chapter, means—

''(A) in the case of a major rule, the date on which the Congress receives the report submitted under section 801(a)(1); and

''(B) in the case of a nonmajor rule, the later of—

''(i) the date on which the Congress receives the report submitted under section 801(a)(1); and

''(ii) the date on which the nonmajor rule is published in the Federal Register, if so published.

''§ 805. Judicial review

''(a) No determination, finding, action, or omission under this chapter shall be subject to judicial review.

''(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), a court may determine whether a Federal agency has completed the necessary requirements under this chapter for a rule to take effect.

''(c) The enactment of a joint resolution of approval under section 802 shall not be interpreted to serve as a grant or modification of statutory authority by Congress for the promulgation of a rule, shall not extinguish or affect any claim, whether substantive or procedural, against any alleged defect in a rule, and shall not form part of the record before the court in any judicial proceeding concerning a rule except for purposes of determining whether or not the rule is in effect.

''§ 806. Exemption for monetary policy

''Nothing in this chapter shall apply to rules that concern monetary policy proposed or implemented by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System or the Federal Open Market Committee.

''§ 807. Effective date of certain rules

''Notwithstanding section 801—

''(1) any rule that establishes, modifies, opens, closes, or conducts a regulatory program for a commercial, recreational, or subsistence activity related to hunting, fishing, or camping; or

''(2) any rule other than a major rule which an agency for good cause finds (and incorporates the finding and a brief statement of reasons therefore in the rule issued) that notice and public procedure thereon are impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest,

shall take effect at such time as the Federal agency promulgating the rule determines.''.

SEC. 334. BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF RULES SUBJECT TO SECTION 802 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE.

Section 257(b)(2) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 907(b)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(E) BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF RULES SUBJECT TO SECTION 802 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE.—Any rule subject to the congressional approval procedure set forth in section 802 of chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, affecting budget authority, outlays, or receipts shall be assumed to be effective unless it is not approved in accordance with such section.''.

SEC. 335. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE STUDY OF RULES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study to determine, as of the date of the enactment of this section—

(1) how many rules (as such term is defined in section 804 of title 5, United States Code) were in effect;

(2) how many major rules (as such term is defined in section 804 of title 5, United States Code) were in effect; and

(3) the total estimated economic cost imposed by all such rules.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to Congress that contains the findings of the study conducted under subsection (a).

DIVISION D—H.R. 1, THE LOWER ENERGY COSTS ACT

TITLE I—INCREASING AMERICAN ENERGY PRODUCTION, EXPORTS, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND CRITICAL MINERALS PROCESSING

SEC. 10001. SECURING AMERICA'S CRITICAL MINERALS SUPPLY.

(a) AMENDMENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY ORGANIZATION ACT.—The Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 2, by adding at the end the following:

''(d) As used in sections 102(20) and 203(a)(12), the term 'critical energy resource' means any energy resource—

''(1) that is essential to the energy sector and energy systems of the United States; and

''(2) the supply chain of which is vulnerable to disruption.'';

(2) in section 102, by adding at the end the following:

''(20) To ensure there is an adequate and reliable supply of critical energy resources that are essential to the energy security of the United States.''; and

(3) in section 203(a), by adding at the end the following:

''(12) Functions that relate to securing the supply of critical energy resources, including identifying and mitigating the effects of a disruption of such supply on—

''(A) the development and use of energy technologies; and

''(B) the operation of energy systems.''.

(b) SECURING CRITICAL ENERGY RESOURCE SUPPLY CHAINS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the requirements of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the appropriate Federal agencies, representatives of the energy sector, States, and other stakeholders, shall—

(A) conduct ongoing assessments of—

(i) energy resource criticality based on the importance of critical energy resources to the development of energy technologies and the supply of energy;

(ii) the critical energy resource supply chain of the United States;

(iii) the vulnerability of such supply chain; and

(iv) how the energy security of the United States is affected by the reliance of the United States on importation of critical energy resources;

(B) facilitate development of strategies to strengthen critical energy resource supply chains in the United States, including by—

(i) diversifying the sources of the supply of critical energy resources; and

(ii) increasing domestic production, separation, and processing of critical energy resources;

(C) develop substitutes and alternatives to critical energy resources; and

(D) improve technology that reuses and recycles critical energy resources.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this title, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Energy shall submit to Congress a report containing—

(A) the results of the ongoing assessments conducted under paragraph (1)(A);

(B) a description of any actions taken pursuant to the Department of Energy Organization Act to mitigate potential effects of critical energy resource supply chain disruptions on energy technologies or the operation of energy systems; and

(C) any recommendations relating to strengthening critical energy resource supply chains that are essential to the energy security of the United States.

(3) CRITICAL ENERGY RESOURCE DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''critical energy resource'' has the meaning given such term in section 2 of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101).

SEC. 10002. PROTECTING AMERICAN ENERGY PRODUCTION.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that States should maintain primacy for the regulation of hydraulic fracturing for oil and natural gas production on State and private lands.

(b) PROHIBITION ON DECLARATION OF A MORATORIUM ON HYDRAULIC FRACTURING.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the President may not declare a moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracturing unless such moratorium is authorized by an Act of Congress.

SEC. 10003. RESEARCHING EFFICIENT FEDERAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR NECESSARY ENERGY REFINING.

Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary of Energy shall direct the National Petroleum Council to—

(1) submit to the Secretary of Energy and Congress a report containing—

(A) an examination of the role of petrochemical refineries located in the United States and the contributions of such petrochemical refineries to the energy security of the United States, including the reliability of supply in the United States of liquid fuels and feedstocks, and the affordability of liquid fuels for consumers in the United States;

(B) analyses and projections with respect to—

(i) the capacity of petrochemical refineries located in the United States;

(ii) opportunities for expanding such capacity; and

(iii) the risks to petrochemical refineries located in the United States;

(C) an assessment of any Federal or State executive actions, regulations, or policies that have caused or contributed to a decline in the capacity of petrochemical refineries located in the United States; and

(D) any recommendations for Federal agencies and Congress to encourage an increase in the capacity of petrochemical refineries located in the United States; and

(2) make publicly available the report submitted under paragraph (1).

SEC. 10004. PROMOTING CROSS-BORDER ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF CERTAIN ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AT AN INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY OF THE UNITED STATES.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION.—Except as provided in paragraph (3) and subsection (d), no person may construct, connect, operate, or maintain a border-crossing facility for the import or export of oil or natural gas, or the transmission of electricity, across an international border of the United States without obtaining a certificate of crossing for the border-crossing facility under this subsection.

(2) CERTIFICATE OF CROSSING.—

(A) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 120 days after final action is taken, by the relevant official or agency identified under subparagraph (B), under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) with respect to a border-crossing facility for which a person requests a certificate of crossing under this subsection, the relevant official or agency, in consultation with appropriate Federal agencies, shall issue a certificate of crossing for the border-crossing facility unless the relevant official or agency finds that the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of the border-crossing facility is not in the public interest of the United States.

(B) RELEVANT OFFICIAL OR AGENCY.—The relevant official or agency referred to in subparagraph (A) is—

(i) the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission with respect to border-crossing facilities consisting of oil or natural gas pipelines; and

(ii) the Secretary of Energy with respect to border-crossing facilities consisting of electric transmission facilities.

(C) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT FOR ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION FACILITIES.—In the case of a request for a certificate of crossing for a border-crossing facility consisting of an electric transmission facility, the Secretary of Energy shall require, as a condition of issuing the certificate of crossing under subparagraph (A), that the border-crossing facility be constructed, connected, operated, or maintained consistent with all applicable policies and standards of—

(i) the Electric Reliability Organization and the applicable regional entity; and

(ii) any Regional Transmission Organization or Independent System Operator with operational or functional control over the border-crossing facility.

(3) EXCLUSIONS.—This subsection shall not apply to any construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of a border-crossing facility for the import or export of oil or natural gas, or the transmission of electricity—

(A) if the border-crossing facility is operating for such import, export, or transmission as of the date of enactment of this section;

(B) if a Presidential permit (or similar permit) for the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance has been issued pursuant to any provision of law or Executive order; or

(C) if an application for a Presidential permit (or similar permit) for the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance is pending on the date of enactment of this section, until the earlier of—

(i) the date on which such application is denied; or

(ii) two years after the date of enactment of this section, if such a permit has not been issued by such date of enactment.

(4) EFFECT OF OTHER LAWS.—

(A) APPLICATION TO PROJECTS.—Nothing in this subsection or subsection (d) shall affect the application of any other Federal statute to a project for which a certificate of crossing for a border-crossing facility is requested under this subsection.

(B) NATURAL GAS ACT.—Nothing in this subsection or subsection (d) shall affect the requirement to obtain approval or authorization under sections 3 and 7 of the Natural Gas Act for the siting, construction, or operation of any facility to import or export natural gas.

(C) OIL PIPELINES.—Nothing in this subsection or subsection (d) shall affect the authority of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission with respect to oil pipelines under section 60502 of title 49, United States Code.

(b) TRANSMISSION OF ELECTRIC ENERGY TO CANADA AND MEXICO.—

(1) REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT TO SECURE ORDER.—Section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824a(e)) is repealed.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(A) STATE REGULATIONS.—Section 202(f) of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824a(f)) is amended by striking ''insofar as such State regulation does not conflict with the exercise of the Commission's powers under or relating to subsection 202(e)''.

(B) SEASONAL DIVERSITY ELECTRICITY EXCHANGE.—Section 602(b) of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 824a–4(b)) is amended by striking ''the Commission has conducted hearings and made the findings required under section 202(e) of the Federal Power Act'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''the Secretary has conducted hearings and finds that the proposed transmission facilities would not impair the sufficiency of electric supply within the United States or would not impede or tend to impede the coordination in the public interest of facilities subject to the jurisdiction of the Secretary.''.

(c) NO PRESIDENTIAL PERMIT REQUIRED.—No Presidential permit (or similar permit) shall be required pursuant to any provision of law or Executive order for the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of an oil or natural gas pipeline or electric transmission facility, or any border-crossing facility thereof.

(d) MODIFICATIONS TO EXISTING PROJECTS.—No certificate of crossing under subsection (a), or Presidential permit (or similar permit), shall be required for a modification to—

(1) an oil or natural gas pipeline or electric transmission facility that is operating for the import or export of oil or natural gas or the transmission of electricity as of the date of enactment of this section;

(2) an oil or natural gas pipeline or electric transmission facility for which a Presidential permit (or similar permit) has been issued pursuant to any provision of law or Executive order; or

(3) a border-crossing facility for which a certificate of crossing has previously been issued under subsection (a).

(e) PROHIBITION ON REVOCATION OF PRESIDENTIAL PERMITS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the President may not revoke a Presidential permit (or similar permit) issued pursuant to Executive Order No. 13337 (3 U.S.C. 301 note), Executive Order No. 11423 (3 U.S.C. 301 note), Executive Order No. 12038 (43 Fed. Reg. 4957), Executive Order

No. 10485 (18 Fed. Reg. 5397), or any other Executive order for the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of an oil or natural gas pipeline or electric transmission facility, or any border-crossing facility thereof, unless such revocation is authorized by an Act of Congress.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE; RULEMAKING DEADLINES.—

(1) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsections (a) through (d), and the amendments made by such subsections, shall take effect on the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this section.

(2) RULEMAKING DEADLINES.—Each relevant official or agency described in subsection (a)(2)(B) shall—

(A) not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, publish in the Federal Register notice of a proposed rulemaking to carry out the applicable requirements of subsection (a); and

(B) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, publish in the Federal Register a final rule to carry out the applicable requirements of subsection (a).

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) BORDER-CROSSING FACILITY.—The term ''border-crossing facility'' means the portion of an oil or natural gas pipeline or electric transmission facility that is located at an international boundary of the United States.

(2) MODIFICATION.—The term ''modification'' includes a reversal of flow direction, change in ownership, change in flow volume, addition or removal of an interconnection, or an adjustment to maintain flow (such as a reduction or increase in the number of pump or compressor stations).

(3) NATURAL GAS.—The term ''natural gas'' has the meaning given that term in section 2 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717a).

(4) OIL.—The term ''oil'' means petroleum or a petroleum product.

(5) ELECTRIC RELIABILITY ORGANIZATION; REGIONAL ENTITY.—The terms ''Electric Reliability Organization'' and ''regional entity'' have the meanings given those terms in section 215 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 824o).

(6) INDEPENDENT SYSTEM OPERATOR; REGIONAL TRANSMISSION ORGANIZATION.—The terms ''Independent System Operator'' and ''Regional Transmission Organization'' have the meanings given those terms in section 3 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 796).

SEC. 10005. SENSE OF CONGRESS EXPRESSING DISAPPROVAL OF THE REVOCATION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL PERMIT FOR THE KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) On March 29, 2019, TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, L.P., was granted a Presidential permit to construct, connect, operate, and maintain the Keystone XL pipeline.

(2) On January 20, 2021, President Biden issued Executive Order No. 13990 (86 Fed. Reg. 7037) that revoked the March 2019 Presidential permit for the Keystone XL.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that Congress disapproves of the revocation by President Biden of the Presidential permit for the Keystone XL pipeline.

SEC. 10006. SENSE OF CONGRESS OPPOSING RESTRICTIONS ON THE EXPORT OF CRUDE OIL OR OTHER PETROLEUM PRODUCTS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The United States has enjoyed a renaissance in energy production, with the expansion of domestic crude oil and other petroleum product production contributing to enhanced energy security and significant economic benefits to the national economy.

(2) In 2015, Congress recognized the need to adapt to changing crude oil market conditions and repealed all restrictions on the export of crude oil on a bipartisan basis.

(3) Section 101 of title I of division O of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (42 U.S.C. 6212a) established the national policy on oil export restriction, prohibiting any official of the Federal Government from imposing or enforcing any restrictions on the export of crude oil with limited exceptions, including a savings clause maintaining the authority to prohibit exports under any provision of law that imposes sanctions on a foreign person or foreign government (including any provision of law that prohibits or restricts United States persons from engaging in a transaction with a sanctioned person or government), including a foreign government that is designated as a state sponsor of terrorism.

(4) Lifting the restrictions on crude oil exports encouraged additional domestic energy production, created American jobs and economic development, and allowed the United States to emerge as the leading oil producer in the world.

(5) In 2019, the United States became a net exporter of petroleum products for the first time since 1952, and the reliance of the United States on foreign imports of petroleum products has declined to historic lows.

(6) Free trade, open markets, and competition have contributed to the rise of the United States as a global energy superpower.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Federal Government should not impose—

(1) overly restrictive regulations on the exploration, production, or marketing of energy resources; or

(2) any restrictions on the export of crude oil or other petroleum products under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.), except with respect to the export of crude oil or other petroleum products to a foreign person or foreign government subject to sanctions under any provision of United States law, including to a country the government of which is designated as a state sponsor of terrorism.

SEC. 10007. UNLOCKING OUR DOMESTIC LNG POTENTIAL.

Section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b) is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (a) through (c);

(2) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as subsections (a) and (b), respectively;

(3) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c), and moving such subsection after subsection (b), as so redesignated;

(4) in subsection (a), as so redesignated, by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows: ''(1) The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (in this subsection referred to as the 'Commission') shall have the exclusive authority to approve or deny an application for authorization for the siting, construction, expansion, or operation of a facility to export natural gas from the United States to a foreign country or import natural gas from a foreign country, including an LNG terminal. In determining whether to approve or deny an application under this paragraph, the Commission shall deem the exportation or importation of natural gas to be consistent with the public interest. Except as specifically provided in this Act, nothing in this Act is intended to affect otherwise applicable law related to any Federal agency's authorities or responsibilities related to facilities to import or export natural gas, including LNG terminals.''; and

(5) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(d)(1) Nothing in this Act limits the authority of the President under the Constitution, the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), part B of title II of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6271 et seq.), the Trading With the Enemy Act (50 U.S.C. 4301 et seq.), or any other provision of law that imposes sanctions on a foreign person or foreign government (including any provision of law that prohibits or restricts United States persons from engaging in a transaction with a sanctioned person or government), including a country that is designated as a state sponsor of terrorism, to prohibit imports or exports.

''(2) In this subsection, the term 'state sponsor of terrorism' means a country the government of which the Secretary of State determines has repeatedly provided support for international terrorism pursuant to—

''(A) section 1754(c)(1)(A) of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4318(c)(1)(A));

''(B) section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371);

''(C) section 40 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780); or

''(D) any other provision of law.''.

SEC. 10008. SENSE OF CONGRESS EXPRESSING DISAPPROVAL OF THE DENIAL OF JORDAN COVE PERMITS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) On March 19, 2020, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission granted two Federal permits to Jordan Cove Energy Project, L.P., to site, construct, and operate a new liquefied natural gas export terminal in Coos County, Oregon.

(2) On the same day, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issued a certificate of public convenience and necessity to Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline, L.P., to construct and operate the proposed Pacific Connector Pipeline in the counties of Klamath, Jackson, Douglas, and Coos of Oregon.

(3) The State of Oregon denied the permits and the certificate necessary for these projects.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that Congress disapproves of the denial of these permits by the State of Oregon.

SEC. 10009. PROMOTING INTERAGENCY COORDINATION FOR REVIEW OF NATURAL GAS PIPELINES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term ''Commission'' means the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

(2) FEDERAL AUTHORIZATION.—The term ''Federal authorization'' has the meaning given that term in section 15(a) of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717n(a)).

(3) NEPA REVIEW.—The term ''NEPA review'' means the process of reviewing a proposed Federal action under section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332).

(4) PROJECT-RELATED NEPA REVIEW.—The term ''project-related NEPA review'' means any NEPA review required to be conducted with respect to the issuance of an authorization under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act or a certificate of public convenience and necessity under section 7 of such Act.

(b) COMMISSION NEPA REVIEW RESPONSIBILITIES.—In acting as the lead agency under section 15(b)(1) of the Natural Gas Act for the purposes of complying with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) with respect to an authorization under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act or a certificate of public convenience and necessity under section 7 of such Act, the Commission shall, in accordance with this section and other applicable Federal law—

(1) be the only lead agency;

(2) coordinate as early as practicable with each agency designated as a participating agency under subsection (d)(3) to ensure that

the Commission develops information in conducting its project-related NEPA review that is usable by the participating agency in considering an aspect of an application for a Federal authorization for which the agency is responsible; and

(3) take such actions as are necessary and proper to facilitate the expeditious resolution of its project-related NEPA review.

(c) DEFERENCE TO COMMISSION.—In making a decision with respect to a Federal authorization required with respect to an application for authorization under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act or a certificate of public convenience and necessity under section 7 of such Act, each agency shall give deference, to the maximum extent authorized by law, to the scope of the project-related NEPA review that the Commission determines to be appropriate.

(d) PARTICIPATING AGENCIES.—

(1) IDENTIFICATION.—The Commission shall identify, not later than 30 days after the Commission receives an application for an authorization under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act or a certificate of public convenience and necessity under section 7 of such Act, any Federal or State agency, local government, or Indian Tribe that may issue a Federal authorization or is required by Federal law to consult with the Commission in conjunction with the issuance of a Federal authorization required for such authorization or certificate.

(2) INVITATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 45 days after the Commission receives an application for an authorization under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act or a certificate of public convenience and necessity under section 7 of such Act, the Commission shall invite any agency identified under paragraph (1) to participate in the review process for the applicable Federal authorization.

(B) DEADLINE.—An invitation issued under subparagraph (A) shall establish a deadline by which a response to the invitation shall be submitted to the Commission, which may be extended by the Commission for good cause.

(3) DESIGNATION AS PARTICIPATING AGENCIES.—Not later than 60 days after the Commission receives an application for an authorization under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act or a certificate of public convenience and necessity under section 7 of such Act, the Commission shall designate an agency identified under paragraph (1) as a participating agency with respect to an application for authorization under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act or a certificate of public convenience and necessity under section 7 of such Act unless the agency informs the Commission, in writing, by the deadline established pursuant to paragraph (2)(B), that the agency—

(A) has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the applicable Federal authorization;

(B) has no special expertise or information relevant to any project-related NEPA review; or

(C) does not intend to submit comments for the record for the project-related NEPA review conducted by the Commission.

(4) EFFECT OF NON-DESIGNATION.—

(A) EFFECT ON AGENCY.—Any agency that is not designated as a participating agency under paragraph (3) with respect to an application for an authorization under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act or a certificate of public convenience and necessity under section 7 of such Act may not request or conduct a NEPA review that is supplemental to the project-related NEPA review conducted by the Commission, unless the agency—

(i) demonstrates that such review is legally necessary for the agency to carry out responsibilities in considering an aspect of an application for a Federal authorization; and

(ii) requires information that could not have been obtained during the project-related NEPA review conducted by the Commission.

(B) COMMENTS; RECORD.—The Commission shall not, with respect to an agency that is not designated as a participating agency under paragraph (3) with respect to an application for an authorization under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act or a certificate of public convenience and necessity under section 7 of such Act—

(i) consider any comments or other information submitted by such agency for the project-related NEPA review conducted by the Commission; or

(ii) include any such comments or other information in the record for such project-related NEPA review.

(e) WATER QUALITY IMPACTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1341), an applicant for a Federal authorization shall not be required to provide a certification under such section with respect to the Federal authorization.

(2) COORDINATION.—With respect to any NEPA review for a Federal authorization to conduct an activity that will directly result in a discharge into the navigable waters (within the meaning of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act), the Commission shall identify as an agency under subsection (d)(1) the State in which the discharge originates or will originate, or, if appropriate, the interstate water pollution control agency having jurisdiction over the navigable waters at the point where the discharge originates or will originate.

(3) PROPOSED CONDITIONS.—A State or interstate agency designated as a participating agency pursuant to paragraph (2) may propose to the Commission terms or conditions for inclusion in an authorization under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act or a certificate of public convenience and necessity under section 7 of such Act that the State or interstate agency determines are necessary to ensure that any activity described in paragraph (2) conducted pursuant to such authorization or certification will comply with the applicable provisions of sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

(4) COMMISSION CONSIDERATION OF CONDITIONS.—The Commission may include a term or condition in an authorization under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act or a certificate of public convenience and necessity under section 7 of such Act proposed by a State or interstate agency under paragraph (3) only if the Commission finds that the term or condition is necessary to ensure that any activity described in paragraph (2) conducted pursuant to such authorization or certification will comply with the applicable provisions of sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

(f) SCHEDULE.—

(1) DEADLINE FOR FEDERAL AUTHORIZATIONS.—A deadline for a Federal authorization required with respect to an application for authorization under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act or a certificate of public convenience and necessity under section 7 of such Act set by the Commission under section 15(c)(1) of such Act shall be not later than 90 days after the Commission completes its project-related NEPA review, unless an applicable schedule is otherwise established by Federal law.

(2) CONCURRENT REVIEWS.—Each Federal and State agency—

(A) that may consider an application for a Federal authorization required with respect to an application for authorization under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act or a certificate of public convenience and necessity under section 7 of such Act shall formulate and implement a plan for administrative, policy, and procedural mechanisms to enable the agency to ensure completion of Federal authorizations in compliance with schedules established by the Commission under section 15(c)(1) of such Act; and

(B) in considering an aspect of an application for a Federal authorization required with respect to an application for authorization under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act or a certificate of public convenience and necessity under section 7 of such Act, shall—

(i) formulate and implement a plan to enable the agency to comply with the schedule established by the Commission under section 15(c)(1) of such Act;

(ii) carry out the obligations of that agency under applicable law concurrently, and in conjunction with, the project-related NEPA review conducted by the Commission, and in compliance with the schedule established by the Commission under section 15(c)(1) of such Act, unless the agency notifies the Commission in writing that doing so would impair the ability of the agency to conduct needed analysis or otherwise carry out such obligations;

(iii) transmit to the Commission a statement—

(I) acknowledging receipt of the schedule established by the Commission under section 15(c)(1) of the Natural Gas Act; and

(II) setting forth the plan formulated under clause (i) of this subparagraph;

(iv) not later than 30 days after the agency receives such application for a Federal authorization, transmit to the applicant a notice—

(I) indicating whether such application is ready for processing; and

(II) if such application is not ready for processing, that includes a comprehensive description of the information needed for the agency to determine that the application is ready for processing;

(v) determine that such application for a Federal authorization is ready for processing for purposes of clause (iv) if such application is sufficiently complete for the purposes of commencing consideration, regardless of whether supplemental information is necessary to enable the agency to complete the consideration required by law with respect to such application; and

(vi) not less often than once every 90 days, transmit to the Commission a report describing the progress made in considering such application for a Federal authorization.

(3) FAILURE TO MEET DEADLINE.—If a Federal or State agency, including the Commission, fails to meet a deadline for a Federal authorization set forth in the schedule established by the Commission under section 15(c)(1) of the Natural Gas Act, not later than 5 days after such deadline, the head of the relevant Federal agency (including, in the case of a failure by a State agency, the Federal agency overseeing the delegated authority) shall notify Congress and the Commission of such failure and set forth a recommended implementation plan to ensure completion of the action to which such deadline applied.

(g) CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR FEDERAL AUTHORIZATION.—

(1) ISSUE IDENTIFICATION AND RESOLUTION.—

(A) IDENTIFICATION.—Federal and State agencies that may consider an aspect of an application for a Federal authorization shall identify, as early as possible, any issues of concern that may delay or prevent an agency from working with the Commission to resolve such issues and granting such authorization.

(B) ISSUE RESOLUTION.—The Commission may forward any issue of concern identified under subparagraph (A) to the heads of the relevant agencies (including, in the case of an issue of concern that is a failure by a State agency, the Federal agency overseeing the delegated authority, if applicable) for resolution.

(2) REMOTE SURVEYS.—If a Federal or State agency considering an aspect of an application for a Federal authorization requires the person applying for such authorization to submit data, the agency shall consider any such data gathered by aerial or other remote means that the person submits. The agency may grant a conditional approval for the Federal authorization based on data gathered by aerial or remote means, conditioned on the verification of such data by subsequent onsite inspection.

(3) APPLICATION PROCESSING.—The Commission, and Federal and State agencies, may allow a person applying for a Federal authorization to fund a third-party contractor to assist in reviewing the application for such authorization.

(h) ACCOUNTABILITY, TRANSPARENCY, EFFICIENCY.—For an application for an authorization under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act or a certificate of public convenience and necessity under section 7 of such Act that requires multiple Federal authorizations, the Commission, with input from any Federal or State agency considering an aspect of the application, shall track and make available to the public on the Commission's website information related to the actions required to complete the Federal authorizations. Such information shall include the following:

(1) The schedule established by the Commission under section 15(c)(1) of the Natural Gas Act.

(2) A list of all the actions required by each applicable agency to complete permitting, reviews, and other actions necessary to obtain a final decision on the application.

(3) The expected completion date for each such action.

(4) A point of contact at the agency responsible for each such action.

(5) In the event that an action is still pending as of the expected date of completion, a brief explanation of the reasons for the delay.

(i) PIPELINE SECURITY.—In considering an application for an authorization under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act or a certificate of public convenience and necessity under section 7 of such Act, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission shall consult with the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration regarding the applicant's compliance with security guidance and best practice recommendations of the Administration regarding pipeline infrastructure security, pipeline cybersecurity, pipeline personnel security, and other pipeline security measures.

(j) WITHDRAWAL OF POLICY STATEMENTS.—The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission shall withdraw—

(1) the updated policy statement titled ''Certification of New Interstate Natural Gas Facilities'' published in the Federal Register on March 1, 2022 (87 Fed. Reg. 11548); and

(2) the interim policy statement titled ''Consideration of Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Natural Gas Infrastructure Project Reviews'' published in the Federal Register on March 11, 2022 (87 Fed. Reg. 14104).

SEC. 10010. INTERIM HAZARDOUS WASTE PERMITS FOR CRITICAL ENERGY RESOURCE FACILITIES.

Section 3005(e) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6925(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(A)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(B) in clause (ii), by inserting ''or'' after ''this section,''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) is a critical energy resource facility,''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this subsection:

''(A) CRITICAL ENERGY RESOURCE.—The term 'critical energy resource' means, as determined by the Secretary of Energy, any energy resource—

''(i) that is essential to the energy sector and energy systems of the United States; and

''(ii) the supply chain of which is vulnerable to disruption.

''(B) CRITICAL ENERGY RESOURCE FACILITY.—The term 'critical energy resource facility' means a facility that processes or refines a critical energy resource.''.

SEC. 10011. FLEXIBLE AIR PERMITS FOR CRITICAL ENERGY RESOURCE FACILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall, as necessary, revise regulations under parts 70 and 71 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, to—

(1) authorize the owner or operator of a critical energy resource facility to utilize flexible air permitting (as described in the final rule titled ''Operating Permit Programs; Flexible Air Permitting Rule'' published by the Environmental Protection Agency in the Federal Register on October 6, 2009 (74 Fed. Reg. 51418)) with respect to such critical energy resource facility; and

(2) facilitate flexible, market-responsive operations (as described in the final rule identified in paragraph (1)) with respect to critical energy resource facilities.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CRITICAL ENERGY RESOURCE.—The term ''critical energy resource'' means, as determined by the Secretary of Energy, any energy resource—

(A) that is essential to the energy sector and energy systems of the United States; and

(B) the supply chain of which is vulnerable to disruption.

(2) CRITICAL ENERGY RESOURCE FACILITY.—The term ''critical energy resource facility'' means a facility that processes or refines a critical energy resource.

SEC. 10012. NATIONAL SECURITY OR ENERGY SECURITY WAIVERS TO PRODUCE CRITICAL ENERGY RESOURCES.

(a) CLEAN AIR ACT REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, determines that, by reason of a sudden increase in demand for, or a shortage of, a critical energy resource, or another cause, the processing or refining of a critical energy resource at a critical energy resource facility is necessary to meet the national security or energy security needs of the United States, then the Administrator may, with or without notice, hearing, or other report, issue a temporary waiver of any requirement under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.) with respect to such critical energy resource facility that, in the judgment of the Administrator, will allow for such processing or refining at such critical energy resource facility as necessary to best meet such needs and serve the public interest.

(2) CONFLICT WITH OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS.—The Administrator shall ensure that any waiver of a requirement under the Clean Air Act under this subsection, to the maximum extent practicable, does not result in a conflict with a requirement of any other applicable Federal, State, or local environmental law or regulation and minimizes any adverse environmental impacts.

(3) VIOLATIONS OF OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS.—To the extent any omission or action taken by a party under a waiver issued under this subsection is in conflict with any requirement of a Federal, State, or local environmental law or regulation, such omission or action shall not be considered a violation of such environmental law or regulation, or subject such party to any requirement, civil or criminal liability, or a citizen suit under such environmental law or regulation.

(4) EXPIRATION AND RENEWAL OF WAIVERS.—A waiver issued under this subsection shall expire not later than 90 days after it is issued. The Administrator may renew or reissue such waiver pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2) for subsequent periods, not to exceed 90 days for each period, as the Administrator determines necessary to meet the national security or energy security needs described in paragraph (1) and serve the public interest. In renewing or reissuing a waiver under this paragraph, the Administrator shall include in any such renewed or reissued waiver such conditions as are necessary to minimize any adverse environmental impacts to the extent practicable.

(5) SUBSEQUENT ACTION BY COURT.—If a waiver issued under this subsection is subsequently stayed, modified, or set aside by a court pursuant a provision of law, any omission or action previously taken by a party under the waiver while the waiver was in effect shall remain subject to paragraph (3).

(6) CRITICAL ENERGY RESOURCE; CRITICAL ENERGY RESOURCE FACILITY DEFINED.—The terms ''critical energy resource'' and ''critical energy resource facility'' have the meanings given such terms in section 3025(f) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (as added by this section).

(b) SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL ACT REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT.—The Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 3024 the following:

''SEC. 3025. WAIVERS FOR CRITICAL ENERGY RESOURCE FACILITIES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—If the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, determines that, by reason of a sudden increase in demand for, or a shortage of, a critical energy resource, or another cause, the processing or refining of a critical energy resource at a critical energy resource facility is necessary to meet the national security or energy security needs of the United States, then the Administrator may, with or without notice, hearing, or other report, issue a temporary waiver of any covered requirement with respect to such critical energy resource facility that, in the judgment of the Administrator, will allow for such processing or refining at such critical energy resource facility as necessary to best meet such needs and serve the public interest.

''(b) CONFLICT WITH OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS.—The Administrator shall ensure that any waiver of a covered requirement under this section, to the maximum extent practicable, does not result in a conflict with a requirement of any other applicable Federal, State, or local environmental law or regulation and minimizes any adverse environmental impacts.

''(c) VIOLATIONS OF OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS.—To the extent any omission or action taken by a party under a waiver issued under this section is in conflict with any requirement of a Federal, State, or local environmental law or regulation, such omission or action shall not be considered a violation of such environmental law or regulation, or subject such party to any requirement, civil or criminal liability, or a citizen suit under such environmental law or regulation.

''(d) EXPIRATION AND RENEWAL OF WAIVERS.—A waiver issued under this section

shall expire not later than 90 days after it is issued. The Administrator may renew or reissue such waiver pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) for subsequent periods, not to exceed 90 days for each period, as the Administrator determines necessary to meet the national security or energy security needs described in subsection (a) and serve the public interest. In renewing or reissuing a waiver under this subsection, the Administrator shall include in any such renewed or reissued waiver such conditions as are necessary to minimize any adverse environmental impacts to the extent practicable.

''(e) SUBSEQUENT ACTION BY COURT.—If a waiver issued under this section is subsequently stayed, modified, or set aside by a court pursuant a provision of law, any omission or action previously taken by a party under the waiver while the waiver was in effect shall remain subject to subsection (c).

''(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) COVERED REQUIREMENT.—The term 'covered requirement' means—

''(A) any standard established under section 3002, 3003, or 3004;

''(B) the permit requirement under section 3005; or

''(C) any other requirement of this Act, as the Administrator determines appropriate.

''(2) CRITICAL ENERGY RESOURCE.—The term 'critical energy resource' means, as determined by the Secretary of Energy, any energy resource—

''(A) that is essential to the energy sector and energy systems of the United States; and

''(B) the supply chain of which is vulnerable to disruption.

''(3) CRITICAL ENERGY RESOURCE FACILITY.—The term 'critical energy resource facility' means a facility that processes or refines a critical energy resource.''.

(2) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of the Solid Waste Disposal Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3024 the following:

''Sec. 3025. Waivers for critical energy resource facilities.''.

SEC. 10013. NATURAL GAS TAX REPEAL.

(a) REPEAL.—Section 136 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7436)(relating to methane emissions and waste reduction incentive program for petroleum and natural gas systems) is repealed.

(b) RESCISSION.—The unobligated balance of any amounts made available under section 136 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7436)(as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act) is rescinded.

SEC. 10014. REPEAL OF GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND.

(a) REPEAL.—Section 134 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7434)(relating to the greenhouse gas reduction fund) is repealed.

(b) RESCISSION.—The unobligated balance of any amounts made available under section 134 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7434)(as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act) is rescinded.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 60103 of Public Law 117–169 (relating to the greenhouse gas reduction fund) is repealed.

SEC. 10015. ENDING FUTURE DELAYS IN CHEMICAL SUBSTANCE REVIEW FOR CRITICAL ENERGY RESOURCES.

Section 5(a) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2604(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(6) CRITICAL ENERGY RESOURCES.—

''(A) STANDARD.—For purposes of a determination under paragraph (3) with respect to a chemical substance that is a critical energy resource, the Administrator shall take into consideration economic, societal, and environmental costs and benefits, notwithstanding any requirement of this section to not take such factors into consideration.

''(B) FAILURE TO RENDER DETERMINATION.—

''(i) ACTIONS AUTHORIZED.—If, with respect to a chemical substance that is a critical energy resource, the Administrator fails to make a determination on a notice under paragraph (3) by the end of the applicable review period and the notice has not been withdrawn by the submitter, the submitter may take the actions described in paragraph (1)(A) with respect to the chemical substance, and the Administrator shall be relieved of any requirement to make such determination.

''(ii) NON-DUPLICATION.—A refund of applicable fees under paragraph (4)(A) shall not be made if a submitter takes an action described in paragraph (1)(A) under this subparagraph.

''(C) PREREQUISITE FOR SUGGESTION OF WITHDRAWAL OR SUSPENSION.—The Administrator may not suggest to, or request of, a submitter of a notice under this subsection for a chemical substance that is a critical energy resource that such submitter withdraw such notice, or request a suspension of the running of the applicable review period with respect to such notice, unless the Administrator has—

''(i) conducted a preliminary review of such notice; and

''(ii) provided to the submitter a draft of a determination under paragraph (3), including any supporting information.

''(D) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'critical energy resource' means, as determined by the Secretary of Energy, any energy resource—

''(i) that is essential to the energy sector and energy systems of the United States; and

''(ii) the supply chain of which is vulnerable to disruption.''.

SEC. 10016. KEEPING AMERICA'S REFINERIES OPERATING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The owner or operator of a stationary source described in subsection (b) of this section shall not be required by the regulations promulgated under section 112(r)(7)(B) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7412(r)(7)(B)) to include in any hazard assessment under clause (ii) of such section 112(r)(7)(B) an assessment of safer technology and alternative risk management measures with respect to the use of hydrofluoric acid in an alkylation unit.

(b) STATIONARY SOURCE DESCRIBED.—A stationary source described in this subsection is a stationary source (as defined in section 112(r)(2)(C) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7412(r)(2)(C)) in North American Industry Classification System code 324—

(1) for which a construction permit or operating permit has been issued pursuant to the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.); or

(2) for which the owner or operator demonstrates to the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency that such stationary source conforms or will conform to the most recent version of American Petroleum Institute Recommended Practice 751.

SEC. 10017. HOMEOWNER ENERGY FREEDOM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The following are repealed:

(1) Section 50122 of Public Law 117–169 (42 U.S.C. 18795a) (relating to a high-efficiency electric home rebate program).

(2) Section 50123 of Public Law 117–169 (42 U.S.C. 18795b) (relating to State-based home energy efficiency contractor training grants).

(3) Section 50131 of Public Law 117–169 (136 Stat. 2041) (relating to assistance for latest and zero building energy code adoption).

(b) RESCISSIONS.—The unobligated balances of any amounts made available under each of sections 50122, 50123, and 50131 of Public Law 117–169 (42 U.S.C. 18795a, 18795b; 136 Stat. 2041) (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act) are rescinded.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 50121(c)(7) of Public Law 117–169 (42 U.S.C. 18795(c)(7)) is amended by striking '', including a rebate provided under a high-efficiency electric home rebate program (as defined in section 50122(d)),''.

SEC. 10018. STUDY.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, shall conduct a study on how to streamline regulatory timelines relating to developing new power plants by examining practices relating to various power generating sources, including fossil and nuclear generating sources.

SEC. 10019. STATE PRIMARY ENFORCEMENT RESPONSIBILITY.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 1422(b) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300h–1(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking ''Within ninety days'' and inserting ''(A) Within ninety days'';

(B) by striking ''and after reasonable opportunity for presentation of views''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) If, after 270 calendar days of a State's application being submitted under paragraph (1)(A) or notice being submitted under paragraph (1)(B), the Administrator has not, pursuant to subparagraph (A), by rule approved, disapproved, or approved in part and disapproved in part the State's underground injection control program—

''(i) the Administrator shall transmit, in writing, to the State a detailed explanation as to the status of the application or notice; and

''(ii) the State's underground injection control program shall be deemed approved under this section if—

''(I) the Administrator has not after another 30 days, pursuant to subparagraph (A), by rule approved, disapproved, or approved in part and disapproved in part the State's underground injection control program; and

''(II) the State has established and implemented an effective program (including adequate recordkeeping and reporting) to prevent underground injection which endangers drinking water sources.'';

(2) by amending paragraph (4) to read as follows:

''(4) Before promulgating any rule under paragraph (2) or (3) of this subsection, the Administrator shall—

''(A) provide a reasonable opportunity for presentation of views with respect to such rule, including a public hearing and a public comment period; and

''(B) publish in the Federal Register notice of the reasonable opportunity for presentation of views provided under subparagraph (A).''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) PREAPPLICATION ACTIVITIES.—The Administrator shall work as expeditiously as possible with States to complete any necessary activities relevant to the submission of an application under paragraph (1)(A) or notice under paragraph (1)(B), taking into consideration the need for a complete and detailed submission.

''(6) APPLICATION COORDINATION FOR CLASS VI WELLS.—With respect to the underground injection control program for Class VI wells (as defined in section 40306(a) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (42 U.S.C. 300h–9(a))), the Administrator shall designate one individual at the Agency from each regional office to be responsible for coordinating—

''(A) the completion of any necessary activities prior to the submission of an application under paragraph (1)(A) or notice under paragraph (1)(B), in accordance with paragraph (5);

''(B) the review of an application submitted under paragraph (1)(A) or notice submitted under paragraph (1)(B);

''(C) any reasonable opportunity for presentation of views provided under paragraph (4)(A) and any notice published under paragraph (4)(B); and

''(D) pursuant to the recommendations included in the report required under paragraph (7), the hiring of additional staff to carry out subparagraphs (A) through (C).

''(7) EVALUATION OF RESOURCES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the individual designated under paragraph (6) shall transmit to the appropriate Congressional committees a report, including recommendations, regarding the—

''(i) availability of staff and resources to promptly carry out the requirements of paragraph (6); and

''(ii) additional funding amounts needed to do so.

''(B) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term 'appropriate Congressional Committees' means—

''(i) in the Senate—

''(I) the Committee on Environment and Public Works; and

''(II) the Committee on Appropriations; and

''(ii) in the House of Representatives—

''(I) the Committee on Energy and Commerce; and

''(II) the Committee on Appropriations.''.

(b) FUNDING.—In each of fiscal years 2023 through 2026, amounts made available by title VI of division J of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act under paragraph (7) of the heading ''Environmental Protection Agency—State and Tribal Assistance Grants'' (Public Law 117–58; 135 Stat. 1402) may also be made available, subject to appropriations, to carry out paragraphs (5), (6), and (7) of section 1422(b) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, as added by this section.

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The amendments made by this section shall—

(1) apply to all applications submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency after the date of enactment of this Act to establish an underground injection control program under section 1422(b) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300h–1); and

(2) with respect to such applications submitted prior to the date of enactment of this Act, the 270 and 300 day deadlines under section 1422(b)(2)(B) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, as added by this section, shall begin on the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 10020. USE OF INDEX-BASED PRICING IN ACQUISITION OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS FOR THE SPR.

Section 160(c) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6240(c)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (6) as clauses (i) through (vi), respectively (and adjusting the margins accordingly);

(2) by striking ''The Secretary shall'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall''; and

(3) by striking ''Such procedures shall take into account the need to—'' and inserting the following:

''(2) INCLUSIONS.—Procedures developed under this subsection shall—

''(A) require acquisition of petroleum products using index-based pricing; and

''(B) take into account the need to—''.

SEC. 10021. PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN EXPORTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Energy Policy and Conservation Act is amended by inserting after section 163 (42 U.S.C. 6243) the following:

''SEC. 164. PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN EXPORTS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall prohibit the export or sale of petroleum products drawn down from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, under any provision of law, to—

''(1) the People's Republic of China;

''(2) the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

''(3) the Russian Federation;

''(4) the Islamic Republic of Iran;

''(5) any other country the government of which is subject to sanctions imposed by the United States; and

''(6) any entity owned, controlled, or influenced by—

''(A) a country referred to in any of paragraphs (1) through (5); or

''(B) the Chinese Communist Party.

''(b) WAIVER.—The Secretary may issue a waiver of the prohibition described in subsection (a) if the Secretary certifies that any export or sale authorized pursuant to the waiver is in the national security interests of the United States.

''(c) RULE.—Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of the Lower Energy Costs Act, the Secretary shall issue a rule to carry out this section.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) DRAWDOWN AND SALE OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS.—Section 161(a) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6241(a)) is amended by inserting ''and section 164'' before the period at the end.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Energy Policy and Conservation Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 163 the following:

''Sec. 164. Prohibition on certain exports.''.

SEC. 10022. SENSE OF CONGRESS EXPRESSING DISAPPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED TAX HIKES ON THE OIL AND NATURAL GAS INDUSTRY IN THE PRESIDENT'S FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET REQUEST.

(a) FINDING.—Congress finds that President Biden's fiscal year 2024 budget request proposes to repeal tax provisions that are vital to the oil and natural gas industry of the United States, resulting in a $31,000,000,000 tax hike on oil and natural gas producers in the United States.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that Congress disapproves of the proposed tax hike on the oil and natural gas industry in the President's fiscal year 2024 budget request.

SEC. 10023. DOMESTIC ENERGY INDEPENDENCE REPORT.

Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, shall submit to Congress a report that identifies and assesses regulations promulgated by the Administrator during the 15-year period preceding the date of enactment of this Act that have—

(1) reduced the energy independence of the United States;

(2) increased the regulatory burden for energy producers in the United States;

(3) decreased the energy output by such energy producers;

(4) reduced the energy security of the United States; or

(5) increased energy costs for consumers in the United States.

SEC. 10024. GAO STUDY.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on how banning natural gas appliances will affect the rates and charges for electricity.

SEC. 10025. GAS KITCHEN RANGES AND OVENS.

The Secretary of Energy may not finalize, implement, administer, or enforce the proposed rule titled ''Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Conventional Cooking Products; Supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking and announcement of public meeting'' (88 Fed. Reg. 6818; published February 1, 2023) with respect to energy conservation standards for gas kitchen ranges and ovens, or any substantially similar rule, including any rule that would directly or indirectly limit consumer access to gas kitchen ranges and ovens.

TITLE II—TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY, PERMITTING, AND PRODUCTION OF AMERICAN RESOURCES

SEC. 20001. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Transparency, Accountability, Permitting, and Production of American Resources Act'' or the ''TAPP American Resources Act''.

Subtitle A—Onshore and Offshore Leasing and Oversight

SEC. 20101. ONSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASING.

(a) REQUIREMENT TO IMMEDIATELY RESUME ONSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASE SALES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior shall immediately resume quarterly onshore oil and gas lease sales in compliance with the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.).

(2) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of the Interior shall ensure—

(A) that any oil and gas lease sale pursuant to paragraph (1) is conducted immediately on completion of all applicable scoping, public comment, and environmental analysis requirements under the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); and

(B) that the processes described in subparagraph (A) are conducted in a timely manner to ensure compliance with subsection (b)(1).

(3) LEASE OF OIL AND GAS LANDS.—Section 17(b)(1)(A) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(b)(1)(A)) is amended by inserting ''Eligible lands comprise all lands subject to leasing under this Act and not excluded from leasing by a statutory or regulatory prohibition. Available lands are those lands that have been designated as open for leasing under a land use plan developed under section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and that have been nominated for leasing through the submission of an expression of interest, are subject to drainage in the absence of leasing, or are otherwise designated as available pursuant to regulations adopted by the Secretary.'' after ''sales are necessary.''.

(b) QUARTERLY LEASE SALES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.), each fiscal year, the Secretary of the Interior shall conduct a minimum of four oil and gas lease sales in each of the following States:

(A) Wyoming.

(B) New Mexico.

(C) Colorado.

(D) Utah.

(E) Montana.

(F) North Dakota.

(G) Oklahoma.

(H) Nevada.

(I) Alaska.

(J) Any other State in which there is land available for oil and gas leasing under the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) or any other mineral leasing law.

(2) REQUIREMENT.—In conducting a lease sale under paragraph (1) in a State described in that paragraph, the Secretary of the Interior shall offer all parcels nominated and eligible pursuant to the requirements of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) for

oil and gas exploration, development, and production under the resource management plan in effect for the State.

(3) REPLACEMENT SALES.—The Secretary of the Interior shall conduct a replacement sale during the same fiscal year if—

(A) a lease sale under paragraph (1) is canceled, delayed, or deferred, including for a lack of eligible parcels; or

(B) during a lease sale under paragraph (1) the percentage of acreage that does not receive a bid is equal to or greater than 25 percent of the acreage offered.

(4) NOTICE REGARDING MISSED SALES.—Not later than 30 days after a sale required under this subsection is canceled, delayed, deferred, or otherwise missed the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that states what sale was missed and why it was missed.

SEC. 20102. LEASE REINSTATEMENT.

The reinstatement of a lease entered into under the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) or the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) by the Secretary shall be not considered a major Federal action under section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)).

SEC. 20103. PROTESTED LEASE SALES.

Section 17(b)(1)(A) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(b)(1)(A)) is amended by inserting ''The Secretary shall resolve any protest to a lease sale not later than 60 days after such payment.'' after ''annual rental for the first lease year.''.

SEC. 20104. SUSPENSION OF OPERATIONS.

Section 17 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(r) SUSPENSION OF OPERATIONS PERMITS.—In the event that an oil and gas lease owner has submitted an expression of interest for adjacent acreage that is part of the nature of the geological play and has yet to be offered in a lease sale by the Secretary, they may request a suspension of operations from the Secretary of the Interior and upon request, the Secretary shall grant the suspension of operations within 15 days. Any payment of acreage rental or of minimum royalty prescribed by such lease likewise shall be suspended during such period of suspension of operations and production; and the term of such lease shall be extended by adding any such suspension period thereto.''.

SEC. 20105. ADMINISTRATIVE PROTEST PROCESS REFORM.

Section 17 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(s) PROTEST FILING FEE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Before processing any protest filed under this section, the Secretary shall collect a filing fee in the amount described in paragraph (2) from the protestor to recover the cost for processing documents filed for each administrative protest.

''(2) AMOUNT.—The amount described in this paragraph is calculated as follows:

''(A) For each protest filed in a submission not exceeding 10 pages in length, the base filing fee shall be $150.

''(B) For each submission exceeding 10 pages in length, in addition to the base filing fee, an assessment of $5 per page in excess of 10 pages shall apply.

''(C) For protests that include more than one oil and gas lease parcel, right-of-way, or application for permit to drill in a submission, an additional assessment of $10 per additional lease parcel, right-of-way, or application for permit to drill shall apply.

''(3) ADJUSTMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on January 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall adjust the filing fees established in this subsection to whole dollar amounts to reflect changes in the Producer Price Index, as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, for the previous 12 months.

''(B) PUBLICATION OF ADJUSTED FILING FEES.—At least 30 days before the filing fees as adjusted under this paragraph take effect, the Secretary shall publish notification of the adjustment of such fees in the Federal Register.''.

SEC. 20106. LEASING AND PERMITTING TRANSPARENCY.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that describes—

(1) the status of nominated parcels for future onshore oil and gas and geothermal lease sales, including—

(A) the number of expressions of interest received each month during the period of 365 days that ends on the date on which the report is submitted with respect to which the Bureau of Land Management—

(i) has not taken any action to review;

(ii) has not completed review; or

(iii) has completed review and determined that the relevant area meets all applicable requirements for leasing, but has not offered the relevant area in a lease sale;

(B) how long expressions of interest described in subparagraph (A) have been pending; and

(C) a plan, including timelines, for how the Secretary of the Interior plans to—

(i) work through future expressions of interest to prevent delays;

(ii) put expressions of interest described in subparagraph (A) into a lease sale; and

(iii) complete review for expressions of interest described in clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (A);

(2) the status of each pending application for permit to drill received during the period of 365 days that ends on the date on which the report is submitted, including the number of applications received each month, by each Bureau of Land Management office, including—

(A) a description of the cause of delay for pending applications, including as a result of staffing shortages, technical limitations, incomplete applications, and incomplete review pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) or other applicable laws;

(B) the number of days an application has been pending in violation of section 17(p)(2) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(p)(2)); and

(C) a plan for how the office intends to come into compliance with the requirements of section 17(p)(2) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(p)(2));

(3) the number of permits to drill issued each month by each Bureau of Land Management office during the 5-year period ending on the date on which the report is submitted;

(4) the status of each pending application for a license for offshore geological and geophysical surveys received during the period of 365 days that ends on the date on which the report is submitted, including the number of applications received each month, by each Bureau of Ocean Energy management regional office, including—

(A) a description of any cause of delay for pending applications, including as a result of staffing shortages, technical limitations, incomplete applications, and incomplete review pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) or other applicable laws;

(B) the number of days an application has been pending; and

(C) a plan for how the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management intends to complete review of each application;

(5) the number of licenses for offshore geological and geophysical surveys issued each month by each Bureau of Ocean Energy Management regional office during the 5-year period ending on the date on which the report is submitted;

(6) the status of each pending application for a permit to drill received during the period of 365 days that ends on the date on which the report is submitted, including the number of applications received each month, by each Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement regional office, including—

(A) a description of any cause of delay for pending applications, including as a result of staffing shortages, technical limitations, incomplete applications, and incomplete review pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) or other applicable laws;

(B) the number of days an application has been pending; and

(C) steps the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement is taking to complete review of each application;

(7) the number of permits to drill issued each month by each Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement regional office during the period of 365 days that ends on the date on which the report is submitted;

(8) how, as applicable, the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement determines whether to—

(A) issue a license for geological and geophysical surveys;

(B) issue a permit to drill; and

(C) issue, extend, or suspend an oil and gas lease;

(9) when determinations described in paragraph (8) are sent to the national office of the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, or the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement for final approval;

(10) the degree to which Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, and Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement field, State, and regional offices exercise discretion on such final approval;

(11) during the period of 365 days that ends on the date on which the report is submitted, the number of auctioned leases receiving accepted bids that have not been issued to winning bidders and the number of days such leases have not been issued; and

(12) a description of the uses of application for permit to drill fees paid by permit holders during the 5-year period ending on the date on which the report is submitted.

(b) PENDING APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS TO DRILL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of the Interior shall—

(1) complete all requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and other applicable law that must be met before issuance of a permit to drill described in paragraph (2); and

(2) issue a permit for all completed applications to drill that are pending on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF DATA.—

(1) MINERAL LEASING ACT.—Section 17 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(t) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF DATA.—

''(1) EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection, and each month thereafter, the Secretary shall publish on the website of the Department of the Interior the number of pending, approved, and not approved expressions of interest in nominated parcels for future onshore oil and gas lease sales in the preceding month.

''(2) APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS TO DRILL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection, and each month thereafter, the Secretary shall publish on the website of the Department of the Interior the number of pending and approved applications for permits to drill in the preceding month in each State office.

''(3) PAST DATA.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall publish on the website of the Department of the Interior, with respect to each month during the 5-year period ending on the date of the enactment of this subsection—

''(A) the number of approved and not approved expressions of interest for onshore oil and gas lease sales during such 5-year period; and

''(B) the number of approved and not approved applications for permits to drill during such 5-year period.''.

(2) OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF LANDS ACT.—Section 8 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1337) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(q) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF DATA.—

''(1) OFFSHORE GEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY LICENSES.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection, and each month thereafter, the Secretary shall publish on the website of the Department of the Interior the number of pending and approved applications for licenses for offshore geological and geophysical surveys in the preceding month.

''(2) APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS TO DRILL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection, and each month thereafter, the Secretary shall publish on the website of the Department of the Interior the number of pending and approved applications for permits to drill on the outer Continental Shelf in the preceding month in each regional office.

''(3) PAST DATA.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall publish on the website of the Department of the Interior, with respect each month during the 5-year period ending on the date of the enactment of this subsection—

''(A) the number of approved applications for licenses for offshore geological and geophysical surveys; and

''(B) the number of approved applications for permits to drill on the outer Continental Shelf.''.

(d) REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT DOCUMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives all documents and communications relating to the comprehensive review of Federal oil and gas permitting and leasing practices required under section 208 of Executive Order No. 14008 (86 Fed. Reg. 7624; relating to tackling the climate crisis at home and abroad).

(2) INCLUSIONS.—The submission under paragraph (1) shall include all documents and communications submitted to the Secretary of the Interior by members of the public in response to any public meeting or forum relating to the comprehensive review described in that paragraph.

SEC. 20107. OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct all lease sales described in the 2017–2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed Final Program (November 2016) that have not been conducted as of the date of the enactment of this Act by not later than September 30, 2023.

(b) GULF OF MEXICO REGION ANNUAL LEASE SALES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and except within areas subject to existing oil and gas leasing moratoria beginning in fiscal year 2023, the Secretary of the Interior shall annually conduct a minimum of 2 region-wide oil and gas lease sales in the following planning areas of the Gulf of Mexico region, as described in the 2017–2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed Final Program (November 2016):

(1) The Central Gulf of Mexico Planning Area.

(2) The Western Gulf of Mexico Planning Area.

(c) ALASKA REGION ANNUAL LEASE SALES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, beginning in fiscal year 2023, the Secretary of the Interior shall annually conduct a minimum of 2 region-wide oil and gas lease sales in the Alaska region of the Outer Continental Shelf, as described in the 2017–2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed Final Program (November 2016).

(d) REQUIREMENTS.—In conducting lease sales under subsections (b) and (c), the Secretary of the Interior shall—

(1) issue such leases in accordance with the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1332 et seq.); and

(2) include in each such lease sale all unleased areas that are not subject to a moratorium as of the date of the lease sale.

SEC. 20108. FIVE-YEAR PLAN FOR OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS LEASING.

Section 18 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1344) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking ''subsections (c) and (d) of this section, shall prepare and periodically revise,'' and inserting ''this section, shall issue every five years'';

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) Each five-year program shall include at least two Gulf of Mexico region-wide lease sales per year.''; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by inserting ''domestic energy security,'' after ''between'';

(2) by redesignating subsections (f) through (i) as subsections (h) through (k), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

''(f) FIVE-YEAR PROGRAM FOR 2023–2028.—The Secretary shall issue the five-year oil and gas leasing program for 2023 through 2028 and issue the Record of Decision on the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement by not later than July 1, 2023.

''(g) SUBSEQUENT LEASING PROGRAMS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 36 months after conducting the first lease sale under an oil and gas leasing program prepared pursuant to this section, the Secretary shall begin preparing the subsequent oil and gas leasing program under this section.

''(2) REQUIREMENT.—Each subsequent oil and gas leasing program under this section shall be approved by not later than 180 days before the expiration of the previous oil and gas leasing program.''.

SEC. 20109. GEOTHERMAL LEASING.

(a) ANNUAL LEASING.—Section 4(b) of the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1003(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking ''2 years'' and inserting ''year'';

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (5) and (6), respectively; and

(3) after paragraph (2), by inserting the following:

''(3) REPLACEMENT SALES.—If a lease sale under paragraph (1) for a year is canceled or delayed, the Secretary of the Interior shall conduct a replacement sale during the same year.

''(4) REQUIREMENT.—In conducting a lease sale under paragraph (2) in a State described in that paragraph, the Secretary of the Interior shall offer all nominated parcels eligible for geothermal development and utilization under the resource management plan in effect for the State.''.

(b) DEADLINES FOR CONSIDERATION OF GEOTHERMAL DRILLING PERMITS.—Section 4 of the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1003) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(h) DEADLINES FOR CONSIDERATION OF GEOTHERMAL DRILLING PERMITS.—

''(1) NOTICE.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary receives an application for any geothermal drilling permit, the Secretary shall—

''(A) provide written notice to the applicant that the application is complete; or

''(B) notify the applicant that information is missing and specify any information that is required to be submitted for the application to be complete.

''(2) ISSUANCE OF DECISION.—If the Secretary determines that an application for a geothermal drilling permit is complete under paragraph (1)(A), the Secretary shall issue a final decision on the application not later than 30 days after the Secretary notifies the applicant that the application is complete.''.

SEC. 20110. LEASING FOR CERTAIN QUALIFIED COAL APPLICATIONS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COAL LEASE.—The term ''coal lease'' means a lease entered into by the United States as lessor, through the Bureau of Land Management, and the applicant on Bureau of Land Management Form 3400–012.

(2) QUALIFIED APPLICATION.—The term ''qualified application'' means any application pending under the lease by application program administered by the Bureau of Land Management pursuant to the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) and subpart 3425 of title 43, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act), for which the environmental review process under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) has commenced.

(b) MANDATORY LEASING AND OTHER REQUIRED APPROVALS.—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall promptly—

(1) with respect to each qualified application—

(A) if not previously published for public comment, publish a draft environmental assessment, as required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and any applicable implementing regulations;

(B) finalize the fair market value of the coal tract for which a lease by application is pending;

(C) take all intermediate actions necessary to grant the qualified application; and

(D) grant the qualified application; and

(2) with respect to previously awarded coal leases, grant any additional approvals of the Department of the Interior or any bureau, agency, or division of the Department of the Interior required for mining activities to commence.

SEC. 20111. FUTURE COAL LEASING.

Notwithstanding any judicial decision to the contrary or a departmental review of the

Federal coal leasing program, Secretarial Order 3338, issued by the Secretary of the Interior on January 15, 2016, shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 20112. STAFF PLANNING REPORT.

The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture shall each annually submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report on the staffing capacity of each respective agency with respect to issuing oil, gas, hardrock mining, coal, and renewable energy leases, rights-of-way, claims, easements, and permits. Each such report shall include—

(1) the number of staff assigned to process and issue oil, gas, hardrock mining, coal, and renewable energy leases, rights-of-way, claims, easements, and permits;

(2) a description of how many staff are needed to meet statutory requirements for such oil, gas, hardrock mining, coal, and renewable energy leases, rights-of-way, claims, easements, and permits; and

(3) how, as applicable, the Department of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture plans to address technological needs and staffing shortfalls and turnover to ensure adequate staffing to process and issue such oil, gas, hardrock mining, coal, and renewable energy leases, rights-of-way, claims, easements, and permits.

SEC. 20113. PROHIBITION ON CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY OWNERSHIP INTEREST.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Communist Party of China (or a person acting on behalf of the Community Party of China), any entity subject to the jurisdiction of the Government of the People's Republic of China, or any entity that is owned by the Government of the People's Republic of China, may not acquire any interest with respect to lands leased for oil or gas under the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) or the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.) or American farmland or any lands used for American renewable energy production, or acquire claims subject to the General Mining Law of 1872.

SEC. 20114. EFFECT ON OTHER LAW.

Nothing in this title, or any amendments made by this title, shall affect—

(1) the Presidential memorandum titled ''Memorandum on Withdrawal of Certain Areas of the United States Outer Continental Shelf From Leasing Disposition'' and dated September 8, 2020;

(2) the Presidential memorandum titled ''Memorandum on Withdrawal of Certain Areas of the United States Outer Continental Shelf From Leasing Disposition'' and dated September 25, 2020;

(3) the Presidential memorandum titled ''Memorandum on Withdrawal of Certain Areas off the Atlantic Coast on the Outer Continental Shelf From Leasing Disposition'' and dated December 20, 2016; or

(4) the ban on oil and gas development in the Great Lakes described in section 386 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15941).

SEC. 20115. REQUIREMENT FOR GAO REPORT ON WIND ENERGY IMPACTS.

The Secretary of the Interior shall not publish a notice for a wind lease sale or hold a lease sale for wind energy development in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico Planning Area, the South Atlantic Planning Area, or the Straits of Florida Planning Area (as described in the 2017–2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed Final Program (November 2016)) until the Comptroller General of the United States publishes a report on all potential adverse effects of wind energy development in such areas, including associated infrastructure and vessel traffic, on—

(1) military readiness and training activities in the Planning Areas described in this section, including activities within or related to the Eglin Test and Training Complex and the Jacksonville Range Complex;

(2) marine environment and ecology, including species listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) or designated as depleted under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.) in the Planning Areas described in this section; and

(3) tourism, including the economic impacts that a decrease in tourism may have on the communities adjacent to the Planning Areas described in this section.

SEC. 20116. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON WIND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT SUPPLY CHAIN.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) wind energy development on Federal lands and waters is a burgeoning industry in the United States;

(2) major components of wind infrastructure, including turbines, are imported in large quantities from other countries including countries that are national security threats, such as the Government of the People's Republic of China;

(3) it is in the best interest of the United States to foster and support domestic supply chains across sectors to promote American energy independence;

(4) the economic and manufacturing opportunities presented by wind turbine construction and component manufacturing should be met by American workers and materials that are sourced domestically to the greatest extent practicable; and

(5) infrastructure for wind energy development in the United States should be constructed with materials produced and manufactured in the United States.

SEC. 20117. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON OIL AND GAS ROYALTY RATES.

It is the sense of Congress that the royalty rate for onshore Federal oil and gas leases should be not more than 12.5 percent in amount or value of the production removed or sold from the lease.

SEC. 20118. OFFSHORE WIND ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Comptroller General shall conduct a study to assess the sufficiency of the environmental review processes for offshore wind projects in place as of the date of the enactment of this section of the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, and any other relevant Federal agency.

(b) CONTENTS.—The study required under subsection (a) shall include consideration of the following:

(1) The impacts of offshore wind projects on—

(A) whales, finfish, and other marine mammals;

(B) benthic resources;

(C) commercial and recreational fishing;

(D) air quality;

(E) cultural, historical, and archaeological resources;

(F) invertebrates;

(G) essential fish habitat;

(H) military use and navigation and vessel traffic;

(I) recreation and tourism; and

(J) the sustainability of shoreline beaches and inlets.

(2) The impacts of hurricanes and other severe weather on offshore wind projects.

(3) How the agencies described in subsection (a) determine which stakeholders are consulted and if a timely, comprehensive comment period is provided for local representatives and other interested parties.

(4) The estimated cost and who pays for offshore wind projects.

SEC. 20119. GAO REPORT ON WIND ENERGY IMPACTS.

The Comptroller General of the United States shall publish a report on all potential adverse effects of wind energy development in the North Atlantic Planning Area (as described in the 2017–2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed Final Program (November 2016)), including associated infrastructure and vessel traffic, on—

(1) maritime safety, including the operation of radar systems;

(2) economic impacts related to commercial fishing activities; and

(3) marine environment and ecology, including species listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) or designated as depleted under the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.) in the North Atlantic Planning Area.

Subtitle B—Permitting Streamlining

SEC. 20201. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) ENERGY FACILITY.—The term ''energy facility'' means a facility the primary purpose of which is the exploration for, or the development, production, conversion, gathering, storage, transfer, processing, or transportation of, any energy resource.

(2) ENERGY STORAGE DEVICE.—The term ''energy storage device''—

(A) means any equipment that stores energy, including electricity, compressed air, pumped water, heat, and hydrogen, which may be converted into, or used to produce, electricity; and

(B) includes a battery, regenerative fuel cell, flywheel, capacitor, superconducting magnet, and any other equipment the Secretary concerned determines may be used to store energy which may be converted into, or used to produce, electricity.

(3) PUBLIC LANDS.—The term ''public lands'' means any land and interest in land owned by the United States within the several States and administered by the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture without regard to how the United States acquired ownership, except—

(A) lands located on the Outer Continental Shelf; and

(B) lands held in trust by the United States for the benefit of Indians, Indian Tribes, Aleuts, and Eskimos.

(4) RIGHT-OF-WAY.—The term ''right-of-way'' means—

(A) a right-of-way issued, granted, or renewed under section 501 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761); or

(B) a right-of-way granted under section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 185).

(5) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term ''Secretary concerned'' means—

(A) with respect to public lands, the Secretary of the Interior; and

(B) with respect to National Forest System lands, the Secretary of Agriculture.

(6) LAND USE PLAN.—The term ''land use plan'' means—

(A) a land and resource management plan prepared by the Forest Service for a unit of the National Forest System pursuant to section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1604);

(B) a Land Management Plan developed by the Bureau of Land Management under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); or

(C) a comprehensive conservation plan developed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service under section 4(e)(1)(A) of the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd(e)(1)(A)).

SEC. 20202. BUILDER ACT.

(a) PARAGRAPH (2) OF SECTION 102.—Section 102(2) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''insure'' and inserting ''ensure'';

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''insure'' and inserting ''ensure'';

(3) in subparagraph (C)—

(A) by inserting ''consistent with the provisions of this Act and except as provided by other provisions of law,'' before ''include in every'';

(B) by striking clauses (i) through (v) and inserting the following:

''(i) reasonably foreseeable environmental effects with a reasonably close causal relationship to the proposed agency action;

''(ii) any reasonably foreseeable adverse environmental effects which cannot be avoided should the proposal be implemented;

''(iii) a reasonable number of alternatives to the proposed agency action, including an analysis of any negative environmental impacts of not implementing the proposed agency action in the case of a no action alternative, that are technically and economically feasible, are within the jurisdiction of the agency, meet the purpose and need of the proposal, and, where applicable, meet the goals of the applicant;

''(iv) the relationship between local short-term uses of man's environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity; and

''(v) any irreversible and irretrievable commitments of Federal resources which would be involved in the proposed agency action should it be implemented.''; and

(C) by striking ''the responsible Federal official'' and inserting ''the head of the lead agency'';

(4) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''Any'' and inserting ''any'';

(5) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) through (I) as subparagraphs (F) through (K), respectively;

(6) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

''(D) ensure the professional integrity, including scientific integrity, of the discussion and analysis in an environmental document;

''(E) make use of reliable existing data and resources in carrying out this Act;'';

(7) by amending subparagraph (G), as redesignated, to read as follows:

''(G) consistent with the provisions of this Act, study, develop, and describe technically and economically feasible alternatives within the jurisdiction and authority of the agency;''; and

(8) in subparagraph (H), as amended, by inserting ''consistent with the provisions of this Act,'' before ''recognize''.

(b) NEW SECTIONS.—Title I of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 106. PROCEDURE FOR DETERMINATION OF LEVEL OF REVIEW.

''(a) THRESHOLD DETERMINATIONS.—An agency is not required to prepare an environmental document with respect to a proposed agency action if—

''(1) the proposed agency action is not a final agency action within the meaning of such term in chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code;

''(2) the proposed agency action is covered by a categorical exclusion established by the agency, another Federal agency, or another provision of law;

''(3) the preparation of such document would clearly and fundamentally conflict with the requirements of another provision of law;

''(4) the proposed agency action is, in whole or in part, a nondiscretionary action with respect to which such agency does not have authority to take environmental factors into consideration in determining whether to take the proposed action;

''(5) the proposed agency action is a rulemaking that is subject to section 553 of title 5, United States Code; or

''(6) the proposed agency action is an action for which such agency's compliance with another statute's requirements serve the same or similar function as the requirements of this Act with respect to such action.

''(b) LEVELS OF REVIEW.—

''(1) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.—An agency shall issue an environmental impact statement with respect to a proposed agency action that has a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

''(2) ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT.—An agency shall prepare an environmental assessment with respect to a proposed agency action that is not likely to have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, or if the significance of such effect is unknown, unless the agency finds that a categorical exclusion established by the agency, another Federal agency, or another provision of law applies. Such environmental assessment shall be a concise public document prepared by a Federal agency to set forth the basis of such agency's finding of no significant impact.

''(3) SOURCES OF INFORMATION.—In making a determination under this subsection, an agency—

''(A) may make use of any reliable data source; and

''(B) is not required to undertake new scientific or technical research.

''SEC. 107. TIMELY AND UNIFIED FEDERAL REVIEWS.

''(a) LEAD AGENCY.—

''(1) DESIGNATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If there are two or more involved Federal agencies, such agencies shall determine, by letter or memorandum, which agency shall be the lead agency based on consideration of the following factors:

''(i) Magnitude of agency's involvement.

''(ii) Project approval or disapproval authority.

''(iii) Expertise concerning the action's environmental effects.

''(iv) Duration of agency's involvement.

''(v) Sequence of agency's involvement.

''(B) JOINT LEAD AGENCIES.—In making a determination under subparagraph (A), the involved Federal agencies may, in addition to a Federal agency, appoint such Federal, State, Tribal, or local agencies as joint lead agencies as the involved Federal agencies shall determine appropriate. Joint lead agencies shall jointly fulfill the role described in paragraph (2).

''(C) MINERAL PROJECTS.—This paragraph shall not apply with respect to a mineral exploration or mine permit.

''(2) ROLE.—A lead agency shall, with respect to a proposed agency action—

''(A) supervise the preparation of an environmental document if, with respect to such proposed agency action, there is more than one involved Federal agency;

''(B) request the participation of each cooperating agency at the earliest practicable time;

''(C) in preparing an environmental document, give consideration to any analysis or proposal created by a cooperating agency with jurisdiction by law or a cooperating agency with special expertise;

''(D) develop a schedule, in consultation with each involved cooperating agency, the applicant, and such other entities as the lead agency determines appropriate, for completion of any environmental review, permit, or authorization required to carry out the proposed agency action;

''(E) if the lead agency determines that a review, permit, or authorization will not be completed in accordance with the schedule developed under subparagraph (D), notify the agency responsible for issuing such review, permit, or authorization of the discrepancy and request that such agency take such measures as such agency determines appropriate to comply with such schedule; and

''(F) meet with a cooperating agency that requests such a meeting.

''(3) COOPERATING AGENCY.—The lead agency may, with respect to a proposed agency action, designate any involved Federal agency or a State, Tribal, or local agency as a cooperating agency. A cooperating agency may, not later than a date specified by the lead agency, submit comments to the lead agency. Such comments shall be limited to matters relating to the proposed agency action with respect to which such agency has special expertise or jurisdiction by law with respect to an environmental issue.

''(4) REQUEST FOR DESIGNATION.—Any Federal, State, Tribal, or local agency or person that is substantially affected by the lack of a designation of a lead agency with respect to a proposed agency action under paragraph (1) may submit a written request for such a designation to an involved Federal agency. An agency that receives a request under this paragraph shall transmit such request to each involved Federal agency and to the Council.

''(5) COUNCIL DESIGNATION.—

''(A) REQUEST.—Not earlier than 45 days after the date on which a request is submitted under paragraph (4), if no designation has been made under paragraph (1), a Federal, State, Tribal, or local agency or person that is substantially affected by the lack of a designation of a lead agency may request that the Council designate a lead agency. Such request shall consist of—

''(i) a precise description of the nature and extent of the proposed agency action; and

''(ii) a detailed statement with respect to each involved Federal agency and each factor listed in paragraph (1) regarding which agency should serve as lead agency.

''(B) TRANSMISSION.—The Council shall transmit a request received under subparagraph (A) to each involved Federal agency.

''(C) RESPONSE.—An involved Federal agency may, not later than 20 days after the date of the submission of a request under subparagraph (A), submit to the Council a response to such request.

''(D) DESIGNATION.—Not later than 40 days after the date of the submission of a request under subparagraph (A), the Council shall designate the lead agency with respect to the relevant proposed agency action.

''(b) ONE DOCUMENT.—

''(1) DOCUMENT.—To the extent practicable, if there are 2 or more involved Federal agencies with respect to a proposed agency action and the lead agency has determined that an environmental document is required, such requirement shall be deemed satisfied with respect to all involved Federal agencies if the lead agency issues such an environmental document.

''(2) CONSIDERATION TIMING.—In developing an environmental document for a proposed agency action, no involved Federal agency shall be required to consider any information that becomes available after the sooner of, as applicable—

''(A) receipt of a complete application with respect to such proposed agency action; or

''(B) publication of a notice of intent or decision to prepare an environmental impact statement for such proposed agency action.

''(3) SCOPE OF REVIEW.—In developing an environmental document for a proposed agency action, the lead agency and any other involved Federal agencies shall only consider the effects of the proposed agency action that—

''(A) occur on Federal land; or

''(B) are subject to Federal control and responsibility.

''(c) REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.—Each notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement under section 102 shall include a request for public comment on alternatives or impacts and on relevant information, studies, or analyses with respect to the proposed agency action.

''(d) STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND NEED.—Each environmental impact statement shall include a statement of purpose and need that briefly summarizes the underlying purpose and need for the proposed agency action.

''(e) ESTIMATED TOTAL COST.—The cover sheet for each environmental impact statement shall include a statement of the estimated total cost of preparing such environmental impact statement, including the costs of agency full-time equivalent personnel hours, contractor costs, and other direct costs.

''(f) PAGE LIMITS.—

''(1) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), an environmental impact statement shall not exceed 150 pages, not including any citations or appendices.

''(B) EXTRAORDINARY COMPLEXITY.—An environmental impact statement for a proposed agency action of extraordinary complexity shall not exceed 300 pages, not including any citations or appendices.

''(2) ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS.—An environmental assessment shall not exceed 75 pages, not including any citations or appendices.

''(g) SPONSOR PREPARATION.—A lead agency shall allow a project sponsor to prepare an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement upon request of the project sponsor. Such agency may provide such sponsor with appropriate guidance and assist in the preparation. The lead agency shall independently evaluate the environmental document and shall take responsibility for the contents upon adoption.

''(h) DEADLINES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), with respect to a proposed agency action, a lead agency shall complete, as applicable—

''(A) the environmental impact statement not later than the date that is 2 years after the sooner of, as applicable—

''(i) the date on which such agency determines that section 102(2)(C) requires the issuance of an environmental impact statement with respect to such action;

''(ii) the date on which such agency notifies the applicant that the application to establish a right-of-way for such action is complete; and

''(iii) the date on which such agency issues a notice of intent to prepare the environmental impact statement for such action; and

''(B) the environmental assessment not later than the date that is 1 year after the sooner of, as applicable—

''(i) the date on which such agency determines that section 106(b)(2) requires the preparation of an environmental assessment with respect to such action;

''(ii) the date on which such agency notifies the applicant that the application to establish a right-of-way for such action is complete; and

''(iii) the date on which such agency issues a notice of intent to prepare the environmental assessment for such action.

''(2) DELAY.—A lead agency that determines it is not able to meet the deadline described in paragraph (1) may extend such deadline with the approval of the applicant. If the applicant approves such an extension, the lead agency shall establish a new deadline that provides only so much additional time as is necessary to complete such environmental impact statement or environmental assessment.

''(3) EXPENDITURES FOR DELAY.—If a lead agency is unable to meet the deadline described in paragraph (1) or extended under paragraph (2), the lead agency must pay $100 per day, to the extent funding is provided in advance in an appropriations Act, out of the office of the head of the department of the lead agency to the applicant starting on the first day immediately following the deadline described in paragraph (1) or extended under paragraph (2) up until the date that an applicant approves a new deadline. This paragraph does not apply when the lead agency misses a deadline solely due to delays caused by litigation.

''(i) REPORT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of each lead agency shall annually submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report that—

''(A) identifies any environmental assessment and environmental impact statement that such lead agency did not complete by the deadline described in subsection (h); and

''(B) provides an explanation for any failure to meet such deadline.

''(2) INCLUSIONS.—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall identify, as applicable—

''(A) the office, bureau, division, unit, or other entity within the Federal agency responsible for each such environmental assessment and environmental impact statement;

''(B) the date on which—

''(i) such lead agency notified the applicant that the application to establish a right-of-way for the major Federal action is complete;

''(ii) such lead agency began the scoping for the major Federal action; or

''(iii) such lead agency issued a notice of intent to prepare the environmental assessment or environmental impact statement for the major Federal action; and

''(C) when such environmental assessment and environmental impact statement is expected to be complete.

''SEC. 108. JUDICIAL REVIEW.

''(a) LIMITATIONS ON CLAIMS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a claim arising under Federal law seeking judicial review of compliance with this Act, of a determination made under this Act, or of Federal action resulting from a determination made under this Act, shall be barred unless—

''(1) in the case of a claim pertaining to a proposed agency action for which—

''(A) an environmental document was prepared and an opportunity for comment was provided;

''(B) the claim is filed by a party that participated in the administrative proceedings regarding such environmental document; and

''(C) the claim—

''(i) is filed by a party that submitted a comment during the public comment period for such administrative proceedings and such comment was sufficiently detailed to put the lead agency on notice of the issue upon which the party seeks judicial review; and

''(ii) is related to such comment;

''(2) except as provided in subsection (b), such claim is filed not later than 120 days after the date of publication of a notice in the Federal Register of agency intent to carry out the proposed agency action;

''(3) such claim is filed after the issuance of a record of decision or other final agency action with respect to the relevant proposed agency action;

''(4) such claim does not challenge the establishment or use of a categorical exclusion under section 102; and

''(5) such claim concerns—

''(A) an alternative included in the environmental document; or

''(B) an environmental effect considered in the environmental document.

''(b) SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.—

''(1) SEPARATE FINAL AGENCY ACTION.—The issuance of a Federal action resulting from a final supplemental environmental impact statement shall be considered a final agency action for the purposes of chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, separate from the issuance of any previous environmental impact statement with respect to the same proposed agency action.

''(2) DEADLINE FOR FILING A CLAIM.—A claim seeking judicial review of a Federal action resulting from a final supplemental environmental review issued under section 102(2)(C) shall be barred unless—

''(A) such claim is filed within 120 days of the date on which a notice of the Federal agency action resulting from a final supplemental environmental impact statement is issued; and

''(B) such claim is based on information contained in such supplemental environmental impact statement that was not contained in a previous environmental document pertaining to the same proposed agency action.

''(c) PROHIBITION ON INJUNCTIVE RELIEF.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a violation of this Act shall not constitute the basis for injunctive relief.

''(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to create a right of judicial review or place any limit on filing a claim with respect to the violation of the terms of a permit, license, or approval.

''(e) REMAND.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no proposed agency action for which an environmental document is required shall be vacated or otherwise limited, delayed, or enjoined unless a court concludes allowing such proposed action will pose a risk of an imminent and substantial environmental harm and there is no other equitable remedy available as a matter of law.

''SEC. 109. DEFINITIONS.

''In this title:

''(1) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—The term 'categorical exclusion' means a category of actions that a Federal agency has determined normally does not significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of section 102(2)(C).

''(2) COOPERATING AGENCY.—The term 'cooperating agency' means any Federal, State, Tribal, or local agency that has been designated as a cooperating agency under section 107(a)(3).

''(3) COUNCIL.—The term 'Council' means the Council on Environmental Quality established in title II.

''(4) ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT.—The term 'environmental assessment' means an environmental assessment prepared under section 106(b)(2).

''(5) ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT.—The term 'environmental document' means an environmental impact statement, an environmental assessment, or a finding of no significant impact.

''(6) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.—The term 'environmental impact statement' means a detailed written statement that is required by section 102(2)(C).

''(7) FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT.—The term 'finding of no significant impact' means a determination by a Federal agency that a proposed agency action does not require the issuance of an environmental impact statement.

''(8) INVOLVED FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term 'involved Federal agency' means an agency that, with respect to a proposed agency action—

''(A) proposed such action; or

''(B) is involved in such action because such action is directly related, through functional interdependence or geographic proximity, to an action such agency has taken or has proposed to take.

''(9) LEAD AGENCY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the term 'lead agency' means, with respect to a proposed agency action—

''(i) the agency that proposed such action; or

''(ii) if there are 2 or more involved Federal agencies with respect to such action, the agency designated under section 107(a)(1).

''(B) SPECIFICATION FOR MINERAL EXPLORATION OR MINE PERMITS.—With respect to a proposed mineral exploration or mine permit, the term 'lead agency' has the meaning given such term in section 40206(a) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

''(10) MAJOR FEDERAL ACTION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'major Federal action' means an action that the agency carrying out such action determines is subject to substantial Federal control and responsibility.

''(B) EXCLUSION.—The term 'major Federal action' does not include—

''(i) a non-Federal action—

''(I) with no or minimal Federal funding;

''(II) with no or minimal Federal involvement where a Federal agency cannot control the outcome of the project; or

''(III) that does not include Federal land;

''(ii) funding assistance solely in the form of general revenue sharing funds which do not provide Federal agency compliance or enforcement responsibility over the subsequent use of such funds;

''(iii) loans, loan guarantees, or other forms of financial assistance where a Federal agency does not exercise sufficient control and responsibility over the effect of the action;

''(iv) farm ownership and operating loan guarantees by the Farm Service Agency pursuant to sections 305 and 311 through 319 of the Consolidated Farmers Home Administration Act of 1961 (7 U.S.C. 1925 and 1941 through 1949);

''(v) business loan guarantees provided by the Small Business Administration pursuant to section 7(a) or (b) and of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)), or title V of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 695 et seq.);

''(vi) bringing judicial or administrative civil or criminal enforcement actions; or

''(vii) extraterritorial activities or decisions, which means agency activities or decisions with effects located entirely outside of the jurisdiction of the United States.

''(C) ADDITIONAL EXCLUSIONS.—An agency action may not be determined to be a major Federal action on the basis of—

''(i) an interstate effect of the action or related project; or

''(ii) the provision of Federal funds for the action or related project.

''(11) MINERAL EXPLORATION OR MINE PERMIT.—The term 'mineral exploration or mine permit' has the meaning given such term in section 40206(a) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

''(12) PROPOSAL.—The term 'proposal' means a proposed action at a stage when an agency has a goal, is actively preparing to make a decision on one or more alternative means of accomplishing that goal, and can meaningfully evaluate its effects.

''(13) REASONABLY FORESEEABLE.—The term 'reasonably foreseeable' means likely to occur—

''(A) not later than 10 years after the lead agency begins preparing the environmental document; and

''(B) in an area directly affected by the proposed agency action such that an individual of ordinary prudence would take such occurrence into account in reaching a decision.

''(14) SPECIAL EXPERTISE.—The term 'special expertise' means statutory responsibility, agency mission, or related program experience.''.

SEC. 20203. CODIFICATION OF NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT REGULATIONS.

The revisions to the Code of Federal Regulations made pursuant to the final rule of the Council on Environmental Quality titled ''Update to the Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act'' and published on July 16, 2020 (85 Fed. Reg. 43304), shall have the same force and effect of law as if enacted by an Act of Congress.

SEC. 20204. NON-MAJOR FEDERAL ACTIONS.

(a) EXEMPTION.—An action by the Secretary concerned with respect to a covered activity shall be not considered a major Federal action under section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)).

(b) COVERED ACTIVITY.—In this section, the term ''covered activity'' includes—

(1) geotechnical investigations;

(2) off-road travel in an existing right-of-way;

(3) construction of meteorological towers where the total surface disturbance at the location is less than 5 acres;

(4) adding a battery or other energy storage device to an existing or planned energy facility, if that storage resource is located within the physical footprint of the existing or planned energy facility;

(5) drilling temperature gradient wells and other geothermal exploratory wells, including construction or making improvements for such activities, where—

(A) the last cemented casing string is less than 12 inches in diameter; and

(B) the total unreclaimed surface disturbance at any one time within the project area is less than 5 acres;

(6) any repair, maintenance, upgrade, optimization, or minor addition to existing transmission and distribution infrastructure, including—

(A) operation, maintenance, or repair of power equipment and structures within existing substations, switching stations, transmission, and distribution lines;

(B) the addition, modification, retirement, or replacement of breakers, transmission towers, transformers, bushings, or relays;

(C) the voltage uprating, modification, reconductoring with conventional or advanced conductors, and clearance resolution of transmission lines;

(D) activities to minimize fire risk, including vegetation management, routine fire mitigation, inspection, and maintenance activities, and removal of hazard trees and other hazard vegetation within or adjacent to an existing right-of-way;

(E) improvements to or construction of structure pads for such infrastructure; and

(F) access and access route maintenance and repairs associated with any activity described in subparagraph (A) through (E);

(7) approval of and activities conducted in accordance with operating plans or agreements for transmission and distribution facilities or under a special use authorization for an electric transmission and distribution facility right-of-way; and

(8) construction, maintenance, realignment, or repair of an existing permanent or temporary access road—

(A) within an existing right-of-way or within a transmission or utility corridor established by Congress or in a land use plan;

(B) that serves an existing transmission line, distribution line, or energy facility; or

(C) activities conducted in accordance with existing onshore oil and gas leases.

SEC. 20205. NO NET LOSS DETERMINATION FOR EXISTING RIGHTS-OF-WAY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Upon a determination by the Secretary concerned that there will be no overall long-term net loss of vegetation, soil, or habitat, as defined by acreage and function, resulting from a proposed action, decision, or activity within an existing right-of-way, within a right-of-way corridor established in a land use plan, or in an otherwise designated right-of-way, that action, decision, or activity shall not be considered a major Federal action under section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)).

(b) INCLUSION OF REMEDIATION.—In making a determination under subsection (a), the Secretary concerned shall consider the effect of any remediation work to be conducted during the lifetime of the action, decision, or activity when determining whether there will be any overall long-term net loss of vegetation, soil, or habitat.

SEC. 20206. DETERMINATION OF NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT ADEQUACY.

The Secretary concerned shall use previously completed environmental assessments and environmental impact statements to satisfy the requirements of section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332) with respect to any major Federal action, if such Secretary determines that—

(1) the new proposed action is substantially the same as a previously analyzed proposed action or alternative analyzed in a previous environmental assessment or environmental impact statement; and

(2) the effects of the proposed action are substantially the same as the effects analyzed in such existing environmental assessments or environmental impact statements.

SEC. 20207. DETERMINATION REGARDING RIGHTS-OF-WAY.

Not later than 60 days after the Secretary concerned receives an application to grant a right-of-way, the Secretary concerned shall notify the applicant as to whether the application is complete or deficient. If the Secretary concerned determines the application is complete, the Secretary concerned may not consider any other application to grant a right-of-way on the same or any overlapping parcels of land while such application is pending.

SEC. 20208. TERMS OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY.

(a) FIFTY-YEAR TERMS FOR RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any right-of-way for pipelines for the transportation or distribution of oil or gas granted, issued, amended, or renewed under Federal law may be limited to a term of not more than 50 years before such right-of-way is subject to renewal or amendment.

(2) FEDERAL LAND POLICY AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1976.—Section 501 of the Federal Land

Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) Any right-of-way granted, issued, amended, or renewed under subsection (a)(4) may be limited to a term of not more than 50 years before such right-of-way is subject to renewal or amendment.''.

(b) MINERAL LEASING ACT.—Section 28(n) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 185(n)) is amended by striking ''thirty'' and inserting ''50''.

SEC. 20209. FUNDING TO PROCESS PERMITS AND DEVELOP INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In fiscal years 2023 through 2025, the Secretary of Agriculture (acting through the Forest Service) and the Secretary of the Interior, after public notice, may accept and expend funds contributed by non-Federal entities for dedicated staff, information resource management, and information technology system development to expedite the evaluation of permits, biological opinions, concurrence letters, environmental surveys and studies, processing of applications, consultations, and other activities for the leasing, development, or expansion of an energy facility under the jurisdiction of the respective Secretaries.

(b) EFFECT ON PERMITTING.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary of the Interior shall ensure that the use of funds accepted under subsection (a) will not impact impartial decision making with respect to permits, either substantively or procedurally.

(c) STATEMENT FOR FAILURE TO ACCEPT OR EXPEND FUNDS.—Not later than 60 days after the end of the applicable fiscal year, if the Secretary of Agriculture (acting through the Forest Service) or the Secretary of the Interior does not accept funds contributed under subsection (a) or accepts but does not expend such funds, that Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a statement explaining why such funds were not accepted, were not expended, or both, as the case may be.

(d) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Agriculture (acting through the Forest Service) and the Secretary of the Interior may not accept contributions, as authorized by subsection (a), from non-Federal entities owned by the Communist Party of China (or a person or entity acting on behalf of the Communist Party of China).

(e) REPORT ON NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES.—Not later than 60 days after the end of the applicable fiscal year, the Secretary of Agriculture (acting through the Forest Service) and the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that includes, for each expenditure authorized by subsection (a)—

(1) the amount of funds accepted; and

(2) the contributing non-Federal entity.

SEC. 20210. OFFSHORE GEOLOGICAL AND GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY LICENSING.

The Secretary of the Interior shall authorize geological and geophysical surveys related to oil and gas activities on the Gulf of Mexico Outer Continental Shelf, except within areas subject to existing oil and gas leasing moratoria. Such authorizations shall be issued within 30 days of receipt of a completed application and shall, as applicable to survey type, comply with the mitigation and monitoring measures in subsections (a), (b), (c), (d), (f), and (g) of section 217.184 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on January 1, 2022), and section 217.185 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on January 1, 2022). Geological and geophysical surveys authorized pursuant to this section are deemed to be in full compliance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), and their implementing regulations.

SEC. 20211. DEFERRAL OF APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS TO DRILL.

Section 17(p)(3) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(p)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(D) DEFERRAL BASED ON FORMATTING ISSUES.—A decision on an application for a permit to drill may not be deferred under paragraph (2)(B) as a result of a formatting issue with the permit, unless such formatting issue results in missing information.''.

SEC. 20212. PROCESSING AND TERMS OF APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS TO DRILL.

(a) EFFECT OF PENDING CIVIL ACTIONS.—Section 17(p) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(p)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) EFFECT OF PENDING CIVIL ACTION ON PROCESSING APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS TO DRILL.—Pursuant to the requirements of paragraph (2), notwithstanding the existence of any pending civil actions affecting the application or related lease, the Secretary shall process an application for a permit to drill or other authorizations or approvals under a valid existing lease, unless a United States Federal court vacated such lease. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as providing authority to a Federal court to vacate a lease.''.

(b) TERM OF PERMIT TO DRILL.—Section 17 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(u) TERM OF PERMIT TO DRILL.—A permit to drill issued under this section after the date of the enactment of this subsection shall be valid for one four-year term from the date that the permit is approved, or until the lease regarding which the permit is issued expires, whichever occurs first.''.

SEC. 20213. AMENDMENTS TO THE ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005.

Section 390 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15942) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 390. NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT REVIEW.

''(a) NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT REVIEW.—Action by the Secretary of the Interior, in managing the public lands, or the Secretary of Agriculture, in managing National Forest System lands, with respect to any of the activities described in subsection (c), shall not be considered a major Federal action for the purposes of section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, if the activity is conducted pursuant to the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) for the purpose of exploration or development of oil or gas.

''(b) APPLICATION.—This section shall not apply to an action of the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture on Indian lands or resources managed in trust for the benefit of Indian Tribes.

''(c) ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—The activities referred to in subsection (a) are as follows:

''(1) Reinstating a lease pursuant to section 31 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 188).

''(2) The following activities, provided that any new surface disturbance is contiguous with the footprint of the original authorization and does not exceed 20 acres or the acreage has previously been evaluated in a document previously prepared under section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)) with respect to such activity:

''(A) Drilling an oil or gas well at a well pad site at which drilling has occurred previously.

''(B) Expansion of an existing oil or gas well pad site to accommodate an additional well.

''(C) Expansion or modification of an existing oil or gas well pad site, road, pipeline, facility, or utility submitted in a sundry notice.

''(3) Drilling of an oil or gas well at a new well pad site, provided that the new surface disturbance does not exceed 20 acres and the acreage evaluated in a document previously prepared under section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)) with respect to such activity, whichever is greater.

''(4) Construction or realignment of a road, pipeline, or utility within an existing right-of-way or within a right-of-way corridor established in a land use plan.

''(5) The following activities when conducted from non-Federal surface into federally owned minerals, provided that the operator submits to the Secretary concerned certification of a surface use agreement with the non-Federal landowner:

''(A) Drilling an oil or gas well at a well pad site at which drilling has occurred previously.

''(B) Expansion of an existing oil or gas well pad site to accommodate an additional well.

''(C) Expansion or modification of an existing oil or gas well pad site, road, pipeline, facility, or utility submitted in a sundry notice.

''(6) Drilling of an oil or gas well from non-Federal surface and non-Federal subsurface into Federal mineral estate.

''(7) Construction of up to 1 mile of new road on Federal or non-Federal surface, not to exceed 2 miles in total.

''(8) Construction of up to 3 miles of individual pipelines or utilities, regardless of surface ownership.''.

SEC. 20214. ACCESS TO FEDERAL ENERGY RESOURCES FROM NON-FEDERAL SURFACE ESTATE.

(a) OIL AND GAS PERMITS.—Section 17 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(v) NO FEDERAL PERMIT REQUIRED FOR OIL AND GAS ACTIVITIES ON CERTAIN LAND.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall not require an operator to obtain a Federal drilling permit for oil and gas exploration and production activities conducted on non-Federal surface estate, provided that—

''(A) the United States holds an ownership interest of less than 50 percent of the subsurface mineral estate to be accessed by the proposed action; and

''(B) the operator submits to the Secretary a State permit to conduct oil and gas exploration and production activities on the non-Federal surface estate.

''(2) NO FEDERAL ACTION.—An oil and gas exploration and production activity carried out under paragraph (1)—

''(A) shall not be considered a major Federal action for the purposes of section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969;

''(B) shall require no additional Federal action;

''(C) may commence 30 days after submission of the State permit to the Secretary; and

''(D) shall not be subject to—

''(i) section 306108 of title 54, United States Code (commonly known as the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966); and

''(ii) section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536).

''(3) ROYALTIES AND PRODUCTION ACCOUNTABILITY.—(A) Nothing in this subsection shall affect the amount of royalties due to the United States under this Act from the production of oil and gas, or alter the Secretary's authority to conduct audits and collect civil penalties pursuant to the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act of 1982 (30 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

''(B) The Secretary may conduct onsite reviews and inspections to ensure proper accountability, measurement, and reporting of production of Federal oil and gas, and payment of royalties.

''(4) EXCEPTIONS.—This subsection shall not apply to actions on Indian lands or resources managed in trust for the benefit of Indian Tribes.

''(5) INDIAN LAND.—In this subsection, the term 'Indian land' means—

''(A) any land located within the boundaries of an Indian reservation, pueblo, or rancheria; and

''(B) any land not located within the boundaries of an Indian reservation, pueblo, or rancheria, the title to which is held—

''(i) in trust by the United States for the benefit of an Indian tribe or an individual Indian;

''(ii) by an Indian tribe or an individual Indian, subject to restriction against alienation under laws of the United States; or

''(iii) by a dependent Indian community.''.

(b) GEOTHERMAL PERMITS.—The Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 30. NO FEDERAL PERMIT REQUIRED FOR GEOTHERMAL ACTIVITIES ON CERTAIN LAND.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall not require an operator to obtain a Federal drilling permit for geothermal exploration and production activities conducted on a non-Federal surface estate, provided that—

''(1) the United States holds an ownership interest of less than 50 percent of the subsurface geothermal estate to be accessed by the proposed action; and

''(2) the operator submits to the Secretary a State permit to conduct geothermal exploration and production activities on the non-Federal surface estate.

''(b) NO FEDERAL ACTION.—A geothermal exploration and production activity carried out under paragraph (1)—

''(1) shall not be considered a major Federal action for the purposes of section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969;

''(2) shall require no additional Federal action;

''(3) may commence 30 days after submission of the State permit to the Secretary; and

''(4) shall not be subject to—

''(A) section 306108 of title 54, United States Code (commonly known as the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966); and

''(B) section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536).

''(c) ROYALTIES AND PRODUCTION ACCOUNTABILITY.—(1) Nothing in this section shall affect the amount of royalties due to the United States under this Act from the production of electricity using geothermal resources (other than direct use of geothermal resources) or the production of any byproducts.

''(2) The Secretary may conduct onsite reviews and inspections to ensure proper accountability, measurement, and reporting of the production described in paragraph (1), and payment of royalties.

''(d) EXCEPTIONS.—This section shall not apply to actions on Indian lands or resources managed in trust for the benefit of Indian Tribes.

''(e) INDIAN LAND.—In this section, the term 'Indian land' means—

''(1) any land located within the boundaries of an Indian reservation, pueblo, or rancheria; and

''(2) any land not located within the boundaries of an Indian reservation, pueblo, or rancheria, the title to which is held—

''(A) in trust by the United States for the benefit of an Indian tribe or an individual Indian;

''(B) by an Indian tribe or an individual Indian, subject to restriction against alienation under laws of the United States; or

''(C) by a dependent Indian community.''.

SEC. 20215. SCOPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS FOR OIL AND GAS LEASES.

An environmental review for an oil and gas lease or permit prepared pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and its implementing regulations—

(1) shall apply only to areas that are within or immediately adjacent to the lease plot or plots and that are directly affected by the proposed action; and

(2) shall not require consideration of downstream, indirect effects of oil and gas consumption.

SEC. 20216. EXPEDITING APPROVAL OF GATHERING LINES.

Section 11318(b)(1) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (42 U.S.C. 15943(b)(1)) is amended by striking ''to be an action that is categorically excluded (as defined in section 1508.1 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act))'' and inserting ''to not be a major Federal action''.

SEC. 20217. LEASE SALE LITIGATION.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any oil and gas lease sale held under section 17 of the Mineral Leasing Act (26 U.S.C. 226) or the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.) shall not be vacated and activities on leases awarded in the sale shall not be otherwise limited, delayed, or enjoined unless the court concludes allowing development of the challenged lease will pose a risk of an imminent and substantial environmental harm and there is no other equitable remedy available as a matter of law. No court, in response to an action brought pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. et seq.), may enjoin or issue any order preventing the award of leases to a bidder in a lease sale conducted pursuant to section 17 of the Mineral Leasing Act (26 U.S.C. 226) or the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.) if the Department of the Interior has previously opened bids for such leases or disclosed the high bidder for any tract that was included in such lease sale.

SEC. 20218. LIMITATION ON CLAIMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a claim arising under Federal law seeking judicial review of a permit, license, or approval issued by a Federal agency for a mineral project, energy facility, or energy storage device shall be barred unless—

(1) the claim is filed within 120 days after publication of a notice in the Federal Register announcing that the permit, license, or approval is final pursuant to the law under which the agency action is taken, unless a shorter time is specified in the Federal law pursuant to which judicial review is allowed; and

(2) the claim is filed by a party that submitted a comment during the public comment period for such permit, license, or approval and such comment was sufficiently detailed to put the agency on notice of the issue upon which the party seeks judicial review.

(b) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section shall create a right to judicial review or place any limit on filing a claim that a person has violated the terms of a permit, license, or approval.

(c) TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to or supersede a claim subject to section 139(l)(1) of title 23, United States Code.

(d) MINERAL PROJECT.—In this section, the term ''mineral project'' means a project—

(1) located on—

(A) a mining claim, millsite claim, or tunnel site claim for any mineral;

(B) lands open to mineral entry; or

(C) a Federal mineral lease; and

(2) for the purposes of exploring for or producing minerals.

SEC. 20219. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT ON PERMITS TO DRILL.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall issue a report detailing—

(1) the approval timelines for applications for permits to drill issued by the Bureau of Land Management from 2018 through 2022;

(2) the number of applications for permits to drill that were not issued within 30 days of receipt of a completed application; and

(3) the causes of delays resulting in applications for permits to drill pending beyond the 30 day deadline required under section 17(p)(2) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(p)(2)).

(b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The report issued under subsection (a) shall include recommendations with respect to—

(1) actions the Bureau of Land Management can take to streamline the approval process for applications for permits to drill to approve applications for permits to drill within 30 days of receipt of a completed application;

(2) aspects of the Federal permitting process carried out by the Bureau of Land Management to issue applications for permits to drill that can be turned over to States to expedite approval of applications for permits to drill; and

(3) legislative actions that Congress must take to allow States to administer certain aspects of the Federal permitting process described in paragraph (2).

SEC. 20220. E–NEPA.

(a) PERMITTING PORTAL STUDY.—The Council on Environmental Quality shall conduct a study and submit a report to Congress within 1 year of the enactment of this Act on the potential to create an online permitting portal for permits that require review under section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)) that would—

(1) allow applicants to—

(A) submit required documents or materials for their application in one unified portal;

(B) upload additional documents as required by the applicable agency; and

(C) track the progress of individual applications;

(2) enhance interagency coordination in consultation by—

(A) allowing for comments in one unified portal;

(B) centralizing data necessary for reviews; and

(C) streamlining communications between other agencies and the applicant; and

(3) boost transparency in agency decision-making.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated $500,000 for the Council of Environmental Quality to carry out the study directed by this section.

SEC. 20221. LIMITATIONS ON CLAIMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 139(l) of title 23, United States Code, is amended by striking ''150 days'' each place it appears and inserting ''90 days''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 330(e) of title 23, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking ''150 days'' and inserting ''90 days''; and

(B) in paragraph (3)(B)(i), by striking ''150 days'' and inserting ''90 days''.

(2) Section 24201(a)(4) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking ''of 150 days''.

SEC. 20222. ONE FEDERAL DECISION FOR PIPELINES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 601 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 60144. Efficient environmental reviews and one Federal decision

''(a) EFFICIENT ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation shall apply the project development procedures, to the greatest extent feasible, described in section 139 of title 23 to any pipeline project that requires the approval of the Secretary under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

''(2) REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall incorporate into agency regulations and procedures pertaining to pipeline projects described in paragraph (1) aspects of such project development procedures, or portions thereof, determined appropriate by the Secretary in a manner consistent with this section, that increase the efficiency of the review of pipeline projects.

''(3) DISCRETION.—The Secretary may choose not to incorporate into agency regulations and procedures pertaining to pipeline projects described in paragraph (1) such project development procedures that could only feasibly apply to highway projects, public transportation capital projects, and multimodal projects.

''(4) APPLICABILITY.—Subsection (l) of section 139 of title 23 shall apply to pipeline projects described in paragraph (1).

''(b) ADDITIONAL CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.—The Secretary shall maintain and make publicly available, including on the Internet, a database that identifies project-specific information on the use of a categorical exclusion on any pipeline project carried out under this title.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 601 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''60144. Efficient environmental reviews and one Federal decision.''.

SEC. 20223. EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN WILDFIRE MITIGATION ACTIVITIES FROM CERTAIN ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Wildfire mitigation activities of the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture may be carried out without regard to the provisions of law specified in subsection (b).

(b) PROVISIONS OF LAW SPECIFIED.—The provisions of law specified in this section are all Federal, State, or other laws, regulations, and legal requirements of, deriving from, or related to the subject of, the following laws:

(1) Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)).

(2) The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

(c) WILDFIRE MITIGATION ACTIVITY.—For purposes of this section, the term ''wildfire mitigation activity''—

(1) is an activity conducted on Federal land that is—

(A) under the administration of the Director of the National Park System, the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, or the Chief of the Forest Service; and

(B) within 300 feet of any permanent or temporary road, as measured from the center of such road; and

(2) includes forest thinning, hazardous fuel reduction, prescribed burning, and vegetation management.

SEC. 20224. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT, FACILITY INSPECTION, AND OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE RELATING TO ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION FACILITY RIGHTS OF WAY.

(a) HAZARD TREES WITHIN 50 FEET OF ELECTRIC POWER LINE.—Section 512(a)(1)(B)(ii) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1772(a)(1)(B)(ii)) is amended by striking ''10'' and inserting ''50''.

(b) CONSULTATION WITH PRIVATE LANDOWNERS.—Section 512(c)(3)(E) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1772(c)(3)(E)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking ''and'' at the end;

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

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(iii) consulting with private landowners with respect to any hazard trees identified for removal from land owned by such private landowners.''.

(c) REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS.—Clause (iv) of section 512(c)(4)(A) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1772(c)(4)(A)) is amended to read as follows:

''(iv) ensures that—

''(I) a plan submitted without a modification under clause (iii) shall be automatically approved 60 days after review; and

''(II) a plan submitted with a modification under clause (iii) shall be automatically approved 67 days after review.''.

SEC. 20225. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR ELECTRIC UTILITY LINES RIGHTS-OF-WAY.

(a) SECRETARY CONCERNED DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''Secretary concerned'' means—

(1) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to National Forest System lands; and

(2) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to public lands.

(b) CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ESTABLISHED.—Forest management activities described in subsection (c) are a category of activities designated as being categorically excluded from the preparation of an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement under section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332).

(c) FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES DESIGNATED FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—The forest management activities designated as being categorically excluded under subsection (b) are—

(1) the development and approval of a vegetation management, facility inspection, and operation and maintenance plan submitted under section 512(c)(1) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1772(c)(1)) by the Secretary concerned; and

(2) the implementation of routine activities conducted under the plan referred to in paragraph (1).

(d) AVAILABILITY OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.—On and after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned may use the categorical exclusion established under subsection (b) in accordance with this section.

(e) EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES.—Use of the categorical exclusion established under subsection (b) shall not be subject to the extraordinary circumstances procedures in section 220.6, title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, or section 1508.4, title 40, Code of Federal Regulations.

(f) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN AREAS.—The categorical exclusion established under subsection (b) shall not apply to any forest management activity conducted—

(1) in a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System; or

(2) on National Forest System lands on which, by Act of Congress, the removal of vegetation is restricted or prohibited.

(g) PERMANENT ROADS.—

(1) PROHIBITION ON ESTABLISHMENT.—A forest management activity designated under subsection (c) shall not include the establishment of a permanent road.

(2) EXISTING ROADS.—The Secretary concerned may carry out necessary maintenance and repair on an existing permanent road for the purposes of conducting a forest management activity designated under subsection (c).

(3) TEMPORARY ROADS.—The Secretary concerned shall decommission any temporary road constructed for a forest management activity designated under subsection (c) not later than 3 years after the date on which the action is completed.

(h) APPLICABLE LAWS.—A forest management activity designated under subsection (c) shall not be subject to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1536), section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, or any other applicable law.

SEC. 20226. STAFFING PLANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 365 days after the date of enactment of this Act, each local unit of the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Forest Service shall conduct an outreach plan for disseminating and advertising open civil service positions with functions relating to permitting or natural resources in their offices. Each such plan shall include outreach to local high schools, community colleges, institutions of higher education, and any other relevant institutions, as determined by the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture (as the case may be).

(b) COLLABORATION PERMITTED.—Such local units of the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Forest Service located in reasonably close geographic areas may collaborate to produce a joint outreach plan that meets the requirements of subsection (a).

Subtitle C—Permitting for Mining Needs

SEC. 20301. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) BYPRODUCT.—The term ''byproduct'' has the meaning given such term in section 7002(a) of the Energy Act of 2020 (30 U.S.C. 1606(a)).

(2) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ''Indian Tribe'' has the meaning given such term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(3) MINERAL.—The term ''mineral'' means any mineral of a kind that is locatable (including, but not limited to, such minerals located on ''lands acquired by the United States'', as such term is defined in section 2 of the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands) under the Act of May 10, 1872 (Chapter 152; 17 Stat. 91).

(4) SECRETARY.—Except as otherwise provided, the term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

(5) STATE.—The term ''State'' means—

(A) a State;

(B) the District of Columbia;

(C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico;

(D) Guam;

(E) American Samoa;

(F) the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and

(G) the United States Virgin Islands.

SEC. 20302. MINERALS SUPPLY CHAIN AND RELIABILITY.

Section 40206 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (30 U.S.C. 1607) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**CRITICAL MINERALS**'' and inserting ''**MINERALS**'';

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

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) LEAD AGENCY.—The term 'lead agency' means the Federal agency with primary responsibility for issuing a mineral exploration or mine permit or lease for a mineral project.

''(2) MINERAL.—The term 'mineral' has the meaning given such term in section 20301 of the TAPP American Resources Act.

''(3) MINERAL EXPLORATION OR MINE PERMIT.—The term 'mineral exploration or mine permit' means—

''(A) an authorization of the Bureau of Land Management or the Forest Service, as applicable, for exploration for minerals that requires analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969;

''(B) a plan of operations for a mineral project approved by the Bureau of Land Management or the Forest Service; or

''(C) any other Federal permit or authorization for a mineral project.

''(4) MINERAL PROJECT.—The term 'mineral project' means a project—

''(A) located on—

''(i) a mining claim, millsite claim, or tunnel site claim for any mineral;

''(ii) lands open to mineral entry; or

''(iii) a Federal mineral lease; and

''(B) for the purposes of exploring for or producing minerals.'';

(3) in subsection (b), by striking ''critical'' each place such term appears;

(4) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking ''critical mineral production on Federal land'' and inserting ''mineral projects'';

(B) by inserting '', and in accordance with subsection (h)'' after ''to the maximum extent practicable'';

(C) by striking ''shall complete the'' and inserting ''shall complete such'';

(D) in paragraph (1), by striking ''critical mineral-related activities on Federal land'' and inserting ''mineral projects'';

(E) in paragraph (8), by striking the ''and'' at the end;

(F) in paragraph (9), by striking ''procedures.'' and inserting ''procedures; and''; and

(G) by adding at the end the following:

''(10) deferring to and relying on baseline data, analyses, and reviews performed by State agencies with jurisdiction over the environmental or reclamation permits for the proposed mineral project.'';

(5) in subsection (d)—

(A) by striking ''critical'' each place such term appears; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking ''mineral-related activities on Federal land'' and inserting ''mineral projects'';

(6) in subsection (e), by striking ''critical'';

(7) in subsection (f), by striking ''critical'' each place such term appears;

(8) in subsection (g), by striking ''critical'' each place such term appears; and

(9) by adding at the end the following:

''(h) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT.—For purposes of maximizing efficiency and effectiveness of the Federal permitting and review processes described under subsection (c), the lead agency in the Federal permitting and review processes of a mineral project shall (in consultation with any other Federal agency involved in such Federal permitting and review processes, and upon request of the project applicant, an affected State government, local government, or an Indian Tribe, or other entity such lead agency determines appropriate) enter into a memorandum of agreement with a project applicant where requested by the applicant to carry out the activities described in subsection (c).

''(2) TIMELINES AND SCHEDULES FOR NEPA REVIEWS.—

''(A) EXTENSION.—A project applicant may enter into 1 or more agreements with a lead agency to extend the deadlines described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (h)(1) of section 107 of title I of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 by, with respect to each such agreement, not more than 6 months.

''(B) ADJUSTMENT OF TIMELINES.—At the request of a project applicant, the lead agency and any other entity which is a signatory to a memorandum of agreement under paragraph (1) may, by unanimous agreement, adjust—

''(i) any deadlines described in subparagraph (A); and

''(ii) any deadlines extended under subparagraph (B).

''(3) EFFECT ON PENDING APPLICATIONS.—Upon a written request by a project applicant, the requirements of this subsection shall apply to any application for a mineral exploration or mine permit or mineral lease that was submitted before the date of the enactment of the TAPP American Resources Act.''.

SEC. 20303. FEDERAL REGISTER PROCESS IMPROVEMENT.

Section 7002(f) of the Energy Act of 2020 (30 U.S.C. 1606(f)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking ''critical'' both places such term appears; and

(2) by striking paragraph (4).

SEC. 20304. DESIGNATION OF MINING AS A COVERED SECTOR FOR FEDERAL PERMITTING IMPROVEMENT PURPOSES.

Section 41001(6)(A) of the FAST Act (42 U.S.C. 4370m(6)(A)) is amended by inserting ''mineral production,'' before ''or any other sector''.

SEC. 20305. TREATMENT OF ACTIONS UNDER PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION 2022–11 FOR FEDERAL PERMITTING IMPROVEMENT PURPOSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided by subsection (c), an action described in subsection (b) shall be—

(1) treated as a covered project, as defined in section 41001(6) of the FAST Act (42 U.S.C. 4370m(6)), without regard to the requirements of that section; and

(2) included in the Permitting Dashboard maintained pursuant to section 41003(b) of that Act (42 13 U.S.C. 4370m–2(b)).

(b) ACTIONS DESCRIBED.—An action described in this subsection is an action taken by the Secretary of Defense pursuant to Presidential Determination 2022–11 (87 Fed. Reg. 19775; relating to certain actions under section 303 of the Defense Production Act of 1950) or the Presidential Memorandum of February 27, 2023, titled ''Presidential Waiver of Statutory Requirements Pursuant to Section 303 of the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended, on Department of Defense Supply Chains Resilience'' (88 Fed. Reg. 13015) to create, maintain, protect, expand, or restore sustainable and responsible domestic production capabilities through—

(1) supporting feasibility studies for mature mining, beneficiation, and value-added processing projects;

(2) byproduct and co-product production at existing mining, mine waste reclamation, and other industrial facilities;

(3) modernization of mining, beneficiation, and value-added processing to increase productivity, environmental sustainability, and workforce safety; or

(4) any other activity authorized under section 303(a)(1) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 15 (50 U.S.C. 4533(a)(1)).

(c) EXCEPTION.—An action described in subsection (b) may not be treated as a covered project or be included in the Permitting Dashboard under subsection (a) if the project sponsor (as defined in section 41001(18) of the FAST Act (42 U.S.C. 21 4370m(18))) requests that the action not be treated as a covered project.

SEC. 20306. NOTICE FOR MINERAL EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES WITH LIMITED SURFACE DISTURBANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 15 days before commencing an exploration activity with a surface disturbance of not more than 5 acres of public lands, the operator of such exploration activity shall submit to the Secretary concerned a complete notice of such exploration activity.

(b) INCLUSIONS.—Notice submitted under subsection (a) shall include such information the Secretary concerned may require, including the information described in section 3809.301 of title 43, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

(c) REVIEW.—Not later than 15 days after the Secretary concerned receives notice submitted under subsection (a), the Secretary concerned shall—

(1) review and determine completeness of the notice; and

(2) allow exploration activities to proceed if—

(A) the surface disturbance of such exploration activities on such public lands will not exceed 5 acres;

(B) the Secretary concerned determines that the notice is complete; and

(C) the operator provides financial assurance that the Secretary concerned determines is adequate.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) EXPLORATION ACTIVITY.—The term ''exploration activity''—

(A) means creating surface disturbance greater than casual use that includes sampling, drilling, or developing surface or underground workings to evaluate the type, extent, quantity, or quality of mineral values present;

(B) includes constructing drill roads and drill pads, drilling, trenching, excavating test pits, and conducting geotechnical tests and geophysical surveys; and

(C) does not include activities where material is extracted for commercial use or sale.

(2) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term ''Secretary concerned'' means—

(A) with respect to lands administered by the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of the Interior; and

(B) with respect to National Forest System lands, the Secretary of Agriculture.

SEC. 20307. USE OF MINING CLAIMS FOR ANCILLARY ACTIVITIES.

Section 10101 of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (30 U.S.C. 28f) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) SECURITY OF TENURE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A claimant shall have the right to use, occupy, and conduct operations on public land, with or without the discovery of a valuable mineral deposit, if—

''(i) such claimant makes a timely payment of the location fee required by section 10102 and the claim maintenance fee required by subsection (a); or

''(ii) in the case of a claimant who qualifies for a waiver under subsection (d), such claimant makes a timely payment of the location fee and complies with the required assessment work under the general mining laws.

''(B) OPERATIONS DEFINED.—For the purposes of this paragraph, the term 'operations' means—

''(i) any activity or work carried out in connection with prospecting, exploration, processing, discovery and assessment, development, or extraction with respect to a locatable mineral;

''(ii) the reclamation of any disturbed areas; and

''(iii) any other reasonably incident uses, whether on a mining claim or not, including the construction and maintenance of facilities, roads, transmission lines, pipelines, and any other necessary infrastructure or means of access on public land for support facilities.

''(2) FULFILLMENT OF FEDERAL LAND POLICY AND MANAGEMENT ACT.—A claimant that fulfills the requirements of this section and section 10102 shall be deemed to satisfy the requirements of any provision of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act that requires the payment of fair market value to the United States for use of public lands and resources relating to use of such lands and resources authorized by the general mining laws.

''(3) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to diminish the rights of entry, use, and occupancy, or any other right, of a claimant under the general mining laws.''.

SEC. 20308. ENSURING CONSIDERATION OF URANIUM AS A CRITICAL MINERAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7002(a)(3)(B)(i) of the Energy Act of 2020 (30 U.S.C. 1606(a)(3)(B)(i)) is amended to read as follows:

''(i) oil, oil shale, coal, or natural gas;''.

(b) UPDATE.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary, acting through the Director of the United States Geological Survey, shall publish in the Federal Register an update to the final list established in section 7002(c)(3) of the Energy Act of 2020 (30 U.S.C. 1606(c)(3)) in accordance with subsection (a) of this section.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary, acting through the Director of the United States Geological Survey, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that includes the following:

(1) The current status of uranium deposits in the United States with respect to the amount and quality of uranium contained in such deposits.

(2) A comparison of the United States to the rest of the world with respect to the amount and quality of uranium contained in uranium deposits.

(3) Policy considerations, including potential challenges, of utilizing the uranium from the deposits described in paragraph (1).

SEC. 20309. BARRING FOREIGN BAD ACTORS FROM OPERATING ON FEDERAL LANDS.

A mining claimant shall be barred from the right to use, occupy, and conduct operations on Federal land if the Secretary of the Interior finds the claimant has a foreign parent company that has (including through a subsidiary)—

(1) a known record of human rights violations; or

(2) knowingly operated an illegal mine in another country.

SEC. 20310. PERMIT PROCESS FOR PROJECTS RELATING TO EXTRACTION, RECOVERY, OR PROCESSING OF CRITICAL MATERIALS.

(a) DEFINITION OF COVERED PROJECT.—Section 41001(6)(A) of the FAST Act (42 U.S.C. 4370m(6)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (iii)(III), by striking ''; or'' and inserting ''';'';

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

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(v) is related to the extraction, recovery, or processing from coal, coal waste, coal processing waste, pre-or post-combustion coal byproducts, or acid mine drainage from coal mines of—

''(I) critical minerals (as such term is defined in section 7002 of the Energy Act of 2020);

''(II) rare earth elements; or

''(III) microfine carbon or carbon from coal.''.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the Committees on Energy and Natural Resources and Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Natural Resources, and Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report evaluating the timeliness of implementation of reforms of the permitting process required as a result of the amendments made by this section on the following:

(1) The economic and national security of the United States.

(2) Domestic production and supply of critical minerals, rare earths, and microfine carbon or carbon from coal.

SEC. 20311. NATIONAL STRATEGY TO RE-SHORE MINERAL SUPPLY CHAINS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the United States Geological Survey, in consultation with the Secretaries of Defense, Energy, and State, shall—

(1) identify mineral commodities that—

(A) serve a critical purpose to the national security of the United States, including with respect to military, defense, and strategic mobility applications; and

(B) are at highest risk of supply chain disruption due to the domestic or global actions of any covered entity, including price-fixing, systemic acquisition and control of global mineral resources and processing, refining, and smelting capacity, and undercutting the fair market value of such resources; and

(2) develop a national strategy for bolstering supply chains in the United States for the mineral commodities identified under paragraph (1), including through the enactment of new national policies and the utilization of current authorities, to increase capacity and efficiency of domestic mining, refining, processing, and manufacturing of such mineral commodities.

(b) COVERED ENTITY.—In this section, the term ''covered entity'' means an entity that—

(1) is subject to the jurisdiction or direction of the People's Republic of China;

(2) is directly or indirectly operating on behalf of the People's Republic of China; or

(3) is owned by, directly or indirectly controlled by, or otherwise subject to the influence of the People's Republic of China.

Subtitle D—Federal Land Use Planning

SEC. 20401. FEDERAL LAND USE PLANNING AND WITHDRAWALS.

(a) RESOURCE ASSESSMENTS REQUIRED.—Federal lands and waters may not be withdrawn from entry under the mining laws or operation of the mineral leasing and mineral materials laws unless—

(1) a quantitative and qualitative geophysical and geological mineral resource assessment of the impacted area has been completed during the 10-year period ending on the date of such withdrawal;

(2) the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Energy, and the Secretary of Defense, conducts an assessment of the economic, energy, strategic, and national security value of mineral deposits identified in such mineral resource assessment;

(3) the Secretary conducts an assessment of the reduction in future Federal revenues to the Treasury, States, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Historic Preservation Fund, and the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund resulting from the proposed mineral withdrawal;

(4) the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, conducts an assessment of military readiness and training activities in the proposed withdrawal area; and

(5) the Secretary submits a report to the Committees on Natural Resources, Agriculture, Energy and Commerce, and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Energy and Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Foreign Affairs of the Senate, that includes the results of the assessments completed pursuant to this subsection.

(b) LAND USE PLANS.—Before a resource management plan under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) or a forest management plan under the National Forest Management Act is updated or completed, the Secretary or Secretary of Agriculture, as applicable, in consultation with the Director of the United States Geological Survey, shall—

(1) review any quantitative and qualitative mineral resource assessment that was completed or updated during the 10-year period ending on the date that the applicable land management agency publishes a notice to prepare, revise, or amend a land use plan by the Director of the United States Geological Survey for the geographic area affected by the applicable management plan;

(2) the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Energy, and the Secretary of Defense, conducts an assessment of the economic, energy, strategic, and national security value of mineral deposits identified in such mineral resource assessment; and

(3) submit a report to the Committees on Natural Resources, Agriculture, Energy and Commerce, and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Energy and Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Foreign Affairs of the Senate, that includes the results of the assessment completed pursuant to this subsection.

(c) NEW INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall provide recommendations to the President on appropriate measures to reduce unnecessary impacts that a withdrawal of Federal lands or waters from entry under the mining laws or operation of the mineral leasing and mineral materials laws may have on mineral exploration, development, and other mineral activities (including authorizing exploration and development of such mineral deposits) not later than 180 days after the Secretary has notice that a resource assessment completed by the Director of the United States Geological Survey, in coordination with the State geological surveys, determines that a previously undiscovered mineral deposit may be present in an area that has been withdrawn from entry under the mining laws or operation of the mineral leasing and mineral materials laws pursuant to—

(1) section 204 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1714); or

(2) chapter 3203 of title 54, United States Code.

SEC. 20402. PROHIBITIONS ON DELAY OF MINERAL DEVELOPMENT OF CERTAIN FEDERAL LAND.

(a) PROHIBITIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the President shall not carry out any action that would pause, restrict, or delay the process for or issuance

of any of the following on Federal land, unless such lands are withdrawn from disposition under the mineral leasing laws, including by administrative withdrawal:

(1) New oil and gas lease sales, oil and gas leases, drill permits, or associated approvals or authorizations of any kind associated with oil and gas leases.

(2) New coal leases (including leases by application in process, renewals, modifications, or expansions of existing leases), permits, approvals, or authorizations.

(3) New leases, claims, permits, approvals, or authorizations for development or exploration of minerals.

(b) PROHIBITION ON RESCISSION OF LEASES, PERMITS, OR CLAIMS.—The President, the Secretary, or Secretary of Agriculture as applicable, may not rescind any existing lease, permit, or claim for the extraction and production of any mineral under the mining laws or mineral leasing and mineral materials laws on National Forest System land or land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, unless specifically authorized by Federal statute, or upon the lessee, permittee, or claimant's failure to comply with any of the provisions of the applicable lease, permit, or claim.

(c) MINERAL DEFINED.—In subsection (a)(3), the term ''mineral'' means any mineral of a kind that is locatable (including such minerals located on ''lands acquired by the United States'', as such term is defined in section 2 of the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands) under the Act of May 10, 1872 (Chapter 152; 17 Stat. 91).

SEC. 20403. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) FEDERAL LAND.—The term ''Federal land'' means—

(A) National Forest System land;

(B) public lands (as defined in section 103 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1702));

(C) the outer Continental Shelf (as defined in section 2 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331)); and

(D) land managed by the Secretary of Energy.

(2) PRESIDENT.—The term ''President'' means—

(A) the President; and

(B) any designee of the President, including—

(i) the Secretary of Agriculture;

(ii) the Secretary of Commerce;

(iii) the Secretary of Energy; and

(iv) the Secretary of the Interior.

(3) PREVIOUSLY UNDISCOVERED DEPOSIT.—The term ''previously undiscovered mineral deposit'' means—

(A) a mineral deposit that has been previously evaluated by the United States Geological Survey and found to be of low mineral potential, but upon subsequent evaluation is determined by the United States Geological Survey to have significant mineral potential; or

(B) a mineral deposit that has not previously been evaluated by the United States Geological Survey.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

Subtitle E—Ensuring Competitiveness on Federal Lands

SEC. 20501. INCENTIVIZING DOMESTIC PRODUCTION.

(a) OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS ROYALTY RATE.—Section 8(a)(1) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1337(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''not less than 16⅔ percent, but not more than 18¾ percent, during the 10-year period beginning on the date of enactment of the Act titled 'An Act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of S. Con. Res. 14', and not less than 16⅔ percent thereafter,'' each place it appears and inserting ''not less than 12.5 percent'';

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''not less than 16⅔ percent, but not more than 18¾ percent, during the 10-year period beginning on the date of enactment of the Act titled 'An Act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of S. Con. Res. 14', and not less than 16⅔ percent thereafter,'' each place it appears and inserting ''not less than 12.5 percent'';

(3) in subparagraph (F), by striking ''not less than 16⅔ percent, but not more than 18¾ percent, during the 10-year period beginning on the date of enactment of the Act titled 'An Act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of S. Con. Res. 14', and not less than 16⅔ percent thereafter,'' and inserting ''not less than 12.5 percent''; and

(4) in subparagraph (H), by striking ''not less than 16⅔ percent, but not more than 18¾ percent, during the 10-year period beginning on the date of enactment of the Act titled 'An Act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of S. Con. Res. 14', and not less than 16⅔ percent thereafter,'' and inserting ''not less than 12.5 percent''.

(b) MINERAL LEASING ACT.—

(1) ONSHORE OIL AND GAS ROYALTY RATES.—

(A) LEASE OF OIL AND GAS LAND.—Section 17 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226) is amended—

(i) in subsection (b)(1)(A)—

(I) by striking ''not less than 16⅔'' and inserting ''not less than 12.5''; and

(II) by striking ''or, in the case of a lease issued during the 10-year period beginning on the date of enactment of the Act titled 'An Act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of S. Con. Res. 14', 16⅔ percent in amount or value of the production removed or sold from the lease''; and

(ii) by striking ''16⅔ percent'' each place it appears and inserting ''12.5 percent''.

(B) CONDITIONS FOR REINSTATEMENT.—Section 31(e)(3) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 188(e)(3)) is amended by striking ''20'' inserting ''16⅔''.

(2) OIL AND GAS MINIMUM BID.—Section 17(b) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(b)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking ''$10 per acre during the 10-year period beginning on the date of enactment of the Act titled 'An Act to provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of S. Con. Res. 14'.'' and inserting ''$2 per acre for a period of 2 years from the date of the enactment of the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987.''; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(C), by striking ''$10 per acre'' and inserting ''$2 per acre''.

(3) FOSSIL FUEL RENTAL RATES.—Section 17(d) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226(d)) is amended to read as follows:

''(d) All leases issued under this section, as amended by the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987, shall be conditioned upon payment by the lessee of a rental of not less than $1.50 per acre per year for the first through fifth years of the lease and not less than $2 per acre per year for each year thereafter. A minimum royalty in lieu of rental of not less than the rental which otherwise would be required for that lease year shall be payable at the expiration of each lease year beginning on or after a discovery of oil or gas in paying quantities on the lands leased.''.

(4) EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FEE.—Section 17 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226) is further amended by repealing subsection (q).

(5) ELIMINATION OF NONCOMPETITIVE LEASING.—Section 17 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 226) is further amended—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1)(A)—

(I) in the first sentence, by striking ''paragraph (2)'' and inserting ''paragraphs (2) and (3)''; and

(II) by adding at the end ''Lands for which no bids are received or for which the highest bid is less than the national minimum acceptable bid shall be offered promptly within 30 days for leasing under subsection (c) of this section and shall remain available for leasing for a period of 2 years after the competitive lease sale.''; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

''(3)(A) If the United States held a vested future interest in a mineral estate that, immediately prior to becoming a vested present interest, was subject to a lease under which oil or gas was being produced, or had a well capable of producing, in paying quantities at an annual average production volume per well per day of either not more than 15 barrels per day of oil or condensate, or not more than 60,000 cubic feet of gas, the holder of the lease may elect to continue the lease as a noncompetitive lease under subsection (c)(1).

''(B) An election under this paragraph is effective—

''(i) in the case of an interest which vested after January 1, 1990, and on or before October 24, 1992, if the election is made before the date that is 1 year after October 24, 1992;

''(ii) in the case of an interest which vests within 1 year after October 24, 1992, if the election is made before the date that is 2 years after October 24, 1992; and

''(iii) in any case other than those described in clause (i) or (ii), if the election is made prior to the interest becoming a vested present interest.'';

(B) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

''(c) LANDS SUBJECT TO LEASING UNDER SUBSECTION (b); FIRST QUALIFIED APPLICANT.—

''(1) If the lands to be leased are not leased under subsection (b)(1) of this section or are not subject to competitive leasing under subsection (b)(2) of this section, the person first making application for the lease who is qualified to hold a lease under this chapter shall be entitled to a lease of such lands without competitive bidding, upon payment of a non-refundable application fee of at least $75. A lease under this subsection shall be conditioned upon the payment of a royalty at a rate of 12.5 percent in amount or value of the production removed or sold from the lease. Leases shall be issued within 60 days of the date on which the Secretary identifies the first responsible qualified applicant.

''(2)(A) Lands (i) which were posted for sale under subsection (b)(1) of this section but for which no bids were received or for which the highest bid was less than the national minimum acceptable bid and (ii) for which, at the end of the period referred to in subsection (b)(1) of this section no lease has been issued and no lease application is pending under paragraph (1) of this subsection, shall again be available for leasing only in accordance with subsection (b)(1) of this section.

''(B) The land in any lease which is issued under paragraph (1) of this subsection or under subsection (b)(1) of this section which lease terminates, expires, is cancelled or is relinquished shall again be available for leasing only in accordance with subsection (b)(1) of this section.''; and

(C) by striking subsection (e) and inserting the following:

''(e) PRIMARY TERM.—Competitive and noncompetitive leases issued under this section shall be for a primary term of 10 years: Provided, however, That competitive leases issued in special tar sand areas shall also be for a primary term of 10 years. Each such

lease shall continue so long after its primary term as oil or gas is produced in paying quantities. Any lease issued under this section for land on which, or for which under an approved cooperative or unit plan of development or operation, actual drilling operations were commenced prior to the end of its primary term and are being diligently prosecuted at that time shall be extended for two years and so long thereafter as oil or gas is produced in paying quantities.''.

(6) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 31 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 188) is amended—

(A) in subsection (d)(1), by striking ''section 17(b)'' and inserting ''subsection (b) or (c) of section 17 of this Act'';

(B) in subsection (e)—

(i) in paragraph (2)—

(I) insert ''either'' after ''rentals and''; and

(II) insert ''or the inclusion in a reinstated lease issued pursuant to the provisions of section 17(c) of this Act of a requirement that future rentals shall be at a rate not less than $5 per acre per year, all'' before ''as determined by the Secretary''; and

(ii) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

''(3)(A) payment of back royalties and the inclusion in a reinstated lease issued pursuant to the provisions of section 17(b) of this Act of a requirement for future royalties at a rate of not less than 16⅔ percent computed on a sliding scale based upon the average production per well per day, at a rate which shall be not less than 4 percentage points greater than the competitive royalty schedule then in force and used for royalty determination for competitive leases issued pursuant to such section as determined by the Secretary: Provided, That royalty on such reinstated lease shall be paid on all production removed or sold from such lease subsequent to the termination of the original lease;

''(B) payment of back royalties and inclusion in a reinstated lease issued pursuant to the provisions of section 17(c) of this Act of a requirement for future royalties at a rate not less than 16⅔ percent: Provided, That royalty on such reinstated lease shall be paid on all production removed or sold from such lease subsequent to the cancellation or termination of the original lease; and'';

(C) in subsection (f)—

(i) in paragraph (1), strike ''in the same manner as the original lease issued pursuant to section 17'' and insert ''as a competitive or a noncompetitive oil and gas lease in the same manner as the original lease issued pursuant to subsection (b) or (c) of section 17 of this Act'';

(ii) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraph (3) and (4), respectively; and

(iii) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the issuance of a lease in lieu of an abandoned patented oil placer mining claim shall be treated as a noncompetitive oil and gas lease issued pursuant to section 17(c) of this Act.'';

(D) in subsection (g), by striking ''subsection (d)'' and inserting ''subsections (d) and (f)'';

(E) by amending subsection (h) to read as follows:

''(h) ROYALTY REDUCTIONS.—

''(1) In acting on a petition to issue a noncompetitive oil and gas lease, under subsection (f) of this section or in response to a request filed after issuance of such a lease, or both, the Secretary is authorized to reduce the royalty on such lease if in his judgment it is equitable to do so or the circumstances warrant such relief due to uneconomic or other circumstances which could cause undue hardship or premature termination of production.

''(2) In acting on a petition for reinstatement pursuant to subsection (d) of this section or in response to a request filed after reinstatement, or both, the Secretary is authorized to reduce the royalty in that reinstated lease on the entire leasehold or any tract or portion thereof segregated for royalty purposes if, in his judgment, there are uneconomic or other circumstances which could cause undue hardship or premature termination of production; or because of any written action of the United States, its agents or employees, which preceded, and was a major consideration in, the lessee's expenditure of funds to develop the property under the lease after the rent had become due and had not been paid; or if in the judgment of the Secretary it is equitable to do so for any reason.'';

(F) by redesignating subsections (f) through (i) as subsections (g) through (j), respectively; and

(G) by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

''(f) ISSUANCE OF NONCOMPETITIVE OIL AND GAS LEASE; CONDITIONS.—Where an unpatented oil placer mining claim validly located prior to February 24, 1920, which has been or is currently producing or is capable of producing oil or gas, has been or is hereafter deemed conclusively abandoned for failure to file timely the required instruments or copies of instruments required by section 1744 of title 43, and it is shown to the satisfaction of the Secretary that such failure was inadvertent, justifiable, or not due to lack of reasonable diligence on the part of the owner, the Secretary may issue, for the lands covered by the abandoned unpatented oil placer mining claim, a noncompetitive oil and gas lease, consistent with the provisions of section 17(e) of this Act, to be effective from the statutory date the claim was deemed conclusively abandoned. Issuance of such a lease shall be conditioned upon:

''(1) a petition for issuance of a noncompetitive oil and gas lease, together with the required rental and royalty, including back rental and royalty accruing from the statutory date of abandonment of the oil placer mining claim, being filed with the Secretary- (A) with respect to any claim deemed conclusively abandoned on or before January 12, 1983, on or before the one hundred and twentieth day after January 12, 1983, or (B) with respect to any claim deemed conclusively abandoned after January 12, 1983, on or before the one hundred and twentieth day after final notification by the Secretary or a court of competent jurisdiction of the determination of the abandonment of the oil placer mining claim;

''(2) a valid lease not having been issued affecting any of the lands covered by the abandoned oil placer mining claim prior to the filing of such petition: Provided, however, That after the filing of a petition for issuance of a lease under this subsection, the Secretary shall not issue any new lease affecting any of the lands covered by such abandoned oil placer mining claim for a reasonable period, as determined in accordance with regulations issued by him;

''(3) a requirement in the lease for payment of rental, including back rentals accruing from the statutory date of abandonment of the oil placer mining claim, of not less than $5 per acre per year;

''(4) a requirement in the lease for payment of royalty on production removed or sold from the oil placer mining claim, including all royalty on production made subsequent to the statutory date the claim was deemed conclusively abandoned, of not less than 12½ percent; and

''(5) compliance with the notice and reimbursement of costs provisions of paragraph (4) of subsection (e) but addressed to the petition covering the conversion of an abandoned unpatented oil placer mining claim to a noncompetitive oil and gas lease.''.

Subtitle F—Energy Revenue Sharing

SEC. 20601. GULF OF MEXICO OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF REVENUE.

(a) DISTRIBUTION OF OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF REVENUE TO GULF PRODUCING STATES.—Section 105 of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (43 U.S.C. 1331 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''50'' and inserting ''37.5''; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking ''50'' and inserting ''62.5'';

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''75'' and inserting ''80''; and

(iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''25'' and inserting ''20''; and

(2) by striking subsection (f) and inserting the following:

''(f) TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS.—Amounts disbursed to a Gulf producing State under this section shall be treated as revenue sharing and not as a Federal award or grant for the purposes of part 200 of title 2, Code of Federal Regulations.''.

(b) EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN PAYMENTS FROM SEQUESTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 255(g)(1)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 905(g)(1)(A)) is amended by inserting after ''Payments to Social Security Trust Funds (28–0404–0–1–651).'' the following:

''Payments to States pursuant to section 105(a)(2)(A) of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–432; 43 U.S.C. 1331 note) (014–5535–0–2–302).''.

(2) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by this subsection shall apply to any sequestration order issued under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900 et seq.) on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 20602. PARITY IN OFFSHORE WIND REVENUE SHARING.

(a) PAYMENTS AND REVENUES.—Section 8(p)(2) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1337(p)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''(A) The Secretary'' and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C), the Secretary'';

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''(B) The Secretary'' and inserting the following:

''(B) DISPOSITION OF REVENUES FOR PROJECTS LOCATED WITHIN 3 NAUTICAL MILES SEAWARD OF STATE SUBMERGED LAND.—The Secretary''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) DISPOSITION OF REVENUES FOR OFFSHORE WIND PROJECTS IN CERTAIN AREAS.—

''(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this subparagraph:

''(I) COVERED OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT.—The term 'covered offshore wind project' means a wind powered electric generation project in a wind energy area on the outer Continental Shelf that is not wholly or partially located within an area subject to subparagraph (B).

''(II) ELIGIBLE STATE.—The term 'eligible State' means a State a point on the coastline of which is located within 75 miles of the geographic center of a covered offshore wind project.

''(III) QUALIFIED OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF REVENUES.—The term 'qualified outer Continental Shelf revenues' means all royalties, fees, rentals, bonuses, or other payments from covered offshore wind projects carried out pursuant to this subsection on or after the date of enactment of this subparagraph.

''(ii) REQUIREMENT.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall deposit—

''(aa) 12.5 percent of qualified outer Continental Shelf revenues in the general fund of the Treasury;

''(bb) 37.5 percent of qualified outer Continental Shelf revenues in the North American Wetlands Conservation Fund; and

''(cc) 50 percent of qualified outer Continental Shelf revenues in a special account in the Treasury from which the Secretary shall disburse to each eligible State an amount determined pursuant to subclause (II).

''(II) ALLOCATION.—

''(aa) IN GENERAL.—Subject to item (bb), for each fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this subparagraph, the amount made available under subclause (I)(cc) shall be allocated to each eligible State in amounts (based on a formula established by the Secretary by regulation) that are inversely proportional to the respective distances between the point on the coastline of each eligible State that is closest to the geographic center of the applicable leased tract and the geographic center of the leased tract.

''(bb) MINIMUM ALLOCATION.—The amount allocated to an eligible State each fiscal year under item (aa) shall be at least 10 percent of the amounts made available under subclause (I)(cc).

''(cc) PAYMENTS TO COASTAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS.—

''(AA) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall pay 20 percent of the allocable share of each eligible State, as determined pursuant to item (aa), to the coastal political subdivisions of the eligible State.

''(BB) ALLOCATION.—The amount paid by the Secretary to coastal political subdivisions under subitem (AA) shall be allocated to each coastal political subdivision in accordance with subparagraphs (B) and (C) of section 31(b)(4) of this Act.

''(iii) TIMING.—The amounts required to be deposited under subclause (I) of clause (ii) for the applicable fiscal year shall be made available in accordance with such subclause during the fiscal year immediately following the applicable fiscal year.

''(iv) AUTHORIZED USES.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subclause (II), each eligible State shall use all amounts received under clause (ii)(II) in accordance with all applicable Federal and State laws, only for 1 or more of the following purposes:

''(aa) Projects and activities for the purposes of coastal protection and resiliency, including conservation, coastal restoration, estuary management, beach nourishment, hurricane and flood protection, and infrastructure directly affected by coastal wetland losses.

''(bb) Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, or natural resources, including through fisheries science and research.

''(cc) Implementation of a federally approved marine, coastal, or comprehensive conservation management plan.

''(dd) Mitigation of the impact of outer Continental Shelf activities through the funding of onshore infrastructure projects.

''(ee) Planning assistance and the administrative costs of complying with this section.

''(ff) Infrastructure improvements at ports, including modifications to Federal navigation channels, to support installation of offshore wind energy projects.

''(II) LIMITATION.—Of the amounts received by an eligible State under clause (ii)(II), not more than 3 percent shall be used for the purposes described in subclause (I)(ee).

''(v) ADMINISTRATION.—Subject to clause (vi)(III), amounts made available under items (aa) and (cc) of clause (ii)(I) shall—

''(I) be made available, without further appropriation, in accordance with this subparagraph;

''(II) remain available until expended; and

''(III) be in addition to any amount appropriated under any other Act.

''(vi) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the end of each fiscal year, the Governor of each eligible State that receives amounts under clause (ii)(II) for the applicable fiscal year shall submit to the Secretary a report that describes the use of the amounts by the eligible State during the period covered by the report.

''(II) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—On receipt of a report submitted under subclause (I), the Secretary shall make the report available to the public on the website of the Department of the Interior.

''(III) LIMITATION.—If the Governor of an eligible State that receives amounts under clause (ii)(II) fails to submit the report required under subclause (I) by the deadline specified in that subclause, any amounts that would otherwise be provided to the eligible State under clause (ii)(II) for the succeeding fiscal year shall be deposited in the Treasury.

''(vii) TREATMENT OF AMOUNTS.—Amounts disbursed to an eligible State under this subsection shall be treated as revenue sharing and not as a Federal award or grant for the purposes of part 200 of title 2, Code of Federal Regulations.''.

(b) WIND LEASE SALES FOR AREAS OF THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF OFFSHORE OF TERRITORIES OF THE UNITED STATES.—Section 33 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1356c) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(b) WIND LEASE SALE PROCEDURE.—Any wind lease granted pursuant to this section shall be considered a wind lease granted under section 8(p), including for purposes of the disposition of revenues pursuant to subparagraphs (B) and (C) of section 8(p)(2).''.

(c) EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN PAYMENTS FROM SEQUESTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 255(g)(1)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 905(g)(1)(A)) is amended by inserting after ''Payments to Social Security Trust Funds (28–0404–0–1–651).'' the following:

''Payments to States pursuant to subparagraph (C)(ii)(I)(cc) of section 8(p)(2) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1337(p)(2)).''.

(2) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by this subsection shall apply to any sequestration order issued under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900 et seq.) on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 20603. ELIMINATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE FEE UNDER THE MINERAL LEASING ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 35 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 191) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in the first sentence, by striking ''and, subject to the provisions of subsection (b),'';

(2) by striking subsection (b);

(3) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (b) and (c), respectively;

(4) in paragraph (3)(B)(ii) of subsection (b) (as so redesignated), by striking ''subsection (d)'' and inserting ''subsection (c)''; and

(5) in paragraph (3)(A)(ii) of subsection (c) (as so redesignated), by striking ''subsection (c)(2)(B)'' and inserting ''subsection (b)(2)(B)''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 6(a) of the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands (30 U.S.C. 355(a)) is amended—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking ''Subject to the provisions of section 35(b) of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 191(b)), all'' and inserting ''All''; and

(B) in the second sentence, by striking ''of the Act of February 25, 1920 (41 Stat. 450; 30 U.S.C. 191),'' and inserting ''of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 191)''.

(2) Section 20(a) of the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1019(a)) is amended, in the second sentence of the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''the provisions of subsection (b) of section 35 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 191(b)) and section 5(a)(2) of this Act'' and inserting ''section 5(a)(2)''.

(3) Section 205(f) of the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act of 1982 (30 U.S.C. 1735(f)) is amended—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking ''this Section'' and inserting ''this section''; and

(B) by striking the fourth, fifth, and sixth sentences.

SEC. 20604. SUNSET.

This subtitle, and the amendments made by this subtitle, shall cease to have effect on September 30, 2032, and on such date the provisions of law amended by this subtitle shall be restored or revived as if this subtitle had not been enacted.

TITLE III—WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION AND ENERGY PROJECT IMPROVEMENT

SEC. 30001. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Water Quality Certification and Energy Project Improvement Act of 2023''.

SEC. 30002. CERTIFICATION.

Section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1341) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the first sentence, by striking ''may result'' and inserting ''may directly result'';

(ii) in the second sentence, by striking ''activity'' and inserting ''discharge'';

(iii) in the third sentence, by striking ''applications'' each place it appears and inserting ''requests'';

(iv) in the fifth sentence, by striking ''act on'' and inserting ''grant or deny''; and

(v) by inserting after the fourth sentence the following: ''Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of the Water Quality Certification and Energy Project Improvement Act of 2023, each State and interstate agency that has authority to give such a certification, and the Administrator, shall publish requirements for certification to demonstrate to such State, such interstate agency, or the Administrator, as the case may be, compliance with the applicable provisions of sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307. A decision to grant or deny a request for certification shall be based only on the applicable provisions of sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307, and the grounds for the decision shall be set forth in writing and provided to the applicant. Not later than 90 days after receipt of a request for certification, the State, interstate agency, or Administrator, as the case may be, shall identify in writing all specific additional materials or information that are necessary to grant or deny the request.'';

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the second sentence, by striking ''notice of application for such Federal license or permit'' and inserting ''receipt of a notice under the preceding sentence'';

(ii) in the third sentence, by striking ''any water quality requirement'' and inserting ''any applicable provision of section 301, 302, 303, 306, or 307'';

(iii) in the fifth sentence, by striking ''insure compliance with applicable water quality requirements.'' and inserting ''ensure compliance with the applicable provisions of sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307.'';

(iv) in the final sentence, by striking ''insure'' and inserting ''ensure''; and

(v) by striking the first sentence and inserting ''On receipt of a request for certification, the certifying State or interstate agency, as applicable, shall immediately notify the Administrator of the request.'';

(C) in paragraph (3), in the second sentence, by striking ''section'' and inserting ''any applicable provision of section'';

(D) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in the first sentence, by striking ''applicable effluent limitations or other limitations or other applicable water quality requirements will not be violated'' and inserting ''no applicable provision of section 301, 302, 303, 306, or 307 will be violated'';

(ii) in the second sentence, by striking ''will violate applicable effluent limitations or other limitations or other water quality requirements'' and inserting ''will directly result in a discharge that violates an applicable provision of section 301, 302, 303, 306, or 307,''; and

(iii) in the third sentence, by striking ''such facility or activity will not violate the applicable provisions'' and inserting ''operation of such facility or activity will not directly result in a discharge that violates any applicable provision''; and

(E) in paragraph (5), by striking ''the applicable provisions'' and inserting ''any applicable provision'';

(2) in subsection (d), by striking ''any applicable effluent limitations and other limitations, under section 301 or 302 of this Act, standard of performance under section 306 of this Act, or prohibition, effluent standard, or pretreatment standard under section 307 of this Act, and with any other appropriate requirement of State law set forth in such certification, and'' and inserting ''the applicable provisions of sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307, and any such limitations or requirements''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(e) For purposes of this section, the applicable provisions of sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 are any applicable effluent limitations and other limitations, under section 301 or 302, standard of performance under section 306, prohibition, effluent standard, or pretreatment standard under section 307, and requirement of State law implementing water quality criteria under section 303 necessary to support the designated use or uses of the receiving navigable waters.''.

SEC. 30003. FEDERAL GENERAL PERMITS.

Section 402(a) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(6)(A) The Administrator is authorized to issue general permits under this section for discharges of similar types from similar sources.

''(B) The Administrator may require submission of a notice of intent to be covered under a general permit issued under this section, including additional information that the Administrator determines necessary.

''(C) If a general permit issued under this section will expire and the Administrator decides not to issue a new general permit for discharges similar to those covered by the expiring general permit, the Administrator shall publish in the Federal Register a notice of such decision at least two years prior to the expiration of the general permit.

''(D) If a general permit issued under this section expires and the Administrator has not published a notice in accordance with subparagraph (C), until such time as the Administrator issues a new general permit for discharges similar to those covered by the expired general permit, the Administrator shall—

''(i) continue to apply the terms, conditions, and requirements of the expired general permit to any discharge that was covered by the expired general permit; and

''(ii) apply such terms, conditions, and requirements to any discharge that would have been covered by the expired general permit (in accordance with any relevant requirements for such coverage) if the discharge had occurred before such expiration.''.

DIVISION E—INCREASE IN DEBT LIMIT

SEC. 40001. LIMITED SUSPENSION OF DEBT CEILING.

(a) SUSPENSION.—Section 3101(b) of title 31, United States Code, shall not apply during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on the applicable date.

(b) DOLLAR LIMITATION ON SUSPENSION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to the extent that the application of such subsection would result in the face amount of obligations subject to limitation under section 3101(b) of title 31, United States Code, to exceed the sum of—

(1) the dollar limitation in effect under such section on the date of the enactment of this Act, increased by

(2) $1,500,000,000,000.

(c) APPLICABLE DATE.—For purposes of this section, the term ''applicable date'' means the earlier of—

(1) March 31, 2024, or

(2) the first date on which subsection (a) does not apply by reason of subsection (b).

(d) SPECIAL RULE RELATING TO OBLIGATIONS ISSUED DURING SUSPENSION PERIOD.—Effective as of the close of the applicable date, the dollar limitation in section 3101(b) of title 31, United States Code, is increased to the extent that—

(1) the face amount of obligations subject to limitation under such section outstanding as of the close of the applicable date, exceeds

(2) the face amount of such obligations outstanding on the date of the enactment of this Act.

An obligation shall not be taken into account under paragraph (1) unless the issuance of such obligation was necessary to fund a commitment incurred by the Federal Government that required payment on or before the applicable date.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, shall be debatable for 2 hours, equally divided among and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Budget or their respective designees, and the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON), the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BOYLE), the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH), and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material in the RECORD on the bill, H.R. 2811.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2811, the Limit, Save, Grow Act.

Over the last 2 years, President Biden has financed his radical agenda and vast expansion of the Federal Government with an unprecedented $10 trillion in spending, $6 trillion of which has been added to our national debt, the highest level of deficit spending in the history of America.

This unbridled spending spree has resulted in sustained record inflation, soaring interest rates, an economy in a recessionary tailspin, and a nation on the brink of a catastrophic debt crisis.

Mr. Speaker, the fiscal state of the Nation is bleak; our national debt is unsustainable; and the outlook grows more uncertain every day.

For 100 years, the debt ceiling has served as a check on our accumulating debt and its impact on the financial health of our Nation. No responsible leader can look at the rapid deterioration of our balance sheet and the unsustainability of our deficit spending and stand idly by defending the status quo.

Mr. Speaker, this isn't a Republican problem, and it is not a Democrat problem. It is America's problem, and it is a mathematical reality that requires real leadership from both sides of the aisle before it is too late.

House Republicans' debt ceiling proposal is an important first step to getting our fiscal house in order and a good faith effort to bring the President to the negotiating table.

Our plan will reduce deficit spending, save taxpayers $4.8 trillion, and begin extinguishing the flames of our current cost-of-living crisis.

First, we limit Federal spending by reining in and rightsizing the Federal bureaucracy. Our bill will reduce FY24 discretionary spending levels by 9 percent, $130 billion, returning us to the same spending levels we were operating under just 4 months ago.

Going forward, we will cap the growth of discretionary spending by 1 percent annually over the next 10 years, reducing wasteful Washington spending by over $3 trillion.

Mr. Speaker, put simply, this bill would require Washington to do what every American has been forced to do as a result of Biden's spending-induced inflation: tighten our belts and change our spending habits.

Second, we save taxpayer dollars by reversing some of the Democrats' reckless spending, reclaiming tens of billions in unspent COVID funds, defunding the President's army of 87,000 IRS agents, repealing special interest tax breaks for the largest green energy corporations, and rescinding President Biden's unconstitutional student loan bailout.

Third, this legislation will grow the economy by returning to pro-work, pro-growth, and pro-energy policies that will unleash American prosperity once again. It stops the assault on U.S. energy production and restores American energy dominance. It reins in Biden's unprecedented barrage of regulations. It breaks the cycle of poverty

and government dependence for generations of Americans by restoring commonsense, Clinton-era work requirements for able-bodied adults.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to get America back to work, turn this economy loose, and let the tide of prosperity lift all boats.

We have put forward a plan worthy of the people we serve. Now, we must put aside political small-mindedness and rise to meet the enormous challenge facing our great Nation.

If we fail to meet this moment, then we risk being the first generation in history to leave our children a weaker America with fewer opportunities and a lower standard of living.

Let me be clear. We will pay our creditors, and we will protect the good faith and credit of the United States, but we will not give this President or any politician a blank check to bankrupt our country.

Mr. Speaker, this is where the reckless spending stops. This is where we speak up for our children. This is where we fight together to save our country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 2811, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, my friends on the other side of the aisle will claim they are being ''fiscally responsible.'' Let's be clear. There never has been and never will be anything fiscally responsible about refusing to pay America's bills. Killing millions of jobs is also not fiscally responsible. Neither is knowingly unleashing a recession.

That is why even former President Trump said: ''I can't imagine anybody ever even thinking of using the debt ceiling as a negotiating [tool].''

Now, I had hoped that when the Speaker referred to the budget process and debt ceiling as ''apples and oranges,'' it meant my friends on the other side finally understood the real-world ramifications of their reckless brinkmanship, yet here we are.

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Republicans' DOA act, the default on America act, will cut investments, crush job creation, and crash the economy.

Their default on America act must be DOA. There is no way Congress will agree to 10 years of destructive caps and the biggest single cut to nondefense programs in American history.

For what? In exchange for a few months of respite before we would have to go through this debt ceiling roller coaster all over again.

Mr. Speaker, when the American people hear what I just said, the biggest single cut to nondefense programs in the history of the American Government, they might be wondering what exactly that means.

Well, here are some specifics:

First, in total, we are talking about an immediate cut of at least $142 billion.

That would mean, for example, public safety. After recent near-misses, under this bill, 125 air traffic control towers would be shut down, impacting one-third of all airports. Following the disastrous derailments in eastern Ohio and West Virginia, rail safety jobs would be dramatically reduced, with 11,000 fewer safety inspection days and 30,000 fewer miles of track inspected annually.

Our communities would be less safe with the cut of Federal support to 60 local law enforcement agencies, 300 to 400 fewer local law enforcement positions, as well as approximately 11,000 fewer FBI personnel.

On health, amid a mental health and overdose crisis, nearly 1 million people facing a suicidal or mental health crisis would be unable to access support services through the 988 suicide and crisis lifeline, and tens of thousands of individuals could be denied admission to opioid use disorder treatment.

In terms of families and nutrition, with the looming rise of food insecurity, nutrition services such as Meals on Wheels would be cut for more than 1 million seniors.

How can we allow this to happen?

We simply cannot and must not.

Now, many of us on this side of the aisle who will be speaking will detail even more of the cuts that are included in this DOA, default on America act, but for now, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, the last time we had a significant fiscal reform it came through debt ceiling negotiations that were led by no other than President Joe Biden in 2011.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAWLER), my good friend.

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, throughout this debate, I have had three basic parameters: The President and the majority leader must negotiate with the Speaker. We must cut spending. And we must not default.

This bill, the Limit, Save, Grow Act, is a beginning and puts the President and Senate majority leader on notice: The days of one-party rule are over. The American people elected a House Republican majority to serve as a check and balance on the reckless, out-of-control spending that was the hallmark of the last 2 years: $5 trillion in new spending, $10 trillion total, a 41-year record high on inflation, skyrocketing energy costs, America saddled with over $31 trillion in debt and counting.

It cannot continue.

This bill would save Americans $4.8 trillion over the next decade. It would restore FY22 spending, which every Democrat previously voted for and supported.

If it was good 4 months ago, why is it not today?

It would cap future spending at 1 percent per year. It would claw back billions in unspent COVID funds, which the President has acknowledged COVID is now over. It would stop the hiring of 87,000 new IRS agents and employees. It would restore work requirements on able-bodied Americans, requirements previously championed by President Joe Biden and President Bill Clinton. Finally, it would unleash American energy, increasing domestic production while reducing costs for consumers and ending our reliance on foreign oil.

Simply put, we cannot continue to borrow and print new money at the levels this administration has. Republicans and Democrats must come together to rein in spending, protect vital programs like Social Security and Medicare, reduce inflation, and avoid default.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARL). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 20 seconds to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, this bill begins the conversation, and President Biden and Senator SCHUMER must now come to the negotiating table and work with Speaker MCCARTHY in good faith to move our country forward and restore fiscal sanity and solvency.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), Speaker Emerita of the House.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. BOYLE and Mr. RICHIE NEAL for their leadership in bringing our side of the story to this.

And what is that?

I thank the Republicans for the clarity with which they have put forth their default on America act because their default on America act will do just this.

When you vote for this bill, you will vote to:

Put veterans' healthcare at risk, eliminating up to 30 million healthcare visits for our veterans.

Slash Pell grants for tens of thousands of students.

Rip away food assistance for women, infants, and children, a million of them, a million seniors off of Meals on Wheels.

Pollute the planet by overturning what we did to save the planet with green tax credits in the Inflation Reduction Act.

Cut $8 billion in law enforcement from State, local, and Federal law enforcement, pulling cops off the street, and up to 700,000 fewer jobs to be created.

Certainly, we negotiate over the appropriations bills. I am an appropriator, and for 20 years I have been in 19 engagements of the debt ceiling kind. Whether we lift the debt ceiling is a question of whether we honor the Constitution that says the full faith and credit of America shall not be in doubt.

When you use that as a wedge, as President Trump admonished you not to, you are placing in doubt our credit rating and what that means to American people on their credit card bills

and at the kitchen table. You are playing with fire.

We have been down this road before. When the former President was President, three times we lifted the debt ceiling, never placing in doubt the full faith and credit of the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a ''no'' vote.

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

When President Biden negotiated the fiscal reforms in the debt ceiling in 2011, he said he was pleased and thankful to do it. He called it a normal process. He said that you have got to compromise, didn't like the my-way-or-the-highway approach, and said it was a great honor. I hope he shares those sentiments today and soon.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER).

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from Texas, the chairman of the Budget Committee.

Mr. Speaker, we are debating a bill to accomplish goals, goals of equal importance: Pay the Nation's debts and begin a discussion with a plan so that we demonstrate to the American people that we in this House will rein in the astronomically excessive spending of the past 3 years.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve and demand that we do this. It is right and just. We must pay our Nation's debts. The American people don't want to see the excesses continue. That sentiment is pervasive.

Over the past 3 years, we have increased our national debt by almost $12 trillion. Some was due to COVID, most due to ideology and complete lack of fiscal restraint.

Mr. Speaker, our plan pays our Nation's debts, and we must, as well, limit Federal excesses moving forward back to 2022 levels. We are not talking about going into disasters here, 2022 levels with increases moving forward. It saves money by largely reclaiming COVID funds—COVID is over; those funds are available; they should be reclaimed—and by creating growth initiatives, which we must have, Mr. Speaker, in order to compete globally and assure the American Dream stays alive for our children. The White House and this House must cooperate and do what is right and just.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I remind my fellow Pennsylvanian, as well as all the Members of this House, that according to Moody's Analytics, the legislation that is in front of us ''would meaningfully increase the likelihood of recession.'' And lead to 800,000 job losses by the end of 2024.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), the ranking member of the Education and the Workforce Committee.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose the reckless default on our debt act.

Unfortunately, those on the other side of the aisle have taken the full faith and credit of the United States hostage and have offered a terrible deal for the American people. Either they will inflict cruel cuts on vital programs for working families or they will destroy the economy.

Earlier this week, as has been pointed out, this plan was evaluated by Moody's Analytics, and they confirmed that almost 800,000 jobs will be lost. When they say the cuts aren't that bad, tell that to 200,000 children who will lose access to Head Start, 100,000 parents who will lose access to childcare, the 26 million students who are in title I schools who will get cuts in funding, or 6.6 million students who will lose money in Pell grants, or the tens of millions who will lose the funding for the student debt relief that has been promised.

These spending cuts are necessary, frankly, to pay for the Republican tax cuts that weren't paid for at the time. Eighty percent of the Trump tax cuts were scheduled to go to the top 1 percent and corporations, and now we are going to pay for them with cuts to education, healthcare, veterans' programs, and others.

I get tired of being lectured by the Republicans when it comes to fiscal responsibility because we know that every Republican Presidential administration since Nixon has left office with a worse deficit situation than they inherited, and every Democratic administration since Kennedy has left office with a better deficit situation than they inherited.

Democrats are ready to act to prevent a devastating economic default, just as we did three times under the Trump administration with little fanfare. President Biden and Democrats have already significantly cut the deficit, and we are willing to do more, but we want to do it in a way that is responsible and helps families. This bill hurts families, and we need to oppose the bill.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, the Republican tax cuts gave us unprecedented growth and prosperity. It lifted 6 million people out of poverty and created the lowest poverty rate in the history of our great Nation. President Biden's budget recently has the highest levels of sustained spending, borrowing, and taxes in the history of the country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX), my dear friend and a champion of fiscal responsibility.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Texas for yielding and for his wonderful work on this package.

Mr. Speaker, America's position as the most trusted line of credit in the world is at stake. In other words, our reputation is at stake. Republicans' commonsense proposal, the Limit, Save, Grow Act, recognizes the twin interests of avoiding defaulting on our debt while reining in future inflationary spending.

Yet, the President has signaled that he will stall, he will risk, and he will forbid paying our debt obligations if he doesn't get his way. He refuses to compromise.

□ 1445

One such compromise, which falls within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, includes blocking the President from spending half a trillion dollars to provide backdoor free college.

The Limit, Save, Grow Act would nullify the President's plan to transfer up to $20,000 per borrower onto the backs of blue-collar Americans, as well as his radical income-driven repayment plan, which would turn student loans into untargeted grants and cost more than any other regulation in our Nation's history.

If the President's student loan scheme is enacted, taxpayers could end up spending almost $1 trillion since the beginning of the pandemic.

Our solution preserves the fiscal integrity of our Nation for Americans today and the generation tomorrow. It offers a promise to the American public that we will not pursue trillion-dollar policies that risk our financial future.

Mr. Speaker, we ask the President to come to the negotiating table and quit pursuing brinkmanship over partisanship.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, preventing default is an obligation that Congress has. My Republican colleagues are holding our economy hostage, linking it to the annual process of funding the critical programs that serve American families and veterans.

The price of averting a catastrophic default is drastic cuts to these programs now and severe caps for the next 10 years.

Republicans claim that veterans' healthcare would be protected. That is not the case. For 6 hours during the Rules Committee meeting last night, I told House Republicans that veterans had no protections whatsoever in their debt default bill.

Given the look on their faces, I believe I was the one to inform them of the immediate $2 billion rescission that robs veterans of timely access to healthcare services. I do not think they know what it is in their own bill.

You know what they did after 6 hours of debate? Nothing for veterans. You know what they did after hearing from dozens of veteran and military service organizations about the lack of protections in the bill? Nothing for veterans.

In the middle of the night, they made last-minute changes to win over Republican holdouts. You know what they did after going back to the drawing board?

Nothing for veterans. Nothing to fix the $2 billion rescission. Nothing to protect veterans from a 22 percent cut.

Nothing to maintain our commitment to veterans who have been exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances.

This is shameful. This default and cuts bill should not even come to this floor for a vote. Our veterans sacrificed for us. We owe them the benefits that they have already earned.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this bill and vote ''yes'' for veterans. By voting ''no,'' you say ''yes'' to veterans.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues act like there are no alternatives for funding cuts and savings, like there is no waste, woke, and bloat in the Federal Government.

The President himself has issued 800 executive orders totaling $1.5 trillion. One of those items is the student loan bailout that benefits two out of three highest income earners in our country. It is costing taxpayers $700 billion.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 90 seconds to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD), my dear friend and colleague on the Budget Committee.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of reducing Federal spending, at long last. Democrats would never willingly agree to cut spending as evidenced by—what did the President just propose—a record $7 trillion budget with a record $2 trillion deficit, if that plan were ever to see the light of day.

We are going to utilize this opportunity, this debt ceiling limit being reached, to negotiate or to force, finally, some fiscal responsibility and some cuts to our spending.

President Biden and my friends across the aisle want to continue to exceed America's credit card limit without any consideration of how or why we got here.

If an individual spent the way this Federal Government spends, they would be in jail. Think about it. Spending money that is not yours. Writing checks when you know the funds aren't there. What would you call that?

The Limit, Save, Grow Act is the solution to shrink Washington and grow America. Immediate up-front cuts and spending reforms saving over $500 billion in 2 years and nearly $5 trillion over 10 years; rescinding the unspent COVID funds; eliminating the student loan transfer scheme; eliminating the $80 billion for the weaponized IRS; eliminating climate reckless environmental funding, and capping growth at 1 percent each year.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this proposal to put us on a path to fiscal stability.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA), the ranking member of the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, the default on America act is foolish. It is harmful. It is a harmful piece of legislation offered to appease the Republican Party's most extreme fringe.

The Republicans' plan to handle the debt limit is not a plan at all. It is a ransom note that threatens aggressively to take our country backward, and everybody loses.

Either Republicans force default, which results in skyrocketing student loans, veterans losing out on hard-earned benefits, and countless other incomprehensible effects that will hit the most vulnerable the hardest but will hit working-class folks and middle-class folks hard, as well.

Republicans can enact their tone-deaf economic agenda, giving a huge windfall to billionaires and oil barons, while cutting food assistance to poor families, children, and older people.

If Republicans had their way, they would strip our communities of the right to fight back against polluting industries while padding Big Oil's pockets.

They cut funding for climate science while reversing the progress the Democrats have made on clean energy. They do absolutely nothing to address emissions.

In fact, they give companies free passes to pollute while cutting funding to fight wildfires and provide drought relief.

They say they will help American families, but it slashes already underfunded Tribal education programs and Indian child welfare programs. Their budget would make it harder to tackle wildfires and drought in the West.

This bill is not what the American people want. Our communities want clean air and clean water. They want to be able to put food on the table. They want good, stable jobs, and they want the Federal Government to face climate change head on.

I urge my colleagues to stand up against the default on America act. Vote ''no.''

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, you are going to hear about a number of vulnerable people, communities that get Federal funding, but you will not hear, I bet, anything about the most vulnerable group of people in this country, and that is the next generation of Americans who will inherit $31 trillion in debt, the highest levels of indebtedness in our Nation's history.

Where are they in this debate? That is the big question. Who is speaking up for them? That is a big question. I know my colleague will.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Mrs. BICE).

Mrs. BICE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Limit, Save, Grow Act of 2023.

Like any family, Republicans are proposing living within our means, not continuing to rack up a balance on American taxpayers' credit card. In contrast, President Biden has unilaterally spent $1.5 trillion on over 800 executive actions.

My colleagues want to quote the former President. Let me quote President Biden; a direct quote from 2012. He said securing a deal with Republicans was a ''great honor.'' He hasn't bothered to come to the negotiating table, Mr. Speaker. What has changed?

The three main pillars of this legislation will benefit hardworking Americans by limiting Federal spending, saving taxpayer dollars, and growing the economy.

I am especially pleased to see key energy provisions included in this package. The best way to lower prices is to cut spending and unleash American energy, allowing States like Oklahoma to power our Nation.

Cutting bureaucratic red tape is especially important for energy producers who have dealt with stifling regulations at the hands of President Biden.

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Oklahoma.

Mrs. BICE. Mr. Speaker, America is $31 trillion in debt, and the American people are demanding solutions. The White House says, show me your proposal, and we can negotiate.

Well, Mr. President, it is time to come to the table and do so in good faith. We must get this done.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this effort.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, just to be clear, to correct the RECORD, three times under former President Trump, the debt ceiling was increased.

Many of us on this side of the aisle voted for it, even though it was a President not of our own party. In those three debt ceiling increases, zero of them, zero included cuts to any government spending.

In fact, two of them included increases to government spending.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS), a distinguished member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2811.

Under President Biden, we have created 12 million jobs, including 800,000 manufacturing jobs, and unemployment is at a 54-year low.

The previous administration lost 3 million jobs in 4 years, including nearly 300,000 manufacturing jobs.

This irresponsible proposal on the floor today would tank our economic recovery and hurt hardworking families, and it would not be good for my western New York district.

Throughout the pandemic, this Congress worked together to keep families strong amidst unprecedented uncertainty. It is shocking how anti-family this bill is.

This bill will lead to less healthcare for parents and children. More kids will go to bed hungry because their parents

can't afford food. It would cut healthcare for veterans, hurting not only them but their families and caregivers, as well.

Congress raised the debt limit nearly 80 times since 1960—the majority of those taking place under Republican Presidents.

It is time for the GOP to stop playing games with the livelihood of American families.

I ask my colleagues to join me in rejecting this proposal and instead pass a clean bill that prevents the first default in our Nation's history.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, you will hear many of the tired, old, false choices like hungry children, struggling families.

I would remind you and the people of our great country who are experiencing sustained levels of 40-year inflation, who are struggling to put food on the table, that that has come as a result of reckless spending here in Washington.

There are a lot of programs: Global Equity Fund, electric buses and ferries, $80 billion for IRS agents, $27 billion for climate slush fund—I could go on and on. You will not hear any of that from my friends on the other side of the aisle.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS), my colleague on the Budget Committee.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Limit, Save, Grow Act.

This legislation takes monumental steps in reining in Federal spending by not cutting but just returning to spending levels of just a year ago and spurring economic growth and restoring the fiscal sanity that our Nation desperately needs.

As our national debt is at nearly $31.5 trillion or $95,000 per person, our current fiscal trajectory is simply unsustainable.

It is immoral, and it is unfair to future generations who will be the ones responsible for paying off this insurmountable debt.

This legislation will help restore the American economy, unleash American energy, and reverse decades of runaway spending.

I applaud the work of Chairman ARRINGTON, his leadership, and his tireless efforts to help bring us to this critical moment in our Nation's history. I am proud to support this legislation.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), a distinguished member of the Budget Committee.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, no American, no patriot would stand on this floor representing the American people and argue for the default on America legislation.

To refuse to pay our bills is an insult to the men and women who swore to die for this country. You want to know why? Because it would cut 30 million visits from veterans at the veterans' hospitals and 81,000 jobs from the Veterans Health Administration.

It would increase the wait times for benefits like pensions and jeopardize the National Cemetery Administration caring for our cemeteries.

□ 1500

If you are in retirement, $20,000 could be lost out of your retirement. Is that patriotic?

In addition, you would cut grants for low-income students. You would cut and cause the expense of colleges to go up in Texas and around the Nation. In the 18th Congressional District you would jeopardize Social Security payments from $61,000, put public health benefits at risk for 242,000 people, and increase lifetime mortgage costs. You would raise the debt $1.74 trillion.

This is unpatriotic. It is not representative of what America stands for. Vote against a bill that strips food assistance from 4,000 Texans.

Mr. Speaker, as a Senior Member on the House Budget Committee, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 2811, the Limit, Save, Grow Act.

This reckless proposal would painfully impact the lives of millions of Americans by making disastrous cuts to programs that workers and families count on every day and by risking the full faith and credit of the United States.

The outrageous proposal sets the FY 2024 discretionary spending levels at no more than the FY 2022 level, which would require a total cut of at least $142 billion from the FY 2023 appropriations Act.

Cutting FY 2024 discretionary spending back to FY 2022 levels would endanger public safety, increase costs for families, undermine American workers, hurt our seniors, and weaken our national security.

Instead of investing in America, Republicans would rather focus on holding our economy hostage to advance unpopular and dangerous right-wing priorities.

The Republican default package is playing a brinkmanship game using the threat of economic catastrophe to try to force cuts in green energy investment, a rollback in enforcement against wealthy tax cheats, a war on poor people, and service cuts for taxpayers and Social Security beneficiaries.

Breaching the debt limit would provoke unprecedented economic damage and instability in the U.S. and around the world.

Every single American would feel the effects of a first-ever default:

An estimated 800,000 plus people would be out of work and the unemployment rate would double;

Social Security checks would be halted to 67 million Americans;

Medicaid services would be in peril, affecting 75 million people's health coverage;

The average worker close to retirement could see their retirement savings decrease by $20,000 due to Republican brinksmanship impacting the stock market.

Republicans suspended the debt ceiling three times under President Trump.

In fact, the massive Republican tax cuts over the last 25 years have cost $10 trillion to date and are responsible for 57 percent of the increase to the debt ratio since 2001.

Specifically, this extreme and reckless plan would have devastating impacts on thousands of hardworking families across Texas.

This plan would:

Strip food assistance from 994,000 Texans.

Republicans are threatening food assistance for up to 855,000 Texans with their proposals for harsh new eligibility restrictions in SNAP. This proposal would also mean 139,000 women, infants, and children would lose vital nutrition assistance through the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), increasing child poverty and hunger.

Make college more expensive for 587,900 Texans.

This proposal would not only eliminate Pell Grants altogether for 6,800 students in Texas, but it would also reduce the maximum award by nearly $1,000 for the remaining 581,100 students who receive Pell Grants—making it harder for them to attend and afford college.

Raise housing costs for 39,700 Texans.

Under this proposal, 39,700 families in Texas would lose access to rental assistance, including older adults, persons with disabilities, and families with children, who without rental assistance would be at risk of homelessness.

Worsen Social Security and Medicare Assistance wait times for million Texas seniors.

Under this proposal, people applying for disability benefits would have to wait at least two months longer for a decision. With fewer staff available, 5 million seniors and people with disabilities in Texas would be forced to endure longer wait times when they call for assistance for both Social Security and Medicare.

Threaten medical care for Texas Veterans.

This proposal would mean 46,100 fewer veteran outpatient visits in Texas, leaving veterans unable to get appointments for care like wellness visits, mental health services, and substance disorder treatment.

Eliminate 27,400 preschool and child care slots in Texas.

The proposal would mean 17,500 children in Texas lose access to Head Start slots and 9,900 children lose access to childcare—undermining our children's education and making it more difficult for parents to join the workforce and contribute to our economy.

Deny 1100 Texans admission to opioid treatment.

The proposal would deny admission to opioid use disorder treatment for more than 1,100 people in Texas through the State Opioid Response grant program—denying them a potentially life-saving path to recovery.

More specifically, the impacts on my home district, Texas–18, would be catastrophic. The passage of this proposal would:

kill 7,300 jobs in TX–18;

Jeopardize Social Security payments for 61,000 families in TX–18;

Put health benefits at risk for 242,000 people in TX–18 who rely on Medicare, Medicaid, or Veterans Affairs health coverage;

Increase lifetime mortgage costs for the typical homeowner in Texas by $50,000;

Threaten the retirement savings of 81,400 people near retirement in TX–18, eliminating $20,000 from the typical retirement portfolio.

The proposal in front of us here today is not a reasonable middle ground, nor is it even a starting point for discussion.

There never has been and never will be anything fiscally responsible about refusing to pay America's bills, risking millions of jobs, or threatening economic ruin.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a report from the U.S. Congress Joint Economic Committee titled: ''The

Steep Costs of a Republican Default Crisis.''

Raising the debt limit in a timely manner is about meeting existing obligations and is the only option to avoid economic chaos. The effects of failing to raise the debt limit would likely be felt economy wide: From drastically increased costs for mortgages, credit card payments, and other borrowing, to disrupted payments for Social Security recipients, veterans, service members, and hospitals, to far-reaching effects in the financial system. As the 2011 debt ceiling crisis showed, even narrowly avoiding a default cost the country billions of dollars.

REPUBLICANS' DEFAULT CRISIS WILL PUSH UP COSTS FOR FAMILIES AND SMALL BUSINESSES

Debt-limit threats increase costs for families and small businesses. While breaching the debt limit would be catastrophic, the threat of breaching the debt ceiling alone can have serious economic consequences. As 2011 and 2013 Republican debt-limit brinkmanship showed, reckless talk about letting the U.S. breach the debt limit has a real impact on the economy, working families, and small businesses. These threats create uncertainty that the U.S. government will pay its bills, pushing up interest rates and undermining confidence worldwide in the U.S. economy.

The average worker close to retirement could take a $20,000 hit to their retirement savings. According to the non-partisan think tank Third Way, the debt limit crisis of 2011 led to a significant decline in the stock market and the impact would be even more dire if the U.S. defaulted on the national debt. They find that a typical worker nearing retirement could lose about $20,000 from their 401(k) if debt-limit brinkmanship causes the S&P 500 to drop by 22 percent.

Small business loans could go up $44 a month, costing about $2,500 more over the course of the loan. If, as happened in 2011 with mortgage loans, small business loans see an interest rate increase of 70 basis points due to debt-limit brinkmanship, an entrepreneur taking out a new startup loan with fixed interest would see a significant increase to their loan. About 20,000 businesses took out new loans each quarter in 2022. Similarly, an established small business owner with a variable rate loan will see their monthly payments rise by $53 per month. About 46,000 businesses had outstanding variable interest loans in the third quarter of 2022.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a report from Moody's Analytics titled: ''The Debt Limit Drama Heats Up.''

Speaker McCarthy's proposed legislation would increase the debt limit by $1.5 trillion or until March 31, 2024, whichever comes first. In exchange, it would cut government spending by $4.5 trillion over the next decade and implement a number of consequential changes to fiscal policy (see Table 1 and Chart 3). The most significant spending cuts would come by setting fiscal 2024 discretionary spending equal to fiscal 2022 spending levels.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, again, with all due respect to my colleague from Texas, Democrats will act as if these are the choices, but they are false choices because they could choose to defund the moneys that came from Democrat earmarks to companies that create dirt bike culture or maybe—with all due respect to the First Lady—the Michelle Obama Trail in Georgia.

There is a list of things. You will not hear them today in this debate or any concern, in my opinion, for our children's future as it relates to the debt.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN), my colleague on the Budget Committee.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I think it is important that everybody in this Chamber, as well as everybody around America understands the precarious situation we are in with regard to the debt of this country.

At the end of World War II, the debt was equal to about 100 percent of GDP, but in World War II we knew we were going to stop making tanks, stop making planes, stop making ships, and we were going to lay off a lot of the military folks.

Then the debt dropped from 100 percent GDP down to 20 percent, went up to 40 percent, and since the Great Recession, it shot up to near 100 percent again, near the all-time record.

The Biden administration has shown no ability to say ''no'' to anybody. You look at the budget they have proposed. The Department of the Interior, 9 percent increase; the Department of Commerce, 11 percent increase; the Department of Education, almost a 14 percent increase. Wherever you look, they still have their foot on the gas.

America has got to realize for our children and grandchildren we have got to now finally say ''no'' just a little bit.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT), a distinguished member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I stand here in opposition to the default on America act. House Republicans' debt default bill before us here today holds the economy hostage in exchange for slashing investment in American families to the tune of $4.5 trillion in cuts.

The debt ceiling extension has happened 78 times, Mr. Speaker; 49 times under Republican administrations. This is not new. This is an artificial crisis, which can create catastrophic economic conditions across the world. Not just the United States economy, but the world economy can be affected.

Police officers on the street will be cut through the Department of Justice. Veteran benefits will be cut. Working moms will no longer have daycare. That is what this accomplishes, this default on America act.

I stand in opposition, Mr. Speaker, and I ask my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, more ''Apocalypse Now'' from my colleagues who give electric vehicle tax breaks to people who make $150,000. That is not a priority when you are $31 trillion in debt. Government subsidized healthcare for people making over $300,000 is not a priority when you have a 10-year tripling of our interest, doubling of our annual deficits, and a bleak outlook for our children.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. SPARTZ), my good friend and somebody that is very concerned about this issue.

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge my Democrat colleagues to unite with Republicans and put pressure on the Senate to have an adult conversation about our debt and spending.

We collected $4 trillion last year. Our mandatory spending is $4 trillion, automatic spending? And of the $2 trillion of discretionary spending, 80 percent is unauthorized. That means that 90 percent of spending is not even considered by this institution.

We have programs like Medicare that are going bankrupt. We have bipartisan issues supported by Trump and Obama that could save billions of dollars for the seniors to save Medicare, like site-neutral payments and overbilling by Medicare. It is fraudulent overbilling, dishonest billing that is supported by broad groups of think tanks.

We have to save these programs for the people that were promised them. We need to have the backbone in Washington, D.C., to stand up for we the people and challenge special interest groups.

I urge my colleagues to be with us on this issue.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I keep hearing this doom and gloom from the other side of the aisle that we are on the brink of catastrophe. Here is the headline in the world's leading economic magazine, a magazine that is considered right of center. This is their headline 2 weeks ago: ''The lessons from America's astonishing economic record. The world's biggest economy is leaving its peers even further in the dust.'' That is the accurate record of where this country and its economy stand right now.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. HAYES).

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the default on America act because I did not come to Congress to starve children.

Thirty-four million Americans struggle with food insecurity, 9 million of which are children. This bill would strip millions of hardworking Americans of benefits by expanding so-called work requirements in SNAP.

SNAP already has a work requirement for individuals ages 18 to 49, but Republicans want to expand this to older Americans and seniors who face age discrimination in the workplace already.

It is also important to note that the House subcommittee in charge of nutrition programs, the one who would be in charge of this, has yet to hold one hearing. So while proposing work requirements, the Committee on Nutrition has yet to begin work. It is horrifying that Republicans are choosing to hold the economy hostage and using vulnerable families as a bargaining tool.

I urge my colleagues to have some compassion and vote against this devastating legislation.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to my friend and colleague, we are trapping millions of people in poverty and dependence on the government because we are not incentivizing people to move up and out of welfare so they can realize their greatest God-given potential. It is not compassionate to not expect the best out of our fellow Americans.

President Biden, when he voted to support commonsense welfare-to-work reforms said this: We need to replace the culture of welfare with the culture of work. We need to replace the culture of dependency with the culture of self-sufficiency. I agree with the Joe Biden that said that then. I hope he will come to his senses, come to the table, and do what he did in 2011: include responsible fiscal reforms as we lift the debt ceiling and pay our bills.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUNN).

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, Americans are demanding action. The President cannot put forth a budget that is 55 percent higher than it was at prepandemic levels. We must get together and work with what Chairman ARRINGTON and the Speaker and House Republicans have put forward: A budget that holds our government accountable, a budget that addresses the debt ceiling now, gets Federal spending under control, and grows our economy by letting Americans keep more of the money they have earned.

That is why I am honored as part of the Iowa delegation to hold firm in that America's fiscal security, energy security, and food security can be led with us.

In Iowa, we will not allow government to balance its budget on the backs of America's farmers. That is why I am proud that this bill makes critical investments in biofuels. Biofuels empower American energy independence. Biofuel infrastructure decreases the cost of fuels overseas and helps our families at the pump. Biofuels grow our Main Street businesses. Biofuels empower our farmers for what they need to both feed and fuel the world.

I salute the Iowans and the Americans who have worked to balance their own budgets every month, those who don't spend tirelessly and put it on their credit card.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Vermont (Ms. BALINT), a distinguished member of the Budget Committee.

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2811, the default on America act.

A budget reflects our values, and we can plainly see where the Republicans' priorities lie. They are threatening default with catastrophic consequences, and why? Why? So they can secure 10 years of devastating cuts that American families depend on. Those programs will be devastated.

Republicans have to abandon this dangerous path. America pays our bills. We must prevent default as we have done countless times under Democratic and Republican Presidents, including President Trump.

A default will be a terrible blow to low-income and middle-income Americans. They don't care about these reckless political games. They care about how disastrous a default will be on them in their quest to buy a house or lease a car or pay for college. They don't care about this. They care about results.

I sit on the Budget Committee and have a front row seat to this nonsense. We have to pay our bills, and we have to reject the ransom note.

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

Mr. Speaker, I agree with my colleague. A budget is a vision and a statement of values. We have received the President's budget. We are conducting oversight. We will be presenting our full 10-year budget resolution. I can tell you; it will be starkly different than the President's and the Democratic Party's vision for America's future.

This budget will not ask for $100 billion more in discretionary spending while American families are struggling to buy groceries and put gas in their cars. It is just so out of touch.

We need the kind of leadership that will lean in and say we are going to be an example and that we are going to look for the waste, which is not hard to find in this town. We are going to right the ship and restore fiscal responsibility.

The President, also, as part of his value statement adds trillions of dollars—$65 trillion—in taxes over the 10-year horizon, which is the most that any President has ever proposed in the history of our country. He proposes spending to the tune of a quarter of our entire economy, which is the largest economy in the world. That is larger than any year of spending since we invaded Normandy. That is what our President is doing and putting forth as the Democratic Party's vision for this future in the midst of this economy that is struggling. Families are struggling. This debt crisis looms large on the horizon.

Where is the leadership?

I respect my colleagues. I appreciate their friendship, but this is the moment that we have to step up and put our fellow countrymen first and walk in their shoes and not get caught up in trying to protect with a death grip the blank check that we have seen and the endless money that is being printed and borrowed. It will end poorly.

We have this window of mercy to act, and we have got to act together ultimately for this to be sustainable because this is the first step. It will require many more steps. We didn't get here overnight. We won't get out of it overnight. We have to take the first step together. I implore my friends and my colleagues to come with us and do what has been done so many times.

That is the thing, Mr. Speaker. Eight of the last most meaningful, most significant fiscal reforms in this Congress came as a result and at the same time we were negotiating a debt ceiling. It is not wild, and it is not reckless. It is responsible to do that. You can raise the debt ceiling. You can pay your bills. You can protect the future for your children.

That is leadership, and that is what this country needs in this hour.

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

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Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, first, I thank my friend, Mr. ARRINGTON, and truly, we have been friends for our entire time of service here. I respect his sincerity and how committed he is on this issue.

I say to him, and I hope he will take this under consideration, that it is so irresponsible to use the debt ceiling in this way.

Here is the analogy. I mentioned three times we raised the debt ceiling with a Republican President. Imagine if, in one of those debt ceiling debates, this side of the aisle said: ''Well, we care deeply about raising the minimum wage. Right now, we have the longest period in American history, for as long as the minimum wage has existed, without an increase, about 15 years.''

What if this side of the aisle said: ''We are not going to vote for a debt limit increase. We are going to use this as leverage, and in return, you need to raise the minimum wage, or you need to expand Medicare to those 55 and older.'' That would be irresponsible, as well.

The debt ceiling is about past spending that both sides often voted for, that Presidents of both parties signed into law.

Now, if we want to have a conversation about future spending, we welcome that. We will negotiate on that, but we will not negotiate on whether or not America pays its bills, period.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI).

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to this regressive, shortsighted, and cruel default on America act that would devastate programs that are critical to Oregonians and Americans.

We have a housing affordability and homelessness crisis, but this bill would eliminate affordable housing assistance for many families and seniors.

Our constituents can't find or afford childcare, but this bill would take away access to Head Start.

The cost of higher education keeps rising, but this bill would cut Pell grants and slash additional funding to support millions of disabled and low-income students.

Instead of addressing the climate crisis, this legislation would entrench reliance on fossil fuels; undermine renewable, sustainable energy options; and raise taxes for middle-class Americans.

This bill could cause millions of low-income seniors and veterans to lose access to nutrition assistance, and up to 10 million people could lose Medicaid coverage.

There is a simple solution to prevent these harmful outcomes: Bring a clean debt ceiling bill to the floor so we can end this MAGA Republican-created manufactured crisis.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a report from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities on how up to 10 million people could be at significant risk of losing health coverage under Speaker MCCARTHY's bad, backward bill.

[From the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Apr. 21, 2023]

MCCARTHY MEDICAID PROPOSAL PUTS MILLIONS OF PEOPLE IN EXPANSION STATES AT RISK OF LOSING HEALTH COVERAGE

(By Gideon Lukens)

A Republican proposal led by House Speaker Kevin McCarthy would take Medicaid coverage away from people who do not meet new work-reporting requirements. The McCarthy proposal would apply to all states, but in practice it would heavily impact people covered by the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Medicaid expansion. Of this group, more than 10 million people in Medicaid expansion states would be at significant risk of losing coverage under the McCarthy proposal. This group would be subject to the new Medicaid requirement, and they are not part of a group that states could readily identify in existing data sources and exclude from burdensome reporting. The McCarthy proposal could jeopardize coverage for millions more, by prompting some states to drop the ACA Medicaid expansion or dissuading states that have not yet taken the expansion from adopting it.

Nationwide, we estimate that over 10 million Medicaid expansion enrollees—more than 1 in 5 of all Medicaid enrollees in expansion states—would be at risk of losing Medicaid coverage under the policy in McCarthy's debt limit bill, using 2019 (prepandemic) data. Some 74 percent of all expansion enrollees and 21 percent of all Medicaid beneficiaries in the states that have adopted the expansion would be subject to the new requirements and, thus, at risk of losing coverage.

People in every expansion state would be affected, with the share of total Medicaid enrollees at risk ranging from 15 to 37 percent. (See Table 1 and Methodology.) Because we use 2019 data, the national estimate does not include the nine states that expanded coverage after that date and therefore very likely understates the number of enrollees at risk. If those states were included, it would likely add upward of 1 million more enrollees at risk of losing coverage.

While not all of those at risk under McCarthy's proposal would lose coverage, many would, including people who are working or are eligible for an exemption but would be disenrolled due to administrative burdens and red tape. This was the experience in Arkansas, which is the only state that briefly took people's Medicaid coverage away for not meeting work-reporting requirements, until a federal court halted the program following massive coverage losses. In just seven months of implementation, some 18,000 people—1 in 4 subject to the requirements—lost coverage. Moreover, research found that the new requirements had no impact on employment outcomes. The McCarthy Medicaid provision draws heavily from the failed Arkansas experiment but is harsher in some respects, applying to somewhat older adults, for example.

The more than 10 million estimate (looking just at the states that had expanded Medicaid prior to 2019) does not fully account for the sweeping impact the Medicaid work-reporting requirement could have. For example, while the bill directs states ''whenever possible'' to use electronic data sources to verify whether people meet the criteria for continued Medicaid coverage, the extent to which this would protect people from losing coverage or from onerous reporting would depend on implementation decisions at both the federal and state level.

Proponents of the new requirements argue that they give states an option to take Medicaid coverage away from people who don't comply with the new work-reporting requirement. This is misdirection at best.

The bill terminates federally funded Medicaid coverage for those who don't meet the work-reporting requirements. In theory, states could provide fully state-funded coverage to those whose federal Medicaid coverage is taken away, but with the federal government currently covering 90 percent of the cost of coverage for expansion enrollees, states are exceedingly unlikely to continue coverage for large numbers of people who don't meet the requirement. (It is worth noting that states did not provide state-funded coverage for this group prior to the ACA's expansion, though they were able to do so.)

Moreover, administering these new requirements would be complicated for state and local governments, which would have to pick up a significant portion of the costs associated with implementing the complex systems to verify work, determine who meets automatic exemption criteria (such as those with children), and assess applications for exemptions based on criteria, such as an illness, that the state doesn't know through its eligibility system.

States also would have to absorb the costs associated with higher caseload churn—that is, people losing coverage and then having to reapply or seek to have their coverage reinstated, all processes that require caseworker staff time. And uncompensated care costs would increase because people have lost coverage, adding further to the costs that states and safety net health care providers would have to pick up.

Without a doubt, adding work-reporting requirements to Medicaid would cause many low-income adults to lose coverage due to bureaucratic hurdles and would leave people without the health care they need, including life-saving medications, treatment to manage chronic conditions, and care for acute illnesses. People's access to health care and other basic supports, such as housing, food, or child care, should not hinge on whether they meet a work-reporting requirement or successfully navigate a complicated system to either report work hours or claim an exemption.

MCCARTHY MEDICAID PROVISION BUILDS ON FAILED ARKANSAS EXPERIMENT

The Arkansas plan, implemented in 2018, required that Medicaid expansion enrollees aged 19–49 document at least 80 hours of work or other qualifying activities (e.g. job training, volunteering) per month. Exemptions were available for various groups including pregnant people, certain types of caregivers, and people with certain health conditions, but qualifying for these exemptions required that enrollees successfully navigate the reporting system or that the state use available data to determine exemption status. As a result, more than 18,000 people (about one-quarter of those subject to the requirements) lost coverage in just seven months, before a federal court blocked the policy.

The McCarthy plan is similar to Arkansas' but applies to a broader set of Medicaid enrollees. First, it applies to enrollees aged 19–55, a wider age range that includes more older adults. Second, it is not explicitly limited to Medicaid expansion enrollees, unlike the Arkansas policy. While all states would have to set up new processes to validate exemptions, we assume that because existing state data sources could readily be used to exempt the bulk of Medicaid enrollees who are not part of the expansion group, the impact would be largely on expansion enrollees. Third, some groups exempt under the Arkansas plan, including postpartum people, people identified as ''medically frail,'' and people receiving unemployment benefits, are not exempt under the McCarthy plan.

A KFF study estimated that under a nationwide Medicaid work-reporting requirements policy similar to policies implemented in Arkansas and proposed by other states, most people losing coverage would be complying with or exempt from the requirements but would be disenrolled due to administrative burdens and red tape. Using conservative assumptions about disenrollment based on a survey of the research literature, the study found that 62 to 91 percent of those losing coverage would be people who qualify as eligible under the policy. Coverage losses would be concentrated among those eligible because the overwhelming majority of Medicaid enrollees already meet the requirements or an exemption criterion, yet they would still be at risk due to the bureaucratic complexity of reporting and proving exemption status.

Overall, between 1.4 and 4 million people would have lost Medicaid coverage if Medicaid work-requirements were imposed in 2016, the KFF study estimated. This estimate is roughly in line with the Congressional Budget Office's projection that a nationwide policy similar to Arkansas' would result in a reduction in Medicaid enrollment of 2.2 million adults per year for the 2023–2031 period.

Our analysis is not a projection of the number of people who will lose coverage, but rather shows that more than 10 million people would be subject to these requirements and, thus, at risk of losing coverage from a policy that would erect burdensome requirements to report work or claim exemptions. A large share of the 10 million people subject to the requirements would have to navigate complex work-reporting and verification systems each month while others would have to navigate the exemption process periodically to retain coverage.

Research suggests that some populations would be especially harmed by these work-reporting requirements, including people with disabilities, women, people who are experiencing homelessness, and people with mental health conditions or substance use disorders. Even though exemptions would apply to some in these groups, states often lack the capacity to hire sufficient staff to respond to people's questions or manage work-reporting systems and the exemption process. People who have fewer transportation options or live in rural areas, face language or literacy barriers, are in poor health or have limited mobility, or have limited internet access would face particular barriers to understanding the new requirements and navigating reporting systems, applying for exemptions, and collecting the verification needed to prove that they meet an exemption criterion.

There is no upside to Medicaid work-reporting requirements. Research has not found any impact of the requirements on employment, and data from Arkansas show that few enrollees engaged in new work-related activities. Instead, work-reporting requirements strip health coverage from people with low incomes—most of whom are already meeting or exempt from the requirements—

leading to gaps in care that damage their health and financial security and make it harder for them to find or keep a job.

In this paper, we estimate the number of Medicaid expansion group enrollees at risk of losing coverage using administrative data on Medicaid expansion enrollment for 2019, combined with American Community Survey (ACS) data and state enrollment policies.

We use 2019 Medicaid expansion group enrollment to avoid including the large increase in Medicaid enrollment that began in 2020 as a result of the requirement that Medicaid provide continuous coverage during the public health emergency. This continuous coverage requirement ended on March 31, 2023, and while estimates of coverage loss during the unwinding of the requirement are highly uncertain, enrollment declines are potentially large. By using 2019 data, we avoid overstating our estimates of expansion enrollees at risk in each state once unwinding is complete.

METHODOLOGY

As stated above, our estimates are based on a combination of administrative data on Medicaid expansion enrollment, ACS data, and state enrollment policies.

Because our data are based on 2019 (prepandemic) Medicaid expansion enrollment, they do not include expansion enrollees at risk in states that expanded in 2019 or later, including Idaho, Maine, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Utah, and Virginia. We also cannot produce expansion group estimates for North Carolina and South Dakota, which have enacted but not yet implemented expansion. Our national total estimate is therefore likely to understate the number of enrollees at risk. Finally, by shifting costs to states, the McCarthy proposal could result in some states deciding to drop the ACA Medicaid expansion, jeopardizing coverage for millions more. Similarly, these new requirements could dissuade some states that have not yet adopted the expansion from doing so.

We consider Medicaid expansion enrollees aged 19–55 and exclude from this group people who live with dependent children aged 0–17. States should be able to exclude this group automatically (without requiring them to apply for an exemption) using existing administrative data, so they are less likely to be at risk.

We do not estimate other exemptions or work status because these individuals would be more likely than parents to have to report their employment or earnings monthly or to apply for and submit documentation to receive an exemption. Research indicates that most people who would lose coverage under work-reporting requirements would be disenrolled despite working or qualifying for an exemption due to the complexities of proving that they are working or meet an exemption criterion.

Publicly available administrative data on Medicaid expansion enrollees do not include detailed enrollee characteristics. We therefore use data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey as well as state-level eligibility rules to estimate the share of expansion enrollees who are aged 19–55 and who do not have dependent children in each state.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, let me say how blessed I feel to serve alongside my ranking member. I appreciate his thoughtful comments, and we are going to do a lot of great things together.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER), my fellow Budget Committee member.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Let me begin by thanking leadership and, particularly, the chair of the Budget Committee for all of their hard work in putting this together.

Let me also say that my colleague on the other side of the aisle talks about fiscal irresponsibility. Well, if you want to talk about fiscal irresponsibility, you only need to look at the White House and what this administration has done.

Day one, they declared war on fossil fuels. You can make the argument, and a valid argument, that what has happened in our economy is a self-inflicted wound brought about by this war on fossil fuels that caused an increase in gas prices, that caused an increase in inflation, that caused an increase in interest rates and put this economy in the shambles that it is in right now.

Since the first day of the administration, this Biden administration has recklessly spent taxpayer dollars. As a result, as I say, you see inflation at record highs, stealing money and opportunities from hardworking Americans.

Our credit cards are maxed out. The gentleman talks about future spending. That is what this is about, limiting future spending. That is the conversation we are having.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. OMAR), a member of the Budget Committee.

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, for a long time Republicans spent so much time saying they were going to address the economic anxiety families were feeling, but overnight, they dreamed up a dangerous economic bill that would plunge families into economic depression.

Republicans say they want to grow the economy, but their bill will destroy 8,000 jobs in my district alone and 7 million across this country.

They say they want to invest in children, but this bill eliminates childcare access for 4,000 kids in my State and 180,000 nationwide.

They talk nonstop about rail safety, yet this bill would cut at least 160 rail inspection days in Minnesota and 7,000 nationwide.

They are not repealing the Bush-Trump tax cuts because what their bill is going to do is do wealth transfer from working and middle-class families to billionaires and millionaires.

This is hypocrisy, and it is full of lies. Corporations should not be put ahead of our families.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, leadership isn't easy, and boy, does our Nation need it right now. I know of such a leader. His name is STEVE SCALISE. He is our majority leader and a champion for freedom and fiscal responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE).

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Texas, not only a leader but the chairman of the House Budget Committee, Mr. ARRINGTON, for bringing this bill to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, we all know our Nation is at a crossroads. This is a very fragile time for the American people. They are looking at inflation that is going through the roof, decades high, paying more for everything, and they know why that happened.

They are paying more for everything when they go to the grocery store, the gas pump, and anywhere else because Washington has spent trillions of dollars that this country doesn't have.

Over the last 2 years, President Biden has maxed out the Nation's credit card. That is what the debt ceiling is. That is what this debate is about.

As the President has maxed out the Nation's credit card, Americans know what that means. They have credit cards. They work hard not to max out theirs. They all know that we are going to make the minimum payment on those cards.

If somebody maxed out the credit card like President Biden did, the first thing you do is not give them another credit card to max out, as President Biden has asked and demanded. He said to just give him more money to keep spending money that we don't have to rack up more inflation on hardworking families.

Mr. Speaker, that would be irresponsible, yet that is what the President has asked for.

What House Republicans have done is come together to say there is a better way. Sure, we need to address the debt ceiling, but we also need to address, at the same time, the problems that have brought us to this moment.

It is not by accident that the Nation's credit card got maxed out. This is how bad the problem is. We can talk trillions all day long, and the numbers get so big that people just tune it out.

Let's talk some basic numbers. For every $100 that the Federal Government takes in, the Federal Government is spending $129. Now, if a family did that, it wouldn't last long before they would go under, before they would lose their house, before they would go bankrupt. $100 coming in and $129 going out, that is the spending problem in Washington.

President Biden said he wants to spend another $129 with $100 still coming in. Most families would look at that and say it is irresponsible to do that, and we agree, as House Republicans.

You would think the President has acknowledged this finally and said: ''Okay, why don't we sit down at the table and figure this out? We do not need a debt crisis in this Nation.'' Instead of sitting down to negotiate, which is what anybody responsible would do, Speaker MCCARTHY has said: Mr. President, let's sit down. They did it once over 2 months ago. The President himself, in fact, days later said: Do you know what? We ought to do it again.

The problem is the President then went into hiding. The President will

not sit down and meet with the Speaker to negotiate how to solve this problem because the President wants to run the clock out and create a debt crisis.

That is the height of irresponsibility, Mr. Speaker. If the President is going to shirk his responsibility and try to hide and wait until the clock strikes midnight, House Republicans are not going to sit on the sidelines. We are going to lead and present a solution. That is what this bill is.

That is what Mr. ARRINGTON's legislation does, Mr. Speaker. It says, as we deal with the debt ceiling, let's also deal with the spending problem that got us here.

How do we do it? I think reading the bill would be really important. We will send an extra copy down to the White House so that they can actually see some of the basic things we are talking about.

These are things that families get. Right now, in America, if you talk to any small business owner, they are all looking for workers. You would think we have full employment, that everybody who wants to work and is capable of working is working. Unfortunately, that is not the case.

President Biden put in place over the last few years different changes to welfare so that people who are fully able-bodied, that aren't even—they are not turning down work. They are not even looking for work, some of them making over $35,000 a year to sit at home. That is costing taxpayers over $100 billion.

What we say is, frankly, a question a lot of people have asked over the years. I am just going to read it to you as the voters of the State of Wisconsin had presented to them just a few weeks ago, Mr. Speaker: ''Shall able-bodied, childless adults be required to look for work in order to receive taxpayer-funded welfare benefits?'' That is a pretty straightforward question.

In fact, 79.5 percent of Wisconsin voters just a few weeks ago said, yes, they should look for work before they get taxpayer benefits.

Should a single mom who is working two jobs have to pay for somebody who is just sitting at home and who just chooses not to work?

This is America. If you want to sit at home and not work, that is your prerogative, but should you be asking a hardworking taxpayer to pay $35,000 or more a year for you to sit at home when everybody is looking for workers?

We say let's just put those basic work requirements back in place, just like the voters of Wisconsin said a few weeks ago.

Now, you would think the White House—that that is some kind of far-reaching idea. Most people get this.

This isn't just about saving taxpayer money. It saves a lot of taxpayer money to do this.

Do you know what else it does, Mr. Speaker? Our bill strengthens Social Security because when President Biden is sending tens of billions of dollars every month to pay people not to work, not only are they not working, not only are they eating up all kind of money that our children are ultimately going to have to pay back, they are also taking money out of Social Security because they are not paying into it.

By putting these basic work requirements back in place, there are millions of people who are sitting on the sidelines that would finally get back into the workplace, finally have an opportunity to achieve the American Dream again, finally be able to lift up their standard of living.

Do you know what else they are going to be doing, Mr. Speaker? They are going to be paying into Social Security. They will be paying into Medicare. That would add tens of billions of dollars to strengthen Social Security and Medicare.

Why would the President be against that?

We claw back some of the unspent COVID money. President Biden himself said the COVID emergency is over. Yet, there are tens of billions of dollars out there being spent on things that have nothing to do with COVID, all under the name of the pandemic.

Why not save that money for taxpayers?

In addition to saving taxpayers hundreds of billions of dollars, we also put in pro-growth policies in this bill, things like the Lower Energy Cost Act.

When you talk to families about the things that are angering them that are coming out of Washington, clearly, inflation and the cost of everything going up is the biggest item. The biggest item driving inflation is President Biden's anti-American energy policies. Families today are paying 50 percent more when they go fill up their cars at the pump, 50 percent more than the day President Biden took office. There is no reason for that.

Instead of President Biden getting on Air Force One and going to beg Saudi princes to produce more energy, or begging Putin to produce more energy, we can make it here in America cleaner than anywhere else in the world, actually lowering carbon emissions.

Yet, President Biden keeps saying no to American energy. He says ''yes'' to foreign oil but no to American oil. That doesn't pass the smell test. In our bill, we actually fix that and allow Americans to produce more energy here, to produce more critical minerals.

Why should we be relying on China for computer chips?

Over 90 percent of solar panels in the world are made in China. Why not make more of those things here?

Car batteries—they talk about electric cars all day, yet over 90 percent of car batteries are made in China because they won't let America access our minerals here, so we have become dependent on foreign countries.

□ 1530

I am tired of being dependent on countries like China because President Biden has gotten the policies wrong over and over again. Let's fix this. We do fix these problems in this bill.

If President Biden has got a better idea, it is long past time he puts those ideas on the table. This is not a problem you run and hide from. In fact, when you ask to be President of the United States, you are the Commander in Chief, you are the leader of the free world, Mr. Speaker. This is not a job where you run and hide from the tough things. These are the moments where you step up, you rise to the moment.

The American people are calling for us all to do that. Some people want to sit and hide and hope that the clock strikes midnight, and they can just force some bad deal on the taxpayers of America. Well, that is what they are sick about Washington over. Time and time again, Washington doesn't answer the needs of hardworking families who are struggling and just waits until the midnight hour to jam a bad deal down the throats of people. Let's not wait until that midnight hour.

We are standing up and leading. It is long past time that President Biden gets off the sidelines and does his job, too, and gets to the negotiating table with Speaker MCCARTHY so we can solve this problem and put America on a stronger financial footing that will benefit all Americans.

It is time to end this madness. Let's pass this legislation. Let's start this conversation that families have been having for a long time. It is long past time Washington gets into the middle of this conversation, too.

Let's pass this bill. Let's solve this problem.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, listening to all of the doom and gloom from the previous speaker, you might forget for a moment that right now, in the world, the greatest economic recovery from COVID is that of the United States of America, with the greatest job growth in my lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEVIN).

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remind my colleagues of both parties that the legislation before us could do irreparable harm to our Nation's veterans.

This bill would force a 22 percent cut to nondefense spending. That would slash $30 billion from veterans' services. That means 30 million veterans will have fewer healthcare visits, fewer staff, an increased claims backlog, and longer wait times for benefits. That is the uncertainty that awaits veterans should this bill succeed.

Just last month, during a committee hearing, my Republican colleagues assured us they didn't want to reduce benefits for veterans. I heard it firsthand, so I was troubled to learn that this bill completely fails to protect veterans from its cuts.

Yesterday, 24 veteran and military service organizations sent a letter urging Congress not to pass this legislation.

I am dismayed that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are prepared to force a default and devastate our economy if we don't go along with it. Please don't do this. Don't hold our Nation's veterans hostage.

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

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. CRAIG), a member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, today's debate is perhaps one of the most dangerous games to be perpetrated in my time in Congress by the radical right.

This bill risks our economy, our Nation's credit rating, American jobs, retirement savings, and healthcare access.

Mr. Speaker, there is a proposal on the table, raise the debt ceiling, full stop, just like we did under the former President. Then let's have a robust debate about spending in a budget debate and in the appropriations process.

But that is not what the radical right has put on the floor today. I cannot support a bill that would cut funding for our Nation's veterans, would cut funding to Minnesota public schools, would cost jobs, and economists say would increase the likelihood of a recession.

This is not a serious bill from the radical right, and there is no more serious issue facing our country right now than the prospect of defaulting on our debt.

This is a dangerous game my colleagues are playing, and it needs to be cut out.

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

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. TRONE), a distinguished member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote against the extremist Republicans' default on our debt act.

The legislation, offered by Speaker MCCARTHY, really begs the question: Is this what we stand for?

The default on our debt act means a 22 percent cut to our education system, our students, and our Nation's competitiveness. Is this what we stand for?

It means a 22 percent cut to the VA, cutting law enforcement, including healthcare for America's brave; cuts to State grants to fund the prosecution against domestic violence. Is this what we stand for?

It makes a 22 percent cut to the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children that feeds 53 percent of the infants in the U.S. and ensures they have nutritious food to survive. Is this what we stand for?

It is certainly not what I stand for, and I plan to vote ''no'' on the legislation.

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

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), a distinguished member of the Budget Committee.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I brought my Constitution with me because the Constitution is very clear that it is the duty of the United States of America to pay its debts. Somehow, it doesn't say a darn thing about how you can negotiate to hold the whole economy hostage and threaten the economy of the United States of America before you are willing to pay the debts.

Under President Trump, as I am sure it was said before, three times the debt ceiling was raised. Yet, you are saying now, at the same time Donald Trump gave a $2 trillion tax cut to the wealthiest Americans, but don't blame him for the deficit. Let's talk about these poor people who are trying to get healthcare or put food on the table for their families or the veterans who are seeing a cut in their healthcare. No way. Vote ''no'' on this terrible, mean proposal.

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

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 3 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. PANETTA), a distinguished member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the Limit, Save, and Grow Act.

As a member of the Ways and Means Committee and Budget Committee, as much as I want to take serious steps to lower our debt and deficit, this legislation is not serious, it is not bipartisan, and it leaves us with a partisan hit list.

I say that because of the way it is written. It would increase hunger and deprive low-income citizens of healthcare. It would make significant cuts to critical government services that could lead to the loss of 780,000 jobs. It would cut IRS funding needed to close the tax gap and collect taxes owed. It would do nothing to raise revenues, and it would do nothing to find common ground on permitting reform. It would target the cornerstone of the industrial policy that we created last term to lower our carbon output by repealing clean energy tax credits.

Solutions to the debt crisis need to be serious, not partisan. This bill brings us closer to default by demanding partisan policies that will never pass the Senate.

I will vote ''no'' on this bill, but I do look forward to raising the debt ceiling and then having serious conversations about how we can ensure that Congress gets serious about a solution to our debt and deficit reduction.

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

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ).

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, as my distinguished colleague, Representative CONNOLLY from the State of Virginia, says: well, well, well.

Several years ago, we warned during the Trump tax cuts, that this dramatic decrease in revenue would explode the Nation's debt. We heard from the Republican side: No, let us write off our yachts; let us write off our private jets. We said that this decrease in revenue would explode our national debt.

But instead of now realizing the error of our ways and reversing these tax cuts for the wealthy, we are now seeing the Republican side promote a bill that cuts student loan cancellation, veterans' healthcare, cancer research, opioid treatment, Meals on Wheels, and more.

The debt limit is about meeting our obligations already voted for, that Republicans and Democrats have already voted for. If we want to cut and make changes to programming in the future, we may do that, but threatening to tank the economy is not how you do it.

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

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 1 minute remaining.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman on the other side for this vigorous debate. Again, I would remind all of us about what is involved in the DOA act: the single biggest cut to nondefense programs in American history.

It would, according to Moody's Analytics, lead to 800,000 job losses by the end of 2024 and a dramatically increased likelihood of a recession. It would do absolutely nothing to solve the real problems that we have in our society.

Mr. Speaker, this is not good policy for the American people. This will jeopardize the record job growth that we are currently experiencing.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members of this House to make the DOA act exactly that, dead on arrival. Vote ''no.''

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank again my ranking member, my friend, and my partner in public service.

My Democrat colleagues say, let's raise the debt ceiling today, and we will deal with the debt tomorrow. Tomorrow never comes. It never comes. We are prepared, I guess, to bury our children under the mountain of debt

that we have amassed because of a government we think the people want and need.

How irresponsible, how reckless, how weak, how cowardly that we won't step up and do the right thing. I can't believe that the Democrat party has strayed so far left that ensuring that able-bodied people who are receiving public assistance work is an extreme MAGA idea and that it is radical for people to rein in spending to just last year's levels of spending.

I have heard a lot of fear-mongering, false choices, and phantom funding cuts, all in an attempt to accept the status quo.

Here's what the status quo has given us: skyrocketing prices, shrinking paychecks, soaring interest rates, a labor shortage, a culture of dependency, an overall weaker economy, and a more vulnerable Nation.

Mr. Speaker, all of us have contributed to this, I will admit. I have conceded that. But we have a moment in time. The hour has come. We have to work together to restore fiscal sanity in this place before it is too late.

The consequences of our failure to act, Mr. Speaker, could not be more grave. I will say it again. We have got to pay our debts. We have got to protect the good faith and credit of the United States. We cannot give an unlimited line of credit to any party, any politician, and allow our country to be bankrupted and to rob our children of the blessings of liberty in this land of opportunity. We shouldn't accept that. We should work together to be responsible, be leaders, leaders worthy of this great Nation.

Let's vote together in support of H.R. 2811.

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

□ 1545

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today's fiscal crisis threatens all Americans. We are here today to debate legislation that accomplishes so much of what the American people want. Specifically, it begins to get Washington's spending habits under control. It starts to slow the flow of special interest handouts to the wealthy and well-connected, and it throws much-needed water on the fire of inflation burning through the wallets of American families.

Unlike the Inflation Reduction Act, the Limit, Save, Grow Act under consideration today actually does what it says it is going to do. It puts real limits on future spending, so that we begin to turn the ship back in a more fiscally sound direction.

It saves taxpayer dollars by clawing back unobligated pandemic spending, a sensible solution given the fact that the President himself has declared the pandemic over.

It saves taxpayer dollars by ending welfare for the wealthy and loopholes for big corporations in the Inflation Reduction Act. Ninety percent of these special interest green tax breaks go to companies with over 1 billion in sales. Financial institutions alone pocket three times as much as any other industry, and these tax dollars are being funneled to China, enriching the Chinese Communist Party and allowing it to dominate critical mineral supply chains.

I know my friends on the other side share in frustration in how that law has ended up so different than what they thought they were voting for.

In this bill, we propose proworker, pro-small business policies like work requirements in our welfare programs that will not only support a more vibrant economy, but also help more Americans realize the dignity of work. This plan will also take the target off the backs of low- and middle-income taxpayers under threat from a supercharged army of 87,000 at the IRS.

The Biden administration brags about the $400 billion in revenues they plan to bring in by unleashing the new agents. To do that, audit rates will have to go up on low- and middle-income Americans. In fact, under the so-called historical audit rate the administration says it will adhere to, we will see a million—a million new audits with 650,000 of them falling on folks who make $75,000 or less.

I find it curious to hear my Democrat colleagues and the President say they will not negotiate on spending when it comes to the debt ceiling, while at the same time complaining there is no plan over which to negotiate.

Well, here you go. Republicans have a plan. It is time for the President to negotiate overspending reforms as part of addressing the debt ceiling just as we have done many times before. In fact, just as the President himself has done many times before as a Senator and as Vice President.

Eleven of the previous debt ceiling increases going back decades have included fiscal reforms. President Biden voted for such agreements as a Senator, and he negotiated them as a Vice President. The President's current position of refusing to discuss commonsense spending restraints when it comes to the debt ceiling is a reckless abandonment of past precedent and in his own history.

Under one-party Democratic rule, we got $10 trillion in new spending. The consequences have been very real. Since President Biden took office, we have seen a spike in prices by 14.9 percent. Real wages have declined by 3.5 percent and interest rates have increased more in the past year than in the prior 15 years combined.

The American people are demanding something to be done about all of this. Let's pass this legislation and put the interests of workers, families, farmers, and small businesses first and foremost. Let's do as Congress has done before and address the debt ceiling with policies that also address the Washington spending habits that got us here.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the default on America act. The chairman just mentioned something that is noteworthy. He said, We are seeing a Republican plan, and for the next hour, we intend to make sure America gets a chance to see the Republican plan.

A reminder for those who might be paying attention to this debate today as to how we traveled on this road which, by the way, is eminently manageable through negotiation after a clean debt ceiling vote might take place.

So our Republican colleagues, I think—and I might be mistaken. You know what? I am sure. They voted for more defense spending. $800 billion we are now at with defense spending. They voted for pandemic relief. They voted for aid to Ukraine. How about the million and a half new veterans that we have in America in the aftermath of the war in Iraq and Afghanistan? They deserve our care, and our Republican colleagues voted for that aid.

Republican Members, some of whom voted for the infrastructure bill, some of them who voted for the legislation on the Inflation Reduction Act, and some of them who voted for the CHIPS Act—that is what is in front of us at this moment.

Here is the real ringer, Mr. Speaker. In December of 2017—and I hope everybody pays attention to this argument—they voted to borrow $2.3 trillion over 10 years for the purpose of giving a tax cut to the wealthiest among us with, by the way, modest to limited economic growth.

Why is that important?

Because there has been $10 trillion worth of tax cuts over the last 25 years. Do you want me to recite it?

President Bush's tax cut in 2001, $1.3 trillion. They came back in 2003, another trillion, and subsequently presided over the invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan, which we should note the cost of which are in the trillions of dollars today.

They want us to believe that this problem that we have in front of us—which I mentioned is manageable—they want us to believe that this is the Democratic position on spending after they embraced the tax cuts that I have just described.

This is about America's credit. What ever happened to the Republican Party that talked about probity as it related to financial stability?

Whatever happened to the Republican Party that talked about the importance of investment?

These arguments that they make now are largely vacuous because it is inconsistent with the Republican Party I knew when I came to Congress. They could borrow money for the Iraq war month after month to keep it off budget so nobody would see what it was really about. They could borrow money repeatedly, and the moment a Democrat gets to the White House they are blamed for inflation.

I don't think Joe Biden should be blamed for inflation in the United Kingdom. How about Germany? That is how empty these arguments are that they are making.

There is a chance for us to do what we used to do here—and by the way, Democrats responsibly voted for raising the debt ceiling three times under the former President because we thought it was the responsible thing to do. Speaker MCCARTHY got himself into this by the promises that he made along the way.

The suggestion here is very simple, Mr. Speaker. Pass a clean debt ceiling and then let's get on with negotiating.

Bill Clinton, on January 19, 2001, had balanced the budget four times, projected surpluses in the trillions of dollars and 22 million new jobs. The Republican Party gave it away through tax cuts to wealthy people.

They are asking us today the following—they get to set the fire and then call the fire department because that is what this argument is about.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST), the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of talk on this floor and actually outside the Chamber today from the other side of the aisle about this bill cutting veterans. Well, I am going to tell you, as the only veteran among the four VA committee leaders responsible for ensuring veterans have the care and services they have earned, and as a father of a veteran, a grandfather of a veteran, a grandson of a veteran, a son of a veteran, and a nephew of a veteran, you better believe that I am dead serious that we are not cutting veterans, and I mean it.

I don't know how much clearer we can be. Speaker MCCARTHY has been very clear; we are not cutting veterans. Chairwoman GRANGER has said we are not cutting veterans. I, as the chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee: We are not cutting veterans. The White House and Democrats know.

We can get our fiscal house in order while ensuring our servicemembers and veterans are taken care of. Yet, with no regard for the impact of their words, they continue to speak lies about how House Republicans are cutting veterans' benefits, and it is false. It is dangerous rhetoric and you ought to be ashamed of yourselves.

Simply put, you are placing politics and playing politics with our veterans and their lives and their concerns. Veterans are not political pawns to advance an agenda.

CBO says that the Limit, Save, Grow Act will grow the economy and save American taxpayers money, which is a good thing. At the end of the day, our veterans—you know what, they are taxpayers, too. They are grandmothers and mothers and grandfathers and fathers. You know what? They are concerned about their children and grandchildren.

If you believe in building an America that is worth our veterans' selfless sacrifice, I urge you to stop playing politics, come to the table and support the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, my point was and is Republicans voted for the PATH Act, as we did, and the bill is due.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES), the minority leader in the House of Representatives, a champion of long-term worthwhile investments.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. NEAL for his extraordinary leadership and continuing to work to elevate values that benefit everyday Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the extreme MAGA Republican default on America Act.

This reckless Republican effort to lead us down the road of a dangerous default will hurt working families, hurt the middle class, hurt all those Americans who aspire to be part of the middle class, hurt young people, hurt seniors, hurt veterans, hurt the poor, the sick, and the afflicted.

This will hurt people in urban America, rural America, exurban America, small-town America, in Appalachia, and in the heartland of America. It will hurt the least, the lost, and the left behind. The extreme MAGA Republican default on America act will hurt everyday Americans.

□ 1600

Why? Because you want to jam your reckless, extreme ideology down the throats of the American people in a hostage-taking situation. Instead of producing a budget, which is what President Biden has done, you have produced a ransom note.

The default on America act is a ransom note because effectively what you are saying is: Pass our extreme MAGA Republican bill or else America is going to default.

Now, we have a responsibility here in the United States Congress to uphold the full faith and credit of the United States of America to make sure that, as a country, we pay our bills, bills that have already been incurred, and not default. That is what our responsibility is, not as Democrats or as Republicans, but as Americans.

That is why, in the previous administration, Democrats three times worked with the Trump administration to avoid a default—no gamesmanship, no brinkmanship, no partisanship. We worked with the previous administration, with which we disagreed often, to make sure that America paid its bills, notwithstanding the fact that in our 247-year history, 25 percent of America's debt was accumulated during the 4 years of the Trump administration.

We did our patriotic responsibility to make sure that America would not default on our debt.

Now, with a different President in office, you want to play games. You want to flirt with a default and take us down this dangerous path.

You claim it is all about fiscal responsibility. Give me a break. That is rhetoric. That is not what the record shows, as Mr. NEAL articulated. This is not about fiscal responsibility. That is rhetoric.

What the record shows is that Democrats are the party of job creation and fiscal responsibility, and Republicans have been the party of tax cuts for the wealthy, the well-off, the well-connected, and exploding deficits.

Bill Clinton inherited deficits from the previous two administrations. Twenty million good-paying jobs were created during the 8 years of the Clinton Presidency, and he eliminated the deficit. In fact, he created a budget surplus.

President Barack Obama inherited the Great Recession, fiscal irresponsibility. Fourteen million good-paying, private-sector jobs were created during the Presidency of Barack Obama, and he reduced the deficit by $1 trillion. He took it from $1.5 trillion to $500 billion.

Democrats are the party of job creation and fiscal responsibility.

Joe Biden inherited a mess. What did he do? In 2 years, more than 10 million jobs were created. Now that number is over 12 million. He reduced the deficit by $1.7 trillion.

What is the Republican record? Why do you lecture us and lecture America about fiscal responsibility?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK). The gentleman is reminded to direct his remarks to the Chair.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, what is the Republican record?

President Reagan came into office, and the first thing that he did was massive tax cuts for the wealthy, the well-off, and the well-connected, and explodes the deficit.

President George W. Bush came into office, and in 2001 and 2003, massive tax cuts for the wealthy, the well-off, and the well-connected; two failed wars; a deep recession; and explodes the deficit.

President Trump came into office. The first thing he did in 2017 was massive tax cuts for the wealthy, the well-off, and the well-connected; the GOP tax scam with 83 percent of the benefits going to the wealthiest 1 percent in America; and explodes the deficits.

How dare you lecture America about fiscal responsibility when the record shows that Democrats are the party of job creation and reducing deficits, and Republicans are the party of tax cuts for the wealthy, the well-off, the well-connected, and exploding the deficits.

We are not going to stand here and allow you to lecture us about fiscal responsibility. What this is is an effort to try to extract deep, painful cuts on everyday Americans.

There is a process for America to pay its bills. It should be seamless. Then there is a budget process and an appropriations process. That is where we can have a conversation about future spending, future investments, and what the priorities should be.

President Joe Biden produced a budget. His budget will actually protect and strengthen Social Security, build an economy that works for everyday Americans, and cut the deficit by $3 trillion.

We have been asking for a Republican budget. Instead of giving us a budget, you have given us a ransom note. That is what the default on America act is, threatening a dangerous default. Pass it or else.

That is not statesmanship. That is brinkmanship. It will cause grave harm to everyday Americans.

The reckless extreme MAGA Republican dangerous default effort risks triggering a painful recession that will cost millions of good-paying jobs.

This reckless Republican effort, this effort to lead us down a dangerous default, will risk crashing the stock market and put in jeopardy the retirement security of millions of older Americans.

This reckless Republican effort to lead us down a dangerous default risks exploding costs for everyday Americans. That is what is in front of us right now.

That is why we oppose this reckless effort to default on America. This bill is unacceptable; it is unreasonable; it is unworkable; it is unconscionable; and it is un-American. That is why we oppose it. That is why we are urging a ''no'' vote, and that is why we are asking you to come together not as Republicans but as Americans to do what has always been done and make sure America pays bills that have already been incurred and avoid a dangerous default.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would like to remind Members, in the interest of the proper decorum in the House, to address the Chair.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot of comments just recently about tax provisions that helped the wealthy, the well-off, and the well-connected. Let's point out the Democrats' tax policies that we are ripping out from the roots are helping the wealthy, the well-off, and the well-connected.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD analyses from the Joint Committee on Taxation, showing that big corporations with more than $1 billion in sales receive over 90 percent of all special interest electricity subsidies, and that financial institutions receive three times more benefits from these tax credits than any other industry where the wealthy, the well-off, and the well-connected benefit.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION,
Washington, DC, March 31, 2023.

From: Robert Harvey.
Subject: Distribution Data.

This memorandum is in response to your request of March 28, 2023, for data on the distribution of claims for certain energy credits by the gross receipts of the taxpayer. Below we report the tentative claims for credit under Code section 45, the credit for electricity produced from certain renewable resources, and the tentative claims for credit under section 48, the energy investment credit, by C corporations for the 2019 tax year and 2020 tax year. The amounts reported are the tentative claims for credit before any limitation that the taxpayer might face and before any audit adjustment that might occur. For each of section 45 and section 48 we report the dollars of credit claimed categorized by gross receipts reported on line 1c of Form 1120, U.S. Corporation Income Tax Return.

TENTATIVE SECTION 45 CREDIT FOR ELECTRICITY PRODUCED FROM CERTAIN RENEWABLE RESOURCES

[Tax years 2019 and 2020, millions of dollars]

Gross Receipts Category	2019		2020	
	Amount of Credit	Percentage Share	Amount of Credit	Percentage Share
Less than $1 billion	349	5.5	231	3.1
$1 billion–$25 billion	2,538	40.2	2,560	34.6
More than $25 billion	3,432	54.3	4,619	62.3
Total	6,319	100.0	7,409	100.0

TENTATIVE SECTION 48 ENERGY CREDIT

[Tax years 2019 and 2020, millions of dollars]

Gross Receipts Category	2019		2020	
	Amount of Credit	Percentage Share	Amount of Credit	Percentage Share
Less than $1 billion	571	10.3	558	7.9
$1 billion–$25 billion	2,731	49.4	2,740	38.9
More than $25 billion	2,222	40.2	3,748	53.2
Total	5,524	100.0	7,047	100.0

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
JOINT COMMITTEE ON TAXATION,
Washington, DC, March 31, 2023.

From: Robert Harvey.
Subject: Tentative Energy Credits by Industry.

This memorandum is in response to your request for data on claims for certain energy credits by industry, including credits claimed by management companies. Below we report the tentative claims for credit under Code section 45, the credit for electricity produced from certain renewable resources, and the tentative claims for credit under section 48, the energy investment credit, by C corporations for the 2019 and 2020 tax years. The amounts reported are the tentative claims for credit before any limitation that the taxpayer might face and before any audit adjustment that might occur. For each of section 45 and section 48 we report the dollars of credit claimed by industry using the North American Industrial Classification System (''NAICS'') code level. Presenting these data at a finer level of detail potentially would create concerns of disclosure of information specific to taxpayers. For example, for section 45 we removed 2020 data for the wholesale and retail trade industry as the sample size became too limited.

TENTATIVE SECTION 45 CREDIT FOR ELECTRICITY PRODUCED FROM CERTAIN RENEWABLE RESOURCES

[Millions of dollars]

NAICS Code	2018	2019	2020
22 Utilities	1,138	989	1,263
221100 Electric Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution	571	460	578
All other utilities	567	529	684
31 Manufacturing	515	266	188
41 Wholesale and Retail Trade	760	990	na

TENTATIVE SECTION 45 CREDIT FOR ELECTRICITY PRODUCED FROM CERTAIN RENEWABLE RESOURCES—Continued

[Millions of dollars]

NAICS Code	2018	2019	2020
52 Finance and Insurance	943	877	871
524 Insurance	461	407	420
All other finance and insurance	482	469	451
55 Management of Companies (Holding Companies)	1,909	2,880	3,385
551111 Bank Holding Companies	1,898	2,839	3,354
551112 Other Holding Companies	11	41	31
All Other Industries	317	318	1,704
Total	5,581	6,319	7,410

TENTATIVE SECTION 48 ENERGY CREDIT

[Millions of dollars]

NAICS Code	2018	2019	2020
11 Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	13	10	na
22 Utilities	1,127	1,118	1,191
221100 Electric Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution	999	906	1,063
All other utilities	128	212	128
23 Construction	36	67	39
31 Manufacturing	342	245	247
42 Wholesale Trade	81	175	147
44 Retail Trade	271	299	547
52 Finance and Insurance	658	657	1,372
522110 Commercial Banking	120	19	202
522120 Savings Institutions, Credit Unions	31	54	51
524 Insurance	403	389	539
All other finance and insurance	104	194	581
53 Real Estate and Rental Leasing	31	17	20
55 Management of Companies (Holding Companies)	2,231	2,749	3,169
551111 Bank Holding Companies	2,216	2,729	3,144
551112 Other Holding Companies	15	20	25
All Other Industries	102	187	316
Total	4,891	5,524	7,047

We note this analysis is based on income tax returns filed by C corporations where taxpayers report the industry in which they are primarily engaged, identifying the industry by the code numbers established under the NAICS. This is self-reported, and the Internal Revenue Service does not necessarily verify the accuracy of the classification stated by the taxpayer.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. RESCHENTHALER).

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from Missouri for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to engage the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. KIGGANS), who is my fellow Navy veteran, for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. I yield to the gentlewoman.

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly agree with him on Washington's excessive spending. Republicans are ready to lead the way to end the era of reckless government spending.

After only 2 years under the Biden administration, our Federal deficit has grown by over $6 trillion. This is unacceptable for our country but especially for our children, who will inherit this deficit.

However, I also agree that our great Nation cannot default on our debts, and this bill, like all others, must be paid. I support lifting the debt ceiling, but only if coupled with reforms to Washington's wasteful spending in order to repair the inflation crisis and strengthen America's economy.

While the President has offered no plan to avoid default, I am proud to be a part of this new Republican majority that has put forward the Limit, Save, Grow Act, which proposes solutions.

That being said, I do have serious concerns with the provisions of this legislation that repeals clean energy investment tax credits, particularly for wind energy. These credits have been very beneficial to my constituents, attracting significant investment and new manufacturing jobs for businesses in southeast Virginia. The energy production happening in my district will incentivize clean energy solutions here in America and provide jobs for Virginians and energy options for military installations in my district.

For all of these reasons, I do not support the repeal of these clean energy tax credits.

I recognize that this bill is not the final product, but I also understand that it gets us to the negotiating table. I worked hard for a new Republican majority to have a seat at that table.

My ask is for the gentleman's assurance that I will be able to address these concerns as we move forward in those negotiations and advocate for the interests of my district.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her remarks and for working with us on this bill. I would like the gentlewoman to know that I support repealing these tax credits, but I understand the gentlewoman's concerns on some individual provisions in this bill.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Of course, we will continue to work with the gentlewoman from Virginia just like we will with all Members on making sure we are paying our Nation's debts and lifting our debt ceiling, but doing it in a responsible, reasonable, and sensible manner, and bringing CHUCK SCHUMER and Joe Biden to the negotiation table.

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I have full faith we can negotiate a final debt ceiling deal that both restores fiscal responsibility and empowers Americans to be good stewards of our Nation's vast natural resources.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Virginia for calling attention to these tax credits.

Talk about fortuitous timing, Mr. Speaker, here is the author of these tax credits, all $370 billion, along with EARL BLUMENAUER. We intend to lay out where these tax credits are going to in Republican districts and see if those Members wish to take advantage of those tax credits or not.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON), who is a veteran.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the default on America act.

Mr. Speaker, we need to raise the debt ceiling not because of money we want to spend in the future but because of money that we have already spent.

Both parties have contributed to our current debt, including over $2 trillion of debt caused by the 2017 Republican tax bill and hundreds of billions in COVID relief spending voted for by both parties and signed into law by a Republican President.

One-quarter of our Nation's debt was racked up during the previous administration, and now Republicans are trying to use our obligation to pay our debts as a leverage point to kick millions of people off of healthcare insurance, to defund the biggest investment in climate change in our country's history, and to make it harder for the neediest among us to feed themselves.

Let's be clear. If we default on our debt, the consequences will be felt by every American.

We have repeatedly passed a clean debt ceiling bill, and we need to do that today. It is time to stop playing games with our debt and end this attack on the stability of the American economy.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE).

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Limit, Save, Grow Act.

Every time I talk about debt, deficit spending, the budget—anything—I think about my four boys who are 10 years of age and under. I bring it up a lot, and it drives what I do. It gets me out of bed every single day to be working on this. I just can't hear one more time: Well, let's just raise the debt ceiling, and then let's get to work on this.

It is no longer time for that. We cannot accept not using every single opportunity that we have back here in Congress to address this.

I am in my second term in Congress. I have sat on the sidelines, and I have watched us constantly do this over and over again. I want to see something substantive happen here.

That is what we are doing here today, Mr. Speaker. We are trying to do something substantive.

Our debt exceeds $30 trillion. The optimism of our future depends on what we do over the next 10 years.

We have learned that the outcome is not good for empires that overextend themselves like we have done.

America has done this before, and we are at an inflection point. Our debt to GDP is where it was right after World War II, and for the bulk of the 21st century, we were able to get our debt to GDP down.

We have to take action, and we have to do it now.

Let's use this opportunity like we have done over the last 30 or 40 years when there is a debt ceiling increase that comes up. Let's take advantage of this, and let's find a way to reduce our spending. That is the best way to address our debt-to-GDP ratio, and I know everybody in this Chamber understands that.

□ 1615

We have an opportunity. This spring is our moment, again, to stop debt-fueled spending sprees and give our children a fair shot at success and not a mountain of IOUs.

This act saves $4.8 trillion, it grows our economy and our workforce, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK), the minority whip and a great talent in the Democratic Party.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this reckless default on America act. I have got to say, I see why the Republicans put this together in the dead of night. I wouldn't want Americans to see this plan, either. It is the same GOP playbook: Give more to the rich and elite, stick hardworking Americans with the bill, and threaten economic disaster if we don't go along.

Why exactly is the GOP endangering American livelihoods?

They want to help a few rich friends dodge their taxes.

What is the cost to the American people?

Here are just a few: 2,400 Border Patrol agents off the job, 300,000 kids out of childcare, 400,000 families evicted from their homes, a million seniors kicked off of Meals on Wheels, $2 billion taken away from veterans' healthcare; that is 30 million doctors' appointments stolen from veterans. It is disgraceful.

Mr. Speaker, there is one responsible path forward—a clean, unconditional vote to avoid default, something the GOP did three times under Donald Trump. As Trump put it himself, we cannot use the debt ceiling to negotiate.

Stop the madness. Deliver a resounding ''no'' vote on this dangerous piece of political theater.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. KUSTOFF).

Mr. KUSTOFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Republicans' plan to avoid a Federal default, to rein in spending, and get our economy back on track: The Limit, Save, Grow Act.

Over the last 2 years, Democrats' out-of-control spending has drastically and dramatically increased our 10-year spending trajectory. That includes the $2 trillion misnamed American Rescue Plan that ignited the highest rise in consumer prices and inflation in 40 years. Americans are paying the price for this radical spending that completely bloated our Federal spending.

House Republicans are committed to finding a sensible debt ceiling solution that will strengthen the American economy, protect American families, and save taxpayers over $4 trillion over the next 10 years.

The Limit, Save, Grow Act will do the following:

It will limit Washington's irresponsible spending.

It will save taxpayer dollars.

It will grow the American economy.

House Republicans are the only ones who have actually put forward a plan that will keep our Federal Government from defaulting. It is time for President Biden to come to the table and negotiate.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this important legislation that will help families, businesses, and farmers in west Tennessee and across the Nation.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT), a longtime observer and critic of Republican spending plans in the House.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I oppose this Republican default on America act because it will create more deficits for millions of Americans. It will create an educational opportunity deficit for the students that are relying on Pell grants, seeing them slashed, and their hope for debt forgiveness dashed. It would create an educational opportunity deficit for the children that are denied preschool.

Though our Central Texas Food Bank is already overwhelmed, another deficit would mean more hunger. Rent assistance would also be cut for 40,000 Texans, as we have an affordability crisis.

Perhaps the biggest deficit of all out of this bill, their failure to address the climate crisis. Once merely ignoring science as climate deniers, they have now become destroyers of even the most modest measures Democrats took to address the climate crisis and incentivize renewable energy, create new jobs, and lower energy costs. Instead, they promote more fossil fuels and more fossilized thinking.

For the health of Americans, the health of our economy, and the health of our planet, reject this fraudulent bill.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER).

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, the last time the U.S. debt held by the public equaled our total economic output was just after World War II. After that, economic policies, fiscal policies that put our country on the right track resulted in decades of American prosperity and American leadership across the world.

Today, the trajectory is far different, as shown on this chart. Our debt-to-GDP ratio, the best economic measure to show the health of our economy, is projected to go up from 98 percent today to 118 percent in the next 10 years and double our economy in just the next 30 years.

All I hear from Democrats today is pass a clean debt ceiling.

Does anyone on their side care about this trajectory which will end in disaster?

The President certainly has no plan to reduce our debt. He refuses to even negotiate or to acknowledge our debt challenges.

The Republican plan today, which I am proud to support, is the Limit, Save, Grow Act. This bill will rescind unspent COVID–19 funds, reverse Democrats' inflationary Green New Deal corporate welfare policies while allowing for responsible 1 percent annual increases in discretionary spending so America can continue to invest in core functions of government.

All in all, the bill will reduce, as seen on this line, future debt growth by $5 trillion over the next 10 years and begin to decrease our projected debt-to-GDP ratio by 12 points over the next 10 years.

Growing our GDP is the second part of the equation, to boost economic growth. The bill includes reforms to unleash domestic energy production and implements pro-growth work requirements that will strengthen our recovering labor force.

This bill alone, as seen in this chart, is not enough to solve our Nation's fiscal issues, but it is a very important first step toward getting our debt-to-GDP ratio on a descending trajectory. It will begin to bend the curve.

I call on the President to negotiate in good faith with Republicans to raise the debt ceiling and put forward policies to limit, save, and grow.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) who had a profound impact on writing the tax credits that the gentlewoman from Virginia acknowledged a moment ago.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I listened carefully to the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, and there are some shared goals here: Ending welfare for the wealthy and helping people realize the dignity of work. There are ways we can come together to do that, but let's not do it by making it harder for poor people to get food.

You want to end welfare for fairway farmers. There is no recognition that people who get these lavish subsidies are actually on the farm and working. There were almost 20,000 farmers who got payments averaging $1 million a year for 37 consecutive years. Let's cap and limit those lavish subsidies. Let's require people who get them to work on the farm. Let's have some limits, not poor people seeking food, but fairway farmers and those who are benefiting from these lavish expenditures. We can do better.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD this JCT analysis from 2022, suggesting that the total costs of the special interest tax credits for the rich in the Inflation Reduction Act would be $271 billion.

Mr. Speaker, I also include in the RECORD yesterday's CBO score, which shows that the cost has more than doubled to $570 billion, and it is growing every day. The wealthy and politically connected corporations will receive hundreds of billions of dollars more than advertised.

ESTIMATED BUDGET EFFECTS OF THE REVENUE PROVISIONS OF TITLE I—COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, OF AN AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE TO H.R. 5376, ''AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR RECONCILIATION PURSUANT TO TITLE II OF S. CON RES. 14,'' AS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON AUGUST 7, 2022, AND SCHEDULED FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON AUGUST 12, 2022

Fiscal years 2022–2031 [millions of dollars]

Provision	Effective	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2022–26	2022–31
TITLE I—COMMITTEE ON FINANCE													
SUBTITLE A—DEFICIT REDUCTION													
Part 1—Corporate Tax Reform—Corporate Alternative Minimum Tax.	tyba 12/31/22	– – –	34,679	34,258	22,039	17,702	18,699	20,798	22,756	24,658	26,659	108,678	222,248
Part 2—Excise Tax on Repurchase of Corporate Stock	rosa 12/31/22	– – –	5,697	7,875	8,070	8,581	8,882	8,838	8,603	8,500	8,641	30,223	73,686
Part 3—Funding the Internal Revenue Service and Improving Taxpayer Compliance—Enhancement of Internal Revenue Service Resources.	DOE					*Estimate to be Provided by the Congressional Budget Office*							
SUBTITLE A—DEFICIT REDUCTION		– – –	40,376	42,133	30,109	26,283	27,581	29,636	31,359	33,158	35,300	138,901	295,934
SUBTITLE B—PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICING REFORM—LOWERING DRUG PRICES THROUGH DRUG PRICE NEGOTIATION.	– – –					*Estimate to be Provided by the Congressional Budget Office*							
SUBTITLE C—AFFORDABLE CARE ACT SUBSIDIES—IMPROVE AFFORDABILITY AND REDUCE PREMIUM COST OF HEALTH INSURANCE FOR CONSUMERS (sunset 12/31/25).	tyba 12/31/22					*Estimate to be Provided by the Congressional Budget Office*							
SUBTITLE D—ENERGY SECURITY													
Part 1—Clean Electricity and Reducing Carbon Emissions													
1. Extension and modification of credit for electricity produced from certain renewable resources (sunset 12/31/24) [1].	fpisa 12/31/21 & ftcowba DOE & fpisa 12/31/22.	– – –	−1,562	−2,183	−3,317	−4,822	−6,428	−7,677	−8,232	−8,329	−8,511	−11,885	−51,062
2. Extension and modification of energy credit (sunset 12/31/24) [1].	generally ppisa 12/31/21.	– – –	−2,140	−1,559	−2,458	−5,367	−2,359	−48	−38	−9	15	−11,523	−13,962
3. Increase in energy credit for solar facilities placed in service in connection with low-income communities.	1/1/23					*Estimate Included in Items 1. and 2. Above*							
4. Extension and modification of credit for carbon oxide sequestration (sunset 12/31/32) [1].	foepisa 12/31/22 & cocadoa 12/31/21.	– – –	−42	−303	−469	−495	−463	−429	−388	−343	−296	−1,309	−3,229
5. Zero-emission nuclear power production credit (sunset 12/31/32) [1].	epasa 12/31/23 itybasd.	– – –	– – –	−2,188	−3,524	−3,710	−3,838	−3,960	−4,050	−4,279	−4,452	−9,421	−30,001
Total of Part 1—Clean Electricity and Reducing Carbon Emissions.		– – –	−3,744	−6,233	−9,768	−14,394	−13,088	−12,115	−12,709	−12,961	−13,243	−34,138	−98,254
Part 2—Clean Fuels													
1. Extensions of incentives for biodiesel, renewable diesel and alternative fuels (sunset 12/31/24).	[2]	– – –	−2,776	−1,780	−1,015	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	−5,571	−5,571
2. Extensions of second generation biofuel incentives (sunset 12/31/24).	qsgbpa 12/31/21	– – –	−24	−20	−10	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	−54	−54
3. Sustainable aviation fuel credit (sunset 12/31/24)	FSOUA 12/31/22	– – –	−10	−25	−14	—	—	—	—	—	—	−49	−49
4. Credit for production of clean hydrogen (sunset 12/31/32) [1].	[3]	– – –	−131	−362	−610	−918	−1,251	−1,627	−2,082	−2,667	−3,518	−2,021	−13,166
Total of Part 2—Clean Fuels		– – –	−2,941	−2,187	−1,649	−918	−1,251	−1,627	−2,082	−2,667	−3,518	−7,695	−18,840
Part 3—Clean Energy and Efficiency Incentives for Individuals													
1. Extension, increase, and modifications of nonbusiness energy property credit (sunset 12/31/32).	[4]		−1,887	−1,348	−1,324	−1,345	−1,327	−1,277	−1,301	−1,314	−1,327	−5,904	−12,451
2. Extension and modification of the residential energy efficient property credit (sunset 12/31/34).	ema 12/31/21 & ema 12/31/22.		−459	−1,021	−2,692	−2,770	−2,850	−2,935	−3,019	−3,092	−3,185	−6,942	−22,022
3. Energy efficient commercial buildings deduction	tyba 12/31/22 & ppisa 12/31/22 ityeasd.	– – –	−62	−50	−46	−42	−38	−35	−32	−30	−28	−200	−362
4. Extension, increase, and modifications of new energy efficient home credit (sunset 12/31/32).	duaa 12/31/21	– – –	−273	−193	−203	−216	−230	−241	−240	−229	−217	−887	−2,043
Total of Part 3—Clean Energy and Efficiency Incentives for Individuals.		– – –	−2,681	−2,612	−4,265	−4,373	−4,445	−4,488	−4,592	−4,665	−4,757	−13,932	−36,879
Part 4—Clean Vehicles													
1. Clean vehicle credit (sunset 12/31/32) [1]	generally vpisa 12/31/22.	– – –	−85	−451	−557	−681	−854	−1,024	−1,155	−1,303	−1,429	−1,775	−7,541
2. Credit for previoiusly-owned clean vehicles (sunset 12/31/32) [1].	vaa 12/31/22	– – –	−99	−96	−120	−132	−146	−162	−179	−197	−215	−447	−1,347
3. Credit for qualified commercial clean vehicles (sunset 12/31/32.	vaa 12/31/22	– – –	−189	−177	−228	−298	−388	−469	−539	−607	−687	−892	3,583
4. Alternative fuel refueling property credit (sunset 12/31/32).	ppisa 12/31/21	– – –	−138	−128	−145	−164	−184	−207	−231	−257	−284	−575	−1,738
Total of Part 4—Clean Vehicles		– – –	−511	−852	−1,050	−1,275	−1,572	−1,862	−2,105	−2,365	−2,615	−3,689	−14,209
Part 5—Investment in Clean Energy Manufacturing and Energy Security													
1. Extension of the advanced energy project credit [1]	1/1/23	– – –	−1,463	−1,377	−915	−926	−614	−442	−280	−196	−42	−4,681	−6,255
2. Advanced manufacturing production credit (sunset 12/31/32) [1].	cpasa 12/31/22	– – –	−1,755	−2,503	−2,691	−3,165	−3,563	−3,938	−4,534	−4,562	−3,921	−10,115	−30,632
Total of Part 5—Investment in Clean Energy Manufacturing and Energy security.		– – –	−3,218	−3,880	−3,606	−4,091	−4,177	−4,380	−4,814	−4,758	−3,963	−14,796	−36,887
Part 6—Reinstatement of Superfund	1/1/23	– – –	902	1,230	1,271	1,304	1,336	1,368	1,402	1,436	1,470	4,707	11,719
Part 7—Incentives for Clean Electricity and Clean Transportation													
1. Clean electricity production credit [1]	fpisa 12/31/24	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	−12	−45	−571	−1,864	−3,497	−5,215	−12	−11,204
2. Clean electricity investment credit [1]	ppisa 12/31/24	– – –	– – –	– – –	−39	−57	−6,575	−10,315	−10,742	−11,264	−11,865	−97	−50,858
3. Cost recovery for qualified facilitites, qualified property, and energy storage technology.	fappisa 12/31/24	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	−26	−83	−134	−171	−211	– – –	−624
4. Clean fuel production credit (sunset 12/31/27) [1]	tfpa 12/31/24	– – –	– – –	– – –	−641	−791	−1,177	−337	—	—	—	−1,432	−2,946
Total of Part 7—Incentives for Clean Electricity and Clean Transportation.	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	−680	−860	−7,823	−11,306	−12,740	−14,932	−17,291	−1,541	−65,632
Part 8—Credit Monetization and Appropriations—Elective Payment for Energy Property and Electricity Produced from Certain Renewable Resources, etc., and Transfer of Credits [1].	tyba 12/31/22					*Estimates Contained in Relevant Items Above*							
Part 9—Other Provisions													
1. Permanent extension of tax rate to fund Black Lung Disability Trust Fund.	[6]	– – –	103	135	131	130	130	131	132	133	134	498	1,159
2. Increase in research credit against payroll tax for small businesses.	tyba 12/31/22	– – –	−16	−13	−15	−16	−18	−21	−22	−23	−24	−60	−168
3. Limitation on excess business losses of noncorporate taxpayers extended for two years.	tyba 12/31/26	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	– – –	17,666	26,198	9,453	−274	−284	– – –	52,759
Total of Part 9—Other Provisions	– – –	– – –	87	122	116	114	17,778	26,308	9,563	−164	−174	438	53,750
SUBTITLE D—ENERGY SECURITY	– – –	– – –	−12,107	−14,412	−19,631	−24,493	−13,243	−8,101	−28,076	−41,076	−44,091	−70,646	−205,231
NET TOTAL	– – –	– – –	28,269	27,721	10,478	1,790	14,338	21,535	3,283	−7,918	−8,791	68,255	90,703

Joint Committee on Taxation

NOTE: Details may not add to totals due to rounding. The date of enactment is assumed to be September 1, 2022. Revenue provisions as stated in statutory language 117SAHR5376.

Legend for ''Effective'' column.

cocadoa = carbon oxide captured and disposed of after
cpasa = components produced and sold after
DOE = date of enactment
duaa = dwelling units acquired after
ema = expenditures made after
epasa = electricity produced and sold after
fappisa = facilities and property placed in sevice after
foepisa = facilities or equipment placed inservice after

fpisa = facilities placed in service after
fsoua = fuel sold or used after
ftcowba = facilities the construction of which begins after
itybasd = in taxable years beginning after such date
ityeasd = in taxable years ending after such date
ppisa = property placed in service after
rosa = repurchases of stock after
qsgbpa = qualified second generation biofuel production after
tfpa = transportation fuel produced after
tyba = taxable years beginning after
vaa = vehicles acquired after
vpisa = vehicles placed in service after
[1] Estimate contains the following outlay effects:

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2022–26	2022–31
Extension and modification of credit for electricity produced from certain renewable resources (sunset 12/31/24)	***Negligible Outlay Effect***											
Extension and modification of energy credit (sunset 12/31/24)	***Negligible Outlay Effect***											
Extension and modification of credit for carbon oxide sequestration (sunset 12/31/32)	– – –	20	145	225	238	222	206	186	165	142	628	1,550
Zero-emission nuclear power production credit (sunset 12/31/32)	– – –	– – –	1,050	1,692	1,781	1,842	1,901	1,944	2,054	2,137	4,522	14,401
Credit for production of clean hydrogen (sunset 12/31/32)	– – –	59	149	244	364	498	657	851	1,086	1,410	815	5,317
Extension of the advanced energy project credit	***Negligible Outlay Effect***											
Clean vehicle credit (sunset 12/31/32)	***Negligible Outlay Effect***											
Credit for previously-owned clean vehicles (sunset 12/31/32)	***Negligible Outlay Effect***											
Advanced manufacturing production credit (sunset 12/31/32)	– – –	842	1,201	1,291	1,519	1,710	1,890	2,176	2,189	1,882	4,853	14,699
Clean electricity production credit	– – –	1	1	2	2	3	3	4	5	6	6	26
Clean electricity investment credit	***Negligible Outlay Effect***											
Clean fuel production credit	***Negligible Outlay Effect***											

[2] Effective for fuel sold or used after December 31, 2022, for biodiesel and renewable diesel, and December 31, 2021 for alternative fuels.

[3] Effective for hydrogen produced after December 31, 2022, for property placed in service after December 31, 2022, and, for any property the construction of which begins prior to January 1, 2023, only to the extent of the basis thereof attributable to the construction, reconstruction, or erection after December 31, 2022, and for fuel sold or used after December 31, 2022.

[4] Applies to property placed in service after December 31, 2022. Extension of credit shall apply to property placed in servie after December 31, 2021 and identification number requirement shall apply to property placed in service after December 31, 2024.

[5]The temporary increase in the amount of tax on coal terminates for sales after December 31, 2025.

[6] Applies to sales in calendar quarters beginning after the date of the enactment.

TABLE 1.—CHANGES IN CBO'S BASELINE PROJECTIONS OF H.R. 2811, THE DEFICIT UNDER THE LIMIT, SAVE, GROW ACT OF 2023, AS POSTED ON THE WEBSITE OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RULES ON APRIL 19, 2023

	By fiscal year, billions of dollars—											
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2023–2033
	Increases or Decreases (−) in the Projected Deficit											
Caps on Discretionary Funding[a]	0	−129.0	−201.8	−243.7	−279.7	−314.0	−342.8	−373.1	−404.3	−436.2	−469.9	−3,194.5
Student Loan Programs	−387.0	−6.2	−6.7	−7.2	−7.7	−7.7	−7.6	−7.6	−7.5	−7.4	−7.4	−460.0
Energy Tax Provisions (JCT estimate)[b]	−13.1	−35.5	−49.9	−63.2	−68.1	−66.1	−62.9	−55.6	−53.3	−54.0	−47.9	−569.5
Funding for the Internal Revenue Service and Related Agencies	−0.7	3.4	8.4	11.8	14.3	16.2	17.6	17.4	17.3	8.8	5.3	119.7
Work Requirements	0	−0.6	−5.6	−8.5	−11.8	−12.8	−13.9	−15.1	−16.1	−17.2	−18.5	−120.1
Rescissions of Funds Provided in Six Laws Enacted From 2020 to 2022	−13.8	−9.7	−3.8	−1.4	−0.6	−0.1	−0.1	0	0	0	0	−29.5
Energy Leasing and Permitting Provisions	−0.4	−2.0	−4.3	−5.7	−4.3	0.3	2.6	3.1	3.2	3.3	0.8	−3.4
Debt Service[c]	−0.5	−4.2	−11.9	−20.7	−30.9	−43.1	−55.6	−70.4	−85.8	−102.5	−121.4	−547.0
Total Change in the Projected Deficit	−415.4	−183.7	−275.6	−338.6	−388.8	−427.3	−462.7	−501.4	−546.5	−605.2	−659.0	−4,804.3

Sources: Congressional Budget Office, staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT).

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Budgetary effects are relative to CBO's February 2023 baseline projections and include updates to incorporate new information about certain programs.

[a] This estimate incorporates the assumption that future appropriations will match the proposed caps, where applicable, and that funding that would not be constrained by the caps (such as funding designated as an emergency requirement) will match amounts in CBO's baseline projections. Deficits could be larger or smaller, depending on whether the amounts appropriated are larger or smaller than the amounts that CBO projects in this analysis.

[b] Estimates provided by JCT are preliminary and subject to change.

[c] Changes in CBO's estimates of public debt for the 2023–2033 period under the bill are driven primarily by changes to estimated annual budget deficits. However, changes to the government's cash flows associated with the federal student loan program (not shown in this table) also affect CBO's estimates of public debt and of the interest required to service that debt.

TABLE 2.—CHANGES TO CBO'S PROJECTIONS OF DISCRETIONARY SPENDING UNDER THE CAPS SPECIFIED IN H.R. 2811, THE LIMIT, SAVE, GROW ACT OF 2023, AS POSTED ON THE WEBSITE OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RULES ON APRIL 19, 2023

	By fiscal year, billions of dollars—											
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2023–2033
	Projections of Discretionary Spending											
CBO's February 2023 Baseline:												
Budget Authority	1,823.7	1,906.6	1,952.0	1,995.3	2,045.7	2,093.6	2,143.5	2,195.1	2,247.4	2,300.3	2,356.1	23,059.5
Outlays	1,741.2	1,864.4	1,955.4	2,004.9	2,063.1	2,119.0	2,159.1	2,215.0	2,266.4	2,319.2	2,380.2	23,087.8
With Proposed Caps on Discretionary Budget Authority:[a]												
Budget Authority	1,823.7	1,677.9	1,696.4	1,712.8	1,732.4	1,752.1	1,769.8	1,789.9	1,807.7	1,827.6	1,847.3	19,437.9
Outlays	1,741.2	1,735.4	1,753.6	1,761.2	1,783.4	1,805.0	1,816.3	1,841.9	1,862.1	1,883.0	1,910.3	19,893.3
Effect of Proposed Discretionary Caps Relative to the February 2023 Baseline:												
Budget Authority	0	−228.7	−255.6	−282.5	−313.3	−341.5	−373.7	−405.2	−439.7	−472.7	−508.8	−3,621.6
Outlays	0	−129.0	−201.8	−243.7	−279.7	−314.0	−342.8	−373.1	−404.3	−436.2	−469.9	−3,194.5

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

[a] The bill specifies caps on most discretionary budget authority for fiscal years 2024 through 2023. Appropriations designated for certain categories of spending would result in adjustments, and limits would apply to some of those adjustments. The caps would not apply to funding for certain programs under the 21st Century Cures Act or to certain funding from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund.

TABLE 3.—ESTIMATED DIRECT SPENDING AND REVENUE EFFECTS OF H.R. 2811, THE LIMIT, SAVE, GROW ACT OF 2023, AS POSTED ON THE WEBSITE OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RULES ON APRIL 19, 2023

	By fiscal year, billions of dollars—												
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2023–2028	2023–2033
	Increases or Decreases (−) in Direct Spending												
Federal Student Loans:													
Student Loan Cancellation:													
Estimated Budget Authority	−319.6	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	−317.6	−315.6
Estimated Outlays	−319.6	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	−317.6	−315.6
Income-Driven Repayment Plan:													
Estimated Budget Authority	−43.3	−6.0	−6.5	−7.2	−8.0	−8.1	−8.1	−8.1	−8.1	−8.3	−8.4	−79.1	−120.1
Estimated Outlays	−42.8	−5.2	−5.8	−6.4	−7.0	−7.1	−7.1	−7.2	−7.2	−7.3	−7.4	−74.3	−110.5
Interactive and Other Effects:													
Estimated Budget Authority	−24.6	−1.4	−1.3	−1.2	−1.1	−1.0	−0.9	−0.8	−0.7	−0.5	−0.4	−30.6	−33.9
Estimated Outlays	−24.6	−1.4	−1.3	−1.2	−1.1	−1.0	−0.9	−0.8	−0.7	−0.5	−0.4	−30.6	−33.9
Subtotal, Federal Student Loans:													
Estimated Budget Authority	−387.5	−7.0	−7.4	−8.0	−8.7	−8.7	−8.6	−8.5	−8.4	−8.4	−8.4	−427.3	−469.6
Estimated Outlays	−387.0	−6.2	−6.7	−7.2	−7.7	−7.7	−7.6	−7.6	−7.5	−7.4	−7.4	−422.5	−460.0
Energy Tax Provisions (JCT estimate)[a]:													
Estimated Budget Authority	−0.1	−0.2	−0.4	−0.7	−1.0	−1.3	−1.3	−1.9	−2.6	−3.3	−4.1	−3.5	−16.7
Estimated Outlays	−0.1	−0.2	−0.4	−0.7	−1.0	−1.3	−1.3	−1.9	−2.6	−3.3	−4.1	−3.5	−16.7
Funding for the Internal Revenue Service and Related Agencies:													
Estimated Budget Authority	−71.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	−71.5	−71.5
Estimated Outlays	−2.4	−2.8	−4.1	−5.6	−7.3	−9.2	−11.4	−14.0	−14.6	0	0	−31.4	−71.5
Work Requirements:													
Community Engagement Requirement for Medicaid:													
Estimated Budget Authority	0	0	−4.4	−7.3	−10.6	−11.6	−12.7	−13.9	−14.9	−16.0	−17.3	−33.9	−108.7
Estimated Outlays	0	0	−4.4	−7.3	−10.6	−11.6	−12.7	−13.9	−14.9	−16.0	−17.3	−33.9	−108.7
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program:													
Estimated Budget Authority	0	−0.6	−1.2	−1.2	−1.2	−1.2	−1.2	−1.2	−1.2	−1.2	−1.2	−5.4	−11.4
Estimated Outlays	0	−0.6	−1.2	−1.2	−1.2	−1.2	−1.2	−1.2	−1.2	−1.2	−1.2	−5.4	−11.4
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families:													
Estimated Budget Authority	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	*	*	*	*	0	*
Estimated Outlays	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	*	*	*	*	0	*
Subtotal, Work Requirements:													
Estimated Budget Authority	0	−0.6	−5.6	−8.5	−11.8	−12.8	−13.9	−15.1	−16.1	−17.2	−18.5	−39.3	−120.1
Estimated Outlays	0	−0.6	−5.6	−8.5	−11.8	−12.8	−13.9	−15.1	−16.1	−17.2	−18.5	−39.3	−120.1
Rescissions of Funds Provided in Six Laws Enacted From 2020 to 2022:													
Estimated Budget Authority	−55.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	−55.5	−55.5
Estimated Outlays	−13.8	−9.7	−3.8	−1.4	−0.6	−0.1	−0.1	0	0	0	0	−29.4	−29.5
Energy Leasing and Permitting Provisions:													
Estimated Budget Authority	−32.2	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.4	1.5	1.7	1.9	2.0	2.3	−0.1	−24.4	−16.6
Estimated Outlays	−0.4	−2.0	−4.3	−5.7	−4.3	−0.6	1.3	1.7	2.0	2.2	0.3	−17.3	−9.8
Total Change in Direct Spending:													
Estimated Budget Authority	−546.8	−6.3	−11.7	−15.5	−20.1	−21.3	−22.1	−23.6	−25.1	−26.6	−31.1	−621.5	−750.0
Estimated Outlays	−403.7	−21.5	−24.9	−29.1	−32.7	−31.7	−33.0	−36.9	−38.8	−25.7	−29.7	−543.4	−707.6
	Increases or Decreases (−) in Revenues												
Energy Tax Provisions (JCT estimate)*	13.0	35.3	49.6	62.5	67.1	64.8	61.6	53.8	50.7	50.7	43.8	292.3	552.9
Funding for the Internal Revenue Service and Related Agencies	−1.6	−6.2	−12.5	−17.4	−21.6	−25.4	−29.0	−31.4	−31.9	−8.8	−5.3	−84.7	−191.2
Energy Leasing and Permitting Provisions	0	0	0	0	0	−0.9	−1.3	−1.4	−1.2	−1.1	−0.5	−0.9	−6.4
Total Change in Revenues	11.4	29.1	37.1	45.1	45.5	38.5	31.3	21.0	17.6	40.8	38.0	206.7	355.3
	Net Decrease (−) in the Deficit From Changes in Direct Spending and Revenues												
Total Change in the Deficit	−415.1	−50.6	−61.9	−74.2	−78.2	−70.2	−64.3	−57.8	−56.4	−66.5	−67.7	−750.1	−1,062.8

Sources: Congressional Budget Office, staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT).
Components may not sum to totals because of rounding, * = between −$50 million and zero.
Budgetary effects are relative to CBO's February 2023 baseline projections and include updates to incorporate new information about certain programs.
[a] Estimates provided by JCT are preliminary and subject to change.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY).

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Limit, Save, Grow Act, which addresses the current debt limit crisis while prioritizing responsible spending practices.

Critically, this bill will lead to over $4.5 trillion, with a T, in taxpayer savings over the next decade and reverse a dangerous trend of reckless fiscal mismanagement on the part of the Democrats.

Americans and New Yorkers, where I hail from, are facing a fiscal crisis due to persistently high inflation, rising interest rates, and debt at unsustainable levels. This is a direct result of the trillions upon trillions of dollars that the Democrats have spent since President Biden took office in January 2021.

Mr. Speaker, my former colleague from the New York State Assembly, now minority leader here, should know that 40 percent of our Nation's debt was incurred under the leadership of the former Speaker, who the minority leader described as the best Speaker of all time.

He should know. The State of New York has the highest taxes, the highest spend rate, the highest corporate welfare, and the highest out-migration of people and jobs in the entire Nation.

Americans and New Yorkers are facing a fiscal crisis. Instead of politicizing the impending debt limit predicament, Democrats should prioritize responsible spending and work with House Republicans on a solution to reduce reckless spending, save taxpayer money, and grow our economy.

It is time for President Biden to come to the negotiating table and work with House Republicans on a path forward to economic stability and growth. Please don't mimic the model that New York has set, where we once had 45 Representatives in the 1960s and are now down to 26.

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL), a champion of Medicare, Social Security, and renewable energy.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, for months the other side has held our economy hostage. Today, we have their ransom demands. This rip-off kills millions of jobs, guts working family benefits, and sabotages tax fairness.

Now, I have listened today, and many times both sides are saying the same thing, reading off the same page. They all can't be right.

Look at the facts. This is not about deficits. This shakedown lets wealthy tax cheats off scot-free and balloons the deficit by $120 billion. Please respond to that: $120 billion deeper in debt. Do not fall for this total sham. Today's smorgasbord of policy goals is a cynical distraction from the horrifying impacts of this extortion.

Mr. Speaker, Social Security, Medicare, veterans' care, and homeownership are at stake. I am sorry to say we have come to this.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an article detailing how Ford is using a loophole in the IRA to partner with CATL, a major Chinese battery company, on a project intended to harvest EV battery tax credits. Chinese companies are lining up to cash in on Democrats' green corporate welfare that we are rescinding in this bill.

[From Forbes, Feb. 13, 2023]

FORD TO BUILD $3.5 BILLION LITHIUM IRON PHOSPHATE BATTERY PLANT IN MICHIGAN USING CATL TECHNOLOGY

(By Sam Abuelsamid, Senior Contributor)

Ford plans to build a $3.5 billion factory in Marshall, Michigan, which will produce 35 gigawatt-hours of lithium iron phosphate (LFP) cells annually for electric vehicles starting in 2026. The move comes after the automaker said it would use LFP batteries in the Mustang Mach-E from mid-2023 and F-150 Lightning from early 2024. However, those batteries will be sourced from CATL in China, the leading cell manufacturer in the world and one of the leaders in LFP production. Ford will license CATL technology but it will own the new factory and operate it, rather than creating a joint venture.

While Ford will start using CATL LFP batteries later this year, shipping them from China won't help the company reach its sustainability goals. Batteries are heavy and bulky and the emissions associated with shipping them halfway around the world will significantly cut into the gains from eliminating the tailpipe from these vehicles. Those vehicles also will not qualify for any clean vehicle tax credits.

This is why Ford and other OEMs are moving so aggressively to localize battery production to wherever vehicles are built and sold. Ford previously announced a joint venture with Korea's SK ON for three cell plants in Kentucky and Tennessee that are already well under construction. Those plants will produce nickel manganese cobalt (NMC) cells.

Nickel-rich cell chemistries such as NMC (also referred to as NCM), nickel-manganese-cobalt aluminum (NMCA, which GM uses for its Ultium cells), nickel-cobalt-aluminum (NCA, which Tesla uses) have a higher energy density than LFP. However, Nickel and cobalt are much more expensive than iron and phosphorus and also more volatile. When there is an internal short circuit in a nickel-rich cell, it is much more likely to experience thermal runaway. LFP cells are inherently more stable and are nearly impossible to experience thermal runaway or fires.

Despite LFP having a lower energy density than nickel-rich cells, much of that can be offset by adopting cell-to-pack or structural battery pack designs rather than the modular designs that are typical today. In addition to lower cost, LFP cells have much longer charge cycle lifetimes. A typical nickel cell can do between 500 and 1,000 charge cycles before it loses enough capacity to be no longer useful in a vehicle. LFP cells can withstand thousands of cycles and some manufacturers, including CATL, have claimed EVs with LFP can go 1 million miles.

The added stability of LFP cells means they can better withstand charging to 100% without degrading. Nickel-rich cells typically have to leave unused buffers to prevent overcharging. Thus some of the energy density disadvantages can be safely recovered.

The decision to structure the new operation as a wholly owned subsidiary of Ford rather than a joint venture is likely driven in part by the content requirements in the Inflation Reduction Act. Since China is a foreign entity of concern, batteries and materials from that country do not qualify for clean vehicle credits. Thus the Mach-E and Lightning with Chinese-sourced batteries won't be eligible. Limiting the equity stake of CATL in this deal and only licensing some technology along with local sourcing of most materials will probably enable Ford to claim its cells meet the domestic content requirements.

''This is how we look at the recipe to create one of the lowest cost, U.S.-produced batteries when this plant comes online in 2026 and this helps us contribute to Ford's goal of an 8% Model E EBIT in 2026,'' said Lisa Drake, Ford VP of EV industrialization. ''It strengthens our domestic supply chain and helps us ramp production, getting more EVs to more customers sooner.''

As with the Mach-E and Lightning, the new LFP batteries will likely be used mainly in standard range and lower cost EVs and many of the commercial vehicles Ford sells. Most of those commercial vehicles, such as Transit vans used for everything from last-mile deliveries to plumbers and electricians, rarely go outside of a limited geographical area and don't need more than 100 miles of range. With more availability of domestic LFP batteries, future electric versions of vehicles like the compact Maverick pickup and Escape crossover are likely at prices that more consumers can afford.

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), who has been a leader in terms of adoption opportunities for those outside the mainstream.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, brinkmanship is no way to run a government. The default on America act is one of the worst bills I have had the opportunity to vote on. It is antichildren, antiseniors, antiveterans, antimiddle America, antismall business, antihealthcare, antiworkers.

As a matter of fact, it is anti-American because all that it does is cut, cut, cut. When all that you do is cut, cut, and cut, all that you get is blood, blood, blood. The blood of the American people will be on the hands of those who held the knife. I urge a ''no'' vote.

□ 1630

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DELBENE), one of the most talented Members of this institution.

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today against this Republican ruse, the default on America act.

This legislation is not a serious proposal. It is a MAGA wish list that demands a 22 percent cut of essential Federal programs that support working families, seniors, veterans, public safety, schools, and housing assistance.

If passed, this bill would cost an estimated 780,000 jobs, many in the clean energy sector, all across this country.

What we need is simple: A clean bill to avoid a default, to ensure we protect the full faith and credit of the United States.

If my Republican colleagues want to show Americans they can govern, then pass a clean bill and show us your budget, a real budget, like the President has released.

Every day Republicans wait brings us closer to brinksmanship and hurts the American people and the global economy. I urge my colleagues to reject this bill.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. JAMES).

Mr. JAMES. Mr. Speaker, America's fiscal trajectory is unsustainable. The threat of a potential U.S. Government debt default plays into China's long-standing grand strategy for expanding its global role and diminishing our influence. It is a matter of national security to get this under control.

When small businesses and families in my district and all across the country experience financial problems, they tighten their belts. They change their spending habits, and they expect Washington to do the same.

Instead, President Joe Biden stood in this very Chamber, gaslighted, fearmongered, and claimed Republicans want to sunset Social Security and Medicare while there are attacks on Republicans all over the country on this very same lie.

Why? To frighten seniors and hope the stampede would block Republicans from reining in his destructive, runaway spending. That is why I introduced the Protecting Social Security and Medicare Act the very next day.

I spoke with leadership in the following weeks about taking these very important critical programs off the negotiation table, and that is exactly what leadership did.

As we debate today, seniors can rest assured that the promises Republicans made to them will not be broken in this debate.

I am also voting for this bill because it does not include cuts to the Pentagon's budget, particularly to Selfridge Air National Guard Base, a pillar of my district, a crown jewel of the State of Michigan, and critical to our national defense against northern aggressors like China, Russia, and North Korea who may threaten us from abroad.

It is reasonable to disagree with any specific debt ceiling approach, and I am looking forward to continuing with the debate.

If President Biden continues to refuse to come to the table and negotiate in good faith, we will achieve historic default, putting our country's national security and families like mine and yours at economic risk in the future.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from Mr. PASCRELL.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 8, 2023.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY.
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER MCCARTHY: Our most basic duty as Members of Congress is to protect the well-being and security of our constituents. If Republicans block America from paying our bills, it would be a gross betrayal of our governing responsibility and invite cataclysmic damage to our economy. Therefore, I call on the House to advance legislation to raise our debt limit and prevent a second Great Depression.

It has been 48 days since the United States reached its current statutory limit and the Treasury Department began taking extraordinary measures to prevent a default. On February 15, the Congressional Budget Office raised the specter of a default as soon as July without urgent congressional action. Congress has acted to raise or suspend the debt ceiling 49 times under Republican presidents and 29 times under Democratic presidents. This is a bipartisan responsibility.

According to the Council of Economic Advisors (CEA), if the debt ceiling is not raised, Social Security checks will come to a halt and seniors will be without means to eat or turn on the heat. Medicare reimbursements will freeze, leaving tens of millions of Americans unable to pay for essential medical care. Our veterans will see their health care cut off.

It gets worse. The collapse of available credit would send shockwaves through the economy, leading to a bank run and a decimation of small businesses. The cost of borrowing would soar, leaving new homebuyers locked out of the housing market and causing regular people to lose everything. The jobless rate would skyrocket, with millions of Americans losing their jobs and elevated unemployment lingering indefinitely. Markets would be thrown into a postulated that the impact of default would be ten times worse than the 2008 recession.

Republican-precipitated default would be just as devastating for the global economy. America's treasury debt is considered the world's safest asset and the dollar acts as the globe's reserve currency. World confidence in our entire economy would be irreparably wounded by default.

When Republicans put our Nation's credit on the line, the result has been widespread turmoil and suffering. After Republicans threatened to breach the debt ceiling in 2011, Standard and Poor's downgraded the U.S. long-term credit rating for the first time in history. Private sector hiring froze, job growth withered, and consumer sentiment dropped to its lowest level in 30 years. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) estimated that federal borrowing costs increased by about $1.3 billion, while the Bipartisan Policy Center estimated that the 10-year cost to taxpayers was a staggering $18.9 billion.

In 2013, when Republicans tried this play again, our Nation experienced an annualized 0.25 percentage point reduction in annualized fourth quarter's gross domestic product growth, resulting in an estimated 120,000 lost jobs. Investors stopped accepting Treasury bonds as collateral for short-term transactions, and the government was forced to pay higher interest rates at auction. Treasury's borrowing costs on securities increased by an estimated $38-to-$70 million, and rates for commercial paper also rose, disrupting private markets. After Republicans yet again menaced our Nation's credit in 2015, the Treasury Department postponed the release of a new 2-year bond due to lack of demand, and was forced to reduce bill issuance, leading to a drop of $210 billion in bill supply.

The full faith and credit of America is not a bargaining chip to be gambled whenever Republicans want to reverse policy they don't like. Refusal to let our Nation pay its bills would lead to a domino effect of catastrophic proportion. The effects of failing to raise the debt ceiling are real, tangible, and would be felt by every American family and business.

Given these risks, I ask: where is the Republican plan to raise the debt ceiling and when can we expect its consideration before Congress?

Sincerely,

BILL PASCRELL, Jr.
Member of Congress.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER), whose knowledge of economics is second to none in this institution.

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose the default on America act. America always pays its bills. It is important that we have serious negotiations and that we take responsible action to address our continuing deficits.

Mr. Speaker, $31 trillion in public debt is a frightening number, but it is a debt we accumulated over Republican and Democratic Presidents, Republican and Democratic Congresses, two unpaid for wars, major tax cuts, and costly increases in healthcare.

It is reckless and irresponsible to use the alleged leverage of a national default to address our debt—first, because the leverage is imaginary. This bill is dead on arrival in the Senate.

Second, the leverage already exists. KEVIN MCCARTHY is Speaker. The Republicans have a 222–213 majority in the House.

The last thing we want to do is plunge our Nation into the threat of a default or an actual default. The responsible thing to do is to pass this clean debt ceiling relief and move on to the appropriations process where the debt can be properly addressed.

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. EVANS), whose city is home to some of the most important retirement plan management opportunities in all of America.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I rise and strongly oppose this bill. It would hurt families. It would hurt seniors. It would hurt workers. We must uphold rather than undermine our country's strong economic recovery and standing.

We are here to govern. That means paying for what Congress has already approved. We cannot default on the national debt. The only way forward is to cleanly raise the debt ceiling.

I am saying to you, Mr. Speaker, we are ready. We need to raise the debt.

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER), an individual who is well known for his proficiency in accounting procedures.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to this unserious bill that cuts lifesaving and life-sustaining programs, hurts our economy, guts historic action on climate change, and needlessly adds to our deficit by carving out loopholes for the wealthy.

The Republicans' cut, slash, and shrink default on America bill will devastate America. First, it guts the landmark Inflation Reduction Act, which is not only addressing inflation but is the largest ever effort in our Nation's history to combat climate change and lower the cost of prescription drugs.

Second, it grows the already large tax gap and irresponsibly adds to the deficit. The bill, seemingly with bad intention, guts tools at the IRS to be both more responsive to responsible taxpayers and stronger in the face of wealthy tax cheats.

Finally, this bill would make extreme cuts to discretionary spending, cuts that could amount to as much as 59 percent by the year 2025.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD this report from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities titled: ''Roundup: Analyzing Speaker McCarthy's Harmful Debt-Ceiling-and-Cuts Bill.''

[From the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Apr. 26, 2023]

ROUNDUP: ANALYZING SPEAKER MCCARTHY'S HARMFUL DEBT-CEILING-AND-CUTS BILL

(By CBPP)

Last week, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy released a debt-ceiling-and-cuts bill that would use the need to raise the debt ceiling as a bargaining chip to force a set of unpopular, harmful policies. We've collected our analyses of the bill here:

McCarthy Bill Uses Debt Ceiling to Force Harmful Policies, Deep Cuts. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy's debt-ceiling-and-cuts bill puts the U.S. economy at grave risk by using the need to raise the debt ceiling as a bargaining chip to force a set of unpopular, harmful policies—policies that would make deep cuts in a host of national priorities; leave more people hungry, homeless, and without health coverage; and make it easier for wealthy people to cheat on their taxes. The bill would also repeal the Inflation Reduction Act's funding to address climate change and would undertake harmful changes that would undermine how regulations are crafted . . .

CBPP President Sharon Parrott tweeted about the ten years of deep cuts that the bill would exact in exchange for raising the debt ceiling. Parrott also detailed our cross-cutting analysis of the bill.

Vital Government Services Would Take a $3.6 Trillion Hit in McCarthy Bill. The bill containing House Republicans' demands for raising the debt ceiling would impose severe cuts amounting to $3.6 trillion over the next ten years, along with the many other harmful changes it would make. The funding cuts would hit a wide swath of vital programs and would grow from bad to beyond extreme—reaching between 24 and 59 percent in 2033, depending on whether programs such as defense and veterans' medical care are protected from cuts, as many House Republicans propose . . .

David Reich tweeted about the cuts to annual appropriations in the bill. Michael Leachman explained the bill would make deep cuts to discretionary federal aid to

states, local governments, tribal nations, and U.S. Territories, and his analysis included a state-by-state table. And Zoë Neuberger pointed out that the bill includes billions in cuts that would harm families with low incomes, including WIC participants.

McCarthy Medicaid Proposal Puts Millions of People in Expansion States at Risk of Losing Health Coverage. A Republican proposal led by Speaker Kevin McCarthy would take Medicaid coverage away from people who do not meet new work-reporting requirements. The proposal would apply to all states, but in practice it would heavily impact people covered by the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Medicaid expansion. Of this group, more than 10 million people in Medicaid expansion states would be at significant risk of losing coverage under the McCarthy proposal. This group would be subject to the new Medicaid requirement, and they are not part of a group that states could readily identify in existing data sources and exclude from burdensome reporting. The McCarthy proposal could jeopardize coverage for millions more, by prompting some states to drop the ACA Medicaid expansion or dissuading states that have not yet taken the expansion from adopting it . . .

Gideon Lukens tweeted state-by-state numbers of Medicaid expansion enrollees whose coverage would be at risk under the McCarthy proposal. Lukens also tweeted the Department of Health and Human Services' estimates of Medicaid enrollees at risk of losing coverage under the bill. Sarah Lueck tweeted about the Congressional Budget Office's estimate of Medicaid coverage loss.

Taking Medicaid Away for Not Meeting a Work-Reporting Requirement Would Keep People From Health Care. Led by Speaker Kevin McCarthy, congressional Republicans have revived harmful proposals to cut federal spending on the Medicaid program—the Nation's single largest source of health coverage—by taking Medicaid away from people not meeting new work-reporting requirements. Adding such requirements to Medicaid would cause many low-income adults to lose coverage due to bureaucratic hurdles that don't reflect the complexity of people's circumstances, as failed experiments in several states show. These requirements would leave people without the health care they need, including life-saving medications, treatment to manage chronic conditions, and care for acute illnesses.

Laura Harker tweeted about how the bill would resurrect this failed policy.

Speaker McCarthy's SNAP Proposal Would Take Food Away From Older Adults for Not Meeting Work Requirements. Speaker McCarthy's bill would expand SNAP's already harsh policy that takes food assistance away from many people aged 18 through 49 who don't have children at home and can't secure an exemption. Such individuals can receive SNAP for only three months (in a 36-month period) if they don't document that they meet a 20-hour-per-week work requirement. The bill would expand that policy to include people aged 50 through 55. About 1 million such individuals participate in SNAP and meet those criteria in a typical month. (The figure was 900,000 in 2019, the most recent year for which a full year of data are available. A larger number participate in SNAP over the course of a year.)

Ty Jones Cox tweeted about how the bill would worsen SNAP's work requirements.

TANF Provisions in McCarthy Bill Give States Incentives to Take Cash Benefits Away From Families With the Most Significant Needs. The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) provisions in Speaker McCarthy's bill double down on TANF's already expansive, rigid, and ineffective work requirements. The bill would so severely limit states' flexibility in how they provide assistance and employment services to families with children that some states could decide to stop providing cash aid to large numbers of families, with devastating results.

Aditi Shrivastava tweeted about how the bill would further restrict TANF's reach.

Samantha Jacoby explained that the bill's proposal to rescind the Inflation Reduction Act's IRS funding would add to the deficit because it would let wealthy tax cheats off the hook. Jacoby also noted that while giving billions to high-income tax cheats, the bill would take health care, food, and cash assistance away from people who need it.

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD), a very capable gentleman.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. NEAL, for the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today for my constituents in Nevada, my Democratic colleagues here in the House, and as chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus to address the latest attempt by extremist MAGA Republicans to put politics over the American people and to put billionaires and corporations over working families and children.

Just last week, Speaker MCCARTHY introduced the default on America act that would tank our economic recovery and sabotage job growth, underscoring Republicans' lack of interest in governing for anyone besides the wealthy and the powerful.

Speaker MCCARTHY and his MAGA extremists are demanding that Congress cut programs like SNAP, nutrition programs for seniors and children, at the expense of the wealthy.

Everyday costs on families like car payments, student loans, credit card bills, and mortgage payments would increase.

In fact, their plan, default on America, would affect veterans, seniors, families, people, and jobs, including 7,000 in my State alone.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this default on America and to put people over politics.

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), one of the most capable people that I have had a chance to serve with in Congress.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding 1 minute. Maybe I can get another. I miss the magic minute, as all of you know, because this is not enough time to debate this issue.

Something that is as bad as fiscal responsibility is fiscal demagoguery. The Speaker of this House has said default is not an option.

Mr. Speaker, 84 of the Republicans in this House have never voted to extend the debt limit so that default would have been inevitable.

That is what this is about; trying to make some sort of deal. I urge my Republican colleagues to follow what they know to be the only rational alternative; that is, vote for a debt extension.

Pay our bills. America does not welch on its debts. You believe that; we believe that. Mr. Speaker, 84 of their Members have not believed that, but we have a majority of this House that believes it.

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I urge Republicans to stop creating this lack of confidence in this body to be fiscally responsible. Let me repeat that: Stop allowing no confidence in this body's ability and willingness to be fiscally responsible. Vote ''no.''

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), who comes from the same class as the last two Members, the class of 1988, a very talented lot.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from the same class, the ranking member, for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, House Republicans are manufacturing a crisis to justify cruel cuts that will raise costs for American families, kick millions of people off their health insurance, and reverse the historic progress we have made in combating the worsening climate crisis.

The Republicans' default on America act cuts $100 billion from Medicaid, which will have devastating consequences on every beneficiary, provider, and plan.

The Republicans' Medicaid work requirements are about one thing; stripping healthcare away from vulnerable people.

The majority of adults on Medicaid are already working, oftentimes in part-time jobs that do not offer healthcare coverage.

Those who are not are often dealing with caregiving responsibilities, physical or mental health issues, or experiencing other barriers to employment.

These Republican cuts are not about jobs. They are a Trojan horse intended to use red tape and onerous paperwork to kick millions of people off their health insurance simply because Republicans have always opposed Medicaid.

Republicans also oppose our efforts to outcompete the world in the transition to a clean energy economy. The default on America act continues the Republicans' polluters over people agenda.

The bill repeals key climate provisions that Democrats delivered with the Inflation Reduction Act last year that are already making a huge difference in the clean energy transition.

Since its passage, we have seen about $28 billion in new domestic manufacturing investments. Companies have

announced $242 billion in new clean power capital investments, and more than 142,000 clean energy jobs have been created across this Nation.

These are impressive results in less than a year, and yet, House Republicans now want to reverse this progress with a grab bag of Big Oil giveaways and loopholes.

Mr. Speaker, this is a dangerous bill that is going to strip healthcare away from millions of Americans and undermine our efforts to combat the worst in climate crisis. I strongly urge my colleagues to vote ''no.''

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a March 8, 2021, Politico article titled: ''Biden's welfare flip-flop,'' which points out that President Biden was once an ardent supporter of commonsense welfare reforms, including work requirements.

[From POLITICO, March 8, 2021]

WEST WING PLAYBOOK—BIDEN'S WELFARE FLIP-FLOP

(By Alex Thompson and Theodoric Meyer with help from Allie Bice)

Joe Biden, the young senator, would be surprised at Joe Biden, the elderly president.

When he first ran for president in 1988, 44-year-old Biden was one of the Democrats challenging what he called ''liberal orthodoxy'' on issues like welfare.

''Our handouts are not enough,'' Biden said at Princeton University in a May 1987 speech meant to beef up his policy profile ahead of a June campaign launch. ''Government subsidy is not the ultimate answer to the problems of the poor.''

In November 1988, he penned a column in his local Newark Post: ''We are all too familiar with the stories of welfare mothers driving luxury cars and leading lifestyles that mirror the rich and famous,'' he wrote, parroting Republican critiques of the program. ''Whether they are exaggerated or not, these stories underlie a broad social concern that the welfare system has broken down—that it only parcels out welfare checks and does nothing to help the poor find productive jobs.''

In 1996, Biden was one of 24 Democratic senators who voted for the welfare reform bill that President Bill Clinton signed, but which progressives and much of Clinton's Cabinet opposed. ''The culture of welfare must be replaced with the culture of work,'' Biden said on the Senate floor. Bruce Reed, who's now Biden's deputy chief of staff, was an architect of the legislation. He helped coin Clinton's pledge to ''end welfare as we know it.''

And yet, the first piece of major legislation Biden is poised to sign as president represents the largest expansion of the welfare state in decades. It even undoes some of the reforms Biden, the senator, helped enact.

The 1996 bill, for instance, imposed time limits and work requirements on money sent to parents to support their children. Biden's American Rescue Plan would at least temporarily resume sending money directly to impoverished parents without any strings attached—and some Democrats are already pushing to make the aid permanent.

The bill would also send poor and middle-class parents checks of up to $300 per child each month—a provision that the Biden team believes could dramatically cut child poverty.

The legislation won't recreate the welfare system that Biden voted to reform in 1996. Instead, it will expand the existing child tax credit for poor and middle-class families alike. The credit starts phasing out at $75,000 a year for single parents and $150,000 a year for married couples.

Part of Biden's evolution on welfare spending is tied to the pandemic and the massive economic hole that it has caused. But another part of it reflects the evolution the Democratic Party has undergone in recent years.

Once fearful of race-baiting rhetoric on supposedly lazy ''welfare queens,'' the party now is largely unapologetic about spending money to strengthen the social safety net.

''One of the side effects of the pandemic has been to change the profile of poverty in America,'' said Robert Reich, Clinton's Labor secretary who clashed with people like Reed over the welfare reform measure. ''It's no longer just 'them,' people of color, people who conservatives accuse of taking handouts. It marks a huge shift in public policy from quite punitive welfare to giving needy families money.''

White House spokesperson Michael Gwin emailed a statement saying, ''As a Senator, Joe Biden worked to make welfare reform more progressive by supporting childcare and maintaining funding for children's health and safety, and as President, Joe Biden is meeting the unique crises we face by giving children and families a financial lifeline, reopening schools safely, and securing the resources we need to defeat the virus.''

Reed declined to comment.

Donald Trump, during his presidency, seemed to usher in a Republicanism that was more comfortable with spending more money on things past Republicans would have bashed as handouts. But so far Republicans in the Biden era are making a different calculation. They unanimously voted against the plan and are betting that the pandemic hasn't changed perceptions around welfare programs so completely.

On the Senate floor last Friday, Sen. Mitch McConnell blasted the welfare provisions in the package for paying ''people a bonus not to go back to work when we'll be trying to rebuild our economy.''

He added that: ''There's an effort to create a brand-new, sprawling cash welfare program—not the one-time checks, but constant payments—that ignore the pro-work lessons of bipartisan welfare reform and which the White House has already stated they want to make permanent.''

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Biden was one of 24 Democrat Senators who voted for the 1996 welfare reform bill that President Bill Clinton signed.

That bill imposed time limits and work requirements for welfare recipients. In fact, Biden's Deputy Chief of Staff was a key architect of the 1996 welfare reform bill and helped coin Clinton's pledge to end welfare as we know it.

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 9½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Missouri has 8½ minutes remaining.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT), a very distinguished and capable gentleman.

□ 1645

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here to make a passionate plea to my Republican friends. Yes, we have to pay our debt, but we do not need to deal with this, putting it on the backs of the poor, our children, our veterans. We must stand down. It is a national security issue.

We must incorporate getting food to our veterans when 11.7 percent of our veterans live in food-scarce communities and households. Let me just sum it up and say that if Caesar were here, he would say the words that he said to Brutus: Brutus, yours is the meanest cut of all.

We cannot put this on the backs of our children, our grandchildren, our seniors, and our veterans. I plead with you in the words of Caesar and God almighty because if we do not, it is ungodly.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a New York Times article titled: ''Poverty, Plunging,'' from September 14, 2022.

[From the New York Times, Sept. 14, 2022]

POVERTY, PLUNGING: CHILD POVERTY IN THE U.S. HAS FALLEN BY MORE THAN HALF SINCE THE EARLY 1990S

(By David Leonhardt)

When President Bill Clinton signed a bipartisan bill tightening the rules around welfare eligibility in 1996—and making many benefits conditional on work—critics on the political left predicted terrible effects.

A few members of the Clinton administration quit in protest. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan warned of devastating increases in child poverty. The New Republic proclaimed, ''Wages will go down, families will fracture and millions of children will be made more miserable than ever.''

A quarter-century later, these predictions look very wrong. As my colleague Jason DeParle wrote this week:

''A comprehensive new analysis shows that child poverty has fallen 59 percent since 1993, with need receding on nearly every front. Child poverty has fallen in every state, and it has fallen by about the same degree among children who are white, Black, Hispanic and Asian, living with one parent or two, and in native or immigrant households''

How did this happen? The 1996 welfare law turned out to be a case study of different political ideologies combining to produce a result that was better than either side would likely have produced on its own.

Some conservative critiques of the old welfare contained an important insight, Jason told me. Poor single mothers (the main beneficiaries of welfare) were better able to find and hold jobs than many liberals expected. Over the past few decades, increased employment among single mothers has been one reason for the decline in child poverty, according to the study, which was done by Child Trends, a research group.

But the biggest cause was an expansion of government aid. And progressives were the main force behind this expansion. With welfare less generous, Democrats (sometimes in alliance with Republicans) pushed for policies to help low-income workers, such as expansions of the earned-income tax credit and food stamps. Increases in state-level minimum wages also played a role.

''I don't know where I'd be right now if I didn't have that help,'' said Stacy Tallman, a mother of three and a waitress in Marlinton, W. Va., referring to Medicaid, tax credits and food stamps.

After welfare reform, the focus of the government's anti-poverty efforts shifted from

people who weren't working to people who were—and, thanks partly to the generosity of the new programs, child poverty plummeted. The size of the decline, Dana Thomson, a co-author of the study, said, ''is unequaled in the history of poverty measurement.''

Dolores Acevedo-Garcia of Brandeis University pointed out that 12 million additional children would be poor today if the poverty rate were still as high as it was in the 1990s. The reasons to cheer this development are both immediate and longer term: Children who spend even modest amounts of time in poverty earn less money and are less healthy as adults on average, research has shown.

HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT

I am guessing that many readers are surprised to hear about the big drop in child poverty since the 1990s. I'll confess that I was and I have been covering economics for much of the past two decades. As Jason told me, ''It is odd that such a big decline in child poverty has gone almost completely unnoticed.''

In part, the lack of attention stems from a theme I've mentioned before in this newsletter: bad-news bias. Journalists and academic experts are often more comfortable reporting negative developments than positive ones. We worry that we come off as blasé or Pollyannaish when we report good news.

The poverty statistics add to the confusion because there are so many different versions. The measure that the Census Bureau calls ''official'' does not include government aid, which is bizarre, as Dylan Matthews of Vox has noted. And every measure has limitations. The one that Jason used in his story overestimates the impact of the earned-income tax credit and underestimates the impact of the food stamps, for technical reasons. (Neither alters the basic conclusion, as Robert Greenstein, a longtime progressive policy adviser, says.)

Still, I understand why many people are reluctant to focus on the poverty decline. The U.S. has not solved poverty. More than 20 million Americans are poor today, and many others above the poverty line also struggle to afford a decent life. As successful as President Biden has been in passing many parts of his agenda, Congress failed to pass several of his anti-poverty proposals. Those measures would have expanded access to child care and increased the child tax credit, among other things.

Despite these caveats, the decline in poverty deserves to be a major news story. For one thing, it's legitimately surprising: Even Jason—who has spent more time writing about American poverty than almost any other journalist—acknowledges that welfare reform did less damage than he expected, in part because of the subsequent expansions of aid.

At a time of deep cynicism about government, the drop in poverty is an example of Washington succeeding at something big. ''The decline in child poverty is very, very impressive,'' Greenstein said, ''and it is overwhelmingly due to the increased effectiveness of government programs,''

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, this article found that child poverty in the U.S. has fallen by more than half, 59 percent, since the early 1990s. When President Clinton signed the 1996 welfare reform bill implementing time limits and work requirements, the far left predicted terrible effects. Twenty-five years later, these predictions have been proven wrong.

The simple fact is work requirements worked. Caseloads dropped, and families moved into the workforce and left the cycle of dependency.

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for acknowledging the role that the child tax credit played in that statistical analysis.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GOLDMAN), a new and very capable Member of this House.

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding.

Last week, Speaker MCCARTHY came to my district to speak at the New York Stock Exchange to give a speech about this proposed default on America act.

He threatened the Nation with economic catastrophe if we do not bend to the draconian cuts to spending for services that are essential to lifting up working and middle-class Americans.

The DOA doesn't touch the Trump tax cuts for the wealthy. It doesn't touch defense spending. Instead, it solely targets domestic spending that hundreds of millions of Americans depend on, with an average cut of about 22 percent on those programs.

In my district alone, which is in New York City, there are more than 200,000 people who rely on Medicaid who will be at risk of losing their coverage.

In my district, there are 31 public housing NYCHA complexes that are crumbling that rely on funds from HUD just to maintain their poor condition, and those funds would be slashed.

This is not a theoretical discussion. This will do real and devastating harm to people in my district and around the country. We must not pass this bill.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York.

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this legislation.

I hear my colleagues on the other side of the aisle talking about our children, our grandchildren, our future. If they truly cared about the next generation, they would support this measure as well because the reality is we cannot continue down the path that we are on.

Right now, we are seeing Republicans take over this House from a body that, with Democrats' complete control with the President, chose to add $10 trillion in new spending in just 2 years.

Today, we are facing a debt-to-GDP ratio of 121 percent. That is completely unsustainable.

When I was born in 1980, it was 35 percent. The debt at that time was $900 billion. Today, it is $31.4 trillion.

Yet, all we hear from the other side is that they want to spend more, tax more, and create more programs to make people dependent instead of giving people the opportunity to determine their own future and live the American Dream.

We are talking about legislation on our side that will save the American taxpayer $4.5 trillion, hardworking people who each and every day get up, go to work, and sacrifice tremendously. Some individuals are working two or three jobs, and they pay taxes so the government can be responsible with it, not throwing it around on all sorts of stuff that we don't need, such as COVID funds that have gone unspent.

We just came out of a hearing in the COVID subcommittee where we talked about, in just education, $190 billion that was earmarked to reopen our schools, which they didn't use to reopen our schools, and then only 15 percent of it was spent as of November. We are talking about saving the taxpayers $50 billion to $60 billion right there, just by reclaiming those funds.

Biden's IRS army—this is what the other side proposes—wants to tax people more. They want to take more of the taxpayers' hard-earned money. That is how they plan on paying down our debt, not by having pro-growth policies that stimulate our economy and that help us grow and help companies expand so they can create more jobs. No, they don't want pro-growth policies that are good for prosperity and for our country. They want to continue to hammer people and continue to tax them, nickel-and-dime them at each and every turn.

By just repealing the IRS army, it is $71 billion right there.

What about the Green New Deal tax credits? This is a good one.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New York.

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Hundreds of billions of dollars in Green New Deal tax credits in some cases can go to—and will go to—Chinese companies, companies that are affiliated with the Communist Chinese Government, all while destroying American energy at home. American energy is reliable and affordable.

By the way, the destruction of that industry by the left is the reason why we are seeing costs of energy skyrocket for American families, as well as food costs skyrocket for American families.

The spending and the anti-energy policies that Democrats have put forward in the 2 years they had complete control are the reason why we see so much hardship for American families today.

The last thing is, well, work requirements are a good thing. People should want to participate and contribute to our economy. It will help the labor shortage issues that we are seeing, while giving people the ability to self-determine their future, not be dependent on government. We need those programs. It is critically important for us to encourage people.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I remind everyone that, in Georgia-3, there was $2.6 billion worth of tax credits; Ohio-15, $4.5 billion of tax credits; West Virginia-1, $22 million worth of tax credits. Those tax credits did not go to the

Chinese. They went to American families.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LOIS FRANKEL).

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, make no mistake about it, extremists in this Congress are trying to hold us hostage. Republicans have given us a ransom note: choose between wrecking our economy or wrecking our families; lose jobs and retirement funds or inflict cruel pain on American families.

More children will go to bed hungry. More women will die during childbirth. More parents will be without childcare. More neighborhoods will be without police. There will be more evictions, more drug overdoses, more veteran suicides, and more carbon in the air. There will be more misery.

Make no mistake, Republicans are willing to sacrifice Americans in order to protect tax cuts for the very wealthy and for big corporations.

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU), a member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this irresponsible bill that would hurt millions of seniors, workers, families, and veterans.

If this bill becomes law, the Social Security Administration will close field offices that seniors and people with disabilities rely on for services; nearly 500,000 low-income families could be evicted from voucher-supported housing; 200,000 young children will lose spots in Head Start; and cruel barriers to TANF will mean grandparents who rely on the program to keep their grandchildren out of foster care will lose crucial resources.

Meanwhile, Republicans want to cut law enforcement funding and give wealthy tax cheats a license to avoid paying the taxes they owe.

What do we get in exchange for over a decade of crippled government? We get less than 1 year of reprieve from default and economic catastrophe.

Republicans should do what they did three times under President Trump and pass a clean bill free of brutal cuts.

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. RYAN).

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I rise in strong opposition to the default on America act.

I risked my life in combat because I believe in this country, our strength, and our compassion. This bill falls far short of those American values.

In New York alone, my home State, it threatens food assistance to 54,000 people and cuts preschool and childcare for 17,000 kids. It puts at risk Meals on Wheels for over 1 million seniors nationwide. It would cut $30 billion in support to our veterans.

I don't know about my colleagues, but I believe in a country where we don't let our kids and our seniors go hungry, and we never break faith with our veterans.

The cuts in this bill are just cruel, and they would have catastrophic consequences for American families.

In combat, it was my sacred duty to make sure we left no one behind. This bill leaves far too many Americans behind.

I implore my colleagues from both parties to instead pass a clean debt ceiling increase.

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

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

There was no objection.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 3¾ minutes remaining.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for your impeccable fairness once again as you have presided over this Chamber as usual. I call attention to the argument I made at the outset as to how we got to where we are today. This is a manageable issue that men and women of good sense and good instincts could come together on to find a solution.

The debt-to-GDP ratio, I understand the argument, but does that take into consideration a pandemic and aid to Ukraine, stopping the hostility of Putin's aggression?

Does it take into account our obligations—and for those who voted for the PACT Act here—to come to the aid of our veterans?

Does it take into account the infrastructure bill that some Republicans voted for?

Does it take into account the CHIPS and Science Act that some Republicans voted for?

Does it take into account the extraordinary increases in defense spending as China threatens America in the Straits of Taiwan and the South China Sea?

These are all parts of votes that both parties have cast. These are parts of the obligations that we have to members of the American family.

Republicans suggest, well, if we just chop Medicaid—and earlier today, Mr. Speaker, it should be noted this exclamation point that they have added to the argument that we have no intention of cutting Social Security or Medicare. Great. That is nice to hear. There are members of the Republican leadership in the Senate who have said precisely the opposite. They would put Medicaid and Social Security on the chopping block, and our side should not be restrained in calling attention to that, despite the debate that takes place in this Chamber.

The spending challenges that we have as they relate to defense, where every Republican voted, I believe, for that defense budget and the substantial increases that have taken place, that has been an act of responsibility based upon what happens with Putin and President Xi and others who would threaten freedom across the globe.

□ 1700

When we look at this argument that has been presented to the American people today, I want to ask you about their 401(k) plans. As they allow this argument to be pursued, the markets are going to begin to reflect this in coming days.

People are going to pull back from investment. People are going to pull back from what ordinarily would be an act of good fiscal prudence. People are going to begin to pay a great deal of attention to this.

The argument that Democrats have offered today is really simple: You and us, we were responsible for those increases in spending. Let us have a vote on a clean debt resolution here and then proceed to negotiation and discussion.

I have heard this argument when former President Bush never vetoed one spending bill during 8 years as President. I have seen this argument when we cut taxes, without the help of us, by $1.3 trillion in 2001 and, by the way, another trillion in 2003.

With the subsequent invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan and a million and a half new veterans, these are our obligations.

Even though we disagreed, by and large, with those positions that were adopted by the then-majority, you recognize the reality, that the tally of the credit card is in front of us.

When you get the credit card, you don't get to say, ''Well, I don't like the part of the bill that I have run up here, so I am not going to pay it,'' or you don't say, ''I will only pay this.''

The bill is in front of us. The full faith and credit of the United States is in front of us.

I made reference earlier today to the fiscal probity of the Republican Party when I first came here. Whatever happened to the Republican Party when it relates to fiscal prudence and probity?

We pay our bills, and we don't threaten the currency of the United States where that dollar is recognized everywhere across the globe.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, we have heard the other side numerous times today say that we need to just pick up and pass a blank-check debt limit increase.

The United States Senate, which is controlled by the Democrats, couldn't even pass what President Biden and the

House Democrats have been suggesting on this floor. If they could, they would have already passed it. Even Democrat Senators on the other side of the building said they will not support an absolute blank-check debt limit because they are concerned about the fiscal state of America.

Today, the contrast could not be clearer.

On the one hand, we have President Biden and Washington Democrats who have proposed zero solutions for getting America's fiscal house in order or addressing the inflation crisis. For months, they have delayed and denied real discussions while they fought to preserve special interest tax breaks for big banks, corporations, and the Chinese Communist Party.

On the other hand, Republicans stand with working families. We have an actual plan that will rein in runaway spending to fight inflation. It will save taxpayer dollars by canceling handouts to the wealthy and big corporations, and it will grow the economy.

The American people are sick and tired of business as usual in Washington. With today's vote, we are sending a message to the President: It is time to stop your reckless behavior and negotiate and stand up and talk with Congress and deliver for the American people. The American people are demanding it.

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

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

Pursuant to House Resolution 327, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

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

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

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. RYAN of New York moves to recommit the bill H.R. 2811 to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to condemn H.R. 2811, the GOP's Default on America Act, which puts politics over people by making deep cuts that kill jobs, harm the economy and immediately impact families, seniors and small businesses in Northwest Washington. According to House Budget Committee and White House estimates, in my home state of Washington, the Default on America Act would:

Put 371,000 people at risk of losing Medicaid coverage;

Cut approximately $67 million in Title I funding for schools serving low-income children, impacting an estimated 420,000 students and reducing program funding to its lowest level in almost a decade;

Make college more expensive for at least 308,000 students who receive Pell Grants;

Threaten access to food assistance for 19,000 people;

Eliminate preschool and child care for at least 4,800 children;

Increase housing costs for at least 17,400 people;

Eliminate at least 6 air traffic control towers;

Cut at least 240 rail safety inspection days;

Repeal investments in cleaner, cheaper energy—threatening at least 800 clean energy and manufacturing jobs announced in Washington since the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act.

The Default on America Act would also undermine transportation safety, harm the environment and prevent communities from investing in critical infrastructure projects for the next decade.

By making the U.S. default on certain debt obligations, the extreme GOP plan would also downgrade the U.S.' credit rating and international standing.

According to House Budget Committee estimates, in Washington's Second Congressional District, defaulting on the debt would:

Kill about 7,300 jobs in Northwest Washington;

Jeopardize Social Security payments for 103,000 families in my district;

Put health benefits at risk for 295,000 individuals in my district who rely on Medicare, Medicaid or Veterans Affairs health coverage;

Increase lifetime mortgage costs for the typical homeowner in Washington by approximately $81,000;

Raise the costs of a new car loan for the typical American by approximately $800;

Threaten the retirement savings of more than 102,000 people near retirement in my district, eliminating $20,000 from a typical retirement portfolio.

Congress must put people over politics by ensuring the U.S. government meets its obligations while ensuring historic investments like the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act are fully implemented to create more jobs, lower costs and build cleaner, greener, safer and more accessible communities in the Pacific Northwest and across the country.

I call on my House colleagues to join me in voting "No" on the extreme GOP Default on America Act.

The material previously referred to by Mr. RYAN is as follows:

Mr. RYAN of New York moves to recommit the bill H.R. 2811 to the Committee on Ways and Means with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF PUBLIC DEBT LIMIT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3101(b) of title 31, United States Code, shall not apply for the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on April 30, 2025.

(b) SPECIAL RULE RELATING TO OBLIGATIONS ISSUED DURING EXTENSION PERIOD.—Effective on May 1, 2025, the limitation in effect under section 3101(b) of title 31, United States Code, shall be increased to the extent that—

(1) the face amount of obligations issued under chapter 31 of such title and the face amount of obligations whose principal and interest are guaranteed by the United States Government (except guaranteed obligations held by the Secretary of the Treasury) outstanding on May 1, 2025, exceeds

(2) the face amount of such obligations outstanding on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) EXTENSION LIMITED TO NECESSARY OBLIGATIONS.—An obligation shall not be taken into account under subsection (b)(1) unless the issuance of such obligation was necessary to fund a commitment incurred pursuant to law by the Federal Government that required payment before May 1, 2025.

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

The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by 5-minute votes on:

Passage of the bill, if ordered; and

The motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1339.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 211, nays 221, not voting 3, as follows:

[Roll No. 198]

YEAS—211

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bush
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dingell
Doggett
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Frost
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Robert
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jackson Lee
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Magaziner
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McClellan
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nickel
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Peltola
Perez
Pettersen
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Ross
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier

Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

NAYS—221

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bean (FL)
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davidson
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia, Mike
Gimenez
Gonzales, Tony
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kean (NJ)
Kelly (MS)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Langworthy
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lesko
Letlow
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Malliotakis
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McHenry
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moran
Murphy
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ogles
Owens
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Santos
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Strong
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NOT VOTING—3

Kelly (PA)
Peters
Watson Coleman

□ 1733

Messrs. WENSTRUP, BAIRD, and WILLIAMS of New York changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Messrs. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, LYNCH, DAVIS of North Carolina, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mses. JACKSON LEE, OMAR, and Mr. TONKO changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 217, nays 215, not voting 3, as follows:

[Roll No. 199]

YEAS—217

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bean (FL)
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Buchanan
Bucshon
Burgess
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davidson
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Foxx
Franklin, C. Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia, Mike
Gimenez
Gonzales, Tony
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kean (NJ)
Kelly (MS)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Langworthy
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lesko
Letlow
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Malliotakis
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McHenry
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moran
Murphy
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ogles
Owens
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Santos
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Strong
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—215

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

NOT VOTING—3

Kelly (PA)
Peters
Watson Coleman

□ 1744

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PRECISION AGRICULTURE SATELLITE CONNECTIVITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MORAN). 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. 1339) to require the Federal Communications Commission to review certain rules of the Commission and develop recommendations for rule changes to promote precision agriculture, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 409, nays 11, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 200]

YEAS—409

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Alford
Allen
Allred
Amodei
Arrington
Auchincloss
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Balint
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bean (FL)
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NC)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Boebert
Bonamici
Bost
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brecheen
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Bucshon
Budzinski
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Bush
Calvert
Cammack
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carey
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Clyde
Cohen
Cole
Collins
Comer
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Craig
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis (IL)
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
Espaillat
Estes
Evans
Ezell
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flood
Foster
Foushee
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, C. Scott
Frost
Fry
Fulcher
Gallagher
Gallego
Garamendi
Garbarino
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Mike
Garcia, Robert
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harder (CA)
Harris
Harshbarger
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 (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Kean (NJ)
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Kildee
Kiley
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Landsman
Langworthy
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (CA)
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Lesko
Letlow
Levin
Lofgren
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Lynch
Mace
Magaziner
Malliotakis
Mann
Manning
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClellan
McClintock
McCollum
McCormick
McGarvey
McGovern
McHenry
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Moran
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Nickel
Norcross
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Ogles
Omar
Owens
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Peltola
Pence
Perez
Pettersen
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Ross
Rouzer
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rutherford
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Santos
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Self
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Slotkin
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Stewart
Strong
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Tenney
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Turner
Underwood
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym

NAYS—11

Biggs
Buck
Gaetz
Good (VA)
Greene (GA)
Luttrell
Massie
Perry
Rosendale
Roy
Spartz

NOT VOTING—15

Armstrong
Ciscomani
Courtney
Fallon
Graves (LA)
Kelly (PA)
Lieu
Loudermilk
Morelle
Peters
Salazar
Smith (MO)
Strickland
Watson Coleman
Zinke

□ 1755

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin 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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, due to a longstanding family obligation, planned well before the congressional schedule was available, I could not be present for votes today. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 195, "nay" on rollcall No. 196, "yea" on rollcall No. 197, "yea" on rollcall No. 198, "nay" on rollcall No. 199, and "yea" on rollcall No. 200.

□ 1800

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL IN THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER FOR AN EVENT TO CELEBRATE A KING KAMEHAMEHA DAY LEI DRAPING CEREMONY

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Administration be discharged from further consideration of H. Con. Res. 35, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 35

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR EVENT TO CELEBRATE A KING KAMEHAMEHA DAY LEI DRAPING CEREMONY.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center is authorized to be used on June 11, 2023, for an event to celebrate a King Kamehameha Day Lei Draping Ceremony.

(b) PREPARATIONS.—Physical preparations for the conduct of the event described in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING VIDEO RECORDING IN THE HOUSE CHAMBER DURING A JOINT MEETING OF CONGRESS FOR CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Administration be discharged from further consideration of H. Res. 328, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 328

Resolved, That the Speaker, in concurrence with the Minority Leader, is authorized to

direct the Chief Administrative Officer to record proceedings during a joint meeting of Congress on April 27, 2023, to provide a virtual reality experience for educational use by the public.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

CORNERSTONE OF SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITIES

(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 recognize members of the Lions Clubs, the Rotary Club, the Kiwanis Club, and the Optimist organizations who are on Capitol Hill today.

Volunteer service is the cornerstone of a successful, strong, and healthy community. It is also an important staple of American life.

I have been a member of my hometown organization, the Howard Area Lions Club, so I know firsthand the good this club does around the world.

To share the impactful work of service clubs and their volunteers, I founded the Congressional Service Organization Caucus in 2019 with Congressman JIMMY PANETTA of California, a past Rotarian.

Earlier today, the Congressional Service Organization Caucus hosted a Member and staff briefing. Speakers from Lions, Rotary, Kiwanis, and Optimist clubs shared how their members strive to make the world a better place one community at a time.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join the Congressional Service Organization Caucus to ensure service to others remains a viable part of American life for generations to come.

PEOPLE OVER POLITICS

(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 discuss H.R. 2811, the Limit, Save, Grow Act of 2023.

This bill is more proof of the Republicans' anti-American agenda. It would create more water and air pollution nationwide. It would cost the country trillions of dollars in taxes from corporations and the richest 1 percent. It would deny food assistance to hardworking American families who need it. And it would deny American college students and schoolchildren a quality education.

Republicans only care about budget cuts during Democratic administrations. They said nothing when Donald Trump added $8 trillion to the national debt. Thankfully, Democrats put people over politics.

President Biden's budget saves trillions of dollars and helps American families. It benefits all Americans, and it is the plan we need right now.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF REVEREND CHARLES STANLEY

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Reverend Charles Stanley, an influential Baptist pastor who for more than 50 years preached from First Baptist Church of Atlanta.

A native of Dry Fork, Virginia, it was his mother, Rebecca, who first introduced him to the Bible. His paternal grandfather was also a preacher, and at age 14 Reverend Stanley felt a calling to the ministry.

He graduated from the University of Richmond with a bachelor's degree in history in 1954, and 2 years later was ordained at a Baptist church.

He later became a pastor at churches in Hendersonville, North Carolina; Fairborn, Ohio; and Miami and Bartow, Florida, before joining First Baptist Church of Atlanta in 1969 as associate pastor.

As the senior pastor at First Baptist Church of Atlanta, he was known as one of the leading American preachers of his time, alongside figures like Reverend Billy Graham. In 1984, he was elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention, the Nation's largest Protestant denomination.

His leadership and dedication to spreading the word of God has impacted many generations of Christians. He will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

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

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak up for keeping Americans safe at work. On April 28, Workers Memorial Day, we remember all those workers who lost their lives or became disabled on the job.

In 2021, one worker died every 101 minutes from an occupational injury.

Congress must take steps so all Americans can go to work without needlessly endangering themselves. Fifty-two years ago, we took a leap forward when the Occupational Safety and Health Act went into effect.

The labor movement fought tirelessly to make it happen, but their work continues today, and so must ours. We need OSHA to expand protections to all industries and all workplace hazards.

One person who doesn't return home from work is one too many. I join my friends in labor in fighting for every single worker to have a safe job.

DISASTROUS WITHDRAWAL FROM AFGHANISTAN

(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, more than a year after it happened, Americans still have not heard the truth about President Biden's disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan. It seems this administration would rather pretend the whole affair never happened.

The disastrous, ill-executed withdrawal cost the lives of 13 American servicemen. Despite this horrific failure, not one person in the State Department, military, or any Federal agency that planned and executed the withdrawal from Afghanistan has resigned in disgrace. No one has apologized. No one has owned up to their mistake.

Now, the State Department is ignoring a congressional subpoena from the House Foreign Affairs Committee. The American people sacrificed blood and treasure in Afghanistan for almost two decades. They deserve the truth about what happened, but trying to hide requested information by the State Department is preventing the accountability that we should demand.

Mr. Speaker, we have to get to the bottom of how the withdrawal from Afghanistan went off the rails, so our Nation does not repeat such things in the future.

NAMING A FEDERAL BUILDING FOR JOHN CONYERS, JR.

(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, I rise today to request support for naming a Federal building after the late Congressman John Conyers, Jr.

Mr. Conyers was a civil rights legend, the dean of the House of Representatives and, above all else, a faithful and devoted public servant for the city of Detroit.

In this House, Mr. Conyers had many firsts. He was one of the first members of the Congressional Black Caucus. He was the first African American to serve on the Judiciary Committee and to become its chairman. He was the first to introduce the bill making Martin Luther King Jr. Day a Federal holiday.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask for your support in naming a Federal building after this Detroit icon.

FISCAL SANITY RETURNS TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

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

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, fiscal sanity has returned to Washington, D.C. I didn't think I was going to live long enough to see this, but today, minutes ago, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 2811, the Limit, Save, Grow Act.

We agreed with the majority of the American public that inflation is tied to runaway Federal Government spending and that it is about time the President realized that his fairyland budget that never, ever, ever balances is actually bad for America.

Maybe this will bring him to the negotiating table so that when we raise the credit limit on America on our American credit card, we actually do what we would do in our own households—we would actually begin to control spending. That is a huge step. It is about time it is happening in Washington. Mr. Speaker, I hope it is not too late.

GOP BUDGET CUTS HURT OHIOANS

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, dangerous budget shenanigans by House Republicans play with fire that can blunt economic growth and cruelly hurt countless Ohioans.

Speaker McCarthy's roulette creates economic instability that can yield disastrous consequences for students, families, seniors, veterans, and public safety across our Buckeye State.

His plan would endanger public safety and impact public health by shutting down five air traffic control towers in our State, cutting 330 safety inspections in rail, and denying 2,000 Ohioans admission to opioid treatment.

His plan would raise costs for working families and students by eliminating 12,300 preschool and childcare slots in Ohio, stripping food assistance from nearly half a million Ohioans, making college tuition expensive for 200,000 Ohioans, and raising housing costs for 23,000 Ohioans. How about that for a start?

The McCarthy plan is reckless and inches us closer to default. In sum, the McCarthy plan would thwart economic progress and should be shelved for a commonsense, bipartisan solution that serves all of America. Let's put people before politics.

CLEANLY RAISING DEBT CEILING

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

Mrs. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to underscore the pressing need to protect the full faith and credit of the United States and cleanly raise the debt ceiling.

The debt default would be catastrophic for my constituents in Virginia's Fourth District and for Americans across the Nation. It would jeopardize Social Security payments for 98,000 families in my district and disrupt over $160 million a month in Social Security income, not to mention its detrimental impacts on mortgage payments, student loans, car loans, and more.

Yet, congressional Republicans are holding the American economy hostage, threatening a default unless their extreme proposals are met. Let's be clear, H.R. 2811, or the default on America act, would slash funding and limit access to crucial social safety net programs like SNAP benefits, school funding, and childcare options, which would disproportionately impact low-income communities and communities of color.

It would also immediately rescind $2 billion in funding of veteran medical care, impacting countless veterans and families in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, we need to cleanly raise the debt ceiling without strings attached that affect our national security interests.

□ 1815

RECOGNIZING SASHA KEKAUOHA COLBY

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

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Hawaiian-born Sasha Kekauoha, more famously known as Sasha Colby, on being crowned the winner of ''RuPaul's Drag Race'' Season 15.

I am so proud that a fellow Windward girl, hailing from the homesteads of Waimanalo, has earned the title of ''America's Next Drag Superstar.''

From the very beginning of the competition, Sasha, a seasoned drag legend, drew upon her ethnic heritage and childhood trauma as sources of inspiration for her performances.

Throughout ''Drag Race,'' she authentically represented her Hawaiian culture, talking about the legacy she is building for our home State and about being mahu.

In ancient Hawaiian days, mahu were considered extraordinary individuals of male and female spirit who brought their healing powers to Oahu from Tahiti.

Today, trans people are among the most revered members in the Hawaiian community. Amidst ongoing attacks on our LGBTQ+ rights that particularly target trans people and drag queens, her win is not only well deserved, it gives us all hope.

Congratulations to Sasha Colby. She is a leader. She is a proud mahu, and she is every drag queen's favorite drag queen.

THE DEBT CEILING

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

Ms. SALINAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the default on America act. This dangerous bill is nothing more than an attempt to extract extreme concessions that will benefit big corporations, poison our environment, and hurt working families.

To extract those concessions, House Republicans are threatening to default on our debt, something that could push us headlong into a recession.

If we were to default on our debt, 84,000 families in Oregon's Sixth District alone would have their Social Security payments jeopardized.

Mr. Speaker, 278,000 members of my community could lose their healthcare benefits, and small businesses in Oregon's Sixth District could be forced to pay an additional $2,500 in total loan payments.

This bill is DOA in the Senate, which gives my colleagues the chance to go back to the drawing board and present a clean debt ceiling bill.

I urge them to take this opportunity to do right by the American people.

PROTECTING WEST INDIAN MANATEE

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

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, as west Michigan's Congresswoman, it is my top priority to support the next generation. That means regularly engaging with kids and students across the district.

Since I took office, I have heard from so many young people, having them write to me about the need to protect endangered species. In direct response to their concerns, I chose to cosponsor the bipartisan Manatee Protection Act.

Manatees are wonderfully intelligent mammals. They can be over 10 feet long and hold their breath underwater for nearly 20 minutes.

We are at risk of losing these wonderful creatures forever. There are only 6,500 West Indian manatees left in the waters off the coast of Florida.

This piece of legislation will give the West Indian manatees the protection status they deserve and ensure they do not go extinct forever. It is time to take action.

I thank the students for sharing their passion for animals and their love of our world. I heard them, and I am responding to them.

PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM SUDDEN CARDIAC ARREST

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

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, as parents, we only want the best for our kids. That is why I speak before you today as not just a Member of Congress but as a mom who is terrified about sudden cardiac arrest and its impact on our young people.

Together, we have the ability to protect our kids before it strikes. The odds of surviving cardiac arrest remain low when occurring outside of a hospital setting such as in the classroom or the soccer field.

I can't even imagine what it would feel like to get that call about my children. Here is where AEDs come into play in saving lives in a moment of crisis.

I am proud to announce that I have introduced the Access to AEDs Act, my bipartisan legislation that will reduce deaths from sudden cardiac arrest.

My legislation would establish a grant program for schools that they can use to buy and maintain lifesaving AEDs, develop cardiac emergency response plans, and provide crucial CPR and AED training.

Our children's well-being is not up for political debate. All children's lives are put on the line when sudden cardiac arrest hits.

We have a responsibility as Members of Congress, as parents, and as American citizens to ensure that every child has a chance to survive sudden cardiac arrest.

FORCED ARBITRATION CONCERNS

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to announce that this week I am reintroducing the FAIR Act, the Forced Arbitration Injustice Repeal Act.

Forced arbitration has been a concern of mine for some time because powerful corporations have stripped away Americans' right to have their day in court.

These forced arbitration clauses are everywhere. Americans sign away their rights when they buy a cell phone or sign an employment contract.

They are forced into arbitration, a private for-profit dispute resolution process that bans claimants from banding together and where the deck is stacked against the little guy.

That is why I have been championing this legislation since 2007, and momentum has shifted in our favor. Just last year, President Biden signed a law invalidating forced arbitration clauses in disputes about workplace sexual harassment and assault.

That is progress, but we have more work to do. We need to restore Americans' right to use the court system, and in doing so, reinvigorate important civil rights, employment, and consumer protections in this country.

VEGAS STRONG RESILIENCY CENTER

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, on October 1, 2017, my district experienced the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history after a gunman opened fire at the Route 91 Harvest Festival in Las Vegas.

Mr. Speaker, 58 lives were lost and two victims have died since then. The shooter injured thousands, and more than 800 survivors sustained severe injuries and unimaginable trauma that stays with them the rest of their lives.

In the years that followed, the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, under the leadership of the Honorable Barbara Buckley, became a model for cities across the country grappling with this same kind of hardship.

My office took notice, and I pushed for and eventually got $3 million in Federal funding to help build and develop a Vegas Strong Resiliency Center to continue serving these victims.

Tennille Pereira, its executive director, was on the Hill today to accept an award from the Congressional Crime Survivors and Justice Caucus.

I nominated them for that award because we see the effects of their work in our community every day—for every survivor persevering through this lingering trauma and for every grieving family member who has lost a loved one. This center has helped keep Vegas strong and moving forward.

WORKING FOR THE CITIZENS OF NORTH CAROLINA

(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, from cropping tobacco in the fields of eastern North Carolina to now walking the Halls of Congress, I am most grateful for the opportunity to work for the people of North Carolina's First Congressional District and our future generations.

We are a little over 100 days into the 118th Congress. I have rolled up my sleeves to work hard for eastern North Carolina, rural America, and the American people.

My highest priority remains the people of North Carolina's First Congressional District. I have traveled from Elizabeth City to Henderson, Greenville to Columbia, and everywhere in between, visiting all 19 counties. While there, I pushed to expand Medicaid and stood up for our farmers.

I am proud to sponsor three critical pieces of legislation and have sponsored 40 bipartisan pieces of legislation. Our office has already resolved over 200 constituent cases.

I look forward to continuing working to guarantee future generations can live the American Dream in eastern North Carolina.

THE CRISIS IN SUDAN

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, when I was in my district, commemorating and celebrating Eid, of course, with my many constituents who have just had Ramadan, I met one of the leaders of the Sudanese community.

Clearly, this crisis in Sudan deserves our attention. I rise today to express great concern for the people of Sudan and the peace that they were attempting to implement.

I ask for the United States to be diligent in seeking a cease-fire, a permanent cease-fire, between two fighting generals who have nothing to do but to fight over power. We must be concerned about women, children, and families.

I have been to Sudan during the horrible genocide in Darfur. I know that they have overcome much. I have been to South Sudan with the right to return.

Now it is time for peace. We have brought out our foreign officers, but we must also try to secure the Americans that are there. Sudan deserves peace, and the United States must be engaged in peace efforts.

TACKLING THE NATIONAL DEBT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BERGMAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to be leading this Special Order to discuss the ongoing efforts to tackle our national debt and the looming debt ceiling crisis.

Since my first day in office some 7-plus years ago, I have said that one of the single greatest threats to our national security is the Federal Government's reckless, uncontrolled spending. This is now more obvious than ever.

To be clear, it is essential that the United States honors its debts and pays back every single dollar that we have borrowed.

However, this cannot come without reforms to fix the unsustainable and dangerous spending habits that threaten our long-term solvency.

The Limit, Save, Grow Act, which I am happy to say the House approved only moments ago, is a good faith, middle-of-the-road approach to raising the debt ceiling while reining in—and I repeat—beginning to really rein in unnecessary, wasteful Federal spending.

Included in the bill are popular provisions, which would reclaim billions in unspent COVID funds, now that the pandemic is over.

It will also defund President Biden's army of 87,000 new IRS agents. It will strengthen the workforce, lower energy costs, and end the era, again, of reckless spending in Washington, D.C., all while protecting veterans, Social Security, Medicare, and national defense.

I am grateful to be joined by several of my colleagues that are here tonight to further discuss this issue, and I urge the administration to come to the table, sooner rather than later, to address the debt ceiling and begin the necessary reining in of spending.

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time this evening. Thank you to my colleague from Michigan for leading us on this and for being a fighter in the trenches on what we are talking about.

Indeed, we are talking about the Nation's debt issues, the necessary measure we have of having to extend the debt limit as the dollars have already been committed. They have already been spent. We have to pay for them.

The Limit, Save, Grow Act is, indeed, a responsible way to try and turn the tide on what had been much spending over the last few years that has extended our national debt to just unthought of numbers; over $31 trillion.

In this measure that we are speaking of this evening here—really, since January, the Democrats and the President have tried to claim falsely that Republicans have no plan.

We have been talking about a plan the whole time. The difference is they don't want to sit down and talk with us about how to meld their ideas with ours.

This week we released our plan, and today we passed it. As always, House Republicans have consistently argued for reasonable, responsible debt limit increases, coupled with spending reductions in order to move toward eventually balancing this budget.

□ 1830

It is absurd that the Democrats now demand unilateral increases to our Nation's debt and balk at Republicans for asking for something in a negotiation.

Our plan, the Limit, Save, Grow Act of 2023, saves American taxpayers $4.5 trillion over the next decade. It will limit Federal spending to fiscal year 2022 levels, which our government operated on just 4 months ago. It does allow for 1 percent annual growth in Federal spending over the next 10 years. For those that want to spend more, it is still built in but at a flatter rate, flattening the curve on spending. If we had been able to hold that for the last 10 years, we would be really close to a balanced budget.

Also included in the bill are important clawbacks for $60 billion in unspent COVID funds. When people see that these unspent COVID funds are sitting there, then they covet them. You get everybody coming in asking if they can shift these COVID relief funds to some other pet project. That is not what was intended at the time we had a crisis, however much of that crisis might have been exacerbated by false information or what have you, but indeed, the opportunity to take $60 billion of unspent funds and pull them back, and indeed, have better conversations in a budget and appropriation process, not an emergency as was COVID, it would be much better for all of us.

As we know, the pandemic is over. This money has not been spent, and it should be rescinded without delay. That is what we did today in this piece of legislation, the Limit, Save, Grow Act.

Also included in the bill is our Lower Energy Costs Act, which has already passed this Chamber with bipartisan support previously. It lowers energy costs for American families and modernizes our outdated permitting process.

The House Republicans' plan is economically sound, financially wise, and allows for a debt limit increase of $1.5 trillion to pay our bills. It is a reasonable, responsible plan that will benefit all Americans.

This body deliberated on the merits of this legislation and has passed this legislation. The U.S. responsibly did its job on a debt ceiling to pay its already incurred bills. The profligate spending of the past years cannot become the permanent way of business of this House or of Washington, D.C.

We cannot afford even more high-speed debt on bills pretending to be COVID fixes about infrastructure that actually isn't infrastructure, or masquerading as a fix for inflation.

It is now on the Democrats in the Senate and the White House to meet with House Republicans at the negotiation table to actually come to a solution.

The stall tactics by Senate Leader SCHUMER and President Biden to run out the clock and do a last-minute crisis debt limit bill with a Christmas tree of goodies that will only cause more crushing debt cannot be the way of doing business here.

Never before in our Nation's history has a debt ceiling been raised without spending reductions to go along with it. It is a negotiation. This time should be no different. We must demand that the Senate come to the table and the White House negotiate.

By us getting legislation out of this body here now, the ball is in their corner. It is time for them to look at our document and come up with their ideas and sit down and do as these bodies are supposed to do in front of the American people, not on Zoom, not behind masks, not remotely, but in front of everybody and make a product that we can all be proud of and at least live with and move towards balancing our budget longer term.

This is what House Republicans are trying to do, not all the caterwauling we heard about, how it is going take away from this and that and the poor and every other group you can name here. It doesn't even touch all that. We have already spent the money. We have to have the debt ceiling increased and be responsible with the spending reductions as we go along.

What could be wrong with that?

I appreciate the effort of my colleagues, our leadership, and Speaker MCCARTHY to get this thing through and get everybody at the table on our side and hopefully be successful with the Senate and the White House to see the logic of what we are trying to do here.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. BERGMAN for leading us here, and I am actually fairly excited and optimistic that we can get this document out.

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, when we talk about debt ceiling limits, as my colleague stated, we have already spent the money. Now it is time to pay our bills. When you think about how that all starts, it starts with responsible spending and allocation of funds on the front end, knowing that there are limits.

In my first term in the 115th Congress as a member of the Budget Committee, I still remember very starkly a data point that was given to us as new members of the committee. The subject was improper payments by the Federal Government. Seven years ago, that number was $150 billion a year in improper payments by the Federal Government.

When we talk about limiting debt and we talk about clawing back funds that have already been appropriated and are sitting in accounts, we always have to consider the fact that are we as the Federal Government really managing the expenditure of the dollars?

Because of the fact that there is no incentive within Federal bureaucracies to attack improper spending, we haven't addressed the entire problem.

When you think about an example of what that $150 billion annually would mean in improper payments, an example would be if a person who, God rest their soul, has been deceased, but yet, their Social Security check still comes, or other checks come. You know there is an end game for that.

Another example would be that a person is receiving a check for $1,000 that really should be for $100. That is just an error. So we need to look inside ourselves, within the bureaucracies, within the Federal Government to cut down

the improper payments because we have to look at the debt control, if you will, and the debt reduction, or, as you have heard other people say, bending the curve down to a reasonable rate of repaying our debts without increasing the debt and increasing unnecessary wasteful expenditures. We have to figure out a way to incentivize the good, hardworking folks within our government bureaucracies to take a closer look at all those things and be part of solutions that are going to benefit our country as a whole and all of its citizens.

I will conclude by just saying we got a great start here about 30 minutes ago when we passed the Limit, Save, Grow Act. This is just the next step towards hopefully fruitful, honest, thoughtful negotiations with the White House to help us begin to be able to bend that curve of wasteful spending.

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

FIRST 100 DAYS IN CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. SANTOS) for 30 minutes.

Mr. SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to address my first 100 days in Congress. As freshmen Members of Congress, we arrive in D.C. with a ''Mr. SMITH Goes to Washington'' mentality. As you walk through these Halls for the first time, you realize that you are now a part of history.

Like any new kid on the block, there is a learning curve. Although my learning curve might be slightly different compared to others, what I can say is that mistakes will be made, lessons learned, but speaking as a freshman, try to give yourself a grace period and learn to grow.

Despite everything, I have learned and grown over the past 100 days in Congress. If only I could figure out how to navigate the Rayburn building.

In 100 days, little did I know that I would introduce 11 bills of my own, be a cosponsor of 63 bills, and see three of those cosponsored bills pass in the House.

Each of us, both Republicans and Democrats, are here because we individually believe that we can improve not just our congressional districts but our country. We may not always agree, but like any freshman Member, I am learning to find some common ground.

One thing that is financially hurting not just my constituents, but all New Yorkers are the State and local taxes, also known as SALT. The first bill I introduced is H.R. 1260, the SALT Relief Act. The State of New York's top marginal individual income tax rate is 10.9 percent, making it the third highest top marginal income tax rate in the country after California and Hawaii.

My constituents who specifically reside in Nassau County pay some of the highest property taxes in the country. My SALT bill aims to increase the $10,000 cap to $50,000. According to the Tax Foundation, the average SALT amount—property tax liability or sales tax liability—reported among itemizing filers was $30,227. Sadly, due to the $10,000 cap, the average SALT deduction was $9,023.

I am aware that my district is a combination of affluent neighborhoods with famous constituents like Billy Joel, but it also includes the middle and working classes. This is not about handing out tax relief to the wealthy. It is about real tax relief for all Americans.

In addition to my SALT bill, I recently introduced the Alimony Relief Act. Both of my bills are constituent-driven bills that seek additional deductions for taxpayers who are required to submit government-directed payments. The Alimony Relief Act is the classic example of a constituent who contacted my office, explained in great detail the issue that they were having with the government, and asking for my assistance. The issue is that they are paying income taxes on money they won't be able to spend themselves. For State tax purposes, alimony may be taxable income to the recipient and tax deductible to the individual obligated to pay spousal support. My alimony bill aims to implement that tax deduction for Federal purposes.

Most of my legislative priorities in Congress are driven to provide economic relief, not just to my constituents but to all Americans. We must take a deep dive into the amount of foreign aid that the United States provides to countries who apply barbaric practices to those based on gender or sexual orientation. My bills, H.R. 2404 and H.R. 1736, both send a clear message that we should be standing up to countries that enforce policies that limit individuals to freely exercise any religion, and enrolling in or attending any educational institution.

For example, in 2019, the foreign assistance statistic by country is staggering. I will not read off every country, but Afghanistan, we were providing them with a grand total of $4.8 trillion. To break it down, that is $1.2-plus trillion for economic aid and $3.6-plus billion in aid since the United States withdrew from Afghanistan. Restrictions on women's rights increased exponentially, including freedom of speech. In addition, institutions designed to support human rights were either shut down or severely limited.

Another accomplishment since the Republicans took back the House, we have made great strides with putting an end to COVID–19.

□ 1845

We passed a resolution terminating the COVID–19 national emergency declaration and passed the Pandemic is Over Act.

In addition, I have introduced H.R. 2631, a bill called the Medical Information Nuanced Accountability Judgement Act. Medical freedom is an absolute right, and any Federal Government should not impose a mandate that requires individuals to receive a vaccine that has not been properly authorized for at least 10 years.

My bill would help restore our military readiness. As a result of the Biden administration's vaccine mandate, more than 3,400 men and women were being involuntarily separated. Under the MINAJ Act, this would not be the case.

While I look forward to the day when one of my bills passes, I can say that it is amazing to see three bills that I have cosponsored pass. House Republicans have made a commitment to put the country first and to reverse consistently bad policies from the Biden administration.

Last week, we passed the Protection of Women and Girls Sports Act. I joined my colleagues to cosponsor a bill that protects biological women in sports.

Over the last couple of years, biological women have been on the receiving end of an unfair disadvantage by competing against transgender male athletes. While the left calls this discrimination against transgender athletes, we simply call it as it is: robbing women of their hard-earned athletic achievements.

I am proud to have cosponsored H.R. 5, the Parents Bill of Rights Act. Since House Republicans have taken the majority, we continue to build a future that allows for parents to be the primary stakeholders in their children's education. We are making their voices heard. Every parent has the right to know what their children are being taught and to be updated on their school's budget, spending, and, most importantly, when there is violent activity at school.

One of the first bills I proudly cosponsored was the REIN In Act. Since President Biden was sworn into office, we have seen reckless government spending, historically high inflation that is harming the livelihoods of the American people, and small businesses that are still recovering from the pandemic.

We demand transparency from the administration, and this bill would require the Office of Management and Budget to prepare a report including inflationary effects for any executive action with an estimated impact of at least $1 billion. The White House must report these findings to Congress each year to increase transparency over their actions.

If I have learned anything in the past 100 days, it is that being a Member of Congress goes beyond spending time in our Nation's Capital. Spending as much time in our congressional districts as possible is a major key to success.

As I split my time between Washington, D.C., and my district, there is one thing I can say for certain: Our best government is local. The mayors and other local government workers

truly know what is best for their communities and what kind of funds are needed from both the State and Federal levels.

It is my goal to do all that I can to bring back funding to local towns in my district that will better their communities.

Since opening my district office, I cannot begin to say how grateful I am for their hard work and commitment to helping my constituents directly with real issues and assisting them with requests that we can provide at the Federal level.

My office has received 238 cases and resolved 143 of them. The top issues in New York's Third Congressional District are passports and immigration. As a reminder, this is a freshman office, and I do anticipate that the more we help, the more people will walk through our doors.

I personally have taken constituent calls, some good, some not so good. At the end of the day, that is part of the job, and there is not much I can do about it. Whether they vote for you or not, you are their Member of Congress, and you work for them. I commonly say I have 700,000 employers, and I work for each and every one of them.

During my time in the district, I have met with local government officials and discussed their concerns affecting their communities. It has been a privilege to work collaboratively with them and help secure Federal funding to help better our communities.

The cities and towns of NY–3 asking for Federal assistance include Sands Point, Old Westbury, Port Washington, Belgrave, Great Neck, and Farmingdale. Their requests are centered around water filtration, public safety, and water infrastructure. These are issues that many communities face, and while they may not sound flashy, these are the matters of public health and the lives of our constituents, and the God-given right to clean water.

One of the benefits of living in New York's Third Congressional District is having the privilege of honoring the dedicated men and women of the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Long Island Sound and Sector New York. While most of us take it for granted, the U.S. Coast Guard carries out more than just search and rescue missions. They protect our border, and they are the law enforcement branch of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Having recently spent some time touring the Eaton's Neck station, all I could think of was how I could do more for them.

The Coast Guard has made great strides in up-to-date equipment, yet they are still severely underfunded. Their search and rescue operations have increased by over 30 percent, and sadly, fatalities have gone up 20 percent since COVID.

You see, Mr. Speaker, in New York's Third Congressional District, we have a lot of water activity, and with that, it created this new boater community that drove folks to the water in the absolute boredom of the pandemic, so that also increased the work activity for our Coast Guard.

They mentioned that there are things boaters can do that can easily prevent some of these rescues, including buying a high-frequency radio for your boat, which allows communications between other boats and, most importantly, the Coast Guard.

Another thing that I took away from our tour, and I will continue to state it publicly, is to dress for the water, not the weather. Although it might be 80, 90 degrees outside, the water is still 40 degrees, so 15 minutes in the water and hypothermia kicks in. That just worsens the odds of a successful rescue. What I am saying tonight may sound boring, but part of the job is about listening.

As a reminder, these unsung heroes safely evacuated over 500,000 people from Manhattan to escape New York City during 9/11, and now they are facing the potential of offshore turbines, which pose a major concern for the Coast Guard. Having previously stated that there has been an increase in search and rescue operations mainly due to the pandemic, having approximately 3,000 offshore wind turbines will pose a real concern for future search and rescue. Their helicopters would have to carefully traverse a waterway during a rescue operation without getting caught up in the wind turbines, in addition to Coast Guard vessels having difficulties with their radar capabilities navigating in and around these windmills.

I will also add that the construction of these turbines can take up to 15 to 20 years to build, resulting in an expected 1,800 transits up the Hudson River from the Port of New York out to the sea. This places a huge responsibility on the shoulders of the Coast Guard to ensure the safety of all types of boaters and vessels.

When meeting with members of the Coast Guard, there was something that stuck out, and it was their personal well-being. Men and women sometimes carry out very serious and dangerous missions at sea, which can be long and lonely. They sometimes have difficulties finding mental health services due to a limited budget. Some are utilizing food pantries and are unable to afford housing.

Besides our gratitude, we should be doing more to invest in the Coast Guard. They protect our seacoasts, economic and security interests abroad, and, above all, save thousands of lives per year.

This Friday evening, we will be announcing the New York Third Congressional District's winner of the 2023 Congressional Art Competition. Since I have been in Washington, I have always been amazed by the plethora of talent from high school students whose art hangs in the Cannon Tunnel heading toward the Capitol. I look forward to meeting with these students, learning about their talents, and hearing about their next steps in life.

Water contamination is probably the last thing that one might associate with Long Island. Unfortunately, it is a fact. A local village in New York's Third District, Farmingdale, has been plagued with an ongoing water contamination issue, which has been declared an emergency since July 2021.

Recently, I met with the mayor of Farmingdale, along with an environmental advocate, to discuss the ongoing issue, the strides they are making, and the Federal assistance requested to ease the financial burden on the taxpayers.

In my district, the water contaminants, including PFAS, which are also known as forever chemicals, are impacting the water supply wells, which operate nearly 2 million gallons per day. This opened my eyes and made me truly see the positive side of public service.

When political differences can be set aside, we can roll up our sleeves, show how we can find common ground, and work together for the greater good.

While Annapolis has the Naval Academy, in New York's Third District, we have the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy located in Kings Point. It trains midshipmen as officers in the Merchant Marine Reserve.

Like the Coast Guard, the academy needs more than $300 million in Federal funds to rehabilitate dilapidated buildings. Other long-term projects include the construction of academic buildings and projects to protect the waterfront basin of rickety piers.

Since they opened their doors in 1943 on Long Island, we have taken great pride in being the home of the Merchant Marine Academy. Students come from all across the country to receive a quality education in our backyard.

It is my hope to work closely with the academy, as well as the Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration, and see what we can do at the Federal level to continue to improve the infrastructure at the academy.

These have been the last hundred days from my perspective, but as many of my colleagues have already said, we have only just begun.

One final item before I wrap up. I want to talk about neuropathy. Neuropathy is a medical condition that results in damage to the nerves outside the brain and spinal cord. Those who suffer from neuropathy experience weakness and numbness, which typically occurs in the hands or feet. This can be incredibly painful and debilitating, and many are unable to live normal lives.

This is also known as the suicide disease, due to limited effective treatments and because there is no cure.

In February, I brought a guest to attend the State of the Union who suffers from neuropathy. He is a former volunteer firefighter named Michael

Weinstock, and he was assigned to the bucket brigade at Ground Zero. His responsibilities with the bucket brigade included finding survivors and removing rubble from the World Trade Center.

In 2016, the World Trade Center Health Program was petitioned to add peripheral neuropathy to its list of covered conditions, which it declined to do. In 2017, an FDNY responder again petitioned the program to add peripheral neuropathy to its covered conditions list. Unfortunately, the World Trade Center Health Program declined to update its list a second time, citing insufficient evidence.

□ 1900

It is sad that a bill needs to be introduced in the first place on this floor. My staff and I are in the process to find out why neuropathy is not recognized as a valid condition under the World Trade Center Health Program. The timeline for adding a condition is painfully slow, and it is frustrating to my constituents and others, who were impacted directly by the events of 9/11, who simply cannot wait any longer.

As a Member of Congress, I can think of nothing more important than honoring our 9/11 first responders and see that neuropathy be included as a medical condition that is covered in the World Trade Center Health Program immediately.

In my first 100 days, I can say without doubt that serving in Congress is a great honor and humbling, as any commitment to public service should be. I am eagerly looking forward to what the House GOP will achieve in the days and months ahead. Our Commitment to America will not waver.

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, April 27, 2023, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

EC–797. A letter from the Alternate OSD FRLO, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Privacy Act of 1974; Implementation [Docket ID: DoD-2022-OS-0082] (RIN: 0790-AL44) received April 10, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–798. A letter from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Legal Division, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting the Bureau's final rule — Agency Contact Information received April 13, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC–799. A letter from the Executive Services Operations Staff, Human Resources Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting seven (7) notifications of a designation of an acting officer, nomination, or action on nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC–800. A letter from the Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — National Marine Sanctuary Regulations [Docket No.: 221215-0274] (RIN: 0648-AV85) received April 13, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC–801. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1068; Project Identifier AD-2022-00358-T; Amendment 39-22364; AD 2023-04-17] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 10, 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–802. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0440; Project Identifier AD-2023-00245-T; Amendment 39-22396; AD 2023-06-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 10, 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–803. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1416; Project Identifier AD-2022-00725-E; Amendment 39-22358; AD 2023-04-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 10, 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–804. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; MHI RJ Aviation ULC (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0679; Project Identifier MCAI-2021-01213-T; Amendment 39-22392; AD 2023-06-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 10, 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–805. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Viking Air Limited (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bombardier Inc. and de Havilland Inc.) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0814; Project Identifier AD-2022-00205-A; Amendment 39-22397; AD 2023-06-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 10, 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–806. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH (AHD) Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0430; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01092-R; Amendment 39-22378; AD 2023-05-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 10, 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–807. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Continental Aerospace Technologies, Inc., Reciprocating Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0435; Project Identifier AD-2023-00384-E; Amendment 39-22385; AD 2023-05-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 10, 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–808. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1645; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-00734-T; Amendment 39-22371; AD 2023-05-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 10, 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–809. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Alexander Schleicher GmbH & Co. Segelflugzeugbau Gliders [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1303; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01001-G; Amendment 39-22372; AD 2023-05-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 10, 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–810. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1585; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-00892-T; Amendment 39-22365; AD 2023-04-18] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 10, 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–811. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; De Havilland Aircraft of Canada Limited (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1653; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01193-T; Amendment 39-22370; AD 2023-05-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 10, 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.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. COLE: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 327. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2811) to provide for a responsible increase to the debt ceiling, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 39) disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Commerce relating to ''Procedures Covering Suspension of Liquidation, Duties and Estimated Duties in Accord With Presidential Proclamation 10414''

(Rept. 118–43) Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. IVEY (for himself, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CROW, Mr. CORREA, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. EVANS, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MFUME, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TRONE, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Ms. PORTER, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Ms. CROCKETT, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. COSTA, Ms. BALINT, Ms. PETTERSEN, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. CHU, Ms. MENG, and Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE):

H.R. 2870. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a Federal firearms licensee from selling or delivering certain semiautomatic centerfire rifles or semiautomatic centerfire shotguns to a person under 21 years of age, with exceptions for active duty military personnel and full-time law enforcement officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BUCHANAN (for himself and Ms. CHU):

H.R. 2871. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the adjusted gross income limitation for above-the-line deduction of expenses of performing artist employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H.R. 2872. A bill to amend the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 to allow States to issue electronic stamps under such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LUTTRELL (for himself, Mr. BABIN, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. STANSBURY, and Mr. LAMALFA):

H.R. 2873. A bill to ensure all federally recognized Tribes that are eligible for gaming in the United States are regulated under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. ALLRED (for himself, Mr. COHEN, and Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER):

H.R. 2874. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to increase the Federal student loan limits for students in flight education and training programs; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BALDERSON:

H.R. 2875. A bill to direct the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Regional Transmission Organizations, and Independent System Operators, to submit a report to Congress on the reliability of the electric grid; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. BICE (for herself, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. MILLS, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. ALFORD, Mr. FALLON, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. NORMAN, and Ms. GREENE of Georgia):

H.R. 2876. A bill to cancel certain proposed changes to loan level price adjustments by the Federal National Mortgage Association and credit fees charged by the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BUCHANAN (for himself and Mr. MOSKOWITZ):

H.R. 2877. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the importation or transportation of child sex dolls, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CÁRDENAS (for himself, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, and Mr. POSEY):

H.R. 2878. A bill to require research facilities that use companion dogs, cats, or rabbits for research purposes and receive funding from the National Institutes of Health to offer such animals for adoption after completion of such research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CARSON (for himself, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. BOST, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. COHEN, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. CROW, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. GUEST, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. NORTON, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KEATING, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MANN, Mr. MOLINARO, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. PORTER, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. ROUZER, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. STANTON, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TURNER, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H.R. 2879. A bill to establish the National Center for the Advancement of Aviation; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia (for himself, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, and Mr. AUCHINCLOSS):

H.R. 2880. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish certain requirements for pharmacy benefit managers under part D of the Medicare program; 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. CASE (for himself and Ms. TOKUDA):

H.R. 2881. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 by requiring preclearance quarantine inspections for all movement to or from the State of Hawaii by either domestic or international travel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. CISCOMANI (for himself and Ms. STANSBURY):

H.R. 2882. A bill to reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CLYBURN:

H.R. 2883. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Homeland Security, or any other person, from requiring repayment, recoupment, or offset of certain antidumping duties and countervailing duties paid under section 754 of the Tariff Act of 1930, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CRENSHAW (for himself, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. SMUCKER, and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 2884. A bill to facilitate direct primary care arrangements under Medicaid; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FALLON (for himself and Mr. PANETTA):

H.R. 2885. A bill to amend certain authorities relating to human rights violations and abuses in Ukraine, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GARAMENDI (for himself and Mr. NORCROSS):

H.R. 2886. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Defense to make certain improvements relating to access to military installations in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California:

H.R. 2887. A bill to adjust the boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include the Rim of the Valley Corridor, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas:

H.R. 2888. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to incentivize investment in facilities that carry out the metallurgy of rare earth elements and the production of finished rare earth products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Education and the Workforce, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GRIJALVA (for himself, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. NORTON, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. MENG, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H.R. 2889. A bill to ensure that students in schools have a right to read, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. JAYAPAL (for herself and Mrs. SPARTZ):

H.R. 2890. A bill to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to make hospital organizations and cooperative hospital service organizations subject to the law relating to unfair methods of competition; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. HIMES, Mr. MAST, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, and Mr. CORREA):

H.R. 2891. A bill to create protections for financial institutions that provide financial

services to State-sanctioned marijuana businesses and service providers for such businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LANGWORTHY (for himself, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. FRY, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 2892. A bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the effectiveness of local alerting systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. LEE of Nevada (for herself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 2893. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for certain rules regarding the treatment of eligible retirement plans in determining the eligibility of individuals for premium and cost-sharing subsidies under part D of the Medicare program, and for other purposes; 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. LIEU (for himself, Mr. BUCK, and Mr. BEYER):

H.R. 2894. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds to launch a nuclear weapon using an autonomous weapons system that is not subject to meaningful human control, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER (for himself, Mr. BARR, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. MEUSER, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, and Mr. OGLES):

H.R. 2895. A bill to require the President to announce whether action will be taken with respect to a covered transaction under the Defense Production Act of 1950 that has passed the CFIUS transaction review deadline, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, and 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. MAST:

H.R. 2896. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to establish a separation oath for members of the Armed Forces who are separating from military service; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. CORREA, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. CROW, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARSON, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, and Ms. SLOTKIN):

H.R. 2897. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the sale or other disposition of any firearm or ammunition to any person who has been convicted of a violent misdemeanor, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. CORREA, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARSON, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 2898. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a person who fails to meet age and residential requirements from shipping, transporting, possessing, or receiving firearms and ammunition, to increase the penalties for transfer of a firearm to any person who is under indictment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself, Mr. CORREA, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARSON, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. TITUS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, and Ms. STANSBURY):

H.R. 2899. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide for additional grant amounts for protect against mass violence; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NORCROSS (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. LYNCH):

H.R. 2900. A bill to promote registered apprenticeships, including registered apprenticeships within in-demand industry sectors, through the support of workforce intermediaries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. PALLONE (for himself and Ms. DELAURO):

H.R. 2901. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to strengthen requirements related to nutrient information on food labels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PERRY (for himself, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. BURLISON, and Mr. CRANE):

H.R. 2902. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the alcohol fuels credit, the biodiesels fuel credit, the sustainable aviation fuel credit, the clean fuel production credit, the alcohol fuel, biodiesel, and alternative fuel mixtures credit, and other related provisions; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PETERS:

H.R. 2903. A bill to amend the National Security Act of 1947, to direct the Director of National Intelligence to produce national intelligence estimates on certain effects of climate change, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select).

By Ms. PRESSLEY (for herself, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. BUSH, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. NORTON, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. POCAN, Mrs. MCCLELLAN, Mr. NADLER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. IVEY, Mr. SOTO, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. MENG, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. BROWN, Mr. CARSON, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Ms. OMAR):

H.R. 2904. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for public health research and investment into understanding and eliminating structural racism and police violence; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. ROSS (for herself, Mr. POCAN, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mrs. SYKES):

H.R. 2905. A bill to amend title 13, United States Code, to provide that individuals in prison shall, for the purposes of a decennial census, be attributed to the last usual place of residence before incarceration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SALAZAR (for herself, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. GIMENEZ, and Mr. OWENS):

H.R. 2906. A bill to prohibit official documents of executive agencies from containing the terms ''latinx'' and ''latin-x'', and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. SCHRIER (for herself, Mr. BERA, Ms. CARAVEO, and Mr. RUIZ):

H.R. 2907. A bill to ensure the right to provide reproductive health care services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SOTO:

H.R. 2908. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2600 Michigan Avenue in Kissimmee, Florida, as the ''Robert Guevara Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. SPANBERGER (for herself and Mr. CASTEN):

H.R. 2909. A bill to address the importation and proliferation of machinegun conversion devices; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STEWART (for himself and Mr. CURTIS):

H.R. 2910. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to authorize holding court for the Central Division of Utah in Moab and Monticello; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. STRICKLAND (for herself, Mr. BACON, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. NORTON, Mr. TURNER, Ms. ROSS, Ms. SLOTKIN, and Ms. SHERRILL):

H.R. 2911. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to periodically review the automatic maximum coverage under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program and the Veterans' Group Life Insurance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. SWALWELL (for himself, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Ms. CRAIG):

H.R. 2912. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to apply certain limitations to the requirements for buying goods produced in the United States for certain airport-related projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. TLAIB (for herself and Mrs. DINGELL):

H.R. 2913. A bill to designate Lebanon under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to permit nationals of Lebanon to be eligible for temporary protected status under such section, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TURNER (for himself, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Ms. TENNEY, and Mr. KILDEE):

H.R. 2914. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the health coverage tax credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. VASQUEZ (for himself and Mr. CISCOMANI):

H.R. 2915. A bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to report on the H-2A program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. VASQUEZ (for himself and Mr. MANN):

H.R. 2916. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to establish a program to provide assistance to underserved airports to improve passenger and flight capacity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. VASQUEZ:

H.R. 2917. A bill to direct the Secretary of Commerce to develop a national strategy for supporting economic opportunity in border communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. BUSH, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. IVEY, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LIEU, Mrs. MCCLELLAN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MULLIN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NICKEL, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. PORTER, Ms. ROSS, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. SOTO, and Ms. JAYAPAL):

H.R. 2918. A bill to provide protection for survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, and sex trafficking under the Fair Housing Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Mr. MFUME, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 2919. A bill to amend the Second Chance Act of 2007 to require identification for returning citizens, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. WEXTON (for herself and Ms. SALAZAR):

H.R. 2920. A bill to amend the Child Abuse Protection and Treatment Act to incentivize States to eliminate civil and criminal statutes of limitations and revive time-barred civil claims for child abuse cases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia (for herself and Mrs. SYKES):

H.R. 2921. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to require a certain percentage of funds appropriated for revolving fund capitalization grants be used for green projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MCCARTHY:

H. Res. 328. A resolution authorizing video recording in the House Chamber during a joint meeting of Congress for certain educational purposes; to the Committee on House Administration; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CRENSHAW:

H. Res. 329. A resolution condemning Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador's statements of political interference in United States elections; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. D'ESPOSITO (for himself and Mr. COSTA):

H. Res. 330. A resolution supporting the designation of the week of April 23 through April 29, 2023, as ''National Crime Victims' Rights Week''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. HAYES (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. BROWN, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, and Ms. TLAIB):

H. Res. 331. A resolution supporting the designation of the week of April 24 through April 28, 2023, as ''National Specialized Instructional Support Personnel Appreciation Week''; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. COHEN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. HUDSON, Ms. ROSS, Mr. COSTA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. TRONE, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. WILD, and Ms. KAPTUR):

H. Res. 332. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives on Ukrainian victory; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITYAND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. IVEY:

H.R. 2870.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 3 and 18, and Amendment 2, of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Public safety: violence prevention

By Mr. BUCHANAN:

H.R. 2871.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. 1, Sec. 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the adjusted gross income limitation for above-the-line deduction of expenses of performing artist employees

By Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana:

H.R. 2872.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, clause 3 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 to fully authorize electronic stamps.

By Mr. LUTTRELL:

H.R. 2873.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power ''to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof''.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Native Americans Affairs

By Mr. ALLRED:

H.R. 2874.

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:

pilot student loans

By Mr. BALDERSON:

H.R. 2875.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To improve reliability of the electric grid

By Mrs. BICE:

H.R. 2876.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 3 & 18 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Oversight of FHFA mortgage rule

By Mr. BUCHANAN:

H.R. 2877.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. 1, Sec. 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the importation or transportation of child sex dolls

By Mr. CÁRDENAS:

H.R. 2878.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 1.

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

The single subject of this legislation is:

Encouraging adoption of animals used in research

By Mr. CARSON:

H.R. 2879.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

To accompany: H. R.__To Establish the National Center for the Advancement of Aviation

The National Center for the Advancement of Aviation establishes a center to improve the aviation industry and its workforce across all aviation sectors.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 2880.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish certain requirements for pharmacy benefit managers under part D of the Medicare program.

By Mr. CASE:

H.R. 2881.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
the single subject of this legislation is:
To prevent invasive species from entering the state of Hawaii.

By Mr. CISCOMANI:
H.R. 2882.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 , Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Reauthorizing the Udall Foundation.

By Mr. CLYBURN:
H.R. 2883.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
prohibition of repayment, recoupment, or offset of certain antidumping duties and countervailing duties

By Mr. CRENSHAW:
H.R. 2884
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Section 8 of article I of the Constitution.
The single subject of this legislation is:
To facilitate direct primary care arrangements under Medicaid.

By Mr. FALLON:
H.R. 2885.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Ukraine

By Mr. GARAMENDI:
H.R. 2886.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 14 and Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 of the U.S. Constitution
The single subject of this legislation is:
To amend title 10, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Defense to make certain improvements relating to access to military installations in the United States, and for other purposes.

By Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California:
H.R. 2887.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article IV, Section, clause 2
The single subject of this legislation is:
To expand the boundaries of the Santa Monica Mountain National Recreation Area to include other public lands in Southern California.

By Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas:
H.R. 2888.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
This legislation requires the Sec. of Energy to establish a program to incentivize investment in facilities that carry out the metallurgy of rare earth elements and the production of finished rare earth products.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:
H.R. 2889.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
U.S. Const. art. I, §§1 and 8.
The single subject of this legislation is:
This legislation reauthorizes the Comprehensive Literacy State Development and Innovative Approaches to Literacy grant programs, along with supporting the development of effective school libraries, including the recruitment, retention, and professional development of staff.

By Ms. JAYAPAL:
H.R. 2890.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.
The single subject of this legislation is:
This bill amends the Federal Trade Commission Act to make hospital organizations and cooperative hospital service organizations subject to the law relating to unfair methods of competition.

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio:
H.R. 2891.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
To create protections for financial institutions that provide financial services to State-sanctioned marijuana businesses and service providers for such businesses.

By Mr. LANGWORTHY:
H.R. 2892.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 3 of section 8 of article of the Constitution
The single subject of this legislation is:
Emergancy Alerting Systems

By Mrs. LEE of Nevada:
H.R. 2893.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8. clause 1 provides Congress with the power to ''lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises'' in order to ''provide for the . . ., general Welfare of the United States.''
The single subject of this legislation is:
Health care.

By Mr. LIEU:
H.R. 2894.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Armed Services

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:
H.R. 2895.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution: Congress shall have the power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.
The single subject of this legislation is:
To require the President to announce whether action will be taken with respect to a covered transaction under the Defense Production Act of 1950 that has passed the CFIUS transaction review deadline, and for other purposes.

By Mr. MAST:
H.R. 2896.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.
The single subject of this legislation is:
Establishes an Oath of Exit members of the military may take upon separation from service to maintain a personal strike in the mental health of their fellow veterans into civilian life.

By Mr. NEGUSE:
H.R. 2897.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Prohibit the sale of any firearm or ammunition to any person that has been convicted of a violent misdemeanor.

By Mr. NEGUSE:
H.R. 2898.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Prohibit a person who fails to meet age and residential requirements from shipping, transporting, possessing, or receiving firearms or ammunition.

By Mr. NEGUSE:
H.R. 2899.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Provide for additional grant amounts to protect against mass violence.

By Mr. NORCROSS:
H.R. 2900.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 18)
The single subject of this legislation is:
Workforce Development

By Mr. PALLONE:
H.R. 2901.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: [The Congress shall have Power] To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes
The single subject of this legislation is:
Food labeling

By Mr. PERRY:
H.R. 2902.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Repeal of certain energy tax credits

By Mr. PETERS:
H.R. 2903.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Sec. 8.
The single subject of this legislation is:
Climate

By Ms. PRESSLEY:
H.R. 2904.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution
The single subject of this legislation is:
This bill addresses health disparities.

By Ms. ROSS:
H.R. 2905.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Section II of Article I of the Constitution.
The single subject of this legislation is:
Provides that individuals in prison shall, for the purposes of a decennial census, be attributed to the last usual place of residence before incarceration.

By Ms. SALAZAR:
H.R. 2906.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Prohibiting the Executuve Branch from using the term ''latinx'' in public documents.

By Ms. SCHRIER:
H.R. 2907.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I
The single subject of this legislation is:
Health Care

By Mr. SOTO:
H.R. 2908.
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:

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2600 Michigan Avenue in Kissimmee, Florida, as the ''Robert Guevara Post Office Building''.

By Ms. SPANBERGER:

H.R. 2909.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

A bill to combat the increased use and proliferation of dangerous gun conversion devices.

By Mr. STEWART:

H.R. 2910.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 3, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend title 28, United States Code, to authorize holding court for the Central Division of Utah in Moab and Monticello.

By Ms. STRICKLAND:

H.R. 2911.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to periodically review the automatic maximum coverage under the Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program and the Veterans' Group Life Insurance program.

By Mr. SWALWELL:

H.R. 2912.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, specifically clause 18 related to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill would further limit the federal purchase of Chinese-owned or operated vehicles in our transportation infrastructure.

By Ms. TLAIB:

H.R. 2913.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1 of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill designates Lebanese nationals for Temporary Protected Status (TPS).

By Mr. TURNER:

H.R. 2914.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Artitle 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To reauhtorize the Health Coverage Tax Credit

By Mr. VASQUEZ:

H.R. 2915.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United State Constitution, to provide for the general welfare and make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the powers of the Congress.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Agricultural Workforce

By Mr. VASQUEZ:

H.R. 2916.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United State Constitution, to provide for the general welfare and make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the powers of the Congress.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Funding Airports

By Mr. VASQUEZ:

H.R. 2917.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United State Constitution, to provide for the general welfare and make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the powers of the Congress.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Economic Development

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ:

H.R. 2918.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Expanding the Fair Housing Act to protect survivors of abuse from housing discrimination.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN:

H.R. 2919.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To provide identification documents (IDs) for inmates leaving federal prison.

By Ms. WEXTQN:

H.R. 2920.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

A bill to to incentivize States to eliminate civil and criminal statutes of limitations and revive time-barred civil claims for child abuse cases, and for other purposes.

By Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia:

H.R. 2921.

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:

Sets a percentage of funds for revolving fund capitalization grants to be used for projects.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 7: Mr. CAREY.
H.R. 130: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 134: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.
H.R. 239: Mr. MFUME.
H.R. 250: Mr. NORCROSS.
H.R. 293: Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.R. 309: Mr. MFUME.
H.R. 343: Mr. MOORE of Alabama.
H.R. 533: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 542: Ms. WILD, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Ms. STRICKLAND.
H.R. 592: Mr. MRVAN and Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 625: Mr. MFUME.
H.R. 652: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H.R. 660: Mr. DELUZIO and Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina.
H.R. 705: Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 715: Mr. SORENSEN.
H.R. 743: Ms. CRAIG, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mrs. BICE, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. NORMAN, Mrs. WAGNER, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Ms. LEE of Florida, Mr. VALADAO, and Mr. CISCOMANI.
H.R. 748: Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 790: Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 807: Mr. STEWART.
H.R. 855: Mr. STAUBER and Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 914: Mr. CARSON and Ms. PEREZ.
H.R. 915: Mr. ROUZER.
H.R. 921: Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 955: Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 976: Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 977: Mr. HARRIS.
H.R. 987: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. MOLINARO, Mrs. BICE, and Mr. SELF.
H.R. 1005: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas.
H.R. 1073: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
H.R. 1083: Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. TRONE, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. SALINAS, and Mr. LANDSMAN.
H.R. 1089: Mr. MURPHY.
H.R. 1097: Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 1105: Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina and Mr. MORAN.
H.R. 1200: Mr. CARL, Mr. EDWARDS, and Mr. MORAN.
H.R. 1204: Ms. CROCKETT.
H.R. 1218: Mr. CISCOMANI.
H.R. 1241: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 1251: Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 1252: Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 1273: Mr. CARSON, Mr. SIMPSON, and Mr. HIMES.
H.R. 1282: Mr. GOSAR, Ms. MACE, and Mrs. LUNA.
H.R. 1297: Mr. BOST.
H.R. 1383: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 1390: Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 1399: Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. MANN, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. COMER.
H.R. 1453: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 1459: Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. SORENSEN, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, and Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 1472: Mr. MOLINARO.
H.R. 1477: Mr. CAREY.
H.R. 1480: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 1488: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. LANDSMAN, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, and Ms. BARRAGÁN.
H.R. 1499: Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, and Mr. BEYER.
H.R. 1572: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 1586: Mr. STEWART.
H.R. 1610: Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. MANN, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. CRAIG, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 1613: Mr. ALFORD, Mr. HARRIS, and Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 1623: Mr. LATTA.
H.R. 1624: Mrs. MCCLELLAN.
H.R. 1627: Mr. HARRIS.
H.R. 1633: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI.
H.R. 1634: Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 1643: Mr. TORRES of New York.
H.R. 1650: Mr. LUTTRELL.
H.R. 1685: Mr. CASTEN.
H.R. 1690: Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. BARR, and Mr. HUIZENGA.
H.R. 1705: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 1713: Ms. TENNEY and Mr. WILLIAMS of New York.
H.R. 1715: Ms. TENNEY and Mr. WILLIAMS of New York.
H.R. 1740: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 1757: Mr. SARBANES.
H.R. 1761: Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, and Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.
H.R. 1763: Mr. VASQUEZ, Ms. TOKUDA, and Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 1764: Mr. VASQUEZ.
H.R. 1770: Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas and Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
H.R. 1777: Mr. LIEU and Mr. FRY.
H.R. 1784: Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 1787: Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 1794: Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. TAKANO.
H.R. 1801: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 1803: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 1818: Mr. LANDSMAN.
H.R. 1823: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 1827: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
H.R. 1839: Mr. COHEN, Mr. HARRIS, Ms. ROSS, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California, Mr. CORREA, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. NORMAN, Ms. WILD, and Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 1840: Mr. NADLER and Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 2365: Mr. BACON, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. KIM of New Jersey,
Ms. SEWELL, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. EVANS, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MORELLE, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. CORREA, Mr. KILMER, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. SCHNEIDER, and Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 2367: Mr. LAHOOD and Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
H.R. 2370: Ms. ROSS, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. D'ESPOSITO.
H.R. 2377: Ms. NORTON and Mrs. LESKO.
H.R. 2416: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 2450: Mr. SANTOS.
H.R. 2472: Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 2491: Mrs. HARSHBARGER and Mr. YAKYM.
H.R. 2510: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey.
H.R. 2537: Ms. MENG, Mr. CARL, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. NADLER, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Ms. MANNING, and Mr. SWALWELL.
H.R. 2547: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 2584: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 2592: Mr. BURCHETT.
H.R. 2604: Mr. MRVAN and Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 2629: Ms. TOKUDA and Mr. LANDSMAN.
H.R. 2662: Mr. GOTTHEIMER and Mrs. BICE.
H.R. 2667: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 2685: Mr. ZINKE.
H.R. 2690: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 2698: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 2703: Ms. CASTOR of Florida and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 2704: Ms. CASTOR of Florida and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 2705: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 2708: Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. MORELLE, and Ms. GARCIA of Texas.
H.R. 2712: Mrs. LUNA and Mr. PALMER.
H.R. 2732: Ms. SALAZAR.
H.R. 2747: Ms. BUDZINSKI.
H.R. 2756: Mrs. LEE of Nevada.
H.R. 2760: Ms. WATERS, Mrs. TRAHAN, and Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 2811: Mrs. BICE, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. ROSE, and Mr. YAKYM.
H.R. 2822: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois and Mr. KHANNA.
H.R. 2825: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia and Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 2826: Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. CARL, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 2828: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 2849: Mr. CUELLAR.
H.R. 2856: Ms. JAYAPAL.
H.R. 2863: Mr. BRECHEEN.
H.J. Res. 25: Mr. KHANNA, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Ms. SHERRILL.
H.J. Res. 44: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas.
H. Res. 29: Mr. YAKYM and Mr. EDWARDS.
H. Res. 273: Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. DEGETTE, and Ms. CROCKETT.
H. Res. 277: Mr. KIM of New Jersey.
H. Res. 306: Mr. TAKANO.
H. Res. 324: Mr. DOGGETT and Mr. PASCRELL.

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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 169 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023 No. 70

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose power moves in the changes of the seasons and in the beauty of the stars, let Your gentle strength live in our hearts. Today, infuse our Senators with Your wisdom so that they will walk in the path of Your will. Lord, keep them faithful. May Your love empower them to grow in knowledge and judgment so that they will be able to choose what is best. Amid the haste and hurry of their labors, remind them to spend time with You in order to experience the joy and strength of Your presence. Make their lives gifts of Your love to a hurting nation and world.

We pray in Your sovereign 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 bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 26, 2023.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WELCH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Joshua David Jacobs, of Washington, to be Under Secretary for Benefits of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

DEBT CEILING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, for months, the President has been clear that he will not allow the full faith and credit of the United States to be taken hostage. He has rejected brinksmanship, hostage-taking, and asked for what is the only way to solve this problem given where we are at right now, which is clean, clean, avoiding default—clean to avoid default.

To avoid default, Democrats have asked Speaker MCCARTHY and Republicans to present a credible plan, but last week Republicans instead released an extremist, hard-right agenda, written in a backroom, in secret, to win support from the Freedom Caucus. The GOP's ''Default on America Act,'' as we call it, does not bring us any closer to avoiding a first-ever default. In fact, it only brings us dangerously closer to defaulting.

The ''Default on America Act'' would mean fewer jobs, higher costs for the American people, and would leave policemen, first responders, Border Patrol, and our brave veterans all hanging out to dry.

For those who worry about gun violence and crime and keeping our communities safe, the ''Default on America Act'' will wipe out nearly 30,000 law enforcement while also gutting critical resources to secure the border. Donald Trump told House Republicans to defund law enforcement, and so the ''Default on America Act,'' on cue, does just that.

That is what the ''Default on America Act'' does. And not just that; it would eliminate over 142,000 new jobs, including 18,000 manufacturing jobs that have been created since the Inflation Reduction Act was passed.

If you are a parent struggling to pay for childcare, the ''Default on America Act'' will eliminate more than 105,000 childcare slots across the country, making it harder for parents to find work, finish their education, or even provide for their families.

If you know someone who struggled with addiction, this bill would also worsen the opioid epidemic by cutting critical HHS programs by over $10 billion in the next decade. That is the definition of cruelty.

If you want to go to college, the Republican package will slash Pell grants for all students by $1,000 and even eliminate Pell grants entirely for tens of thousands of Americans.

And for those who worry about gun violence and keeping our communities

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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safe, the ''Default on America Act'' will wipe out nearly 30,000 law enforcement positions while gutting critical resources to secure the border. Again, Donald Trump told House Republicans to defund law enforcement, and the ''Default on America Act,'' on cue, does just that.

Put plainly, the House Republicans are hell-bent on default one way or another—either a default on the debt or a default on everything else: on our future, our children, our promise to care for our kids and veterans and law enforcement and first responders. No matter what happens, Republicans are promising real pain for American families.

And what happened just a few hours ago in the wee hours of the morning? Plainly, Speaker MCCARTHY capitulated even further to the hard right. Again, if anything, this revised bill is even more extreme, more radical—a more radical version of the ''Default on America Act.'' It brings us no closer to avoiding a default on the national debt.

Let me be clear. Democrats cannot and will not allow the Republicans's ''DOA Act'' to ever become law. It is DOA, plain and simple. And if Republicans refuse to level with the public about the terrible things their ''Default on America Act'' will do to them, Democrats will do the work ourselves. We will let America know how bad this is because Republicans are intent on hiding it. They know how unpopular it would be.

In the meantime, Speaker MCCARTHY needs to recognize that all the energy he is putting into passing the ''Default on America Act'' will be wasted effort. The Speaker should drop the brinksmanship, drop the hostage-taking, come to the table with Democrats, and pass a clean bill to avoid default. Given where the Republican proposal is, that is the only way to go. Time is running out.

EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

Mr. President, on the ERA, tomorrow, the Senate will have a chance to take the next major step on an effort a century in the making: ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment under the Constitution.

The story of American democracy has been an uneven but inexorable march toward greater equality for all people. America's foundation contains a simple premise: No matter who you are, where you come from, you too deserve equal treatment under the law.

The Senate will have a chance tomorrow to bring our country one step closer toward greater equity by voting on a bipartisan resolution regarding the Equal Rights Amendment. The measure is simple. It will recognize that 38 States have now legitimately ratified the Equal Rights Amendment, meeting the threshold required under the Constitution. It would remove an arbitrary deadline set decades ago that invalidated the ratification that occurred in a few States. The States did the work, just not in the required time that was imposed on them a very long time ago. I believe the Senate should now remove that obstacle.

And we must act now because the Equal Rights Amendment has never been more necessary than today. To the horror of hundreds of millions of people, women in America have fewer rights today than they did even a year ago. The protections of Roe v. Wade are gone thanks to the MAGA majority on the Supreme Court. Over a dozen States have near-total abortion bans, and tens of millions of people have to travel hundreds of miles just to access reproductive care. That is sickening.

We cannot claim that America is a nation of equal justice when half of its citizenry languishes on with fewer rights, less dignity, and limited recourse under the Constitution. That is why the Senate must vote in favor of advancing this ERA resolution tomorrow, so we can bring our Nation one step closer to greater justice, greater equality, and equal rights for all people, regardless of gender.

Thank you to Senators CARDIN and MURKOWSKI for championing this resolution. I look forward to voting in its favor tomorrow.

ELIZABETH DOLE VETERANS PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. President, finally, the Senate will take the first procedural vote on legislation to care for our Nation's veterans, spearheaded by my good friend Senator TESTER, head of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

The Elizabeth Dole Veterans Program Improvement Act of 2023 is the union of a number of important and impactful bills that will strengthen the VA, improve its caregiver program, expand home- and community-based services for vets, and ultimately bestow greater dignity on those who defended our Nation.

The bipartisan veterans bill is precisely the sort of legislation the Senate should be working on to build on our success on the PACT Act last year. This is bipartisan, far-reaching, and will make an enormous difference in the lives of our veterans across the country.

I want to thank Senator TESTER, Senator MORAN, and Members from both sides of the aisle for working on this important veterans package.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

ISSUES FACING AMERICA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, in the last several years, Democrats have given many dramatic speeches about our country's norms and institutions, about the rule of law and the health of democracy. But the sad irony has been this: The same political left that shouted so loudly about norms, institutions, and the rule of law has kept trying to steamroll these principles themselves.

Look at recent events at the State capitol buildings in Tennessee and Montana—angry liberal activists in shoving matches with law enforcement, shouting down proceedings. I myself am on the record as a firm critic of rioters and disrupting legislatures, across the board, no matter who is doing it. Why can't the left be as consistent?

And look at their side's growing hostility to the very independence of our judicial branch. A few weeks ago, when one Federal judge issued a ruling with policy outcomes that Democrats didn't like, they started suggesting that politicians should just openly disobey—just openly disobey—the judge's rulings.

Those suggestions are toxic and, frankly, anti-American. It was wrong when President Andrew Jackson tried to ignore the Court way back in the 1830s, it was dead wrong when Governor Faubus defied the Court on civil rights in the 1950s, and it is wrong also when today's Democratic Party brings all of that back.

The attacks on the judiciary don't stop there. In 2020, our colleague the Democratic leader stood on the very steps of the Supreme Court and threatened Justices by name—by name—with a ''whirlwind'' of retaliation if they failed to rule the way he wanted.

Then, after top Democrats encouraged mob outrage over a leaked draft opinion, President Biden's Attorney General failed to enforce clear Federal law and put a stop—a stop—to illegal protests that sought to intimidate the Justices at their private family homes.

Recently, a number of Senate Democrats have gone so far as to propose defunding security needs for the Justices and their families if Chief Justice Roberts doesn't reorganize internal matters the way Democrats would prefer. So after fanning the flames of violence against an equal branch of government, Democrats now want to defund the Justices' ability to protect themselves and their families if certain Senators don't get their way.

They are trying to turn impartial judges into partisan hostages. This is really beyond irresponsible.

And then, of course, there are the desperate and never-ending attempts to smear and defame Justices appointed by Republican Presidents, going back years and decades. Over the last few weeks, two Justices have been particularly subjected to a carousel of character assassination. I am sure it will be another Justice's turn again before too long. This is simply how the far left treats the rule of law.

Let me just repeat that I have total confidence in Justice Gorsuch, Justice Thomas, and all seven of their distinguished colleagues, no matter who appointed them—no matter who appointed them. Just yesterday, all nine Justices explained in a statement their joint approach to maintaining their high ethical standards. Unlike the activists and elected Democrats trying to

tear them down, the Justices have proven their sobriety and judicial temperament over their long and distinguished careers.

VEHICLE EMISSIONS

Mr. President, now on another matter, today, the senior Senator from Nebraska will advance a resolution to push back on the Biden administration's war against American energy and American industry.

Senator FISCHER's resolution responds to the Biden administration's new plan to hike already stringent vehicle emission standards even higher. This latest rule on nitrogen oxide emissions takes direct aim at the sort of trucks and heavy equipment that literally drive our entire economy.

Back in 2021, climate activists got the President to invoke ''environmental justice'' in an Executive order rolling out its so-called Clean Trucks Plan. The same bureaucrats who can't control inflation or secure the border want to even more closely micromanage the heavy vehicles allowed on our roads. Never mind that the nitrogen oxide emissions of new trucks on the market are already—listen to this—already 98 to 99 percent lower than they were as recently as the late 1990s.

By the EPA's own estimates, the new technology required to meet the latest arbitrary benchmarks could jack up truck prices by as much as $8,304 each—each.

Listen to what the truckers themselves have to say:

> If small business owners can't afford the new, compliant trucks, they're going to stay with older, less-efficient trucks, or leave the industry entirely.

Leave the industry entirely? Higher priced trucks, fewer drivers, higher costs for consumer goods—that is an outcome working families and supply chains simply can't stomach.

So I want to express my gratitude to Senator FISCHER for bringing this resolution forward. I would urge each of our colleagues to support it.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

INFLATION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, one of President Biden's favorite things to talk about is giving families ''a little bit of breathing room.'' It is a phrase he uses frequently, just as he also frequently talks about growing the economy ''from the middle out and the bottom up, not from the top down.''

He used both phrases in a speech just last week. And, frankly, it is somewhat staggering to me that he continues to talk like this, because the Biden economy is the story of taking away Americans' breathing room. It is a story of declining purchasing power for lower and middle-income families, of wages that don't keep pace with increased costs, of stretched budgets and difficult spending decisions. President Biden has presided over a historic inflation crisis that has left American families struggling just to keep up. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture in February 2023, a cost-effective nutritious meal plan for a family of four cost $979.40 per month.

Two years earlier, that same family would have had to spend $674.80. That is a 45-percent increase—a 45-percent increase. The Biden economy is costing that family of four an additional $304 a month for groceries, or $3,655 per year more. And, again, that is just on groceries.

I don't need to tell anyone that prices have risen across the board, 15.4 percent on average since President Biden took office, and American families are feeling the pinch. A recent CNBC survey found that 70 percent of Americans are feeling financially stressed—70 percent—and that the majority of Americans are living paycheck to paycheck. And it is no surprise, given that inflation has outpaced wage growth for 24 straight months—meaning that under the Biden administration, Americans have received a de facto pay cut.

Americans are cutting back on spending, dipping into savings, or charging expenses to their credit card to help make ends meet. Bloomberg reports on a growing trend of relying on ''buy now, pay later'' apps for everyday purchases, noting that and I quote:

> U.S. consumers are increasingly using such installment loans to pay for everyday items like groceries, highlighting the financial pain wrought by the worst inflation outbreak in four decades.

Credit card debt hit a record high in the final quarter of 2022, and nearly half of Americans are carrying balances now from month to month. More than two-thirds of Americans are saving less than they did a year ago. And the list goes on. Put simply, if President Biden wanted to create more breathing room for Americans, he has failed. In fact, President Biden has taken away Americans' breathing room, and there is little relief in sight.

Now, I don't need to tell anyone that one of the main reasons we are in the midst of this inflation crisis is because of Democrats and the President's decision to pass the so-called American Rescue Plan Act, which was a massive and partisan $1.9 trillion spending spree that flooded our economy with unnecessary government money.

Democrats were warned that their bill would cause inflation, and they proceeded anyway. And the economy overheated as a result. Even worse, despite steadily climbing inflation in the wake of their bill, Democrats seemed determined not to recognize their mistake. Instead of acknowledging their oversized spending bill helped set off inflation, Democrats kept pursuing more spending and more damaging economic policies.

There is the $5 trillion big government vision they called Build Back Better but should probably have been named more aptly ''Build Back Broke'' or ''Bankrupt,'' the so-called Inflation Reduction Act, which has done nothing to address inflation but has imposed a series of new taxes that are driving up Americans' energy costs.

The President's reckless student loan giveaway, which could end up costing American taxpayers close to a trillion dollars. And there is more. And the bad ideas just keep coming.

The President recently released his budget proposal, which would increase spending every year until the Federal budget reaches an eye-watering $10 trillion in the year 2033—$10 trillion. For comparison, let me just point out that the entire Federal budget for 2019—and that is the last budget before the pandemic—was $4.4 trillion—$4.4 trillion.

President Biden wants to more than double that: $4.4 trillion to $10 trillion. And then there is the latest idea from the White House, which is punishing Americans with good credit scores if they purchase a house. That is right. Think about this one: The Biden administration has announced a new policy which is set to go into effect on May 1st that would impose higher mortgage fees on Americans with higher credit scores, and the highest fees on Americans who make a substantial downpayment.

Now if you save and are able to make a 20 percent downpayment on a home, you are going to pay more under the Biden administration plan.

These higher fees would then go to subsidize mortgages for Americans with lower credit scores. In other words, think about it this way: The Biden administration is targeting hard-working Americans who save, diligently pay their bills, and build good credit, in order to subsidize mortgages for higher risk borrowers.

It is the microcosm of Biden's big government policies. Punish hard work, punish financial discipline, punish success, and redistribute the wealth. Squeeze middle-class Americans. Force hard-working taxpayers to fund Democrats' socialist visions.

We literally are socializing mortgage payments. That is what it amounts to. Nothing more, nothing less. Because, let's be very clear, President Biden likes to talk about forcing better-off Americans to pay for his policies, and he likes to claim that he isn't going to raise taxes on Americans making less than $400,000 a year. But this new mortgage policy is going to hit thousands and thousands of middle-class Americans making ordinary salaries whose only crime is that they worked hard, saved money, and have been responsible with their debt.

The President can talk all he likes about making wealthy Americans pay

their fair share, the truth is that it is lower and middle-income Americans who are suffering as a result of the President's economic policies.

This summer another big economic issue will come into play: The debt limit. Sometime in the next few months, the United States will reach the limit of its borrowing capacity, and Congress will have to pass—and the President will have to sign—legislation to raise the debt ceiling to enable the United States to pay our debts. Needless to say, that will require negotiations between the President and Congress, something the President has so far refused to engage in.

Why? Because the President doesn't want an increase in the debt limit to be paired with any measures that might cut spending or actually do something to reduce the debt.

I suppose that is not a surprising position from someone who wants to grow government, increase the size of the Federal budget to a staggering $10 trillion, but it is a deeply problematic position—both because it ignores the increasing danger represented by our ever-increasing national debt and because it is an unrealistic position.

In a divided government, a refusal to negotiate cannot be an option. And if the President doesn't want to go down in history as the President who forced the United States to default on its debt, he needs to start engaging in negotiations.

House Republicans are putting forward a serious bill to restrain excess spending while protecting the full faith and credit of the United States. The President needs to join the Speaker at the negotiating table. Responsible spending reforms might not undo the economic damage the President has done, but they could put us on a more sustainable and less-damaging path for the future. And they could spare Americans some of the economic pain that would result from more of President Biden's reckless government spending.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL ZAMORE

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, it was John Quincy Adams who once said:

> If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.

For the last 14 years, the members of my team have had an outstanding leader in our chief of staff, Michael Zamore, who has constantly and consistently inspired the team and me to dream, to grow, to strive to do better every single day for ourselves and the people we serve.

But after nearly a decade and a half, as the heart and soul of Team Merkley and more than 22 years on Capitol Hill, Mr. Zamore has decided to close this chapter of his life and career and set off to begin writing the next chapter. I know I speak for many when I say how hard it is to imagine our office or the Senate without Mike Zamore.

Mike has been with me from the very beginning. He was one of the small crew working out of the temporary basement office the day I was sworn in. Five new Members of the Senate and a couple of staff members crowded into a single, little, expanded room downstairs, trying to figure out what we were doing, how to get around.

Where are those hearing rooms? How do we get the paper for the printers? How do we get staples for the staplers?

He has been a pivotal part of every success that our team has achieved since, and there have been a lot of legislative highlights in the time that he has led Team Merkley—to name just a few: outlawing predatory mortgages; passing financial reform to shut down the Wall Street proprietary trading casino; winning Senate passage of ENDA, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, to end job discrimination against our LGBTQ+ community; drafting and introducing the Equality Act to end LGBTQ discrimination across the board; leading the effort to end the horrific Trump policy of ripping children out of their parents' arms at the border; ending the importation of Chinese products produced with slave labor; and so many more and so many different initiatives to improve healthcare, to establish more decent and affordable housing, to expand quality education, and to increase the number of good-paying jobs for working Americans.

But it isn't just policy that is relevant to the role of a chief of staff. Mike has worked to ensure that our team has the best operation for answering constituents' letters to be found on Capitol Hill, to empower the Oregon half of our operation to build a fabulous constituent services team and an excellent set of field representatives to work with Oregon's counties and cities to address the challenges and opportunities within our State, and to keep our DC team and our Oregon team working closely together as one.

He did this through many trips to the State and by encouraging staff here in DC to travel and be in Oregon as well and by ensuring we connected and coordinated through weekly all-staff meetings and that we connected through biannual retreats: getting everyone together face-to-face with the Oregon team and the DC team, spending time together to know one another, enjoy each other's company, and expand the connections that lead to successful progress forward on issue after issue.

And because we like to be a team that not only works hard but plays hard, Mike always had a little special presentation for those occasions when we were all gathered together, on one occasion dressing up in colonial garb to perform a special Team Merkley rendition of a song from ''Hamilton'' or, on another occasion, doing a sea shanty during our nautical-themed virtual retreat. In doing these presentations, he proved himself to be a far, far braver man than most of the rest of us, but I know that that extra bit of effort has always been beloved by everyone on the team.

His most lasting legacy will be through the talented individuals he has carefully recruited to be members of our team over the last 14-plus years and the way that he inspired them and led them, with heart and humility, imbuing them with the same passion for public service that has guided Mike throughout his entire career.

I believe we have had one of the most energetic, capable, and motivated teams ever assembled on Capitol Hill, and that is because we have had one of the most energetic, capable, and motivated chiefs of staff in Mike Zamore.

As chief, Mike worked hard to champion and reinforce specific values. One of them that has resonated over the years is the idea of continuous self-improvement—the idea that none of us are perfect and never will be and that we should always be striving to be better ourselves as individuals and as a team.

Mike never exempted himself from that same spirit of continual self-improvement. He sought out and welcomed honest feedback from everyone, from the newest intern to the most senior staffer, on how he was doing and how the office was doing and how we could do better.

Jack Welch, the former head of GE, once said:

> When you become a leader, success is all about growing others.

Mike has always cared deeply about helping the members of our team grow. That is why he has always loved outside-the-box thinking, like when a staff member suggested that I should hop on a plane and go down to the border to find out for myself what was really happening with the administration's zero-tolerance family separation policy. It is why he enthusiastically embraced and championed our office's mission of inclusivity and was so supportive of the creation of a diversity, equity, and inclusion committee. Our DE&I team members have created learning opportunities, and they share information to educate and inform the rest of the team about a wide range of issues, and they work to inspire honest, open, and sometimes uncomfortable dialogues so that we can all be the best versions of ourselves and so that we can serve all of the people of Oregon with the highest level of respect and responsiveness.

It is why his door was always open for what he called ''Z hours,'' when folks would come in and talk about anything whether it was work related or not.

The office and Team Merkley won't be the same without Mike. It won't be the same without the ringer on his phone quacking like a duck and interrupting meetings. It won't be the same without our office mascot—Mike's loving husky, Juneau—around to brighten everyone's day.

The writer Walter Lippmannn noted:

> The final test of a leader is that he leaves behind in others the conviction and will to carry on.

And I can tell you that the values of service, compassion, and humility that Mike has enshrined in the heart of Team Merkley will carry on because the folks whom he has painstakingly brought together have the conviction and will to do so.

Thank you, Mike. Thank you for all you have done for the team, all you have done for the Senate, and all you have done in advocating for policies to make our State, our country, and the world a better place. We wish you and your family the best as you start writing that next chapter of your life.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VEHICLE EMISSIONS

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise today in opposition to a resolution that has been presented to overturn the EPA's lifesaving heavy-duty NO_X rule.

Across the country, heavy-duty vehicles, including trucks and buses, make up one-third of all transportation NO_X emissions. Now, this is the same source of smog and soot that darkens skies in many communities and certainly poisons the lungs of too many Americans.

In an effort to address those real challenges, the EPA's heavy-duty vehicle pollution rule is projected to cut NO_X emissions from the heavy-duty sector by nearly half over the next dozen years. This represents a monumental investment and significant step forward in our Nation's health and air quality that will benefit all Americans. But instead of supporting this rule, some Members have suggested that we reverse course and instead leave in place an outdated pollution standard—a rule that even the heavy-duty vehicle industry acknowledges is too weak—and, in so doing, endanger the lives of thousands of Americans. This makes no sense.

Consider the Inland Empire in Southern California. Truly this region, this geographical area, is the heart of our Nation's supply chain. No one in the Inland Empire wants the economy to shutter, but residents in the region know all too well the dangers that surround them. Children's playgrounds, veterans health centers, schools, and entire neighborhoods are surrounded by warehouses and distribution centers. Now, the warehouses in and of themselves aren't threatening our air quality or public health, but think about the emissions from the trucks that carry goods to and from those warehouses. As a result, communities throughout the Inland Empire, which happen to also be mostly Latino and low-income communities, experience higher rates of asthma, decreased lung function in children, and higher rates of cancer. It is not hyperbole. The data is there. Statistics are clear.

It is not just the Inland Empire. I raise that as the most significant example. In fact, it is communities all across the country near freight corridors that are impacted—almost 72 million people who live near freight routes.

So yes, Mr. President, I am standing up for the fundamental human right to clean air for all Americans.

Now, truth be told, I actually wanted the EPA to be more ambitious in its final NO_X rule and to align more closely with California's stringent heavy-duty vehicle rules. California proudly leads the Nation in decarbonization and emissions reduction, and we have done so by working thoughtfully and collectively with industry and communities to cut deadly NO_X and other pollution from vehicles while we transition to zero-emission vehicles.

So to my colleagues who claim negative business or economic impacts, California is doing this while having just grown from being the fifth largest economy in the world to the fourth largest economy in the world. Economic growth and environmental protection are not mutually exclusive. Economic growth and protecting public health are not mutually exclusive. We can and must do it all together.

Last I checked from business leaders whom I talked to—I mentioned industries at the table and also at the State level—they actually appreciate that regulatory certainty that I know you and I have talked about, Mr. President, where we lay out a rule, an agenda, a policy objective, and work together to create a plan to achieve it and keep that plan, not ripsaw back and forth about what regulations are going to be in place from one year to the next, from one congressional majority to the next, et cetera.

I am also continuing to push the EPA to finalize a strong phase 3 heavy-duty vehicle rule with my clean air and clean transportation partners in the Senate, including Chairman CARPER of the Environment and Public Works Committee and Senator MARKEY and others.

But, at the very least, we can't undercut two decades of progress we have already made, and this CRA undermines the scientific and technical expertise behind these important standards and public health protections. And we know that the CRA is part of a bigger effort to stop the bold action we are taking to tackle the climate crisis.

So, colleagues, for the sake of clean air, for the sake of our environment, and for the sake of the health of all communities across the country, I urge you to oppose this repeal.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I would ask unanimous consent to be able to complete my remarks before the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEBT CEILING

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, this week, the House is expected to vote on legislation to begin to rein in Congress's out-of-control spending and avoid a debt default. As the American people know, this is a critical task that has become more urgent by the day.

The United States hit its debt limit, basically maxing out on our national credit card. We maxed out on our credit card in January, and the Treasury Department has been using what they call ''extraordinary measures'' to prevent the government from defaulting on its debt. Because it depends on how much revenue is coming in the front door from taxes, we don't know exactly when these measures will be exhausted, but experts say it could happen as soon as June, which is only 1 month away. So clearly it is time to get serious about solutions.

From the beginning of this discussion and debate, two things have become abundantly clear: One, default should be avoided at all costs. This is something that Republicans and Democrats both agree to. Our economy is still stabilizing from the uncertainty caused by the pandemic, our banking system has endured two high-profile collapses, and inflation continues to wreak havoc on family budgets.

The latest RealClearPolitics average for the Biden administration's handling of the economy says that only about 37 percent of the American people believe President Biden has done a good job on the economy. So clearly they are feeling vulnerable to any shocks to the economy that might occur should the debt limit not be passed.

We know that if the United States defaults on these debts, all of our challenges will only get worse. Social Security and Medicare benefits would be delayed. Members of the military and Federal employees would not get paid. We could see skyrocketing mortgage rates, sinking stock prices, and an instability all across our economy.

In short, this is not a time for a game of chicken; this is a time for responsible people to step up and to do their job. A default is the very last thing our country needs, and Congress and the administration need to act before it is too late.

I am glad we agree on that point, but the second point is where there is clearly a difference of opinion. It is clear that America's borrowing and spending are unsustainable. With $31

trillion in national debt and almost $1 trillion a year being spent on interest to pay the bondholders who hold that debt, we know we can't continue down this path. National debt has catapulted from $3.2 trillion in 1980 to $9.7 trillion in 2000. Today, it is $31.7 trillion. Those numbers are so big, I am sure most of us have difficulty grasping them, assuming we could at all—$31.7 trillion in debt.

While the national debt poses a significant economic risk, it also invites significant security risks. Every day, America is spending more and more money on interest payments—like I said, about $1 trillion for the bondholders who own that debt. Each dollar that goes toward servicing the debt is a dollar that can't be spent on other priorities, like keeping America safe.

For years, our top defense officials have warned about the risk of the national debt continuing to grow. In 2010, I remember then-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Michael Mullen said:

> The most significant threat to our national security is our debt.

Since then, our national debt has more than doubled. That trend is not going to change on its own. It requires a change of behavior—behavior by the administration and by Members of the U.S. Congress. We need to act as soon as possible to rein in out-of-control spending and protect America's long-term financial stability and our national security. Future generations are going to have to pay that money back, and we ought to do everything we can to avoid that result, if there are things we can do at least to mitigate it.

So these are the two basic truths that the majority of Americans agree on: A default is unacceptable, and secondly, we need to get our fiscal house in order. Unfortunately, President Biden refuses to engage on either one. This is really unbelievable to me. The President of the United States, the leader of the free world, and he said: Eh, not my problem. How irresponsible, how reckless is that?

From the beginning, President Biden drew outrageous redlines and tried to dictate what a solution would look like. And, actually, it wasn't a solution; it was just a patch. The President ruled out any negotiations over spending reforms and said he expected Congress to raise the debt limit with no conditions attached.

We know that any bank or credit union in America that issues a credit card—that once you have maxed out on your credit limit, they want to know: OK, if you want us to raise that limit, you are going to have to tell us how you are going to pay the money back that you already owe. But President Biden said: No, we want to keep spending, and we want to keep raising the debt limit, but we don't want to do anything about reforming spending or changing the curve when it comes to reining in spending.

These unrealistic declarations by the President don't make him look tough; they just make him look out of touch. Just because President Biden wants something doesn't mean it will happen.

As the President knows, Democrats no longer control both Chambers of Congress. During the first 2 years, the President could snap his fingers and expect Democrats to advance his agenda without a single Republican vote. And that happened, most recently on two bills which are partisan bills that added $2.7 trillion to our national debt. And now the President says: It is not my problem.

Well, this isn't a monarchy. We got rid of a King a long time ago. This isn't the Biden empire, and the President's wishes can only count for so much.

The reality of the situation is that any solution to the debt ceiling must be bipartisan and bicameral. It has to be approved by a Republican-led House and a Democrat-led Senate and a Democrat President. Right now, President Biden's clean debt ceiling increase simply has no way to pass.

So we are at an impasse, and there is only one way forward; that is, the President must do what Presidents have always done before this time, and that means come to the negotiating table. That is the only way to avert a debt crisis that both political parties want to avoid.

For months, Republicans have urged President Biden to sit down with Speaker MCCARTHY and hammer a compromise.

Other than a single meeting where they literally touch gloves and then walked away, like two boxers in a ring, the President has been completely absent without leave. He has been AWOL.

He continues to parrot demands that he knows are unreasonable and impractical, and he refuses to acknowledge the reality of the problem.

Well, since President Biden took office a little over 2 years ago, he has been on a spending bender. He pushed Democrats in Congress to pass two massive partisan bills that I mentioned a moment ago, totaling about $2.7 trillion. These were strictly party-line votes by Democrats, with no Republican support, that added $2.7 trillion to the debt, and now President Biden said: Not my problem once the debt ceiling has hit.

He stuck taxpayers for a ridiculous set of pet projects, everything from handouts for labor unions to subsidies for wealthy people so they would buy electric vehicles, even though most Americans can't afford one.

President Biden didn't just rely on Democrats to indulge his spending habits; he also ran off with the taxpayers' credit card by himself.

The President single-handedly claimed to be able to spend $460 billion in an Executive order erasing student loans off the books for tens of millions of borrowers. That case is now pending in the U.S. Supreme Court.

Clearly, he does not have that authority, but he claimed to have it, and now we have a case pending before the Supreme Court to decide that.

So President Biden, in addition to the $2.7 trillion in partisan spending bills, has no trouble adding to that debt by another $460 billion. But he doesn't want to negotiate the debt ceiling increase. He doesn't want to talk about how do we get back on a glidepath to more responsible spending habits.

Despite the President's record of spending like there is no tomorrow, he refuses to talk about spending reforms—at least so far. He said he won't even entertain the idea that this is a topic worth discussing with the Speaker of the House.

As I said, that is a completely reckless and irresponsible position to take, and even members of the President's own party are lining up to criticize him. The Senator from Minnesota, Senator KLOBUCHAR, recently said that President Biden should sit down with Speaker MCCARTHY. Senator KLOBUCHAR is right. Congresswoman DEBBIE DINGELL, in the House of Representatives, said that the administration can't keep waiting. Senator MANCHIN, from West Virginia, went so far as to criticize the President's refusal to sit down with Speaker MCCARTHY as a deficiency in leadership.

With a potential default on the horizon, it is time for President Biden to change his tune. He needs to abandon this reckless ''my way or the highway'' attitude and sit down and do what Presidents have always done, and that is to negotiate a solution.

From the beginning, it was obvious to everybody that a bipartisan compromise was the only path forward. That is the most fundamental tenet of divided government. Nobody can do it by themselves, so you have to work out solutions together.

It is simply unacceptable for any President to stand by with these kinds of outrageous redlines when we are potentially just weeks away from a possible default, considering, especially, the fragility of the economy as it currently exists. And this would make it catastrophic.

So President Biden has wasted months already with his reckless position, and it is time to get moving. I appreciate Speaker MCCARTHY's efforts to break the stalemate and get President Biden to join him at the negotiating table.

I will repeat, in closing, the only way to avoid a debt crisis is through a bipartisan negotiation. Republicans have known that all along. Many Democrats are now acknowledging that as well, and it is time for President Biden to get the message.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON JACOBS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senate and advise the consent to the Jacobs nomination?

Mr. COONS. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 74, nays 25, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 96 Ex.]

YEAS—74

Baldwin	Graham	Peters
Bennet	Hagerty	Reed
Blackburn	Hassan	Romney
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Rosen
Booker	Hickenlooper	Rounds
Boozman	Hirono	Sanders
Britt	Hoeven	Schatz
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Schumer
Budd	Kaine	Shaheen
Cantwell	Kelly	Sinema
Capito	Kennedy	Smith
Cardin	King	Stabenow
Carper	Klobuchar	Tester
Casey	Luján	Thune
Cassidy	Manchin	Tillis
Collins	Markey	Tuberville
Coons	Marshall	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Warner
Cotton	Merkley	Warnock
Cramer	Moran	Warren
Cruz	Murkowski	Welch
Duckworth	Murphy	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murray	Wyden
Fetterman	Ossoff	Young
Gillibrand	Padilla	

NAYS—25

Barrasso	Johnson	Rubio
Braun	Lankford	Schmitt
Cornyn	Lee	Scott (FL)
Crapo	Lummis	Scott (SC)
Daines	McConnell	Sullivan
Ernst	Mullin	Vance
Fischer	Paul	Wicker
Grassley	Ricketts	
Hawley	Risch	

NOT VOTING—1

Feinstein

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. ROSEN).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized for 3 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONFIRMATION OF JOSHUA DAVID JACOBS

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, last summer this body delivered on a promise to our toxic-exposed veterans. We passed a bill called the SFC Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act.

With a historic number of veterans newly eligible for long-overdue benefits, the VA needs a steady, accountable hand to lead VA benefits and its more than 25,000 employees in delivering quality, timely benefits now more than ever.

About an hour and a half ago, we confirmed a person by the name of Josh Jacobs. He is that person who is going to be heading up VA benefits. He is that person with the steady hand. I am glad that this body came together in a bipartisan way to make him the permanent leader of the VBA.

The fact is, having a permanent leader in this role ensures that we can hold the VA accountable to their job, and that is critically important. I can't be prouder of this body to tell you that we have a person who not only understands benefits but has worked in this capacity for the past several months.

With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I want to thank you for the recognition.

I would like to speak for 4 minutes, max.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VA MEDICINAL CANNABIS RESEARCH ACT OF 2023

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I want to thank the body for this.

So we had a chance to do the right thing here, folks. We did the right thing with Josh Jacobs and veterans' benefits. Now we have the opportunity to pass the Elizabeth Dole Veterans Programs Improvement Act of 2023.

This legislative package includes five veterans bills that were considered and unanimously approved by the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee back in February and delivers on many of our longstanding priorities for our veterans and leading veterans services organizations. I am going to tell you what it does, and then I am going to talk about something specifically.

It expands home- and community-based support for aging and disabled veterans—home- and community-based support.

Among other provisions, it also helps Native Americans and Alaskan Native veterans achieve homeownership by lowering interest rates on VA Native American direct loans and reforming this program so it can work for our veterans—particularly, our Native veterans.

The part that I understand that is controversial is that it directs the VA to explore medical cannabis as an alternative treatment for veterans experiencing chronic pain and symptoms of PTSD.

Why? So that we—but more, importantly, the veterans—have a better understanding of the role medicinal cannabis plays in treating the wounds of war.

The jury is still out on this. This adds a 2-year retrospective study that will take place prior to the VA's beginning clinical trials outlined in this legislation. It grants the Secretary of the VA authority to cancel clinical trials should the VA deem them to be unsafe, based on that retrospective study that I just talked about. It allows the Secretary the authority to cancel trials in the event that it is determined that the trials were exposing participants to excessive risk.

Quite frankly, as I said in my opening, it allows veterans the access to relevant information to make informed decisions about their own health and will shine light on an understudied topic, which is already being used by our veterans nationwide.

So the real question here is, Do I want our veterans to understand the benefits or possibly the nonbenefits of medicinal marijuana or do we want to leave them out in the cold, not understanding what is going on?

The truth is, we all understand the impact opioids have had on this country, and if, in fact, it shows that medical marijuana or marijuana can have impacts that help people in chronic pain, we should know that information so we can pass it along to the veterans. It is as simple as that. The rest of these bills are absolute no-brainers, and I will tell you, I think the cannabis portion of this bill is a no-brainer.

Today, it is time to put political differences aside and do what is right for our veterans.

Look, don't let the haircut fool you—I did not serve in the military. I don't use marijuana. But the truth is, those people who think it works for them, they ought to know, and that is what this bill does.

I would encourage a vote for cloture on this bill. It is a good bill. It is a bill that the veterans service organizations have fought for and want to see happen.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The senior Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to address the Senate for up to 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, the legislation that is before us, the Veterans Programs Improvement Act, just came out of the Senate Veterans Affairs' Committee. It is S. 326, as amended.

We are here on a motion for cloture, and this bill will be, as amended, a

combination of bills that are both Republican and Democratic bills, including one from the Senator who is presiding today. It includes a bill from Senator ROUNDS of South Dakota dealing with the loan process for Native American veterans. It includes a couple of pieces of legislation: the RESPECT Act, to help veterans with mental health or neurological conditions to get caregiver care; the Elizabeth Dole Act, to expand home- and community-based, long-term care programs so that veterans have more choices as they age; and the bill of the Presiding Officer that provides grants to county veterans service officers for outreach to veterans. In addition, it includes what has been perhaps the most discussed aspect of this piece of legislation: a bill that creates the authorization to allow for medical research for marijuana to be conducted—for cannabis to be conducted by the Department of Veterans Affairs. But it requires retrospective research to take a look at the research that has already been conducted and to go and conduct research with veterans who are currently using cannabis. The outcome of that study is unknown, but this is an effort to make certain that veterans are not doing something that is harmful to them and to make an informed decision several years from now about the relationship between veterans and cannabis.

The point I would like to make in my few comments today is that I have encouraged my colleagues to offer amendments. There are a lot of items that my particularly Republican colleagues—I understand there are Democratic colleagues who have amendments. While we have had some success this year in amendments coming to the Senate floor, I want to make certain that is the opportunity Republican colleagues and Democratic colleagues have as this bill—if it proceeds, that we have that opportunity.

I had those conversations with both the majority and the minority, and I look forward to enforcing as best I can the capability to make certain my colleagues have that opportunity. If that is not the case, I reserve the right to then oppose this legislation.

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 motion to proceed to Calendar No. 32, S. 326, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a study and clinical trials on the effects of cannabis on certain health outcomes of veterans with chronic pain and post-traumatic stress disorder, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Jon Tester, Alex Padilla, Christopher Murphy, Jeff Merkley, Michael F. Bennet, Tammy Baldwin, Richard J. Durbin, Mazie K. Hirono, Gary C. Peters, Margaret Wood Hassan, Brian Schatz, Tammy Duckworth, Catherine Cortez Masto, Cory A. Booker, Jack Reed, Raphael G. Warnock.

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 motion to proceed to S. 326, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a study and clinical trials on the effects of cannabis on certain health outcomes of veterans with chronic pain and post-traumatic stress disorder, and for other purposes, 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) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 57, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 97 Ex.]

YEAS—57

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rounds
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	Kelly	Schatz
Cantwell	King	Schmitt
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Luján	Sinema
Casey	Manchin	Smith
Cassidy	Markey	Stabenow
Collins	Menendez	Sullivan
Coons	Merkley	Tester
Cortez Masto	Moran	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Fetterman	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Welch
Hassan	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hawley	Peters	Wyden

NAYS—42

Barrasso	Fischer	Paul
Blackburn	Graham	Ricketts
Boozman	Grassley	Risch
Braun	Hagerty	Romney
Britt	Hoeven	Rubio
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schumer
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Cramer	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	Lummis	Tuberville
Cruz	Marshall	Vance
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Mullin	Young

NOT VOTING— 1

Feinstein

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). On this vote, the yeas are 57, the nays are 42.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

The majority leader.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, to just inform folks, in our arcane processes in the Senate, I have to switch my vote from yes to no—even though I am a strong yes—in order to be able to reconsider this vote.

So I enter a motion to reconsider.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, it is regrettable that this bill, which so much helps our veterans, went down. Our veterans need it. It was supported by all of our veterans groups. It had bipartisan, unanimous support in committee, and I hope that some of our Members on the other side of the aisle who didn't vote for it will reconsider.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session; that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 11; that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; that at 4:20 p.m., the joint resolution be considered read the third time and the Senate vote on passage without any further intervening action or debate; and that, upon disposition of S.J. Res. 11, the Senate resume the motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 4, the Equal Rights Amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY RELATING TO ''CONTROL OF AIR POLLUTION FROM NEW MOTOR VEHICLES: HEAVY-DUTY ENGINE AND VEHICLE STANDARDS''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Committee on Environment and Public Works is discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 11, and the clerk will report the measure.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 11) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to ''Control of Air Pollution From New Motor Vehicles: Heavy-Duty Engine and Vehicle Standards''.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

JUSTICE FOR JANA ELEMENTARY ACT OF 2023

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, in October of this past year, the parents and students of Jana Elementary School in Florissant, MO—that is in the greater St. Louis area—woke to find news of an independent study that had found nuclear radioactive contamination inside the school building at Jana Elementary. Now, sadly, this probably didn't come as a total shock to those residents who have lived in Florissant and in the surrounding area because for

years now—for years—this community has had to deal with the fallout of the Federal Government's own nuclear program and the waste left over from it dating back to the 1940s, which was then effectively dumped in St. Louis, made its way into the water, into the soil, and now into a stream that runs right by this elementary school.

So the school board wisely said: We should do a study. Let's find out if it is in the school.

Independent results came back and said it was in the dust, on the windowsills of the school—radioactive material. The school board met. They shut down the school. Parents had kids at home for months.

Then comes the first of this year. The school board said: We can't in good conscience reopen it.

Now what is happening? The school is closed. The kids are having to be bused to other locations, driven to schools outside of their neighborhood.

This a working-class community. These are hard-working folks. They don't have the resources lying around to send their kids to other schools or to pay to move. If they did, they would. They don't. They are just trying to live their lives, work a job, get their kids a decent education. And, instead, they have had to deal with this.

The worst part about it is the Federal Government refused to clean it up. When this news broke, the Army Corps of Engineers said: Oh, there is nothing wrong with the school. We have tested it a million times. It is fine.

In fact, they held a press conference today in which they said the same thing: Trust us. It is fine. It is fine.

I don't think any of them are sending their kids there. But trust us, they say; it is fine.

When I and the school board and the parents said to the Army Corps of Engineers: You need to retest; you need to test the entire school district—then they pointed fingers and said: Oh, no, it is the Department of Energy; it is their problem.

So then, when we went to the Department of Energy, they said: Oh, no, we can't do anything. It is the Army Corps' problem.

The Biden administration has spent the last 8 months now pointing fingers at each other, saying why they can't do this; they can't do that. The kids are just out of luck.

I just notice this. When that bank in California full of billionaires—who are also, not incidentally, major political contributors—had a problem, boy, this government moved lickety-split to bail them out. How many billions did this government spend to bail out the SVB shareholders and stakeholders and depositors? They got their bailout in no time flat.

These kids? Nothing. Can't even get a response. Do you know the Biden administration won't even respond to me? So fine. We will do it ourselves.

I have introduced legislation that will order testing in the entire school district, that will mandate a cleanup of the school, and, if necessary, build these kids a new school.

The Federal Government caused this problem. The Federal Government should fix this problem. And just because these kids aren't billionaires or big-time political contributors or connected politically doesn't mean that they can be ignored. It doesn't mean that their lives don't matter.

I would just note this. Last week, the Secretary of Energy, Jennifer Granholm, when I talked to her about this bill in a public forum—I asked her in the hearing—she said that she would support the legislation.

And who couldn't, Mr. President? Who couldn't support having the Federal Government clean up its own mess and getting some justice for these kids at Jana Elementary?

And I will just say this. This community in St. Louis has been asked to live with the fallout of the Federal Government's actions for decades—this is just the latest instance—for decades. The cancer rates, the rates of disease, autoimmune disorders, they are off the charts in this community, and for years these folks have been told: Just shut up, and it will be fine.

Well, it is not fine, and today we are going to get some justice for these kids. Today we are going to start the cleanup process that should have happened decades ago.

So I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be discharged from further consideration of S. 418 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 418) to provide financial assistance to schools impacted by radioactive contaminants, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

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

Mr. HAWLEY. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate on the bill, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 418) was passed as follows:

S. 418

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 ''Justice for Jana Elementary Act of 2023''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) COVERED SCHOOL.—The term ''covered school'' means a school that is part of the Hazelwood School District in the State of Missouri.

(2) FUND.—The term ''Fund'' means the Radioactive School Assistance Fund established under section 4(a).

(3) IMPACTED SCHOOL.—The term ''impacted school'' means a public elementary school or secondary school—

(A) that closed on or after January 1, 2020; and

(B) where the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program of the Corps of Engineers detected radiation above background levels—

(i) on school property; or

(ii) otherwise, within 1000 feet of a building containing classrooms or other educational facilities of the school.

(4) JANA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.—The term ''Jana Elementary School'' means the school located at 405 Jana Drive in Florissant, Missouri.

(5) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term ''local educational agency'' has the meaning given the term in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

(6) NATIONAL CONTINGENCY PLAN.—The term ''National Contingency Plan'' means the National Contingency Plan—

(A) prepared and published under section 311(d) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321(d)); or

(B) revised under section 105 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9605).

(7) PROGRAM.—The term ''Program'' means the Radioactive School Assistance Program established in accordance with section 4(b).

(8) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Energy.

(9) VICINITY PROPERTY.—The term ''vicinity property'' has the meaning given the term in the Engineer Regulation ER 200–1–4 of the Corps of Engineers entitled ''Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program'' and dated August 29, 2014 (or a successor document).

SEC. 3. REMEDIATION OF JANA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

Consistent with the requirements and obligations under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program of the Corps of Engineers, the Secretary of the Army shall—

(1) not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, establish new remediation goals for Jana Elementary School that will result in the removal of all radioactive contamination at Jana Elementary School such that no portion of the site is subjected to radiation above background levels; and

(2) after establishing remediation goals under paragraph (1), carry out activities necessary to achieve those goals.

SEC. 4. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SCHOOLS WITH RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION.

(a) RADIOACTIVE SCHOOL ASSISTANCE FUND.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States a fund to be known as the Radioactive School Assistance Fund to carry out the reimbursement program described in subsection (b).

(2) FUNDING.—The Fund shall consist of amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations under section 7.

(b) RADIOACTIVE SCHOOL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish and implement a program to be known as the ''Radioactive School Assistance Program'' to provide financial assistance in accordance with subsection (c) to

local educational agencies that have been financially impacted by the presence of radioactive contaminants stemming from the atomic energy activities of the United States Government.

(c) APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

(1) REIMBURSEMENT FOR TESTING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide financial assistance to each local educational agency that submits to the Secretary an application that includes—

(i) a certification that the local educational agency incurred expenses while testing for radioactive contaminants at an impacted school;

(ii) proof of such expenses; and

(iii) proof that such testing—

(I) led to further testing under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program of the Corps of Engineers; or

(II) was undertaken following testing by a private entity that found radioactive contamination.

(B) LIMITATIONS.—Financial assistance provided to a local educational agency under this paragraph shall not exceed the amount expended by such local educational agency to test for radioactive contamination.

(2) FUNDING FOR CONSTRUCTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide financial assistance for the construction of a new school building to each local educational agency that submits to the Secretary an application that includes the following:

(i) A plan for the construction of a new school building.

(ii) Documentation that a school under the jurisdiction of the local educational agency is an impacted school.

(iii) A budget for the construction of a new school building.

(iv) A certification that the local educational agency shall only use financial assistance provided under this paragraph for 1 or more of the following purposes:

(I) To purchase land for the construction of a new school building.

(II) To construct a new school building to replace an impacted school.

(B) LIMITATIONS.—

(i) AMOUNT OF FUNDING.—Financial assistance provided to a local educational agency under this paragraph shall not exceed $20,000,000 for each impacted school.

(ii) USE OF FUNDS.—A local educational agency that receives financial assistance under this paragraph may only use such financial assistance for 1 or more of the following purposes:

(I) To purchase land for the construction of a new school building.

(II) To construct a new school building to replace an impacted school.

(3) CONSIDERATIONS.—The Secretary may not reject an application submitted by a local educational agency for financial assistance under this subsection due to prior remediation by the Corps of Engineers or any other relevant Federal agency of an impacted school under the jurisdiction of such local educational agency.

(d) REPORTS.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the Program, which shall include—

(1) a description of the number of applications submitted under this section; and

(2) a description of the amount of financial assistance provided to local educational agencies under this section.

SEC. 5. INVESTIGATION OF SCHOOLS IN HAZELWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR CONTAMINATES.

(a) DESIGNATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, each covered school shall be designated as a vicinity property of the St. Louis Airport Site of the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program of the Corps of Engineers.

(b) INVESTIGATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Army shall investigate and characterize each covered school in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) and the National Contingency Plan, including, at a minimum, carrying out a preliminary assessment and site inspection of each covered school.

(2) INCLUSION.—An investigation of a covered school under paragraph (1) shall include on-site investigatory efforts and sampling in accordance with section 300.420(c)(2) of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

(c) REPORTS.—The Secretary of the Army shall develop and make available to the public, for each covered school, a report that includes the results of the investigation under subsection (b), including—

(1) the results of the on-site investigatory efforts;

(2) a summary of the results of sampling under paragraph (2) of that subsection for contaminants of concern, including the average and highest detected levels of each contaminant of concern; and

(3) an evaluation of the danger posed to students and employees of the covered school by the levels of contamination.

(d) COMMUNITY RELATIONS.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary of the Army shall comply with all applicable requirements relating to community relations and public notification under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.), section 311 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1321), and sections 300.415, 300.430, and 300.435 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

SEC. 6. REVIEW AND REPORT OF RADIOACTIVE TESTING AT JANA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

(a) REVIEW.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall review the methodology and results of all tests for radioactive contaminants conducted at Jana Elementary School, including—

(1) tests conducted by the Corps of Engineers;

(2) tests conducted by Boston Chemical Data Corporation; and

(3) tests commissioned by the Hazelwood School District in the State of Missouri.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the review required by subsection (a).

(2) CONTENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) for each test described in subsection (a), an evaluation of—

(i) the reliability of the methodology used—

(I) to conduct such test; and

(II) to evaluate the results of such test; and

(ii) the reliability of the opinions contained in any report summarizing the test; and

(B) an evaluation of the danger posed to children by any radioactive contaminants found at Jana Elementary School.

SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2023 $25,000,000 to carry out this Act.

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HAWLEY. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

UDALL FOUNDATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2023

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 1311, a bill to reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund, which was introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1311) to reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. KELLY. I further ask that the bill be considered read three times and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1311) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 1311

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 ''Udall Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2023''.

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE UDALL FOUNDATION TRUST FUND.

Section 13 of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation Act (20 U.S.C. 5609) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2028'';

(2) in subsection (b), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2028''; and

(3) in subsection (c), by striking ''5-fiscal year period'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''5-fiscal year period beginning with fiscal year 2024.''.

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, this legislation would reauthorize a Federal foundation, the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation Act, which was established to honor the legacy of two great Arizonans: Morris and Stewart Udall.

The Udall Foundation honors the legacy of the Udalls by awarding scholarships, fellowships, and internships for study related to the environment and for American Indians and Alaska Natives to study healthcare and Tribal public policy. The foundation also supports the Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy and the Native Nations Institute to conduct research on environmental policy, American Indian and Alaska Native healthcare issues, Tribal policy, and training.

My predecessor, Senator John McCain, was a longtime supporter of

the foundation and its work, and the foundation has honored Senate McCain's legacy through the John S. McCain III National Center for Environmental Conflict Resolution.

This legislation does not increase authorization levels for the foundation. It simply extends current levels through the end of fiscal year 2028 to allow the foundation to continue its important work.

I yield the floor.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY RELATING TO ''CONTROL OF AIR POLLUTION FROM NEW MOTOR VEHICLES: HEAVY-DUTY ENGINE AND VEHICLE STANDARDS''—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today in strong opposition to S.J. Res. 11, the Congressional Review Act resolution to disapprove of the Biden administration's clean air standards for heavy-duty trucks.

If enacted, this resolution would wipe away EPA's most recent final rule that addresses smog- and soot-forming pollution from our largest trucks and engines. The resolution could also prevent the Agency from ever issuing similar standards in the future.

This Congressional Review Act resolution is bad for public health. It is bad for our economy.

As many of us know, the transportation sector is one of our Nation's largest sources of nitrogen oxides, also known as NO_X emissions. Heavy-duty vehicles—such as our schoolbuses and long-haul trucks—make up a third of mobile source NO_X emissions.

Nitrogen oxide pollution is one of the main contributors to ozone pollution, or smog, and also contributes to soot pollution. These harmful air pollutants are linked to increased risks of asthma attacks, respiratory disease, and, sadly, in some cases, premature death.

In December 2022, I joined clean air advocates, labor leaders, and EPA Administrator Regan as he signed the final rule to reduce this pollution from new heavy-duty vehicles starting with model year 2027. This was the first time in more than 20 years that EPA had updated the heavy-duty vehicle NO_X requirements. It should not be confused with EPA's recently proposed greenhouse gas emissions standards for vehicles.

During the event, Administrator Regan told attendees that this rule would result in 48 percent reduction in NO_X by 2045—48 percent reduction in nitrogen oxide emissions by 2045. These reductions will improve air quality nationwide, especially in areas overburdened by air pollution and diesel emissions.

Reducing vehicle pollution nationwide is especially personal for us in Delaware, where more than 90 percent of our air pollution comes from outside of our State.

The Heavy-Duty Vehicle NO_X Rule is good for our health and good for our economy. With that, I want to give my colleagues three reasons why they should vote against Senator FISCHER's CRA resolution.

First, the Heavy-Duty NO_X Rule enables States to better meet EPA's health-based ozone air quality standards. Without the rule, States would have to make costly decisions and find more expensive ways to further reduce NO_X emissions to meet ozone attainment. That is why many States and local air quality directors, including those in Arizona, Ohio, and Nevada, petitioned EPA in 2016 to take action on NO_X emissions from heavy-duty vehicles.

In the same vein, I would like to ask unanimous consent to submit for the RECORD a letter opposing S.J. Res. 11 from the National Association of Clean Air Agencies, which is an association that represents the State's clean air offices.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CLEAN AIR AGENCIES,
Washington, DC, April 25, 2023.

Hon. CHUCK SCHUMER,
Senate Majority Leader, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. TOM CARPER,
Chair, Committee on Environment & Public Works, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Senate Minority Leader, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO,
Ranking Member, Committee on Environment & Public Works, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS SCHUMER, MCCONNELL, CARPER, AND CAPITO: We write to you today on behalf of the National Association of Clean Air Agencies (NACAA) regarding S.J. Res. 11, introduced in the U.S. Senate on February 9, 2023, under which the U.S. Congress would disapprove the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) final rule, ''Control of Air Pollution from New Motor Vehicles: Heavy-Duty Engine and Vehicle Standards,'' published in the Federal Register on January 24, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 4296). NACAA is the national, nonpartisan, nonprofit association of 157 state and local air pollution control agencies in 40 states, the District of Columbia and five territories. The views expressed in these comments do not represent the positions of every state and local air pollution control agency in the country.

On May 16, 2022, NACAA submitted written comments to EPA on the agency's proposed rule to set cleaner standards for nitrogen oxide (NO_X) emissions from heavy-duty (HD) trucks. These comments emphasize the importance of EPA's final HD truck NO_X rule to state and local efforts across the nation to protect people's health, achieve and maintain clean air, and advance environmental justice goals.

Americans in every part of the country urgently need improvements in NO_X emissions from onroad HD vehicles. Among our comments to EPA, NACAA included specific examples from state and local air agencies of the array of circumstances necessitating NO_X reductions. Below, we highlight some of the other key points made in our comments.

During the nearly eight years before EPA promulgated this final rule NACAA urged the agency on multiple occasions to set more protective HD truck NO_X standards. Prior to the 2023 rule, EPA last set federal HD truck NO_X emission standards in 2001. Given the interstate nature of trucking—both cross-border operations and downwind atmospheric transport—federal standards are necessary to achieve the broad NO_X reductions needed across the nation. Over the past two decades, technological advances to reduce HD truck NO_X emissions have grown significantly as has the potential for even further advances. At the same time, emission limits for most other major NO_X sources, such as power plants, generators, and industrial facilities, have repeatedly become more restrictive. Unless EPA took this federal action, HD trucks were on course to remain one of the largest contributors to the national mobile source NO_X inventory in 2028.

There is a looming crisis facing many state and local clean air agencies across the nation. Currently, more than one-third of the U.S. population lives in an area that does not meet the health- and welfare-based National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone, particulate matter (PM) or both. Many of these areas are over-burdened communities whose citizens are exposed to a disproportionate share of harmful environmental conditions. The excessive emissions from HD trucks are a primary cause, contributing substantial emissions of NO_X—which are linked with a large number of adverse impacts on the respiratory system. In addition, NO_X is the key pollutant contributing to the formation of ozone and $PM_{2.5}$ and exposure to elevated levels of ozone and $PM_{2.5}$ are associated with significant respiratory and cardiovascular impacts, including premature death.

While state and local air agencies have made great strides in reducing emissions from stationary sources. However, many state and local air agencies lack the authority to regulate mobile sources and never have the authority to regulate mobile sources upwind of or outside their borders. The regulation of mobile sources is an authority that lies almost entirely within the purview of the federal government. While some states and localities may be able to pursue ''California'' standards under Clean Air Act sections 209 and 177, most are precluded by state policies or legislation from adopting standards more stringent than those of the federal government.

Unfortunately, emission standards for this highway heavy-duty ''federal source'' did not keep pace with standards for the light-duty motor vehicle sector or stationary sources, and fell far short of what is needed to meet clean air, public health protection and environmental justice goals. As large swaths of the country slip deeper into nonattainment, or teeter on the cusp of it, many state and local air agencies are left with few remaining mechanisms to achieve the emission reductions the Clean Air Act demands. Areas that miss their attainment deadlines face the threat of ''bump-up'' to a more demanding classification of nonattainment—if they are not already classified as Extreme—and statutorily required economic sanctions if they fail to meet their attainment deadlines. On October 7, 2022, EPA bumped up over 25 areas in nonattainment of the 2008 and 2015 ozone NAAQS, meaning the citizens of these areas continue to suffer the detrimental impacts of unhealthful air.

Our nation is in need of a strong, sustainable transportation strategy with top priority placed on new federal programs to continue to protect people's health and reduce

emissions from the mobile source sector. As this strategy is developed, the need for meaningful reductions in criteria pollutant emissions, especially NO_X and PM, cannot be overlooked. Regarding attainment and maintenance of the ozone NAAQS, most areas of the country are ''NO_X-limited,'' meaning that reducing NO_X emissions is the key to success. In addition, research shows that in some areas of the country, such as much of the East Coast, NO_X reductions are now ''supercharged,'' meaning that a one-pound reduction in NO_X emissions equals more than one pound of ozone reduction. Failure to adequately address transportation-related NO_X sources will have a direct and consequential impact on state and local air agencies' abilities to protect the health of the public they serve and their ability to fulfill their statutory obligations to attain and maintain federal health-based air quality standards by mandated deadlines and achieve their environmental justice goals.

EPA has now taken essential federal action that will result in significant NO_X reductions from HD trucks. Cleaning up this sector is imperative to putting our nation on a path to attaining and maintaining the health-based NAAQS and protecting our nation's most vulnerable communities. Without this rule, many areas will be forced to adopt severe limits on stationary sources, for which they have authority to control, at ever-increasing costs to businesses. Even with these severe limits, there may not be enough NO_X reductions available to protect people's health and meet federal air quality standards.

We thank you for considering the information provided in this letter and NACAA's May 16, 2022, comments to EPA on the HD truck NO_X rule. If you have any questions or would like further information please do not hesitate to contact us or Miles Keogh, Executive Director of NACAA.

Sincerely,

TRACY R. BABBIDGE,
Connecticut, State Co-Chair, NACAA Mobile Sources and Fuels Committee.

ERIK C. WHITE,
Placer County, California, Local Co-Chair, NACAA Mobile Sources and Fuels Committee.

Mr. CARPER. Second, these standards are achievable, and they provide predictability for industry, which the blunt tool of the CRA would undercut.

Companies such as Cummins and others in the heavy-duty vehicle industry support the Heavy-Duty NO_X Rule. The CRA would reinstate a decades-old standard based on outdated air pollution control technology, while potentially blocking EPA from ever—from ever—adopting stronger standards.

Finally, if enacted, this CRA would negate the cumulative $200 billion in net benefits that the rule would generate between 2027 and 2045. These are the annual health and economic benefits that, by 2045, include: up to—listen to this—up to 2,900 fewer premature deaths—in 1 year—in 1 year; also, in 1 year, 6,700 fewer hospital admissions and emergency room visits; also, in 1 year, 18,000 fewer cases of childhood asthma; and, finally, in 1 year, 3.1 million fewer cases of asthma.

These improvements will be especially beneficial for the 72 million people living near truck freight routes, where many historically disadvantaged and underserved communities are disproportionately exposed to harmful ozone pollution.

Let me conclude by saying that the Heavy-Duty NO_X Vehicle Rule protects public health and benefits our economy. That is a good combination. These protective and achievable Clean Air Act standards reduce dangerous smog and soot pollution and provides certainty for our Nation's heavy-duty vehicle manufacturers and for our State.

Walking away from all the benefits generated by this rule doesn't make sense. That is why I call on my colleagues to join me in opposing S.J. Res. 11.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 3 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, today, the U.S. Senate will vote on my Congressional Review Act resolution to overturn the Biden administration's rule establishing stricter emissions standards for heavy-duty vehicles.

My Republican colleagues have joined me in this effort. Senator MANCHIN announced today that he is cosponsoring my legislation. I hope more of my Democratic colleagues will join us as well.

This Environmental Protection Agency rule is an aggressive mandate on truckers that would force them to purchase new, expensive equipment, burdening their work and livelihoods. The irony of this rule is that it would undermine its own stated goal of reducing emissions.

New emissions standards will increase demand for newer, environmentally cleaner trucks. But there are only so many of these new trucks, so the massive increase in demand will cause the prices of trucks and manufacturing equipment to spike.

Truck dealers and manufacturers say the rule will ''worsen an already-tight equipment market.'' And the EPA itself estimates that the technology required to meet this new rule's standards will cost between $2,568 and $8,304 more per vehicle.

The irony is, the prices of newer vehicles will escalate, incentivizing truckers and businesses to hold onto their older, higher-emitting trucks.

Todd Spencer, President of the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, said, ''If small business truckers can't afford the new, compliant trucks, they're going to stay with older, less efficient trucks, or leave the industry entirely. Once again, EPA has largely ignored the warnings and concerns raised by truckers in this latest rule.''

This expensive rule won't just negatively affect truckers. It will have a negative impact on our economy as a whole.

The EPA's own economic analysis projects that the costs associated with the new regulation could reach up to $55 billion from 2027 to 2045—$55 billion.

During this administration, inflation has hit record highs. Additional inflationary burdens on the trucking industry will mean that any product transported by trucks—whether it is food, clothing, or other commodities—each one of those products will cost more.

Smaller, more affordable trucking businesses will close up shop, and the ones that can afford higher prices will raise their rates. This means consumers will be paying more money to a smaller group of businesses.

Every American consumer will feel the effects of this rule and its price increases. Every agricultural producer and every local business will feel these effects.

If you are an ag or energy heavy State, like Texas, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, or Illinois, Nebraska, California, or Montana, your local economy would be especially impacted by higher freight costs.

That is not to mention the 3 million Americans who work as commercial truckers. Many truckers work for ''mom and pop'' operations—small businesses that simply don't have the financial resources to handle a spike in costs. These businesses and the jobs they create will be jeopardized by this rule.

In my home State of Nebraska, 1 in 12 people are employed by the trucking industry. The livelihoods of real Nebraskans—and real Americans—are at stake here.

During a period of high inflation and supply chain disruptions, the last thing this country needs is more expensive freight costs and fewer truckers.

The Biden administration is yet again trying to push through a rule that sounds nice but has wide-ranging negative implications for regular Americans.

My CRA will stop this rule in its tracks—before it has the chance to damage the livelihoods of truckers and consumers across our country.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in prioritizing the economic well-being of Americans over this politically charged and ineffective topdown regulation from the EPA.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON S.J. RES. 11

I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

Under the previous order, the clerk will read the joint resolution for the third time.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The joint resolution having been read the third

time, the question is, Shall the joint resolution pass?

The yeas and nays were previously ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

[Rollcall Vote No. 98 Leg.]

YEAS—50

Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blackburn	Grassley	Ricketts
Boozman	Hagerty	Risch
Braun	Hawley	Romney
Britt	Hoeven	Rounds
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Collins	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Lummis	Thune
Cramer	Manchin	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Vance
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Mullin	Young
Fischer	Murkowski	

NAYS—49

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Bennet	Hirono	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kaine	Schumer
Booker	Kelly	Shaheen
Brown	King	Sinema
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Cardin	Luján	Stabenow
Carper	Markey	Tester
Casey	Menendez	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warnock
Duckworth	Murray	Warren
Durbin	Ossoff	Welch
Fetterman	Padilla	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Hassan	Reed	
Heinrich	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—1

Feinstein

The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 11) was passed, as follows:

S.J. RES. 11

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress disapproves the rule submitted by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency relating to ''Control of Air Pollution From New Motor Vehicles: Heavy-Duty Engine and Vehicle Standards'' (88 Fed. Reg. 4296 (January 24, 2023)), and such rule shall have no force or effect.

REMOVING THE DEADLINE FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 4, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 3, S.J. Res. 4, a joint resolution removing the deadline for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 734

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, last week, the House voted for a commonsense proposal that is supported by a majority of Americans. The House voted to protect female athletes. This week, it is time for the Senate to do the same thing.

Before my time here, I spent many years as a coach, educator, and mentor. I have seen how sports can change people's lives. Athletic scholarships open up a lifetime of opportunities for men and women alike. Yet, today, those opportunities for women are being threatened by a radical political agenda that is being forced upon the American people.

When I was growing up, there were a lot less opportunities for female athletes. Fifty-one years ago, Congress passed title IX to ensure that male and female athletes both had access to lessons, life skills, and opportunities for advancement that come from participating in sports. It has been one of the most successful pieces of legislation ever to come out of Congress.

As a coach, I saw its impact firsthand. One of my first jobs out of college was coaching junior girls' basketball—what a thrill. Title IX was just starting to be implemented when I took the job. I was there to see the incredible impact it had on young girls all over this country.

For the first time, young women I coached had equal access to facilities, resources, and competition. I saw those hard-working athletes go on to earn college scholarships, start careers, and become leaders in their own communities.

I still keep in touch with a lot of them. I am deeply proud of them. I wonder if they would have had the same opportunities without title IX. Would they have had the same access or ability for success?

Before title IX, at a lot of schools, there was no such thing as college women's athletics. Very few collegiate championships for women's sports existed, limiting opportunities for female athletes to achieve greatness.

Before 1972, when title IX was enacted, there were only about 30,000 female athletes in college sports and only around 290,000 in high school sports. For comparison, at the same time, 3.7 million males were playing high school sports. However, after title IX's enactment, that changed very quickly.

Because of title IX, female participation at the college level has risen more than 600 percent. Yet now female athletes are again being told to give up their ability to compete—and settle for second place.

Women and girls are suffering at the hands of an ideology. The Biden administration is taking a sledgehammer—a big sledgehammer—to title IX.

A few weeks ago—on Good Friday, of all days—Joe Biden's Department of Education issued a new rule completely reinterpreting title IX. As usual, the Biden administration is trying to legislate from the White House—the executive branch—because they know their radical ideas would not—and I repeat, would not—make it through this Congress.

This type of change should require a bill, but Biden, again, wants to change Federal law by simply publishing a new rule. Biden's rule change says schools cannot ban boys from participating in women's sports or else they will lose their funding.

I can't believe we are even talking about this.

The proposed rule is 116 pages long. It is so vague that schools are not going to know what to do. They are not going to know how to interpret it. The vagueness is going to let the Biden administration selectively enforce rules and intimidate schools into taking the most cautious position.

It is a backdoor national mandate to force schools to allow biological males to play in women's sports. Schools that choose to protect female athletes would face punishment from the government if they didn't allow it.

The rule is expected to go into effect this coming fall 2023. That means teachers and coaches would have to begin opening their girls' and women's teams, fields, and locker rooms to biological males. It is unfair, it is unsafe, and it is downright wrong. To be honest, it is moronic.

As a former coach, I can tell you that coaches will do what it takes to win. Coaches want to keep their jobs. The only way to keep your job as a coach and to deal with the pressure is to win games.

College athletics is a big business—a big, big business. There are conferences that make near $100 million per school a year just for television rights. So there is a lot at stake.

Under the Biden rules, all of the incentives are for biological males to dominate women's sports. They are only a very small percentage today. One study shows trans athletes make up about 0.00025 of athletes in women's college sports today—a very small percentage.

But, frankly, one championship or opportunity ripped away from a female by a biological male is one too many. The Democrats are here to argue differently. If they do that, it is shameful.

Ten years from now, I suspect the situation is going to be very, very different. The Supreme Court last year voted to allow college athletes to get paid for their name, image, and likeness. A few years from now, coaches and players would stand to make millions through playing biological males against women. It is only common sense that that is going to happen because winning is the only thing that counts in college and professional athletes. That is the only thing that counts.

Biological males will and would dominate in virtually every women's sport. Women's sports, as we know it, would be over. Biological girls would simply drop out of sports or never choose to play in the first place.

Is this really what the Democrats want? Is this really their plan? Do Democrats really want to end women's sports? Do Democrats really want to ruin the dreams of young girls who

want to be the next world-famous gymnast, like Suni Lee, or tennis player superstars, like the Williams sisters, or Olympic swimming legend, like Katie Ledecky? Is that what they want?

I am grateful that many courageous female athletes are speaking out. I spoke with one of the greatest athletes in history, Caitlyn Jenner, who is fully supportive of this bill for keeping men and boys out of women's sports, because we have all seen women like Riley Gaines, who had to watch her national championship dreams get taken away by a biological male. This was after she was forced to share a locker room with that adult biological male against her will.

Riley Gaines was at the University of Kentucky on an athletic scholarship. But what would happen if a young girl is forced to compete against a male in high school? She could watch her dreams taken away.

Already 28 championships have been taken away from girls and women at the hands of biological males. You have got to be kidding me. Males have 40 to 50 percent greater upper body strength and 20 to 40 percent greater lower body strength. It is dangerous to put them on the same field with women. This is basic biology.

What did we see from the ''Party of Science'' last week? Exactly zero Democrats in the House voted for this bill—zero. The ''Party of Science'' seems to have skipped biology class.

Now the question is, Will any Democrat in the Senate show a little bit of courage and stand up for women—just a little bit? Will any Senate Democrat vote to protect their daughters, their granddaughters, or great-granddaughters? I am anxious to see this. Will any of them do that today?

Democrats have been talking a lot about women on the Senate floor lately. Democrats seem to think the only thing women care about is abortion, ending the life of a child. What about women and girls who want to be athletes or go to school on an athletic scholarship? Does that matter?

Not a single House Democrat voted to protect girls and women in sports. Today, we are going to find out where Senate Democrats stand.

The bill the House passed last week would stop this administration from forcing schools to let biological males compete against women. In fact, the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act does just the opposite. It prevents a school from receiving funds if it lets boys compete in women's sports.

Americans do not want the Federal Government footing the bill for a policy that is a slap in the face to women who have worked so hard to become athletes.

A clear majority of Americans support this bill—a clear majority. Poll after poll has proven that. It is time to act before the situation gets worse, and it is going to get much worse. So now I am going to give this body a chance to stand up for women athletes.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 734, which was received from the House; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. Madam President, reserving the right to object, I rise today in opposition to S. 613, legislation that would ban transgender women and girls from participating in sports consistent with their gender.

My Republican colleagues falsely claim that allowing transgender women and girls to play sports is harmful to cisgender women and girls. They continue to hurl insulting lies about transgender girls dominating sports. But what is true is that these bans are deeply harmful to transgender girls, particularly transgender girls of color, girls who are gender nonconforming, and cisgender girls as well. These ''sex tests'' invade every girl's privacy and open the door to harassment for anyone who is perceived as ''different.''

If my Republican colleagues were actually worried about women and girls in athletics, they would join in our efforts to address unequal athletic opportunities in school, unequal pay, sexual abuse and harassment, and more. But this isn't about supporting women and girls; this is about power and control. My Republican colleagues are obsessed with controlling women's bodies and our lives, as we are seeing yet again today.

But instead of being honest about what they are doing, many on the other side claim that this bill is somehow a defense of title IX. That couldn't be further from the truth. Title IX says:

> No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

As someone who knew and was friends with Patsy Mink, the author of title IX, I can tell you she would be standing right next to me to say title IX in no way or shape supports what my colleague is attempting to do. Patsy spent her entire life fighting to advance equal opportunity for women and girls. It would pain her to know that the bill she fought so hard to make law is being twisted by Republicans to discriminate against the very people it was designed to protect.

Republicans have the wrong priorities. We shouldn't be banning anyone from playing sports. We should be fighting the discrimination that all women and girls—trans, cis, or otherwise—continue to face in athletics, in the classroom, and in the workplace.

For these reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, I am truly disappointed but expected that the Democrats were going to block this legislation to protect young girls and women. Again, it is shameful. It really is.

I see my colleague from Iowa is on the floor, and I want to thank her for joining me in this effort to protect women.

I yield the floor to Senator ERNST.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Ms. ERNST. Madam President, I would like to thank the Senator from Alabama for leading this effort.

Iowa has a celebrated history of exceptional girls' sports programs. We recently saw the Iowa Hawkeyes women's basketball team make it to the national championship after taking home their fifth Big Ten Tournament title just days after cheering on the high school girls competing in the State tournament. Last year, the Iowa High School Girls Athletic Union proudly sanctioned girls wrestling, opening up new opportunities for girls to be part of a team and recognized for their achievements.

Title IX not only makes these events possible; it guarantees an opportunity for our female athletes. Whether it is growing as a leader, winning a championship, or securing a scholarship to college, sports opens doors for young women. But right now, President Biden is working overtime to force institutions to allow biological males to share spaces with females and compete in women's sports. Doors that were opened over 50 years ago are being slammed in the faces of girls across the country because of the progressive left's gender ideology. Girls' locker rooms have now become a battleground for the Democratic Party, and parents continue to be iced out of the issue.

Thankfully, last year, Governor Reynolds protected girls' sports across Iowa, from elementary school all the way up to the collegiate level.

Here in the Senate, I am proud to join my friend from Alabama and our colleagues in supporting the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act. Under this legislation, any athletic program that receives Federal funds and permits a biological male to participate in competitions designated for women or girls would be in violation of Federal law. The House just passed this commonsense bill last week, and we should not waste any more time in passing it here in the Senate.

Payton McNabb is a senior in high school. She loves volleyball but was severely injured last fall because a biological male spiked the ball into her face.

Riley Gaines Barker, a 12-time NCAA All-American athlete, was forced to compete against a biological male, Lia Thomas, in the 200 freestyle. The two tied—they tied—for fifth place, with Thomas taking home the trophy. No kidding. Thomas took home the trophy. The NCAA told Riley it was necessary for photo purposes.

Lia Thomas is a 6-foot-4-inch biological male who swam on the men's team at the University of Pennsylvania for 3 years before switching to the women's team for his final year. Thomas beat female 2020 Olympic silver medalists and American record holders to win an NCAA Division I title.

Man, you might feel like a woman, but you aren't one.

We must protect our young girls and make sure they aren't pushed off the podium. Title IX is the law of the land whether the far left likes it or not. The law was created to offer the same playing field to female athletes as their male counterparts, not to subject women to second place and the sidelines.

In defense of our Iowa daughters and female athletes across the Nation, I am standing with Riley Gaines—who was recently attacked by radical activists on a college campus—and her message: Biological men should not be allowed to compete in women's sports.

Our female athletes deserve fairness, safety, and the ability to win those top scholarships and titles, as title IX intended. No amount of harassment from the radical left will stop strong women from standing up for the truth and for what is right.

If Senate Democrats pushing the so-called Equal Rights Amendment were really interested in equal rights for women, they would protect women's sports and spaces from biological men.

Madam President, every time a girl steps onto the mat, onto the court, the field, or the track, she should know that she has every opportunity to compete and win.

I am proud to work with my friend Senator TUBERVILLE and my colleagues in fighting to pass the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act.

With that, I will yield the floor to Senator TUBERVILLE.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I thank Senator ERNST for her comments. Now I would like to yield the floor to my colleague from North Carolina, Senator BUDD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BUDD. Madam President, I rise today to support Senator TUBERVILLE's Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act.

For more than half a century, title IX has expanded opportunities for women and girls from the classroom to the playing field. According to the Women's Sports Foundation, our country went from a ratio of 1 in 27 girls playing sports in 1972 to 1 in 5 today. We went from fewer than 30,000 female collegiate athletes in 1972 to nearly 230,000 female athletes today. That is progress that should be celebrated.

However, women's sports are fundamentally undermined when biological males are allowed to compete against them. There are biological differences between men and women. If we ignore those differences, we threaten future opportunities for female athletes and the entire notion of women's sports. It is unfair, it is unsafe, and it is unacceptable. That is why Senator TUBERVILLE's bill is so important. It simply ensures that title IX protections are clearly defined by a person's reproductive biology and genetics at birth.

The bottom line: Female athletes should compete against other female athletes. It is that simple.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, I thank Senators ERNST and BUDD for their comments today. I also want to thank the 25 cosponsors we have signed on to my bill in the Senate. Rest assured, this is not the end. We will continue to fight for this legislation for all the girls and women across this great country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. First, Madam President, I thank my colleagues who are on the floor today—Senator TUBERVILLE for his leadership, Senator BUDD, and Senator ERNST—for their efforts in the protection of women and girls in sports. As a doctor, I share their concerns, share their passion in terms of fairness, in terms of safety, and I congratulate them on their efforts and continue to join them in those efforts to provide the protection for women and girls in sports.

ENERGY

Madam President, I come to the floor today to talk about the high price of Democrats' misguided energy agenda. It is a high-price crisis entirely of President Biden and the Democratic Party's own making.

Last year, when energy prices were already at historic highs, what did Democrats do? Well, they voted 10 times—time after time after time—against increasing American energy production. Instead, Democrats jammed through the Senate and the House the largest climate bill in American history. The climate extremists applauded this.

Let me just say, hold the applause, because the American public is suffering. Families all across this great land are hurting. Democrats' reckless spending in the past 2 years has driven up the cost of energy and, of course, as everyone knows, this has fueled inflation.

Inflation reached a 40-year high because of Democrats' spending. Prices today are over 15 percent higher than they were the day Joe Biden took office. Energy prices have gone up even more than that. Americans are paying 36 percent more for energy today than they were in January of 2021. Gas prices to fill the tank are up 46 percent. That is a 5-month high. They are going to continue to go up during this summer's driving season.

The lower gas prices that the administration desperately and irresponsibly depleted our Nation's Strategic Petroleum Reserve to achieve last year has hurt our economy and has hurt our country and has hurt our national security.

Democrats were wrong to raid our emergency supplies of petroleum products in a desperate attempt to lower gas prices leading up to the November 2022 elections.

The Strategic Petroleum Reserve is our Nation's emergency reserve. Now it is out of gas. It is down to the lowest level it has been at in 40 years. Not refilling it. Oh, no.

Joe Biden knew we needed more energy than that. So he went on bended knee to foreign dictators, begging them to produce more oil to help lower gas prices here in America but not letting us produce it here at home—and we have plenty.

This President did everything he could to try to lower gas prices except the thing the American people know would work, and that is to produce more American energy. So American families are once again facing that double whammy of an energy crisis coupled with an inflation crisis.

Democrats are doing absolutely nothing to help solve the problem. Remember, the Biden administration began working on day No. 1 to choke off America's energy resources: killed the Keystone XL Pipeline, canceled oil and gas leases.

America's energy revolution turned us into the world's energy superpower. Our economy had a wonderful, competitive advantage. It is good for families, good for workers.

We challenged dictators without having to worry about our energy supply. We had affordable, reliable, and available American energy. This administration and the Democrats in this body squandered the gains that we had achieved.

They attacked American oil, natural gas, and coal at every turn along the way. Then they raised taxes to make it even more expensive. They instituted burdensome regulations to make it more difficult to produce the American energy.

They have put up roadblock after roadblock on every type of American energy. And yet Joe Biden and the Democrats, open-mouthed, looked with surprise: Why have the prices skyrocketed?

Anybody could have predicted that choking off our energy supply would lead to record-high energy prices and to increase dependence on our adversaries—Russia, China, Iran, Venezuela.

Last week, Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm testified before the Energy Committee. I specifically asked her about the administration's plan to lower gas prices and energy prices across the board, because they are up across the board. They are up for heating energy; they are up for driving energy.

Her solution: government mandates, phase out anything powered by oil,

natural gas, or coal. Take away our gas stoves, take away our gas-powered water heaters, force-feed us expensive electric cars that don't work for many people across the country.

They may be OK for rich people in the big cities who don't have to drive very much, who can afford to pay $16,000 more for a vehicle than for a traditional car. But for Wyoming families and Wyoming farmers and Wyoming ranchers, they just don't work.

People want affordable, reliable vehicles. And for people all around rural America, electric cars are not it.

Americans don't support the Democrats' climate extremism. Look at the polls. Nearly two-thirds of Americans say they don't want to buy an electric car. They don't want to be force-fed by Joe Biden. They don't want to have the government in the driver's seat.

They say the price is too high. It is $64,000 on average. The batteries are unreliable. Charging them is inconvenient. It is time-consuming. It takes a long time to get a battery charged, and it can't go all that far.

And then who benefits from all of this? China. That is because most of the critical minerals that are needed to build these batteries come right out of China. Just look for the ''made in China'' sticker on the batteries of the electric vehicles.

This country should be focusing on strengthening our energy independence, not finding ways to become more dependent to China or Russia.

So the reality of Secretary Granholm's so-called solution to lowering prices is that Americans will just pay more; not really concerned about affordability, but I didn't hear that word at all.

The way to lower prices is to unleash American energy. Now, the House recently passed legislation to do just that. And I support their efforts.

Senator CAPITO and I are going to soon introduce our own legislation in the Senate. The Energy and Natural Resources Committee is going to hold a hearing on the critical issues in the coming weeks.

We can only unleash American energy if we fix our broken permitting system process. Right now, new energy projects are bogged down by a maze of redtape and lawsuits.

Our legislation is going to include enforceable timelines on environmental reviews and filing legal challenges. We are going to move forward faster with an all-of-the-above American energy agenda. We need it all.

My Democratic colleagues have stated before that they do want permitting reform. Well, we will see. They are going to have an opportunity to speak up and to vote; because if they are serious, real reform is possible. If they are serious, we can tell the American people that real relief is on the way.

We do need a long-term commitment in this country to American energy. Making life more affordable for every American should be a bipartisan priority. It hasn't been for the first 2 years in the Biden administration and now going into the third.

We need to get back to a point where we can make energy affordable, available, and reliable—instead of focusing, as the Democrats do, on only renewable energy, regardless of the cost and regardless of the consequences.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

REMOVING THE DEADLINE FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I take this time—and I am going to be joined by several of my colleagues—to talk about a vote that we are going to have tomorrow on S.J. Res. 4. This is the resolution that would rescind the deadline for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

This is an issue that I have been working on for a long time, including during my time in the Maryland General Assembly in 1972, when the Maryland legislature ratified the Equal Rights Amendment.

So this goes back a long time, and it is time to finish the work. I want to thank Chairman DURBIN for his leadership on this issue, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, for the work he did so that we could reach this moment where we have a chance to take the step that is critically important, removing any ambiguity in regards to the ratification process.

I also want to thank Leader SCHUMER for making this time available so we will be able to vote on this issue tomorrow.

I particularly want to acknowledge the extraordinary leadership of Senator LISA MURKOWSKI, my coleader on this resolution. The two of us have worked together. This should never be a partisan issue. Equality should enjoy support, I would hope, from both Democrats and Republicans.

There is no time limit on equality. The 28th Amendment to the Constitution, the Equal Rights Amendment, was approved by the U.S. Congress in both the House and Senate by a two-thirds vote, as required in the Constitution, and has been ratified by 38 States—that is, three-fourths necessary for the ratification of a constitutional amendment.

The sole purpose of S.J. Res. 4 is to remove any ambiguity, to remove the time limit that was included originally in the 1972 act of Congress of 7 years and previously extended to 10 years.

I want to acknowledge the help I have received on this through the incredible staff we all have here in the U.S. Senate. Bill Van Horne, who is my chief counsel, has been working on this issue since my days in the House of Representatives, and I thank him for his leadership in bringing all the groups together. Helen Rogers has helped a great deal in this effort. I just want to acknowledge the work both of them have done on the Equal Rights Amendment.

The ERA simply states:

> Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of sex.

That is it. That is exactly what the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution says. Ratification would affirm women's equality in our Constitution, enshrining the principle of women's equality and explicit prohibition against sex discrimination in our Nation's founding document.

Currently, the only explicitly guaranteed right in our Constitution based upon sex is the 19th Amendment, which is the right to vote.

Existing legal protections against sex-based discrimination fall well short of addressing systemic sex-based inequality in our society.

As the 28th Amendment, the ERA would serve as a new tool for Congress, for Federal Agencies, and in courts to advance equality in the fields of workforce and pay, pregnancy discrimination, sexual harassment and violence, reproductive autonomy, and protection of LBGTQ+ individuals. Enshrining this protection in our Constitution also ensures enduring protections for all Americans across the country.

Existing legal protections against sex-based discrimination fall well short of addressing the systemic sex-based inequality in our society.

It is also a signal to the courts that they should apply a more rigorous level of review to laws and government policies that discriminate on the basis of sex.

That is what the ERA is all about: equality—the most fundamental of American values.

We need to finally get the job done. Last Congress, a bipartisan majority in the Senate cosponsored this joint resolution, and the House of Representatives has already passed this legislation on two occasions—first in the 116th Congress and then in the 117th Congress.

Virginia became the 38th and final State required by the Constitution to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment on January 27, 2020.

Our resolution, S.J. Res. 4, would clarify once and for all that the Equal Rights Amendment has met all the requirements of article V of our Constitution.

Let me read what it says:

> That notwithstanding any time limit contained in House Joint Resolution 208, the 92nd Congress, as agreed to in the Senate on March 22, 1972, the article of amendment proposed to the States in that joint resolution shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution, whenever ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States.

It is a clarification resolution. Congress has the power to do it. Congress approved it by more than the required two-thirds majority in both Chambers, and three-quarters of States have now ratified it. Article V of the Constitution has been complied with.

You are going to hear legal arguments surrounding whether a Senate

joint resolution can remove a deadline, so let me talk about some of these issues.

First, in the Constitution, there is nothing in the Constitution that sets a time limit on ratification. Read Article V. It talks about the votes necessary in Congress—we have had that—and the votes of ratification by the States—we have done that. There is no time limit in the Constitution.

The 27th Amendment effecting congressional pay raise was ratified after two centuries, after being initially proposed by Congress as part of the Bill of Rights in 1791, two centuries before—over 200 years before it was ratified.

Congress has the authority to act. There is precedent for Congress to extend the deadline for ratification of an amendment, as it did once before for the ERA. Note that the ERA deadline was contained in the preamble to the text of the constitutional amendment, not in the constitutional amendment itself.

There is precedent for Congress to declare that the requisite number of States have ratified a constitutional amendment, as the House and Senate did in 1992 by resolutions affirming the validity of the 27th Amendment regarding congressional pay raises. That is the one that took over 200 years to ratify.

In terms of Article V, the only question is whether a State has ratified. Ratification is something that happens at a moment in time. It either happens or it doesn't happen. History tells us that once a State has ratified, it can't take it back. The 14th Amendment became part of the Constitution after the Civil War even though two States had attempted to rescind prior ratifications. Those States were included on the list of States that ratified. The effectiveness of a rescission is ultimately a question for Congress. S.J. Res. 4 answers that question.

Then the most recent opinion by the Department of Justice, the opinion by the Office of Legal Counsel, noted that Congress, as a coequal branch of government, is not precluded from taking further action regarding the ratification of the ERA.

So we have all of the legal requirements. We can act.

Now let me lay out a few more things here.

Most Americans believe the ERA is already part of our Constitution. Just ask them. They think it is there. Most of our States have provisions in the State constitutions to provide equal rights based upon sex. So we already have it in States, and it is working.

Most democracies—in fact, every constitution that has been written since World War II contains an equal rights amendment. The United States is an outlier on this issue. We are the leader of democratic values in human rights globally, but we don't have an equal rights amendment in our Constitution.

The Pew Research Center did a survey on this. Seventy-eight percent of Americans support the Equal Rights Amendment being added to the Constitution. This is overwhelmingly popular among all of our constituents—Democrats, Republicans, Independents, men, women. Two-hundred fifty national and local groups support the ERA, including the League of Women Voters, the National Urban League, the National Council of Jewish Women, the SEIU, and many, many other civil rights, labor, and civic groups.

This resolution language removes any doubt of ratification, and it is the right way to go under our Constitution. We had the advice of constitutional scholars who support what we are doing—Erwin Chemerinsky, Larry Tribe, Kathleen Sullivan, Catharine MacKinnon, Victoria Nourse, former Senator Russ Feingold. All have endorsed the way we are proceeding.

The ERA is needed not only to keep progress moving forward but also to protect against incursions on the progress we have already made. Based on recent decisions by the Supreme Court, some Justices ascribe to the view that the meaning of equality under the equal protection clause should be frozen in time in 1868 when the 14th Amendment was ratified. That approach may cast in doubt even the limited precedents currently holding that the equal protection clause applies to sex discrimination.

It has been more than 100 years since women won the right to vote and nearly 100 since the effort to enshrine the ERA in the Constitution began. Generations have fought to achieve major points of progress in our laws and our society since then. However, it is undeniable that work remains.

Finally, enshrining the ERA into the Constitution would be one major step that we could take towards a society that is truly equal on the basis of sex.

I therefore urge my colleagues to vote yes on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 4. The women of America have waited long enough. Don't filibuster equality. You don't want to be on that side of history.

There should be no time limit on equality. Let us use this opportunity to complete the action of equality based on sex in our Constitution.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 121.

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 bill clerk read the nomination of Michael Farbiarz, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill 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. 121, Michael Farbiarz, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, John W. Hickenlooper, Margaret Wood Hassan, Gary C. Peters, Mark Kelly, Jack Reed, Tammy Duckworth, Christopher Murphy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Catherine Cortez Masto, Mazie K. Hirono, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jeanne Shaheen, Tammy Baldwin, Angus S. King, Jr., Alex Padilla, Robert Menendez, Michael F. Bennet.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 122.

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 bill clerk read the nomination of Robert Kirsch, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill 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. 122, Robert Kirsch, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, John W. Hickenlooper, Margaret Wood Hassan, Gary C. Peters, Mark Kelly, Jack Reed, Tammy Duckworth, Christopher Murphy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Catherine Cortez Masto, Mazie K. Hirono, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jeanne Shaheen, Tammy Baldwin, Angus S. King, Jr., Alex Padilla, Robert Menendez, Michael F. Bennet.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 123.

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 bill clerk read the nomination of Orelia Eleta Merchant, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill 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. 123, Orelia Eleta Merchant, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, John W. Hickenlooper, Margaret Wood Hassan, Gary C. Peters, Mark Kelly, Jack Reed, Tammy Duckworth, Christopher Murphy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Catherine Cortez Masto, Mazie K. Hirono, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jeanne Shaheen, Tammy Baldwin, Angus S. King, Jr., Alex Padilla, Robert Menendez, Michael F. Bennet.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for cloture motions filed today, April 26, be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA ON OCTOBER 1, 1953

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to S. Res. 175, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 175) recognizing the importance of the 70th anniversary of the signing of the mutual defense treaty between the United States and the Republic of Korea on October 1, 1953.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 175) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, tomorrow, it will be a great honor of the House and Senate to welcome President Yoon of the Republic of Korea to the U.S. Capitol.

Ahead of President Yoon's visit, Leader MCCONNELL, Chair MENENDEZ, Ranking Member RISCH, and I wish to welcome him through a bipartisan resolution reaffirming the strong support that exists for the U.S.-Korean relationship. Seventy years of this partnership have made both our nations safer, more prosperous, and more intertwined than ever. Today, millions of Americans know and love Korean music, Korean cinema, Korean food, and Korean goods and products. K-pop now goes viral in our country, and for many Americans their favorite movies are not in English but in Korean.

The Korean-American community embodies what the American dream has always been about: coming to our country and building something of yourself, building strong families who enrich our communities and make our Nation more prosperous. New York is proud to have one of the largest and most dynamic Korean communities anywhere in the country, and I have been proud to fight for them here in the Senate. They are a wonderful addition to New York, and the more Koreans there are in New York the better we are going to be.

And make no mistake, the United States and the Republic of Korea need each other more than ever. As we continue to compete with China, the Republic of Korea is one of our closest partners. And as we confront a belligerent North Korea, we must work with the Republic of Korea for our mutual safety.

I also want to applaud President Yoon for beginning the process to revitalize his nation's relationship with Japan. When we work together, we can make real strides to ensure security and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific. Again, I thank my colleagues for working with me on this resolution. We thank President Yoon for coming to the Capitol.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, first of all, I have to thank my colleagues, Senator CARDIN along with Senator MURKOWSKI, for bringing S.J. Res. 4 that we will be voting on tomorrow. We need the Equal Rights Amendment today more than ever.

What we have been seeing across the country, the far-right using every opportunity they can to roll back women's rights. We are seeing this happen in real time with access to abortion care, and we know it won't stop there.

So it is shameful that in 2023 there are so many extremists who want to make women second-class citizens, but that is why we need a constitutional amendment to protect women from discrimination and guarantee their equality under the law.

Few States understand this better than my home State of Nevada. Nevada put the Equal Rights Amendment back on the table when it became the first State in the modern era to ratify the ERA in 2017.

Nevadans stood up and made it clear that our State believes men and women should have equal legal rights. And they didn't stop there. In 2022, Nevada adopted the most comprehensive ERA in the country in its State constitution, putting protections in place to ensure equal rights for all.

Over and over again, Nevadans have led the charge for equality and women's rights at both the State and the Federal level. Now, since Nevada kicked off the push in recent years to ratify the ERA federally, we now have the 38 States we need to codify the Equal Rights Amendment in the U.S. Constitution. The only thing that is stopping us is a deadline Congress made up in 1972 that was already extended once. That is why we must vote to remove this deadline and adopt the Equal Rights Amendment into our Constitution because, quite honestly, there is too much at stake and to let an arbitrary time limit hold women's rights hostage is just wrong.

So with that, along with my colleagues here this afternoon, I, too, urge the adoption tomorrow of bipartisan S.J. Res. 4.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I am so proud to be here with my colleagues today—Senator CORTEZ MASTO and all of our colleagues and with our leaders Senator CARDIN and Senator MURKOWSKI—on this bipartisan resolution that is, frankly, long overdue.

You know, there is a sign you often see at rallies for reproductive rights. A woman my age or older will often be holding it, and it reads something like this: ''I can't believe we are still fighting for this crap.'' Now, it usually has a different word on it than ''crap.''

As I stand here on the Senate floor in the Year of Our Lord 2023, I can't believe we are still fighting for equal

rights for women under our American Constitution. We are 100 years out from when the Equal Rights Amendment was first introduced in 1923—a full century, 100 years—since it was first introduced. And a lot of things have changed since 1923, for sure. Women are CEOs and astronauts, professional athletes and chemistry professors, Governors and a Vice President of the United States. A quarter of the Members of this Chamber are women—not nearly enough, but we are getting there. Yet, still, 100 years later, women are not guaranteed equal legal protections, equal legal rights under our Constitution. That needed to change in 1923, and it certainly needs to change 100 years later in 2023.

Michigan was ready for change back in 1972. That is when my State ratified the ERA. A Congresswoman from Michigan helped lead the way. Congresswoman Martha Griffiths of Detroit was the first woman in history to serve on the House Ways and Means Committee.

In 1970, she filed a discharge petition to send the legislation to the full House of Representatives for consideration. It passed, only to die in the Senate. We have heard that story before. But Representative Griffiths was undaunted. She introduced an amended version. The House and Senate both passed it, and it was sent to the States for ratification in 1972.

Congresswoman Griffiths later served as Michigan's first elected Lieutenant Governor and became known as the Mother of the ERA. Congresswoman Griffiths, sadly, didn't live to see her amendment written into the Constitution.

But there is no doubt we need it today, even more than we did in 1972. Women in this country are watching our reproductive freedoms be dismantled. The Dobbs decision attempts to ban the abortion pill, and harsh abortion restrictions in States have left women in this country with fewer freedoms than our mothers and even our grandmothers enjoyed.

The ERA is really simple. It simply says:

> Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

Equal rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. That is it.

And this resolution is equally simple, the one before us. All it would do is remove an arbitrary deadline that was included when this was passed in Congress, preventing the ERA from being ratified.

The ERA is simple, but its protections would be profound. It would protect all people, regardless of sex, from discrimination. It would defend against the rollback of our fundamental rights and freedoms.

Congresswoman Martha Griffiths, from Michigan, passed it. The States ratified it. Now we just need to add it to our Constitution. Our daughters and our granddaughters can't wait another 100 years. They deserve equality now.

So I hope colleagues would join with us to pass this resolution and finally ensure all people are equal under our laws.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. I want to thank Senator STABENOW for her leadership in the Senate and in our community on these issues. I serve with her and Senator CORTEZ MASTO on the Finance Committee, and I see the duo there fighting for removing a lot of the discrimination we have in our healthcare system—again, that women are discriminated against. Both of these Senators do a great job being here, protecting the rights.

But it is so important that we have in our toolbox the constitutional amendment to help us in fighting discrimination so that we have a fairer playing field in the courts to protect the rights of women. So I thank her.

We are also joined by Senator KLOBUCHAR. We were elected at the same time to the U.S. Senate. She has been an advocate on behalf of equality for all communities, but particularly her efforts on behalf of women is known throughout the Nation, and I am glad she could join us today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise to join Senator CARDIN, thanking him for his leadership for so many years, as well as Senator MURKOWSKI and my colleague Senator STABENOW in support of this bipartisan resolution to remove the deadline for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment so we can finally enshrine equal rights for women into our Constitution.

What are people afraid of?

Minnesota ratified the ERA 50 years ago. Since then, women and men who stand with them have never rested in the fight to guarantee equality in the Constitution of the United States of America.

After a half century of overcoming seemingly insurmountable obstacles, that long-fought battle for equality has come down to an arbitrary deadline.

Passing the resolution will bring us one step closer to ratifying the ERA and finally enshrining permanent protections for women and girls in our Constitution.

The Equal Rights Amendment would make clear, once and for all, that women are guaranteed equal rights under the U.S. Constitution.

The core of the amendment is only 24 words long, guaranteeing that ''[e]quality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.''

In 1972, the amendment passed both Houses of Congress with bipartisan support. The Senate voted to send the amendment to the States by a vote of 84 to 8, with 7 not voting, and the House passed it 354 to 24. Congress initially set a 7-year deadline for the required three-fourths of States to ratify the amendment, and it later extended the deadline by 3 more years.

By the time that deadline expired, only 35 States had ratified, leaving the amendment three States short of the 38 needed. But the deadline did not stop the growing support for the ERA and women's equality. Since then, three additional States have voted to ratify the ERA, including Nevada, Illinois, and Virginia.

It is long past time that equality of women be enshrined in the Constitution.

I have been proud to join a bipartisan group of Senators in cosponsoring this resolution. This resolution is part of a long tradition of bipartisan support for the ERA. The past year has made it painfully clear that protecting equality remains fundamental to the lives of each and every American. As my colleagues have noted, the women of this country still face a gender pay gap that leaves them economically behind. Women still earn around 82 cents of every dollar a man makes, and for women of color, it is even less.

Ten months ago, we saw the Supreme Court issue a rule shredding nearly five decades of precedent protecting a woman's right to make her own healthcare decisions. Now women are at the mercy of a patchwork of State laws governing their ability to access reproductive care, leaving them with fewer rights than their moms and grandmas.

Every branch of government has a responsibility to protect people's rights, and if one branch fails to do so, the Constitution gives Congress and the people the power to step in by proposing and ratifying a new amendment.

Ratifying the ERA would affirm that sex discrimination is inconsistent with the Nation's core values of equal protection under the law.

We know that the majority of Americans are on our side—78 percent of Americans, according to the Pew Research Center—support the ERA being added to the Constitution—78 percent of Americans. We know this proposal is common sense.

This year marks the 101st anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote, a critical milestone in our democracy. At this moment in our country's history, I am as committed as ever to fighting to ensure that all Americans are guaranteed equality under the law. Let's show the world that the United States of America is a place where equality is the law of the land.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Minnesota, and I especially thank my colleague from Maryland. The Senator from Maryland has been working on this issue for a long time.

BEN, thank you for your leadership,

I thank LISA MURKOWSKI for making it a bipartisan effort.

I have a good speech here, but I want to tell you a story. The story goes back to my graduation from law school and the first job I ever had.

I was working for the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Illinois—a man named Paul Simon, who went on to be elected to Congress and to the U.S. Senate. Simon, as the Lieutenant Governor of Illinois, presided over the Illinois State Senate. We had met one another. He said he was going to offer me a job when I graduated from law school, and lo and behold, I became parliamentarian of the Illinois State Senate. I was fresh out of law school. I skipped my graduation ceremony because I desperately needed some money to pay off some bills. I started working in Springfield, IL, as the parliamentarian of the State senate.

Simon mistakenly believed that there was a course in law school called parliamentary law. There wasn't. I had to learn it by just reading the rule book over and over again until it became familiar, but eventually I was pretty good at it. I needed to be because we had a big debate going on in Springfield, IL, in the early 1970s about something called the Equal Rights Amendment. It was different than the debate in many State capitols because there was a real confrontation. There was no party identity behind or for the Equal Rights Amendment. Some Republicans supported it, and many Democrats supported it, but there was opposition in both parties too.

What fired up the troops in that particular debate was the presence of a woman from Alton, IL, named Phyllis Schlafly, who was leading the national effort to stop the Equal Rights Amendment. I reflect on that this evening because I remember what she used to say: If you pass the Equal Rights Amendment, men and women are going to use the same bathrooms. Not only that, women are going to be forced to fight in combat in the military. They will be drafted, and they will all be fighting in the military.

I look back on those arguments now and say: Was that it? Was it really that the debate on the equality of women in America came down to those two issues?

I thought of it the other day when I went to a school that I was visiting that had a same-gender restroom. It was a single restroom, but either gender could use it. I thought, Phyllis Schlafly's dream came true in that we are sharing the same restrooms in some places. When it comes to combat in the military, many women across the United States fought for that right to do so and have served our country honorably.

But those were the arguments and the differences of the day which led to the debate and led to Illinois's not ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment in the 1970s. That didn't happen until very recently.

We had a hearing on this, as the Presiding Officer knows, in the Senate's Judiciary Committee, and I listened to the critics of the Equal Rights Amendment today. I didn't hear anything about same-sex restrooms and nothing about combat in the military, but one lady raised the prospect that if we pass the Equal Rights Amendment, it would ruin her daughter's field hockey team in high school because there may be some transgender individuals wanting to play on her daughter's team.

I thought to myself, so now it has come to that. It is no longer restrooms or combat pay; it is a question of field hockey for young ladies.

Well, I know that is an important part of their lives, and she told us as much, but when I reflect on what the reality of this amendment does, it seems that those things pale in comparison. The language of it is so expressed and so clear that most people in the United States really would be surprised to know it is not already in the Constitution: no discrimination against people on the basis of sex. Most people assume that is a fact, but it is not. We have to do something about it.

Tonight, we are seeing the Senate at its best—a bipartisan effort on the floor of the U.S. Senate to finally make this right by America. The Equal Rights Amendment is literally a century in the making, and over the years, generations of Americans have done their part to push it forward. They have marched on Washington, and they have met with Congressmen and Senators. As of 2020, they crossed a crucial threshold: the ratification of the ERA in 38 States. That is the exact number of States needed to certify it as the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

So now it is time for lawmakers in Congress to do our part in supporting the ERA. We need to clear a path for equality, and this proposal—this bipartisan proposal from Senator BEN CARDIN of Maryland and Senator LISA MURKOWSKI of Alaska—is our chance to do it. It will remove the arbitrary deadline Congress imposed on the ERA ratification more than 50 years ago, and removing that deadline has never been more important.

As we learned over the past year, there is no room for uncertainty when it comes to protecting equal rights. Right now, women all across America are living with the reality that their fundamental freedoms are under attack. In the months since the disastrous Dobbs decision, millions of Americans have been robbed of their reproductive rights. Activist judges and far-right politicians have replaced the will of the people and the expertise of medical professionals with their own radical beliefs. Women living in States like Texas, Oklahoma, and most recently Florida and North Dakota have fewer rights today than their parents and grandparents did decades ago.

All of this chaos and confusion is jeopardizing the lives of women and upending our healthcare system. We had another hearing today. There was testimony in that hearing by a young lady from Texas who went through an awful ordeal at the end of a pregnancy—a pregnancy which she wanted desperately. It was her first child. It would have been her first daughter, and Willow was the name she had given her. Then, late in the pregnancy, complications arose. Willow, unfortunately, couldn't be born, and the mother almost died while waiting to comply with the new Texas law on abortion.

I am going to remember that testimony for a long time.

Without ERA protections, even basic rights like reproduction are on the chopping block. We need protection against discrimination in the workplace, in the classroom, even in the courtroom. Unless women's rights are explicitly protected under the Constitution, there is nothing stopping the rightwing majority on the Court from ripping them away. That is why Congress must restore and protect women's rights in all facets of life. We can do it this week by clearing the way and finally enshrining gender equality in the Constitution.

I had the honor of presiding over a hearing on this very proposal in the Senate Judiciary Committee several weeks ago. During that hearing, we heard from a young woman whose name was Thursday Williams—a first-generation American, a board member of the ERA Coalition, and a senior at Trinity College in Hartford, CT. Ms. WILLIAMS is planning on attending law school after she graduates from college. She says she developed a passion for the law when she ''fell in love with the U.S. Constitution in high school.''

In her words:

> What I love the most about the Constitution is how brilliantly it was designed to adapt to the changing needs of its people, and, today, we deserve a Constitution that guarantees equality regardless of sex, a Constitution that we can use as a tool to fight discrimination.

That was her testimony.

Ms. WILLIAMS concluded by asking members of the committee a question. It is a question I would like to now ask every Member of the Senate: How can we be the beacon of freedom and democracy we claim to be if we do not declare that sex discrimination contradicts the American dream?

That was Thursday Williams' question to the Senate Judiciary Committee. It is my question to the Senate on her behalf.

If we want to live up to the promise of America, we need to protect the rights of every American. Let's start with the ERA.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, first, I want to thank Senator DURBIN, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, for his leadership on this issue but, just as importantly, for his leadership on so

many human rights and civil rights issues.

Thank you for the hearing that you conducted in the Judiciary Committee. It shed light on a lot of the ridiculous arguments that some have made against the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. More importantly, it showed why it is important for us to remove any ambiguity on the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. I also want to just acknowledge your extraordinary leadership around the world.

When there is a human rights struggle, Senator DURBIN is going to be the spokesperson for those who would otherwise not be heard. I have joined him many times in those efforts, and I am proud to be on his team. I thank him for really giving us the leadership here in the U.S. Senate and the best values of America here at home and abroad. I thank him for his leadership on this issue and on so many other issues.

I am joined by a couple of my other colleagues—first, Senator BLUMENTHAL from Connecticut. I also want to acknowledge Senator VAN HOLLEN from Maryland. Both have been real leaders in regard to the equal rights of women but also in regard to civil liberties and civil rights. Both are good friends. One I have the honor of representing the State of Maryland with, so I have seen him in action for equal rights in our State. As for the other, we have been together on the Helsinki Commission, fighting globally for human rights. So I thank them for being here.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I am so honored by that introduction and to be here on the floor with a great colleague—a champion in the House as well as now in the Senate—CHRIS VAN HOLLEN of Maryland.

I thank the senior Senator from Maryland—we are both senior Senators from our respective States—for yielding first to me. More importantly, I want to thank him for his leadership on human rights and civil rights here in the United States. He has been such a powerful advocate. But also, around the world, through the Helsinki Commission, I have had the great privilege of working with him and serving with him on that Commission, where he has put front and center the crimes against humanity committed in Ukraine as well as in other parts of the world where the rule of law, unfortunately, is lacking. So I am very, very proud to be with him on the floor today.

Like my colleague Senator DURBIN, who has been rightly lauded by Senator CARDIN for his work on rights, I rise to ask this body and all who are hearing this message to commit to making the Equal Rights Amendment the law of our land—part of the Constitution.

Outside of the right to vote, the Constitution has no mention of gender equality. It was enshrined—the right to vote—just over a century ago with the 19th Amendment, but the U.S. Constitution does not include an explicit provision on equal rights for women, and that is a sad omission that cannot be allowed to stand. We must fix it.

The ERA, as you know, was introduced to Congress in 1923 by suffragist leader Alice Paul, who believed that after securing the right to vote, women needed legal protection against discrimination. That fact is no less true today than it was then. In 1972, the ERA was passed by Congress. In 2020, Virginia became the 38th and final State required by the Constitution to ratify it. In January 2022, we passed the 2-year waiting period. President Biden has supported making it the law of the land. We should heed President Biden and this body in doing so—in recognizing the importance of a resolution ratifying the ERA.

Now, the hard, blunt truth here is that significant progress in sex equality has been made thanks to a generation of advocates—actually, several generations—but women and girls still face horrendous, life-changing barriers and challenges derived from structural sex discrimination every day. I became more aware of it as a dad to a young woman, listening to her, seeing the world through her eyes, as well as my wife, Cynthia—both of them strong advocates and, thankfully, my three sons as well, who are ardent champions of gender equality.

In the workplace, the gender gap has hardly budged. You are, I am sure, aware that women now earn about 84 cents for every dollar a man earns. That is a statistic from the Department of Labor. The disparity is even larger for women of color. For every dollar a man earns, Native American women and Latinas earn 57 cents and Black women earn 67 cents. That is in the greatest country in the history of the world. We should be ashamed and embarrassed—ashamed and embarrassed.

The ERA is a critical step toward ensuring equality and protecting women's fundamental rights, including the right to abortion and contraception.

The Supreme Court overturned five decades of precedent and eliminated the constitutional right to abortion in Dobbs saying Roe was wrong—a decision that will go down in infamy as one of the most destructive to the Court's credibility, as I mentioned today, and a tribute to the disingenuousness of three nominees before this body—the three most recent nominees—who said they would respect precedent and then voted to completely overturn Dobbs within a couple of years.

About one in three girls and women in the United States of reproductive age are living in States where abortion is either unavailable or severely restricted, and the adverse consequences of poor women's health are already clearly visible.

Amanda Zurawski today testified before the Judiciary Committee about how she nearly died, nearly perished from sepsis because of Texas's cruel, barbarous prohibitions against women's healthcare through abortion.

Without the freedom to control their own lives, bodies, and futures, the true meaning of equality will remain elusive and out of reach. As Justice Ginsburg put it, full and equal citizenship ''is intimately connected to a person's ability to control their reproductive lives.''

The ERA would also provide additional tools against violence committed all too often against women. Gender-based bias is a form of sex discrimination as well as a violation of human rights. Thirty-five percent of all women who are killed by men are a result of violence from intimate partners with guns. One in three women has experienced some form of physical violence by an intimate partner. One in five women in the United States has been raped.

You can dispute the specific numbers, but the overwhelming truth of sex discrimination in violence, in denial of healthcare, in job inequality, in pay discrimination is there for all to see. We all know it exists. We must act against it.

That is why I am proud to stand here with my colleagues and argue that ratification is an idea long overdue. It is not an idea whose time has come; it came long ago. We have an obligation to act as a matter of conscience and conviction. If we care about women in the United States of America in the 21st century, we need to bring the law into the 21st century and do what should have been done long ago to protect women's health and security, as well as fundamental equality.

Let me just close with a favorite quote of mine from Susan Anthony. She stated:

> The true republic—men, their rights and nothing more; women, their rights and nothing less.

Sex equality deserves a permanent home in the Constitution. The time to make it happen is now.

I yield the floor to my colleague from Maryland, Senator VAN HOLLEN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, let me thank my colleague from Connecticut for his words in support of the Equal Rights Amendment and for his fight for justice.

Let me also thank my colleague, my Maryland partner and friend Senator CARDIN, for teaming up with Senator MURKOWSKI to push for passage of this legislation year after year. It is long overdue that we take this up and that we pass it in the U.S. Senate.

If you look at our history during the darkest of times and against the longest of odds, Americans from all backgrounds have stood together to insist that America live up to its promise—the promise of equality, the promise of equal rights for all.

In fact, if you think about the story of America, it really is the story of the struggle to make good on that fundamental promise to ensure that every individual receives equal dignity.

We talk about how we are endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights, and that is true. There are not more rights for men and not supposed to be more rights for any particular group. It is supposed to be about equal dignity, and equal dignity should include equal treatment under the law.

In their fight for voting rights, our Nation's suffragettes faced unjust arrest. They faced persecution. They faced resistance from a nation that was not yet willing to fulfill that full promise when it came to voting rights. Despite it all, through protests, through demands, through arrests, the suffragettes prevailed and made sure that we passed the 19th Amendment, at least fulfilling the right to vote for women.

But we have a lot of unfinished business. It is not just all men who are created equal; it is all people who are created equal. We have accomplished that when it comes to the ballot box. Although, as we in this body know, we also have a long way to go to make sure that that is made real in practice on the ground. That is why we have been fighting to pass voting rights legislation. But we also need to make sure that, when it comes to women's rights, we enshrine it in the highest law of the land in order to give the rhetoric legal teeth and legal backing.

Alice Paul, who really is the founder of the movement for the Equal Rights Amendment, knew that a century ago when she said:

> I never doubted that equal rights was the right direction. Most reforms, most problems are complicated. But to me, there is nothing complicated about ordinary equality.

There is great truth in the simplicity of that statement, and that is what equal rights is all about. It is not a lot of words, but they are the rightly chosen words:

> Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

That is it; a simple statement but a powerful statement because it is a true statement if we really want to live up to our full promise.

That is why the overwhelming majority of the American people support it. Seventy-five percent of our fellow Americans support the ERA. Thirty-eight States have ratified it, enough to make the ERA our 28th Amendment. Yet 100 years after the proposed amendment was first introduced to Congress, despite this broad support and the ratification of a necessary number of States, we have not yet made that part of our Constitution.

The results are painfully clear every day. My colleagues have talked about some of them: the persistent pay gap, which disadvantages not only women but also the families that they support. Recent rulings by the Supreme Court on reproductive rights have shown that the lack of an explicit protection against gender discrimination puts women's fundamental rights at risk and on the chopping block. So this is the moment to finally get this done.

I, again, want to thank Senator CARDIN and Senator MURKOWSKI for their efforts to move forward on this. I want to thank the chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

As I close, I do want to say a few words about my friend and colleague from Maryland's long-term fight for this and applaud him for over a decade of working to make sure that we get the ERA across the finish line.

It has been one very important aspect—in fact, the cornerstone of many of his efforts here in the United States—but it is a reflection of his fights for civil rights, for women's rights, for racial rights, and for human rights around the world. I want to thank him for his persistence on this and so many issues that call upon us to be what we say we are as Americans—people who believe in the equal dignity of every individual and the rights of every individual. I want to thank my colleague. I want to thank him for teaming up with Senator MURKOWSKI from Alaska and thank her for her efforts.

I said at the beginning that we have been defined as an American story by our struggle to make good on that original promise, the idea of equal rights. Many people have tried to interpret it in different ways, but I think we all understand, at the end of the day, the North Star is equal rights. It means equal rights for everybody, not just equal rights for some people over here, because that is not equal rights.

That is as simple as what brings us here to the floor. I want to thank my colleague, again, from Maryland for keeping this fight going.

I really hope my Republican colleagues will take this moment, despite what we expect, to enshrine that simple proposition into the Constitution of the United States.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am glad today to stand with my colleague to support S.J. Res. 4, affirming the validity of the Equal Rights Amendment.

We have heard from Senator CARDIN and Senator MURKOWSKI why it is so important for Congress to pass this resolution and enshrine protections against sex-based discrimination in our Constitution.

The ERA would bolster efforts to ensure equality in the fields of workforce and pay, pregnancy discrimination, sexual harassment and violence, reproductive autonomy, and protections for LGBTQ individuals.

Although we have indeed made strides in each of these areas, we know how fragile these gains can be without the durability of a constitutional amendment.

Take, for example, the current Supreme Court's approach to the Constitution. As the Dobbs decision makes clear, a majority of the current Court believes that the meaning of equality under the equal protection clause was frozen in 1868 when the 14th Amendment was ratified.

Well, in the hundred years after 1868, the Supreme Court has adopted and permitted all sorts of State laws that excluded women from jury service, that excluded women from admission to the bar as lawyers, that excluded women even from employment as bartenders, and allowed all of those laws under the 14th Amendment. This business now of the Supreme Court, looking back at history and tradition, is a backward look to bad history and regrettable tradition.

So with the Supreme Court, it is particularly important that we not rely on its interpretation of the 14th Amendment alone to guarantee equal rights. Congress needs to stand up and act, and we have the power to do so.

Congress has broad authority over the amendment process. If Congress has the power to impose a time limit, Congress has the power to extend or remove that time limit.

I join my colleagues to urge swift passage of this resolution. As one witness at the Senate Judiciary Committee on the ERA eloquently put it, gender equality is not a zero-sum game, and ''we are all uplifted when everyone's rights are protected.''

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I want to thank Senator WHITEHOUSE for his leadership on the Equal Rights Amendment. He is our leader on protecting our democratic institutions, which include equality for all. Senator WHITEHOUSE's leadership in protecting the election process and protecting us against dark money and an independent judiciary will go down in history as one of the great contributions made.

I thank him for his help in regard to the Equal Rights Amendment, and I thank him for his leadership on so many issues here in the U.S. Senate.

Let me just conclude this part of our discussion. We will have a chance tomorrow to vote on this.

What we are asking is very simple: to put the Equal Rights Amendment in the Constitution without any ambiguity and remove the time limit. We have already done everything necessary for its ratification.

This document is a precious document: the Constitution of the United States. Most Americans believe the Equal Rights Amendment is in this document. It is not. The consequences are that we are not protecting women's rights and discrimination against sex in the manner we should be protecting them.

Now, the vote tomorrow is going to be on a cloture motion. You see, the majority of the Members of the Senate support the resolution that Senator MURKOWSKI and I are bringing forward. And the way the minority can stop it is by denying us an opportunity to vote up or down on the resolution.

This is a matter of rights. I would hope that my colleagues would support the resolution or they will at least allow the majority of this body to make the decision on this resolution.

I hope my colleagues will vote for the cloture motion so that we can have a vote on the floor of the U.S. Senate on this resolution, which will, once and for all, make it clear equal rights are part of the American Constitution, part of our commitment to future generations.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HASSAN). The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I am back now for the 288th time with my trusty, battered ''Time to Wake Up'' poster to call attention to the climate crisis.

Over the 10-plus years that I have been doing these speeches, I have shown how climate change affects our ecosystems, industries, economy, public health, kids, workers, our elderly. I have even conducted a science experiment right here on the Senate floor, to the dismay of the Senate staff.

One near constant in these speeches has been the oily, often covert hand of the fossil fuel industry lurking behind the opposition to climate action through its campaign of climate denial, delay, and obstruction.

From the late 1980s, when Congress first became aware of climate change, through the period after the 2010 Citizens United decision when special interests could anonymously pour unlimited money into elections, the fossil fuel industry has blocked every serious climate bill in Congress until the Inflation Reduction Act.

Key to this obstruction was the strategic insight that they only needed to capture one political party to strangle legislative action. So the fossil fuel industry captured the Republican Party and has prevented climate action for over three decades, except when we were able to use the extraordinary process of reconciliation. That was just last year.

Democrats had control of the House and Senate and passed the Inflation Reduction Act via budget reconciliation. Congress finally acted on climate.

There is lots more that Congress still needs to do on climate, but the IRA was a big, meaningful bill that powered up tax incentives for clean energy and put a price on oil and gas methane emissions.

In the 10-plus years I have been documenting the fossil fuel industry's hold over the Republican Party, I have provided lots of concrete examples, from election spending to phony front groups by the flotilla, to polluter lackeys installed at the Trump EPA. But nothing tops the debt limit proposal Speaker MCCARTHY released last week, the ''Default on America Act,'' which the House just passed.

MAGA House Republicans like to claim to care about debt and deficits—except, of course, in 2017, when they passed massive tax cuts for the wealthy and large corporations that added trillions to the debt and except when the debt increased by more than $7 trillion under President Trump.

They are a fountain of fiscal hypocrisy. So no surprise that the MCCARTHY package has little to do with reducing debt and deficits and everything to do with providing goodies to big Republican donors, in particular the fossil fuel industry.

Before I get into all the oily, corrupt deals for big polluters, a few words about the rest of the proposal. MCCARTHY calling this monstrosity the Limit, Save, Grow Act would make George Orwell blush. In reality, MCCARTHY's plan would result in unlimited carbon pollution, massive losses to the Federal Government and American families and businesses, and very likely crashes in whole sectors of the economy—some limit, save, and growth.

First, it would rescind the extra funding we provided to the IRS to go after wealthy tax cheats. This would add $120 billion to the deficit. For them, ''limit, save, and grow'' means limit IRS enforcement, save their big donors money paying their taxes, and grow their own campaign contributions.

Federal programs would face indiscriminate cuts of up to 33 percent across research, science, housing, addiction treatment, national parks, transportation, law enforcement, border security, drug enforcement, and criminal prosecutions. If you want to defund the police, Speaker MCCARTHY is your new poster boy.

The public hates all that stuff, so why pursue stuff that the public hates? Why threaten to set off the U.S. default handgrenade to get this done? Who wins? Creepy billionaires who hate the Federal Government and fund KEVIN MCCARTHY—chief among them, the fossil fuel industry.

For his big fossil fuel industry donors, MCCARTHY delivers four huge giveaways. First, they take away the clean energy tax credits we passed in the IRA. Second, they let fossil fuel interests leak polluting methane emissions with no pollution fee. Third, they prop up dying fossil fuel infrastructure with so-called permitting reform targeted to help only fossil fuel. And fourth, they make it harder to protect against water and air pollution.

This oily wish list is not about debt or deficits, and it is not about growing the economy as it risks serious economic downturns. It is about taking care of the industry whose dark money funds their party.

Look at the clean energy tax credits which MCCARTHY claims are wasteful spending. It now appears that those tax credits will incentivize more investment than expected. So what is MCCARTHY's argument? There will be too much investment? Seriously?

Already, in less than a year, the IRA's clean energy tax credits have encouraged over 100 projects that will create north of 100,000 jobs. With time, the IRA could easily create over a million jobs—high-paying manufacturing jobs, the kind we should want. Many projects are in districts in the South and Midwest represented by Republicans.

Indeed, many House Republicans have cheered the very IRA-catalyzed projects they are now trying to torpedo. Seriously. Back home, they celebrate the jobs for their constituents. Here in DC, they vote to eliminate the very tax credits that created them—all to serve fossil fuel polluters.

Here are some of my favorite House Republican quotes celebrating IRA-catalyzed investments in Republican home districts.

This is the largest investment in the State of Georgia's history—

One said—

one that will diversify and expand our economy while providing strong job opportunities for Georgians today and for generations to come.

And then a ''no'' vote against the IRA.

I'm thrilled that Honda has once again committed to Ohio and our workers with today's announcement of a $3.5 billion investment in EV production and a new battery plant within Ohio's 15th Congressional District. I look forward to working Honda and LG Energy Solution to bring 2,200 new jobs to the Buckeye State.

And then voted to wipe out the program.

I am thrilled to welcome ENTEK to Terre Haute and to the Hoosier state. As the only American company to own and produce ''wet-process'' lithium-ion battery separator materials, ENTEK is going to help to pave the way for electric vehicle production in Indiana and reduce American manufacturers' reliance on imported products. Their operation in Terre Haute will create hundreds of new jobs.

And then voted to strip out the tax credits behind them.

I am honored to stand with other state and federal leaders during this groundbreaking event as the first solar energy microgrid-powered industrial site project was unveiled in Jackson County. I know this important project will . . . stimulate economic growth that will create new jobs in West Virginia.

And then voted against the tax credits.

Where are the common themes here? Well, clean energy investments grow the economy and create jobs. These investments will help America compete against imports from overseas.

Usually, Republicans can't stop talking about how we need to reduce our dependence on Chinese imports and build up our own manufacturing industry—until their fossil fuel overlords tell them otherwise. Then they vote against the credits that encourage domestic manufacturing of the clean energy technologies that will dominate the economy of tomorrow.

What a terrible bet. Republicans can't beat China with the energy and technologies of the last century. No amount of fossil fuel-funded obstruction here at home is going to stop the clean energy revolution happening in the rest of the world.

In Europe last year, more than 12 percent of cars sold were fully electric, up from less than 2 percent just back in 2019. Europe is investing massively in wind and solar and green hydrogen, particularly after the Russian invasion of Ukraine demonstrated just how dangerous dependence on fossil fuels can be.

In China last year, 22 percent of cars sold were fully electric, towards the goal of 40 percent of all cars sold fully electric in 2030. China is, by far, the largest installer of wind and solar power, with ambitions to dominate the clean energy technologies of tomorrow.

In most places, renewable energy is now the cheapest form of energy—far cheaper than fossil fuel. So the rest of the world is going all-in on wind, solar, batteries, green hydrogen, and other clean technologies for their low-cost energy. And that savings doesn't even count the trillions of dollars of value from avoiding the costs and harms of fossil fuel pollution.

The future is clean tech. And there are fortunes to be made. Many of these clean energy technologies were developed right here by our scientists and engineers at our companies and national labs. But the fossil fuel industry wants America to lose our technological leadership and all the business opportunities that flow from it.

Remember limit, save, grow? If you want that for real: limit pollution, save clean energy jobs, and grow the economy. The fossil fuel industry behind this is the most subsidized industry on the planet. It lives off public money and political influence. It gets to pollute for free.

Just today in the Budget Committee, we heard testimony that fossil fuel combustion, by warming the planet and polluting the air, costs America over $800 billion per year in health costs. The International Monetary Fund puts the effective subsidy in the U.S. for fossil fuels at almost $700 billion per year.

If fossil fuel-funded Republicans want to talk about picking winners and losers, bring it on. Their fossil fuel donors enjoy the biggest subsidy in world history.

If fossil-fuel-funded Republicans want to talk about free markets, bring it on. Market economics 101 teaches that the cost of your pollution should be in the price of your product. But fossil-fuel-funded Republicans protect free polluting for fossil fuel.

It is not just costs that fossil fuels impose on the rest of us. It is risks—economic risks associated with climate change. Central bankers, economists, insurance CEOs, financial experts, and other witnesses—serious grownups whose judgments are fiduciary—have come to the Budget Committee to warn of systemic risks to the economy, including a collapse in coastal property values and a carbon bubble resulting from stranded fossil fuel assets.

Now, ''systemic risks'' sounds pretty mild. It is not. It is when catastrophe spreads from one troubled sector across the entire economy, much as the 2008 meltdown in the mortgage market spread across the country to become the financial crisis and Great Recession, which, by the way, resulted in an additional $5 trillion in government debt. Disaster avoidance is debt reduction.

The stakes are huge. The consulting firm Deloitte estimates that the global cost of doing nothing on climate is around $180 trillion in economic damage—$180 trillion. But they go on to say that if we act responsibly and limit warming to 1.7 degrees Celsius, we can save ourselves from that and actually grow the global economy by $40 trillion. So you want limit, save, and grow? In this case, if you do it right by limiting pollution and saving clean energy jobs and growing the economy, the swing is $220 trillion between a bad climate outcome and a responsible climate outcome.

But the corrupt fossil fuel industry says ''jump,'' and KEVIN MCCARTHY and MAGA Republicans say ''how high?''

Here is a ''how high'': They eliminate the fee on wasteful methane emissions that I worked to include in the IRA. The methane pollution fee will raise $6 billion against the deficit and save even more from avoided climate and air pollution damage. But the rotten House plan was never about cutting debt and deficits, always about delivering for the fossil fuel overlords. So out goes the methane program.

Methane traps 80 times as much heat as carbon dioxide, at least in the short run, and it creates air pollution that sickens people across the country. This is a satellite image of a methane plume. You can actually detect methane plumes from space now, which is why charging a fee for polluting makes so much sense, because you can find the polluter quite easily. This one is being released from an oil well. Now, the operator of this oil well could capture this methane and sell it. It is natural gas. But, instead, oil companies like this just release it. Pure waste. Pure pollution.

Putting a price on methane emissions will dramatically reduce this pollution and raise budget balancing revenues. But MCCARTHY doesn't care; the industry funds his caucus. So out goes the budget-balancing, pollution-preventing methane fee.

Next in the fossil fuel-funded parade of horribles is a permitting reform stuffed with giveaways to—you guessed it—the fossil fuel industry. What the hell does permitting reform have to do with the debt limit, you might ask? Well, good question. Does building in more fossil fuel even make sense? The world is moving off fossil fuels. Peak oil will occur, and demand will begin to decline. Once demand begins to decline, the oil cartel will collapse in a rush for the exits, causing serious economic turbulence as fossil fuel assets are stranded, particularly in high production cost countries like the United States of America.

This is the global production cost curve for oil. As you can see, Persian Gulf oil is far cheaper to produce than U.S. oil. Here we are.

So when there is a rush for the exits, and instead of cheating the world with cartel pricing, they go to cost-plus pricing, and we are out of business in the U.S. fossil fuel industry, and American fossil fuel infrastructure becomes hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of useless, stranded assets. But fossil fuel says ''jump,'' and House Republicans say ''how high?''

Last in this fossil fuel wish list is a provision to make it next to impossible for EPA to promulgate regulations limiting air and water pollution. Again, deregulating polluters has nothing to do with the debt limit, but the fossil fuel industry wants it. So it is in.

In just the last few months, we have seen what Republican deregulation means for American families and businesses. We saw it in East Palestine, OH, when a train derailment resulted in a major spill of toxic chemicals. We saw it in Northern California when Silicon Valley Bank went belly-up. Both of these events could have been prevented with better regulations. Both harmed American families and businesses.

Protecting Americans from air and water pollution with good regulations always pays because the costs associated with air and water pollution are enormous. But fossil fuel does a lot of air and water pollution. So here is another fact giveaway to the fossil fuel industry.

If you ever needed proof that the Republican Party is the wholly owned subsidiary of the fossil fuel industry, MCCARTHY's debt limit package is that proof. Amazingly, almost 280 pages out of a 320-page bill are devoted to fossil fuel industry giveaways.

Here are 320 pages; 280 of these pages are blue. The remaining 40 are white. So this is a visual image of how much of the ''Default on America'' bill is devoted to making nice for the fossil fuel industry versus everything else.

It is like a bunch of delivery boys for the fossil fuel industry over there. This bill isn't about debt and deficits. It is not about limiting or saving or growing. It is about serving fossil fuel—the source of the money that keeps them in power. Period.

Oil and gas extraction represents only about 5 percent of our GDP. Farming, manufacturing, food and beverage, insurance, finance, restaurants, retail, housing, healthcare—all representing a larger share of GDP. Clean energy actually now accounts for more employment than the fossil fuel industry. But for subsidies, nothing compares to fossil fuel. So for political influence, to protect those massive subsidies, nothing compares to fossil fuel.

There is actually a bug—an insect—that infiltrates another bug and takes over the other bug's nervous system. And from inside the other bug, it drives

it around. It is kind of a creepy, natural development. It happens in the insect world. And it looks like it happened on the other side of the building, because what the fossil fuel industry has done is to take over the Republican Party and now just drive it around.

So fossil fuel money makes the MCCARTHY package serve its Big Oil master. It is a deeply sad and dangerous state of affairs when one of America's two main political parties abandons all pretense of responsible governance just to service its prime political benefactor. That is what Speaker MCCARTHY and House Republicans are doing. That is this bill.

They threaten default, propose terrible cuts, deny climate warnings, and are willing to kneecap the American economy, all in service to the fossil fuel industry and its dark money.

It is time to fix our democracy so that it functions honestly and this nonsense stops. It is time to wake up.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF ESCORT COMMITTEE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the President of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with a like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort His Excellency Yoon Suk Yeol, President of the Republic of Korea, into the House Chamber for the joint meeting on Thursday, April 27, 2023.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following resolutions, introduced earlier today: S. Res. 176, S. Res. 177, and S. Res. 178.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions.

S. RES. 177 AND S. RES. 178

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, in two criminal cases pending in Federal district court in the District of Columbia and arising out of the events of January 6, 2021, the prosecution has requested testimony from a Senate witness.

In these cases, brought against Leo Christopher Kelly and Rachel Powell, respectively, trials are expected to commence in early May, and the prosecution has requested testimony from Daniel Schwager, formerly counsel to the Secretary of the Senate, concerning his knowledge and observations of the process and constitutional and legal bases for Congress' counting of the Electoral College votes. The prosecution in the Kelly case has additionally requested Mr. Schwager's testimony regarding certain property destruction that occurred on January 6, 2021. Senate Secretary Berry would like to cooperate with these requests by providing relevant testimony in these trials from Mr. Schwager.

In keeping with the rules and practices of the Senate, these resolutions would authorize the production of relevant testimony from Mr. Schwager, with representation by the Senate legal Counsel.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

MORNING BUSINESS

EARTH DAY 2023

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, on Saturday, Earth Day turned 53. For the past half-plus century, we have paused each spring to celebrate and reflect on our relationship with the natural world and to demonstrate support for environmental protection.

This year's theme, Invest in Our Planet, served as a reminder of our responsibility to deliver Federal resources and spur innovation to ensure peace and prosperity for future generations.

The environmental challenges facing our planet, fueled increasingly by climate change, are urgent and require immediate action. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency—EPA—nearly half of our rivers and streams are polluted by excess nutrients. During extreme rain events, river flow increases, pouring more fresh water into estuaries like the Chesapeake Bay.

Stormwater runoff pushes nutrients, sediment, and other pollutants off the land and into rivers and streams. Excess nutrients then lead to the growth of harmful algal blooms that harm plants and animals. Pollution not only affects our aquatic life but can contaminate drinking water sources and impart costly impacts to recreation, tourism, and fisheries.

Low-income and communities of color often face disproportionately high pollutant exposures. The communities who are most affected by nitrates are also less likely to be able to afford the necessary water treatment. That is why I applaud the Biden administration's focused attention on delivering the benefits of historic Federal investments to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution. For too long, the Nation has underinvested in water infrastructure. Failing water infrastructure threatens the environment, and it risks people's health, safety, and livelihoods.

Congress responded with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which delivers more than $50 billion to EPA to improve our Nation's drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure. This is the single largest investment in water that the Federal Government has ever made. EPA recently announced $775 million in funding Congress appropriated for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, CWSRF. This funding, along with the investments from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, is critical for communities across the country to upgrade their wastewater and stormwater systems, protect public health and preserve our precious water bodies. In its allotment, my home State of Maryland received $18.3 million towards improving water quality, toward a total of over $167 million this fiscal year to upgrade drinking water and wastewater infrastructure.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act also invested in EPA's geographic programs, including the Chesapeake Bay Program. These programs are long-standing, location-specific programs that help protect local ecosystems and communities from climate change, habitat loss, and pollution.

I am also pleased to report that due in part to concerted efforts to control nutrient pollution, the Chesapeake Bay had the tenth smallest area impacted by low-oxygen water this past summer. Long-term trends indicate this ''dead zone'' where fish, crab, and other species cannot live because there is not enough oxygen in the water has been getting smaller. Low-oxygen or hypoxic water is caused by excess nutrients like nitrogen or phosphorus from agricultural runoff and urban and suburban stormwater entering the bay. It is encouraging to see that efforts to reduce nutrient pollution are making a difference. The Chesapeake Bay Program is a model for a regional partnership that unites an array of stakeholders—from producers to nonprofits to local governments—behind a common goal: Restore and protect the Bay.

Globally, cooperation offers similar benefits. The recovery of the Earth's protective ozone layer announced in January is a hopeful example. The ozone layer plays a critical role in shielding us from harmful ultraviolet radiation from the sun. Human activities, such as the use of ozone-depleting substances like chlorofluorocarbons—CFCs—have caused significant damage to the ozone layer. Fortunately, collective action to limit these substances, such as the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, an international agreement to protect the ozone layer, is allowing it to recover. According to the United Nations, if commitments like these stay in place, the ozone layer could fully recover to 1980 levels by 2040. However,

we must ensure solving one environmental challenge does not create another. Hydrofluorocarbons—HFCs—which are often used as substitutes for ozone-depleting substances, are even more potent greenhouse gases than carbon dioxide.

The Kigali amendment addresses this issue by adding HFCs to the list of substances that need to be limited in the Montreal Protocol. For our part, Congress not only passed the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act—AIM Act—to phase down HFCs, but also ratified the amendment. It was America's space Agency that demonstrated the link between hydrofluorocarbons—HFCs—and climate change. In 2015, a NASA study found that HFCs damage the ozone layer and that their impact could cause a 0.035 percent decrease in ozone by 2050. Today, federally supported science is returning the U.S. to the Moon: Artemis II is NASA's first crewed Artemis mission. On this 10-day long mission, four astronauts announced earlier this month will fly around the Moon before returning to Earth and test the Space Launch System and Orion spacecraft capabilities that will help send more people to space in the future.

This kind of exploration enables us to learn more about our planet and gather valuable data on the environment. I am so proud of the Marylanders involved with the mission, including Commander Reid Wiseman, with whom I had the opportunity to speak earlier this month. The flight, set to build upon the successful uncrewed Artemis I mission completed in December, will set the stage for the first woman and first person of color on the Moon through the Artemis Program, paving the way for future for long-term human exploration missions to the Moon and, eventually, Mars. This is the Agency's Moon to Mars exploration approach. Overcoming the challenges of working in space will lead to many more technological and scientific advances here on Earth in areas including healthcare, transportation, public safety, consumer goods, energy, information technology, and industrial productivity.

I am heartened by all the positive changes to improve our environment, but there is still work to be done. The Inflation Reduction Act laid the groundwork to make a just, clean U.S. economy a reality, saving trillions of dollars from avoided illness and death, reduced property damage from climate-related disasters and sea level rise, and reduced costs related to increasing temperatures.

Still, climate change and other environmental issues continue to pose a threat to Earth's health that disproportionally impacts vulnerable communities. Further steps will be needed to fully meet President Biden's pledge to reduce U.S. climate pollution by 50 to 52 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. We cannot become complacent; we must remain committed to taking action to protect our environment. I am confident that our Nation can further promote sustainability through thoughtful policies and legislation.

This year, let us celebrate our achievements and not forget our responsibility to invest in our planet.

TRIBUTE TO LYNN MALERBA

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Chief Mutawi Mutahash (Many Hearts) Marilynn ''Lynn'' Malerba, who was recently named the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut's 2023 Citizen of the Year.

Chief Malerba has an impressive list of accomplishments. In 2010, she became Chief of the Mohegan Tribe in Connecticut, the first female Chief in the Tribe's modern history. Before her current role, Chief Malerba held many leadership positions, including chairwoman of the Tribal council and executive director of health and human services for the Mohegan Tribe. Before her work in Tribal government, Chief Malerba also had a long career as registered nurse, earning a doctor of nursing practice at Yale University and eventually serving as the director of cardiology and pulmonary services at Lawrence and Memorial Hospital in New London, CT.

Currently, Chief Malerba serves as the 45th Treasurer of the United States, the first Native American to hold this office. As Treasurer, Chief Malerba has direct oversight over the U.S. Mint and Fort Knox and is a key liaison with the Federal Reserve. She also oversees the Office of Consumer Policy at the Department of Treasury and serves as a senior adviser to the Secretary of Treasury on community development and engagement.

From her long career as a healthcare professional, to her leadership of the Mohegan Tribe, and now her national role as U.S. Treasurer, Chief Malerba has made Connecticut immensely proud. I applaud her selection as the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut's 2023 Citizen of the Year, and I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating Chief Malerba's remarkable achievements.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR BRIAN FOCARETO

Ms. ERNST. Madam President, today I honor an exemplary leader, liaison, and soldier. After a year of service in the U.S. Senate, MAJ Brian Focareto will continue his service to the Nation in the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell.

On this occasion, I believe it fitting to recognize Major Focareto's distinguished service, leadership, and dedication to fostering the relationship between the U.S. Army and this Chamber. Over the past year, Major Focareto served in the Army Senate Liaison Division. He was invaluable in educating Senators and staff on Army priorities and policy initiatives. He also supported multiple congressional delegations within the United States and to many countries abroad. He became a trusted adviser and friend to many of us.

Prior to his time on the Hill, Major Focareto served our Army in multiple operational assignments over the last 10 years. He commissioned out of the University of Dayton as an armor officer and began his career as a platoon leader, executive officer, and operations officer in the 101st Airborne Division. He deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Following Maneuver Captains Career Course, Major Focareto served as a staff officer in the 2d Cavalry Regiment in Vilseck, Germany, where he planned and executed numerous multinational training exercises with NATO and partner nations across Europe. Major Focareto then commanded a reconnaissance troop and the regimental weapons troop in 2CR. Following troop command, Major Focareto completed a master of policy management from Georgetown University and served as a deputy legislative assistant for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

On behalf of Congress and the United States of America, we thank Major Brian Focareto, his wife, and their children for their continued commitment, sacrifice, and contributions to this great Nation. We join our colleagues in wishing him future successes as he continues to serve our great Army and Nation.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR SARA MILLER

Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, today it is my esteemed pleasure to honor MAJ Sara Miller for her outstanding military service and her exemplary work in my office for the people of New Hampshire. Sara is truly a servant leader who excelled in her year in my office and then for a year and a half as an Army liaison with the Office of the Chief Legislative Liaison. A dedicated mother, wife, and soldier, Sara is leaving her current assignment and—with her husband Daniel, who is also an Army major—heading to Fort Carson, CO, for their next duty assignment. As a dual military family, the Millers know service and sacrifice better than most.

MAJ Sara Miller was born in Lancaster, PA, and moved to Marietta, GA, in 1997. A natural athlete, Sara was recruited out of high school where she earned a scholarship to play soccer at Newberry College in Newberry, SC. After graduating in 2010, her Army career began when she was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army's Adjutant General's Corps.

Over the past 13 years, Sara's primary responsibilities have been ensuring that units under her purview met all personnel readiness requirements to accomplish a variety of critical missions. Her duty assignments included

Fort Bragg, NC, and Fort Carson, CO, before she began her time here in Congress. Sara has served in a variety of Adjutant General's Corps positions at the battalion, brigade, and division level. She also served as commander for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Psychological Operations Group (Airborne), at Fort Bragg.

During her deployments overseas, Sara has consistently shown courage, dedication, and leadership. She served during four deployments to the Middle East, including tours to Qatar in 2012, 2013, and 2015, where she helped support Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Inherent Resolve. Her last deployment was to Afghanistan in 2019 as part of the 4th Infantry Division Headquarters, where she was second in charge of personnel for U.S.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO AARON SETH KESSELHEIM

• Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, the award for excellence in STEM and contributions to the well-being of the U.S. was presented by Senator Joseph I. Lieberman to Aaron Seth Kesselheim, MD, JD, MPH, at a luncheon for guests of the Center for Excellence in Education. The center celebrated its upcoming 40th anniversary of the organization, started by Admiral H.G. Rickover and Joann DiGennaro in 1982. The celebratory event took place in the U.S. Capitol Kennedy Caucus Room on April 25, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Aaron Kesselheim attended CEE's Research Science Institute in 1991. He is professor of medicine, Harvard Medical School, and a faculty member in the division of pharmacoepidemiology and pharmacoeconomics in the department of medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Dr. Kesselheim developed and leads the Program on Regulation, Therapeutics, And Law, one of the largest nonindustry funded academic research centers in the country that focuses on pharmaceutical policy and evidence-based use of medicines. Author of over 600 publications in peer-reviewed medical and health policy literatures, Dr. Kesselheim was recognized as one of the top three most cited health law scholars in the U.S. from 2013–2020 in Web of Science, Westlaw, and Google Scholar. Dr. Kesselheim has testified before Congress on pharmaceutical policy, medical device regulation, generic drugs, and modernizing clinical trials. He is the editor-in-chief of the Journal of Law, Medicine, and Ethics. In 2020, he was elected to the National Academy of Medicine.

Dr. Kesselheim earned his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, his law degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, and his master's degree from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. He earned an AB degree from Harvard University.

The Senator Lieberman Award is given every 2 years on behalf of CEE's Board of Trustees. The Senator was an honorary member of the board of trustees of the center for 17 years and continues to champion the organization's programs in science and technology.•

TRIBUTE TO PAUL BIANCHI

• Mr. OSSOFF. Madam President, I rise to commend Paul Bianchi, whose leadership in education has helped thousands of children to flourish, improved our world, and built a Georgia legacy that will endure.

After 52 years as head of school for The Paideia School, Mr. Bianchi will retire on June 30, 2023. At Paideia, Mr. Bianchi has built an institution to nourish the minds and hearts of children in Georgia.

After earning an undergraduate degree and a M.A. in teaching at Harvard University, Mr. Bianchi was offered an opportunity to teach at The Galloway School in Atlanta. After 1 year at Galloway, Mr. Bianchi was approached by a group of Atlanta parents who asked him to establish a new school that would emphasize individualized instruction, academics, and the arts. Mr. Bianchi agreed to lead that effort, and in 1971, helped open The Paideia School. Under Mr. Bianchi's decades of leadership, Paideia has grown to serve a student body of 1,020 students. Mr. Bianchi added a high school in 1973 and has managed the growth of a thriving campus with gyms, theaters, science labs, and maker studios.

Mr. Bianchi's leadership has lifted thousands of young people to understand their world and their potential. His work has instilled in generations of students the knowledge, curiosity, and compassion to pursue their dreams and to make a positive difference for our State, our Nation, and the world.

As Georgia's U.S. Senator, like so many whose lives Paul has shaped, I am deeply grateful for his service to education, to Georgia, to the United States, and to the world.•

REMEMBERING SANDY BALDONADO

• Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise today to celebrate the life of Sandra Nash Baldonado, the former mayor of Claremont, CA, and a beloved community leader.

During an intrepid lifetime of service and generosity, any number of friends across the country will remember her knocking doors in Southern California with her kids by her side, serving our Nation at the C.I.A. in Washington, organizing Lady Bird Johnson's campaign tour through the South in the 1960s, or forging ahead to find a permanent home for the Claremont Lewis Museum of Art to bring life to the town she loved most.

Born in Shanghai in 1935, Sandy had a very international childhood, with her family living everywhere from Canada and Mexico to New York City. She attended Smith College, where she earned her undergraduate degree in economics, her first stop in a lifelong quest for knowledge that would lead her to earn her master's degree in education from Claremont Graduate School and her law degree from Whittier School of Law.

In 1959, after marrying her first husband Arthur Baldonado, the couple moved to Southern California where they would eventually make their home, raise four children, and start their new lives. As a point of personal privilege, it is not lost on me that only in the time since Sandy followed her then Brooklyn Dodgers out west have the Dodgers become one of the most successful franchises in professional sports, with six of their seven World Series titles coming since 1959.

In 1992, Sandy married her late husband George Hart, with whom she traveled the world.

Across her long and accomplished career, Sandy served as a sixth-grade teacher, president of the League of Women Voters, member of the Three Valley Municipal Water District's Board of Directors, vice chair of the California Democratic Party, family lawyer, city council member and later mayor of the city of Claremont, and president of the Claremont Museum of Art.

In every role she held, whether teaching sixth graders or representing women and children in family law, the people and communities around her were made better because of her boundless capacity to care.

My thoughts are with all those she now leaves behind, including her children and their spouses Charles and Michele Baldonado, James Baldonado, Andrew and Susan Baldonado, and Liana and Ezra Bayles; as well as her grandchildren Caroline, Pauline, Alex, Grace, Charlie, and Selina.•

REMEMBERING RICHARD RIORDAN

• Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise today to celebrate the life of Richard Joseph Riordan, a veteran, businessman, father, proud Californian, and the 39th mayor of the city of Los Angeles.

Born in Flushing, Queens, in New York City, and the youngest of eight siblings, Mayor Riordan's intellect and work ethic earned him a degree in philosophy from Princeton University, before he went on to serve our Nation in the U.S. Army during the Korean war. His keen mind for business and legal matters brought him to the University of Michigan Law School and later to a career in legal practice and private equity in Los Angeles, where he made his home. But to many Angelenos, we know him best for his time as mayor of Los Angeles from 1993 to 2001.

I had the privilege of serving alongside Mayor Riordan during my first 2 years on the Los Angeles City Council,

and I am proud of the work we did together on behalf of Los Angeles families. Mayor Riordan cared deeply about the city's children and prioritized the modernization of parks, libraries, and recreational, and cultural opportunities for children. He was instrumental in bringing the Children's Museum of Los Angeles, now known as the Discovery Cube Los Angeles, to the San Fernando Valley.

His response to crisis earned Los Angeles national recognition, both in rebuilding after the devastating Northridge earthquake in 1994 and working with the U.S. Department of Justice to reform the Los Angeles Police Department and advance community-based policing efforts. And he was instrumental in bringing the Democratic Convention to Los Angeles in 2000, showcasing the City of Angels to a national audience.

Angela and I offer our deepest condolences and appreciation to Mayor Riordan's family and loved ones. His legacy has left a lasting mark on our city, and his loss will be deeply felt by all Angelenos.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:31 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1343. An act to codify the Institute for Telecommunication Sciences and to direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to establish an initiative to support the development of emergency communication and tracking technologies, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1343. An act to codify the Institute for Telecommunication Sciences and to direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to establish an initiative to support the development of emergency communication and tracking technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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–1086. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Legislative Affairs, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''FY2022 Office of Minority and Women Inclusion Annual Report (March 2023)''; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1087. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Statement of Policy Regarding Prohibition on Abusive Acts or Practices'' (12 CFR Chapter X) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2023; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1088. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Legislative Affairs, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Consumer Response Annual Report''; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–1089. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting additional legislative proposals that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the first session of the 118th Congress; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–1090. A communication from the Executive Director, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Annual Update of Filing Fees'' ((RIN1902–AG09) (Docket No. RM23–2–000)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2023; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–1091. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations and Standards Branch, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Oil and Gas and Sulfur Operations on the Outer Continental Shelf - Civil Penalty Inflation Adjustment'' (RIN1014–AA58) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2023; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC–1092. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulatory Guide (RG) 1.129 Rev 4, 'Maintenance, Testing, and Replacement of Vented Lead-Acid Storage Batteries for Production and Utilization Facilities' '' received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1093. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Disapproval; Iowa; Electronic Submittal of Air Quality'' (FRL No. 9976–02–R7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1094. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Determination to Defer Sanctions; California; Mojave Desert Air Quality Management'' (FRL No. 10873–03–R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1095. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Idaho; Incorporation by Reference Updates'' (FRL No. 10254–02–R10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1096. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Colorado; Revisions to Code of Colorado Regulations; Regulation Number 3'' (FRL No. 10300–02–R8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1097. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Determination to Defer Sanctions; California; El Dorado County Air Quality Management District'' (FRL No. 10564–02–R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1098. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; North Carolina; Transportation Conformity'' (FRL No. 10576–02–R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1099. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''National Priorities List'' (FRL No. 10795–01–OLEM) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1100. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Mississippi; Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference'' (FRL No. 8841–01–R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1101. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances (21–2.F)'' (FRL No. 8985–02–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1102. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Illinois; VOC RACT Requirements for Aerospace Manufacturing and Rework Operations'' (FRL No. 9831–02–R5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1103. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''West Virginia; Finding of Failure to Submit State Implementation Plan Revision in Response to the 2015 Findings of Substantial Inadequacy and SIP Calls to Amend Provisions Applying to Excess Emissions During Periods of Startup, Shutdown, and Malfunction'' (FRL No. 10883–02–R3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–1104. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Disapproval; West Virginia; Revision to the West Virginia State Implementation Plan to Add the Startup, Shutdown, Maintenance

Rule 45CSR1 - Alternative Emission Limitations during Startup, Shutdown, and Maintenance Operations'' (FRL No. 10885–02–R3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on April 17, 2023; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. REED for the Committee on Armed Services.

*Army nomination of Maj. Gen. John W. Brennan, Jr., to be Lieutenant General.

*Navy nomination of Vice Adm. Karl O. Thomas, to be Vice Admiral.

*Marine Corps nomination of Lt. Gen. Michael S. Cederholm, to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nomination of Brig. Gen. Derin S. Durham, to be Major General.

Army nominations beginning with Col. Brandi B. Peasley and ending with Col. Earl C. Sparks IV, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 30, 2023.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. William Green, Jr., to be Major General.

*Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Mark T. Simerly, to be Lieutenant General.

*Marine Corps nomination of Maj. Gen. Ryan P. Heritage, to be Lieutenant General.

*Navy nomination of Vice Adm. Craig A. Clapperton, to be Vice Admiral.

Air Force nomination of Col. Brian R. Moore, to be Brigadier General.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Air Force nomination of Brian J. Bohenek, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Jorge M. Arzola, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of James F. Cantorna, to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with Sandeep R. Rahangdale and ending with Christie A. Shen, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2023.

Army nomination of Song Qu, to be Major.

Army nomination of Timothy S. McKiddy, to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with Kevin J. Huxford and ending with David A. Ridgeway, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2023.

Army nomination of Jerome C. Ferrin, to be Major.

Army nomination of Chet M. Korensky, to be Major.

Army nomination of Anthony L. Ghezzi, to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with Matthew Acosta and ending with D016876, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 17, 2023.

Army nominations beginning with Mark P. Adams and ending with D016116, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 17, 2023.

Army nominations beginning with Alexander Acheampong and ending with D015566, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 17, 2023.

Army nominations beginning with Emmanuel T. Adeniran and ending with D015933, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 17, 2023.

Marine Corps nomination of Nathan D. Morris, to be Major.

Navy nominations beginning with Ryan E. Dinnen and ending with Matthew C. Miller, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 27, 2023.

Navy nomination of Jillian M. Mears, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nomination of Mary J. Hessert, to be Captain.

Navy nomination of Matthew A. Bubnis, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nominations beginning with Andrew R. Flora and ending with Jordan J. Foley, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 17, 2023.

Space Force nominations beginning with Micah R. Kelley and ending with Erica M. Mitchell, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 17, 2023.

Space Force nominations beginning with Erica J. Balfour and ending with James R. Turner, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 17, 2023.

Space Force nomination of Craig E. Frank, to be Colonel.

Space Force nominations beginning with Marouane Balmakhtar and ending with Daniel J. Levinson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 17, 2023.

By Mr. CARPER for the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

*David M. Uhlmann, of Michigan, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

*Joseph Goffman, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

By Mr. SANDERS for the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

*Julie A. Su, of California, to be Secretary of Labor.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 1289. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to strengthen requirements related to nutrient information on food labels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KING (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 1290. A bill to require the Supreme Court of the United States to issue a code of conduct for the justices of the Supreme Court, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. MURPHY, and Mrs. BRITT):

S. 1291. A bill to require that social media platforms verify the age of their users, prohibit the use of algorithmic recommendation systems on individuals under age 18, require parental or guardian consent for social media users under age 18, and prohibit users who are under age 13 from accessing social media platforms; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 1292. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to increase the Federal student loan limits for students in flight education and training programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 1293. A bill to provide protection for survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, and sex trafficking under the Fair Housing Act; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 1294. A bill to provide for payment rates for durable medical equipment under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BUDD (for himself, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 1295. A bill to amend chapter 131 of title 5, United States Code, to require Senior Executive Service and schedule C employees to disclose Federal student loan debt, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 1296. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to improve access to care for all Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries through models tested under the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. REED, Mr. BENNET, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 1297. A bill to ensure the right to provide reproductive health care services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mr. REED, Ms. SMITH, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1298. A bill to award grants for the creation, recruitment, training and education, retention, and advancement of the direct care workforce and to award grants to support family caregivers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. KING, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. KELLY):

S. 1299. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to periodically review the automatic maximum coverage under Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance program and the Veterans' Group Life Insurance

program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 1300. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of the late Prime Minister Golda Meir and the 75th anniversary of the United States-Israel relationship; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. OSSOFF):

S. 1301. A bill to provide highly-skilled nonimmigrant visas for nationals of the Republic of Korea, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. SCHUMER, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 1302. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution of additional residency positions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 1303. A bill to require sellers of event tickets to disclose comprehensive information to consumers about ticket prices and related fees; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. LEE, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 1304. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the carbon footprint and environmental impacts of electric vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 1305. A bill to provide block grants to assign armed law enforcement officers to elementary and secondary schools; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. COONS, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 1306. A bill to reauthorize the COPS ON THE BEAT grant program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REED:

S. 1307. A bill to ensure that students in schools have a right to read, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor , and Pensions.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Ms. SMITH):

S. 1308. A bill to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to extend the deadline for the Secretary of the Interior to promulgate regulations implementing title IV of that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 1309. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to improve how the Department of Veterans Affairs discloses to individuals entitled to educational assistance from the Department risks associated with using such assistance at particular educational institutions and to restore entitlement of students to such assistance who are pursuing programs of education at educational institutions that are subject to Federal or State civil enforcement action, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. LUJAN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. MARKEY, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 1310. A bill to designate as wilderness certain Federal portions of the red rock canyons of the Colorado Plateau and the Great Basin Deserts in the State of Utah for the benefit of present and future generations of people in the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KELLY:

S. 1311. A bill to reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund, and for other purposes; considered and passed.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Ms. ERNST, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 1312. A bill to reprogram $15,000,000,000 to improve border security and enforcement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 1313. A bill to amend parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act to improve foster and adoptive parent recruitment and retention, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 1314. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the definition of spouse and surviving spouse to include all individuals lawfully married, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 1315. A bill to improve the provision of care and services under the Veterans Community Care Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 1316. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to expand the definition of an active duty military consumer for purposes of certain credit monitoring requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. SMITH, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1317. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for public health research and investment into understanding and eliminating structural racism and police violence; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KING, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. REED, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. WELCH, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WARNER, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. SMITH, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 1318. A bill to provide enhanced protections for election workers; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CASEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. REED, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1319. A bill to address the importation and proliferation of machinegun conversion devices; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 1320. A bill to amend certain authorities relating to human rights violations and abuses in Ukraine, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1321. A bill to prohibit exclusive venue ticketing contracts with an excessive duration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 1322. A bill to amend the Act of August 9, 1955, to modify the authorized purposes and term period of tribal leases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. PAUL, Mr. KING, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. KELLY, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. SMITH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. WARREN, Mr. KAINE, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. COONS, Mr. TESTER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 1323. A bill to create protections for financial institutions that provide financial services to State-sanctioned marijuana businesses and service providers for such businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 1324. A bill to establish the Southwestern Power Administration Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 1325. A bill to establish a partnership with nations in the Western Hemisphere to promote economic competitiveness, democratic governance, and security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1326. A bill to prohibit exclusive venue ticketing contracts with an excessive duration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 1327. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to require that a consumer authorize the release of certain information; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. Res. 174. A resolution condemning the human rights record of the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini and the brutal killing of Eswatini activist Thulani Maseko on January 21, 2023; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. Res. 175. A resolution recognizing the importance of the 70th anniversary of the signing of the Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States and the Republic of Korea on October 1, 1953; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. Res. 176. A resolution supporting the designation of April 2023 as the ''Month of the Military Child''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Res. 177. A resolution to authorize testimony and representation in United States v. Powell; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Res. 178. A resolution to authorize testimony and representation in United States v. Kelly; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 26

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 26, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the amendments made to reporting of third party network transactions by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

S. 120

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) were added as cosponsors of S. 120, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against tax for charitable donations to nonprofit organizations providing education scholarships to qualified elementary and secondary students.

S. 121

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 121, a bill to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to require the provision of training and information to certain personnel relating to food allergy identification and response, and for other purposes.

S. 133

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) 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 New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) 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. 141

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 141, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve certain programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs for home and community based services for veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 216

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 216, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the family caregiver program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to include services related to mental health and neurological disorders, and for other purposes.

S. 260

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 260, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit nurse practitioners and physician assistants to satisfy the documentation requirement under the Medicare program for coverage of certain shoes for individuals with diabetes.

S. 291

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 291, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 296

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 296, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide an additional tool to prevent certain frauds against veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 363

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 363, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the individuals and communities who volunteered or donated items to the North Platte Canteen in North Platte, Nebraska, during World War II from December 25, 1941, to April 1, 1946.

S. 388

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 388, a bill to establish universal child care and early learning programs.

S. 456

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 456, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize non-medical counseling services, provided by certain mental health professionals, to military families.

S. 502

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 502, a bill to amend the Animal Health Protection Act with respect to the importation of live dogs, and for other purposes.

S. 566

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 566, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify and extend the deduction for charitable contributions for individuals not itemizing deductions.

S. 597

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 597, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to repeal the Government pension offset and windfall elimination provisions.

S. 639

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 639, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the historic rehabilitation tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 704

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 704, 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.

S. 711

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 711, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the invaluable service that working dogs provide to society.

S. 741

At the request of Mr. ROUNDS, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) were added as cosponsors of S. 741, a bill to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to define ''State of residence'' and ''resident'', and for other purposes.

S. 944

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 944, a bill to promote low-carbon, high-octane fuels, to protect public health, and to improve vehicle efficiency and performance, and for other purposes.

S. 988

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 988, a bill to provide for coordination by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission of the process for reviewing certain natural gas projects under

the jurisdiction of the Commission, and for other purposes.

S. 989

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 989, a bill to establish a more uniform, transparent, and modern process to authorize the construction, connection, operation, and maintenance of international border-crossing facilities for the import and export of oil and natural gas and the transmission of electricity.

S. 1043

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1043, a bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to modify standards for water heaters, furnaces, boilers, and kitchen cooktops, ranges, and ovens, and for other purposes.

S. 1064

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 1064, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a national project to prevent and cure Parkinson's, to be known as the National Parkinson's Project, and for other purposes.

S. 1070

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1070, a bill to address the needs of individuals with disabilities within the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act.

S. 1113

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1113, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish direct care registered nurse-to-patient staffing ratio requirements in hospitals, and for other purposes.

S. 1117

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1117, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently allow a tax deduction at the time an investment in qualified property is made.

S. 1139

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1139, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to apply prescription drug inflation rebates to drugs furnished in the commercial market and to change the base year for rebate calculations.

S. 1193

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1193, a bill to prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities who need long-term services and supports, and for other purposes.

S. 1194

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1194, a bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to carry out certain activities to improve recycling and composting programs in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1203

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 1203, a bill to amend the Peace Corps Act by reauthorizing the Peace Corps, providing better support for current, returning, and former volunteers, and for other purposes.

S. 1214

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1214, a bill to set forth limitations on exclusive approval or licensure of drugs designated for rare diseases or conditions.

S. 1230

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1230, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Master Sergeant Roderick ''Roddie'' Edmonds in recognition of his heroic actions during World War II.

S. 1237

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1237, a bill to restore the exemption of family farms and small businesses from the definition of assets under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

S. 1249

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1249, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the procedural rules for penalties.

S. 1252

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1252, a bill to support the human rights of Uyghurs and members of other ethnic groups residing primarily in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and safeguard their distinct civilization and identity, and for other purposes.

S. 1256

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1256, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require certain air carriers to provide reports with respect to maintenance, preventative maintenance, or alterations, and for other purposes.

S. 1261

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1261, a bill to clarify the treatment of 2 or more employers as joint employers under the National Labor Relations Act and the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938.

S. 1271

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) were added as cosponsors of S. 1271, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to trafficking of illicit fentanyl and its precursors by transnational criminal organizations, including cartels, and for other purposes.

S. 1281

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1281, a bill to amend the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 to provide for security of tenure for use of mining claims for ancillary activities, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 11

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 11, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to ''Control of Air Pollution From New Motor Vehicles: Heavy-Duty Engine and Vehicle Standards''.

S.J. RES. 15

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 15, a joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Commerce relating to ''Procedures Covering Suspension of Liquidation, Duties and Estimated Duties in Accord With Presidential Proclamation 10414''.

S.J. RES. 25

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 25, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to ''Adverse Effect Wage Rate Methodology for the Temporary Employment of H–2A Nonimmigrants in Non-Range Occupations in the United States''.

S. RES. 107

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 107, a resolution recognizing the expiration of the Equal Rights Amendment proposed by Congress in March 1972, and observing that Congress has no authority to modify a resolution proposing a constitutional amendment after the amendment has been submitted to the States or after the amendment has expired.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 1294. A bill to provide for payment rates for durable medical equipment under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1294

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 ''Competitive Bidding Relief Act of 2023''.

SEC. 2. PAYMENT RATES FOR DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT UNDER THE MEDICARE PROGRAM.

(a) AREAS OTHER THAN RURAL AND NONCONTIGUOUS AREAS.—The Secretary shall implement section 414.210(g)(9)(v) of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation), to apply the transition rule described in the first sentence of such section to all applicable items and services furnished in areas other than rural or noncontiguous areas (as such terms are defined for purposes of such section) through December 31, 2024.

(b) ALL AREAS.—The Secretary shall not implement section 414.210(g)(9)(vi) of title 42, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation) until January 1, 2025.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may implement the provisions of this section by program instruction or otherwise.

By Mr. REED:

S. 1307. A bill to ensure that students in schools have a right to read, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. REED. Madam President, literacy opens the door for lifelong opportunity and economic success. But in the aftermath of the COVID–19 pandemic, we have a lot of work to do to help kids catch up. The National Assessment of Education Progress results show the terrible toll the pandemic has taken on students' literacy skills. Reading scores for 9-year-olds dropped by five points, the steepest decline since 1990. We need urgent action to ensure that all children have the means and the right to read. That is why I am pleased to join Congressman RAÚL GRIJALVA in introducing the Right to Read Act.

The Right to Read Act will require States and school districts to have policies protecting the right to read, which includes access to evidence-based reading instruction, access to effective school libraries, access to developmentally and linguistically appropriate materials, reading materials at home, family literacy support, and the freedom to choose reading materials.

The Right to Read Act will ensure that low-income, minority children, English learners, and students with disabilities are not disproportionately enrolled in schools that lack effective school libraries. This is a matter of equity. Data show that school libraries make a big difference in giving kids the skills and inspiration to become proficient and enthusiastic readers. Students who utilize school libraries have 73 percent higher literacy rates than students who do not, and the positive impact of effective school libraries is highest for marginalized groups, including students experiencing poverty, students of color, and students with disabilities. But not every student has access to library services. The U.S. Department of Education reports that 2.5 million students are enrolled in districts where there are no school libraries. An estimated 1 out of 10 schools in America does not have a school library, and 30 percent higher of U.S. public schools do not have full-time librarians. Students experiencing the highest levels of poverty are 30 percent more likely to attend a school without a school library.

While school libraries are most effective when they offer resources that resonate, engage, and empower students and that align with their First Amendment rights, a recent PEN America report found that 182 school districts across 37 States are facing bans on books that disproportionately limit access to titles with LGBTQ+ characters and characters of color. Last month, the American Library Association reported a record number of attempted book bans in 2022, nearly doubling the 2021 total.

The Right to Read Act will address the disparities in access to school library resources. It supports the development of effective school libraries, including the recruitment, retention, and professional development of State-certified school librarians. It will also increase the Federal investment in literacy by reauthorizing comprehensive literacy State development grants at $500 million and the Innovative Approaches to Literacy Program at $100 million, targeting critical literacy resources in high-need communities. Importantly, the bill protects access to quality reading materials and provides the resources needed to create a foundation for learning and student success.

In developing this legislation, Congressman GRIJALVA and I worked closely with the library community, including the American Library Association and the American Association of School Librarians. We are also pleased to have the support of the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association, the National Council of Teachers of English, and PEN America. These are the experts in helping kids become lifelong readers and learners. I appreciate their insight and assistance on this bill, and I urge my colleagues to join us in cosponsoring this legislation to ensure that all students have a right to read.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. MARKEY, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 1310. A bill to designate as wilderness certain Federal portions of the red rock canyons of the Colorado Plateau and the Great Basin Deserts in the State of Utah for the benefit of present and future generations of people in the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1310

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''America's Red Rock Wilderness Act''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Definitions.
Sec. 3. Findings.
Sec. 4. Purposes.

TITLE I—DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS

Sec. 101. Great Basin Wilderness Areas.
Sec. 102. Grand Staircase-Escalante Wilderness Areas.
Sec. 103. Moab-La Sal Canyons Wilderness Areas.
Sec. 104. Henry Mountains Wilderness Areas.
Sec. 105. Glen Canyon Wilderness Areas.
Sec. 106. San Juan Wilderness Areas.
Sec. 107. Canyonlands Basin Wilderness Areas.
Sec. 108. San Rafael Swell Wilderness Areas.
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SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Land Management.

(2) STATE.—The term ''State'' means the State of Utah.

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the land designated as wilderness by this Act is one of the largest remaining expanses of unprotected, wild public land in the continental United States;

(2) the designation of wilderness by this Act would—

(A) increase landscape connectivity in the Colorado Plateau; and

(B) help to mitigate the impacts of climate change by—

(i) providing critical refugia;

(ii) reducing surface disturbances that exacerbate the impacts of climate change;

(iii) reducing greenhouse gas emissions related to the extraction and use of fossil fuels; and

(iv) contributing to the goal of protecting 30 percent of global land and waters by 2030;

(3) the land designated as wilderness by this Act is—

(A) a living cultural landscape;

(B) a place of refuge for wild nature; and

(C) an important part of Indigenous and non-Indigenous community values;

(4) Indian Tribes have been present on the land designated as wilderness by this Act since time immemorial, using the plant, animal, landform, and spiritual values for sustenance and cultural, medicinal, and ceremonial activities, purposes for which Indigenous people continue to use the land; and

(5) the designation of wilderness by this Act—

(A) is vital to the continuation and revitalization of Indigenous cultures; and

(B) serves to protect places of Indigenous use and sanctuary.

SEC. 4. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to designate as wilderness certain Federal portions of the red rock canyons of the Colorado Plateau and the Great Basin Deserts in the State of Utah for the benefit of present and future generations of people in the United States;

(2) to protect the cultural, ecological, and scenic values of land designated as wilderness by this Act for the benefit, use, and enjoyment of present and future generations of people in the United States; and

(3) to protect the ability of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to use the land designated as wilderness by this Act for traditional activities, including hunting, fishing, hiking, horsepacking, camping, and spirituality as people have used the land for generations.

TITLE I—DESIGNATION OF WILDERNESS AREAS

SEC. 101. GREAT BASIN WILDERNESS AREAS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the Great Basin region of western Utah is comprised of starkly beautiful mountain ranges that rise as islands from the desert floor;

(2) the Wah Wah Mountains in the Great Basin region are arid and austere, with massive cliff faces and leathery slopes speckled with piñon and juniper;

(3) the Pilot Range and Stansbury Mountains in the Great Basin region are high enough to draw moisture from passing clouds and support ecosystems found nowhere else on earth;

(4) from bristlecone pine, the world's oldest living organism, to newly flowered mountain meadows, mountains of the Great Basin region are islands of nature that—

(A) support remarkable biological diversity; and

(B) provide opportunities to experience the colossal silence of the Great Basin; and

(5) the Great Basin region of western Utah should be protected and managed to ensure the preservation of the natural conditions of the region.

(b) DESIGNATION.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are designated as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) Bald Eagle Mountain (approximately 9,000 acres).

(2) Barn Hills (approximately 21,000 acres).

(3) Big Hollow (approximately 4,100 acres).

(4) Black Hills (approximately 8,750 acres).

(5) Broken Ridge (approximately 9,250 acres).

(6) Bullgrass Knoll (approximately 15,750 acres).

(7) Burbank Hills (approximately 17,000 acres).

(8) Burbank Pass (approximately 30,000 acres).

(9) Chalk Knolls (approximately 16,500 acres).

(10) Cobb Peak (approximately 8,500 acres).

(11) Conger Mountain (approximately 21,750 acres).

(12) Crater Bench (approximately 35,000 acres).

(13) Crater Island East (approximately 53,000 acres).

(14) Crater Island West (approximately 30,000 acres).

(15) Cricket Mountain (approximately 16,500 acres).

(16) Crook Creek (approximately 20,000 acres).

(17) Deep Creek Mountains (approximately 127,000 acres).

(18) Disappointment Hills (approximately 24,000 acres).

(19) Drum Mountains (approximately 14,500 acres).

(20) Dugway Mountains (approximately 24,500 acres).

(21) Fish Springs Range (approximately 65,000 acres).

(22) Granite Mountain (approximately 19,250 acres).

(23) Granite Peak (approximately 19,500 acres).

(24) Grassy Mountains North (approximately 8,500 acres).

(25) Grassy Mountains South (approximately 16,500 acres).

(26) Hamlin (approximately 13,750 acres).

(27) Headlight Mountain (approximately 6,000 acres).

(28) Howell Peak (approximately 28,750 acres).

(29) Indian Peaks (approximately 15,750 acres).

(30) Jackson Wash (approximately 18,500 acres).

(31) Juniper (approximately 17,500 acres).

(32) Keg Mountains East (approximately 19,500 acres).

(33) Keg Mountains West (approximately 19,250 acres).

(34) Kern Mountains (approximately 15,000 acres).

(35) King Top (approximately 111,500 acres).

(36) Ledger Canyon (approximately 8,900 acres).

(37) Lion Peak (approximately 27,500 acres).

(38) Little Drum Mountains North (approximately 14,000 acres).

(39) Little Drum Mountains South (approximately 10,000 acres).

(40) Mahogany Peak (approximately 750 acres).

(41) Middle Burbank Hills (approximately 6,750 acres).

(42) Middle Mountains (approximately 39,750 acres).

(43) Mount Escalante (approximately 17,500 acres).

(44) Mountain Home Range North (approximately 21,500 acres).

(45) Mountain Home Range South (approximately 32,750 acres).

(46) Needle Mountains (approximately 12,000 acres).

(47) Newfoundland Mountains (approximately 24,500 acres).

(48) North Peaks (approximately 9,400 acres).

(49) North Stansbury Mountains (approximately 20,500 acres).

(50) Notch Peak (approximately 72,000 acres).

(51) Notch View (approximately 8,000 acres).

(52) Ochre Mountain (approximately 13,500 acres).

(53) Oquirrh Mountains (approximately 8,900 acres).

(54) Orr Ridge (approximately 11,000 acres).

(55) Painted Rock (approximately 26,500 acres).

(56) Paradise Mountain (approximately 40,000 acres).

(57) Pilot Mountains Central (approximately 8,000 acres).

(58) Pilot Peak (approximately 30,250 acres).

(59) Red Canyon (approximately 15,500 acres).

(60) Red Tops (approximately 28,000 acres).

(61) San Francisco Mountains (approximately 39,750 acres).

(62) Silver Island Mountains (approximately 37,500 acres).

(63) Snake Valley (approximately 66,250 acres).

(64) Spring Creek Canyon (approximately 5,250 acres).

(65) Stansbury Island (approximately 10,000 acres).

(66) Steamboat Mountain (approximately 40,250 acres).

(67) Swasey Peak (approximately 91,000 acres).

(68) The Toad (approximately 11,250 acres).

(69) Thomas Range (approximately 41,000 acres).

(70) Tule Valley (approximately 102,000 acres).

(71) Tule Valley South (approximately 19,000 acres).

(72) Tunnel Springs (approximately 23,000 acres).

(73) Wah Wah Mountains Central (approximately 61,000 acres).

(74) Wah Wah Mountains North (approximately 93,500 acres).

(75) Wah Wah Mountains South (approximately 18,000 acres).

(76) White Rock Range (approximately 5,000 acres).

(77) Wild Horse Pass (approximately 35,750 acres).

SEC. 102. GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE WILDERNESS AREAS.

(a) GRAND STAIRCASE AREA.—

(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(A) the area known as the Grand Staircase rises more than 6,000 feet in a series of great cliffs and plateaus from the depths of the Grand Canyon to the forested rim of Bryce Canyon;

(B) the Grand Staircase—

(i) spans 6 major life zones, from the lower Sonoran Desert to the alpine forest; and

(ii) encompasses geologic formations that display 3,000,000,000 years of Earth's history;

(C) land managed by the Secretary forms a vital natural corridor connecting the deserts and forests of the surrounding landscape, which includes Grand Canyon National Park and Bryce Canyon National Park;

(D) each of the areas described in paragraph (2) (other than East of Bryce, Moquith Mountain, Bunting Point, Canaan Mountain, Orderville Canyon, Parunuweap Canyon, Vermillion Cliffs, and the majority of Upper Kanab Creek) is located within the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, as established in 1996; and

(E) the Grand Staircase in Utah should be protected and managed as a wilderness area.

(2) DESIGNATION.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are designated as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(A) Bryce Boot (approximately 2,800 acres).

(B) Bryce View (approximately 4,500 acres).

(C) Bunting Point (approximately 11,500 acres).

(D) Canaan Mountain (approximately 15,250 acres).

(E) East of Bryce (approximately 850 acres).

(F) Glass Eye Canyon (approximately 25,500 acres).

(G) Ladder Canyon (approximately 14,500 acres).

(H) Moquith Mountain (approximately 15,750 acres).

(I) Nephi Point (approximately 14,750 acres).

(J) Orderville Canyon (approximately 8,000 acres).

(K) Paria-Hackberry (approximately 196,000 acres).

(L) Paria Wilderness Expansion (approximately 4,000 acres).

(M) Parunuweap Canyon (approximately 44,500 acres).

(N) Pine Hollow (approximately 11,000 acres).

(O) Timber Mountain (approximately 52,750 acres).

(P) Upper Kanab Creek (approximately 51,000 acres).

(Q) Vermillion Cliffs (approximately 25,000 acres).

(R) Willis Creek (approximately 22,000 acres).

(b) KAIPAROWITS PLATEAU.—

(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(A) the Kaiparowits Plateau east of the Paria River is one of the most rugged and isolated wilderness regions in the United States;

(B) the Kaiparowits Plateau, a windswept land of harsh beauty, contains distant vistas and a remarkable variety of plant and animal species;

(C) ancient forests, an abundance of big game animals, and 22 species of raptors thrive undisturbed on the grassland mesa tops of the Kaiparowits Plateau;

(D) each of the areas described in paragraph (2) (other than Heaps Canyon, Little Valley, and Wide Hollow) is located within the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, as established in 1996; and

(E) the Kaiparowits Plateau should be protected and managed as a wilderness area.

(2) DESIGNATION.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are designated as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(A) Andalex Not (approximately 18,000 acres).

(B) Box Canyon (approximately 3,000 acres).

(C) Burning Hills (approximately 81,500 acres).

(D) Canaan Peak Slopes (approximately 2,500 acres).

(E) Carcass Canyon (approximately 84,750 acres).

(F) Fiftymile Bench (approximately 12,750 acres).

(G) Fiftymile Mountain (approximately 207,000 acres).

(H) Heaps Canyon (approximately 4,000 acres).

(I) Horse Spring Canyon (approximately 32,000 acres).

(J) Kodachrome Headlands (approximately 9,750 acres).

(K) Little Valley Canyon (approximately 4,100 acres).

(L) Mud Spring Canyon (approximately 65,750 acres).

(M) Nipple Bench (approximately 31,750 acres).

(N) Paradise Canyon-Wahweap (approximately 266,500 acres).

(O) Rock Cove (approximately 17,000 acres).

(P) The Blues (approximately 22,000 acres).

(Q) The Cockscomb (approximately 11,750 acres).

(R) Warm Creek (approximately 24,000 acres).

(S) Wide Hollow (approximately 7,700 acres).

(c) ESCALANTE CANYONS.—

(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(A) glens and coves carved in massive sandstone cliffs, spring-watered hanging gardens, and the silence of ancient ruins are examples of the unique features that entice hikers, campers, and sightseers from around the world to the Escalante Canyons;

(B) the Escalante Canyons link the spruce fir forests of the 11,000-foot Aquarius Plateau with the winding slickrock canyons that flow into Glen Canyon;

(C) the Escalante Canyons, one of Utah's most popular natural areas, contains critical habitat for deer, elk, and wild bighorn sheep that also enhances the scenic integrity of the area;

(D) each of the areas described in paragraph (2) is located within the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, as established in 1996; and

(E) the Escalante Canyons should be protected and managed as a wilderness area.

(2) DESIGNATION.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are designated as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(A) Colt Mesa (approximately 28,250 acres).

(B) Death Hollow (approximately 49,750 acres).

(C) Forty Mile Gulch (approximately 7,600 acres).

(D) Lampstand (approximately 11,500 acres).

(E) Muley Twist Flank (approximately 3,750 acres).

(F) North Escalante Canyons (approximately 182,000 acres).

(G) Pioneer Mesa (approximately 11,000 acres).

(H) Scorpion (approximately 61,250 acres).

(I) Sooner Bench (approximately 500 acres).

(J) Steep Creek (approximately 35,750 acres).

(K) Studhorse Peaks (approximately 24,000 acres).

SEC. 103. MOAB-LA SAL CANYONS WILDERNESS AREAS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the canyons surrounding the La Sal Mountains and the town of Moab offer a variety of extraordinary landscapes;

(2) outstanding examples of natural formations and landscapes in the Moab-La Sal Canyons area include the huge sandstone fins of Behind the Rocks, the mysterious Fisher Towers, and the whitewater rapids of Westwater Canyon; and

(3) the Moab-La Sal Canyons should be protected and managed as a wilderness area.

(b) DESIGNATION.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are designated as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) Arches National Park Adjacents (approximately 8,900 acres).

(2) Beaver Creek (approximately 45,000 acres).

(3) Behind the Rocks (approximately 19,500 acres).

(4) Big Triangle (approximately 21,500 acres).

(5) Coyote Wash (approximately 27,000 acres).

(6) Dome Plateau (approximately 36,750 acres).

(7) Fisher Towers (approximately 19,000 acres).

(8) Goldbar Canyon (approximately 9,500 acres).

(9) Granite Creek (approximately 5,000 acres).

(10) Hunter Canyon (approximately 5,500 acres).

(11) Mary Jane Canyon (approximately 28,500 acres).

(12) Mill Creek (approximately 17,250 acres).

(13) Morning Glory (approximately 11,000 acres).

(14) Porcupine Rim (approximately 10,500 acres).

(15) Renegade Point (approximately 6,250 acres).

(16) Westwater Canyon (approximately 39,000 acres).

(17) Yellow Bird (approximately 4,600 acres).

SEC. 104. HENRY MOUNTAINS WILDERNESS AREAS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the Henry Mountain Range, the last mountain range to be discovered and named by early explorers in the contiguous United States, still retains a wild and undiscovered quality;

(2) fluted badlands that surround the flanks of 11,000-foot Mounts Ellen and Pennell contain areas of critical habitat for mule deer and for the largest herd of free-roaming buffalo in the United States;

(3) despite their relative accessibility, the Henry Mountain Range remains one of the wildest, least-known ranges in the United States; and

(4) the Henry Mountain Range should be protected and managed to ensure the preservation of the range as a wilderness area.

(b) DESIGNATION.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are designated as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) Bull Mountain (approximately 16,000 acres).

(2) Bullfrog Creek (approximately 42,000 acres).

(3) Dogwater Creek (approximately 4,900 acres).

(4) Fremont Gorge (approximately 22,000 acres).

(5) Long Canyon (approximately 16,500 acres).

(6) Mount Ellen-Blue Hills (approximately 14,750 acres).

(7) Mount Hillers (approximately 20,250 acres).

(8) Mount Pennell (approximately 155,500 acres).

(9) Notom Bench (approximately 6,250 acres).

(10) Ragged Mountain (approximately 29,250 acres).

SEC. 105. GLEN CANYON WILDERNESS AREAS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the side canyons of Glen Canyon, including the Dirty Devil River and the Red, White and Blue Canyons, contain some of the most remote and outstanding landscapes in southern Utah;

(2) the Dirty Devil River, once the fortress hideout of outlaw Butch Cassidy's Wild Bunch, has sculpted a maze of slickrock canyons through an imposing landscape of monoliths and inaccessible mesas;

(3) the Red and Blue Canyons contain colorful Chinle/Moenkopi badlands found nowhere else in the region;

(4) Dark Canyon, Fort Knocker, Tuwa Canyon, Upper Red Canyon, White Canyon, and a portion of Red Rock Plateau are located within the Bears Ears National Monument, as established in 2016; and

(5) the canyons of Glen Canyon in the State should be protected and managed as wilderness areas.

(b) DESIGNATION.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are designated as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) Cane Spring Desert (approximately 18,250 acres).

(2) Copper Point (approximately 4,400 acres).

(3) Dark Canyon (approximately 139,000 acres).

(4) Dirty Devil (approximately 245,000 acres).

(5) Fiddler Butte (approximately 93,000 acres).

(6) Flat Tops (approximately 29,750 acres).

(7) Fort Knocker (approximately 12,500 acres).

(8) Little Rockies (approximately 64,000 acres).

(9) Pleasant Creek Bench (approximately 1,000 acres).

(10) Red Rock Plateau (approximately 185,500 acres).

(11) The Needle (approximately 10,750 acres).

(12) Tuwa Canyon (approximately 9,750 acres).

(13) Upper Red Canyon (approximately 25,000 acres).

(14) White Canyon (approximately 78,000 acres).

SEC. 106. SAN JUAN WILDERNESS AREAS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) more than 1,000 years ago, Indigenous culture flourished in the slickrock canyons and on the piñon-covered mesas of southeastern Utah;

(2) evidence of the presence of Indigenous people pervades the Cedar Mesa area of the San Juan area where cliff dwellings, rock art, and ceremonial kivas are found in sandstone overhangs and isolated benchlands;

(3) the Cedar Mesa area is in need of protection from the vandalism and theft of its unique cultural resources;

(4) the Cedar Mesa wilderness areas should be created to protect both the archaeological heritage and the extraordinary wilderness, scenic, and ecological values of the United States;

(5) each of the areas described in subsection (b) (other than Cross Canyon, Monument Canyon, Tin Cup Mesa, and most of Nokai Dome and San Juan River) are located within the Bears Ears National Monument, as established in 2016; and

(6) the San Juan area should be protected and managed as a wilderness area to ensure the preservation of the unique and valuable resources of that area.

(b) DESIGNATION.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are designated as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) Allen Canyon (approximately 6,500 acres).

(2) Arch Canyon (approximately 30,500 acres).

(3) Comb Ridge (approximately 16,000 acres).

(4) Cross Canyon (approximately 2,400 acres).

(5) Fish and Owl Creek Canyons (approximately 74,000 acres).

(6) Grand Gulch (approximately 161,250 acres).

(7) Hammond Canyon (approximately 4,700 acres).

(8) Lime Creek (approximately 5,500 acres).

(9) Monument Canyon (approximately 18,000 acres).

(10) Nokai Dome (approximately 94,250 acres).

(11) Road Canyon (approximately 64,000 acres).

(12) San Juan River (approximately 14,750 acres).

(13) The Tabernacle (approximately 7,300 acres).

(14) Tin Cup Mesa (approximately 26,000 acres).

(15) Valley of the Gods (approximately 14,500 acres).

SEC. 107. CANYONLANDS BASIN WILDERNESS AREAS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) Canyonlands National Park safeguards only a small portion of the extraordinary red-hued, cliff-walled canyonland region of the Colorado Plateau;

(2) areas near Canyonlands National Park contain canyons with rushing perennial streams, natural arches, bridges, and towers;

(3) the gorges of the Green and Colorado Rivers lie on adjacent land managed by the Secretary;

(4) popular overlooks in Canyonlands National Park and Dead Horse Point State Park have views directly into adjacent areas, including Lockhart Basin and Indian Creek;

(5) each of the areas described in subsection (b) (other than Dead Horse Cliffs, Horsethief Point, Labyrinth Canyon Wilderness Expansion, San Rafael River, Sweetwater Reef, and a portion of Gooseneck) are located within the Bears Ears National Monument, as established in 2016; and

(6) designation of those areas as wilderness would ensure the protection of this erosional masterpiece of nature and of the rich pockets of wildlife found within its expanded boundaries.

(b) DESIGNATION.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are designated as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) Bridger Jack Mesa (approximately 33,500 acres).

(2) Butler Wash (approximately 27,000 acres).

(3) Dead Horse Cliffs (approximately 5,300 acres).

(4) Demon's Playground (approximately 3,600 acres).

(5) Gooseneck (approximately 9,400 acres).

(6) Hatch Point/Lockhart Basin/Harts Point (approximately 150,500 acres).

(7) Horsethief Point (approximately 15,500 acres).

(8) Indian Creek (approximately 28,500 acres).

(9) Labyrinth Canyon Wilderness Expansion (approximately157,500 acres).

(10) San Rafael River (approximately 103,000 acres).

(11) Shay Mountain (approximately 15,500 acres).

(12) Sweetwater Reef (approximately 69,250 acres).

SEC. 108. SAN RAFAEL SWELL WILDERNESS AREAS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the San Rafael Swell towers above the desert like a castle, ringed by 1,000-foot ramparts of Navajo Sandstone;

(2) the highlands of the San Rafael Swell have been fractured by uplift and rendered hollow by erosion over countless millennia, leaving a tremendous basin punctuated by mesas, buttes, and canyons and traversed by sediment-laden desert streams;

(3) the mountains within these areas are among Utah's most valuable habitat for desert bighorn sheep; and

(4) the San Rafael Swell area should be protected and managed to ensure its preservation as a wilderness area.

(b) DESIGNATION.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are designated as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) Capitol Reef National Park Adjacents (approximately 9,000 acres).

(2) Cedar Mountain (approximately 14,750 acres).

(3) Devils Canyon Wilderness Expansion (approximately 14,000 acres).

(4) Eagle Canyon (approximately 38,500 acres).

(5) Factory Butte (approximately 22,250 acres).

(6) Hondu Country Wilderness Expansion (approximately 2,500 acres).

(7) Jones Bench (approximately 3,400 acres).

(8) Limestone Cliffs (approximately 25,500 acres).

(9) Lost Spring Wash (approximately 36,500 acres).

(10) Mexican Mountain Wilderness Expansion (approximately 24,750 acres).

(11) Molen Reef (approximately 32,500 acres).

(12) Muddy Creek Wilderness Expansion (approximately 80,750 acres).

(13) Mussentuchit Badlands (approximately 25,000 acres).

(14) Price River-Humbug (approximately 122,250 acres).

(15) Red Desert (approximately 30,750 acres).

(16) Rock Canyon (approximately 17,750 acres).

(17) San Rafael Knob (approximately 15,000 acres).

(18) San Rafael Reef Wilderness Expansion (approximately 53,500 acres).

(19) Sids Mountain Wilderness Expansion (approximately 36,750 acres).

(20) Upper Muddy Creek (approximately 18,500 acres).

(21) Wild Horse Mesa Wilderness Expansion (approximately 56,000 acres).

SEC. 109. BOOK CLIFFS–GREATER DINOSAUR WILDERNESS AREAS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the Book Cliffs–Greater Dinosaur Wilderness Areas offer—

(A) unique big game hunting opportunities in verdant high-plateau forests; and

(B) the opportunity for float trips of several days duration down the Green River in Desolation Canyon;

(2) the long rampart of the Book Cliffs bounds the area on the south, while the uplands, plateaus, rivers, and canyons of the Greater Dinosaur area provide connectivity with Dinosaur National Monument and the northernmost extent of the Colorado Plateau;

(3) bears, bighorn sheep, cougars, elk, and mule deer flourish in the backcountry of the Book Cliffs; and

(4) the Book Cliffs–Greater Dinosaur Wilderness Areas should be protected and managed to ensure the protection of the areas as wilderness.

(b) DESIGNATION.—In accordance with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the following areas in the State are designated as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System:

(1) Bad Land Cliffs (approximately 11,500 acres).

(2) Beach Draw (approximately 900 acres).
(3) Bourdette Draw (approximately 15,750 acres).
(4) Bull Canyon (approximately 3,100 acres).
(5) Dead Horse Pass (approximately 8,400 acres).
(6) Desbrough Canyon (approximately 14,000 acres).
(7) Desolation Canyon Wilderness Expansion (approximately 295,000 acres).
(8) Diamond Breaks (approximately 8,600 acres).
(9) Diamond Canyon (approximately 168,000 acres).
(10) Diamond Mountain (approximately 28,000 acres).
(11) Goslin Mountain (approximately 3,800 acres).
(12) Hideout Canyon (approximately 12,750 acres).
(13) Lower Flaming Gorge (approximately 21,000 acres).
(14) Mexico Point (approximately 14,750 acres).
(15) Moonshine Draw (approximately 10,750 acres).
(16) Mountain Home (approximately 8,000 acres).
(17) O-Wi-Yu-Kuts (approximately 14,500 acres).
(18) Red Creek Badlands (approximately 4,600 acres).
(19) Split Mountain Benches (approximately 2,800 acres).
(20) Stone Bridge Draw (approximately 3,600 acres).
(21) Stuntz Draw (approximately 2,000 acres).
(22) Survey Point (approximately 8,700 acres).
(23) Turtle Canyon Wilderness Expansion (approximately 9,600 acres).
(24) Vivas Cake Hill (approximately 275 acres).
(25) Wild Mountain (approximately 700 acres).

TITLE II—ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 201. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

(a) NAMES OF WILDERNESS AREAS.—Each wilderness area named in title I shall—

(1) consist of the quantity of land referenced with respect to that named area, as generally depicted on the map entitled ''America's Red Rock Wilderness Act, 118th Congress''; and

(2) be known by the name given to it in title I.

(b) MAP AND DESCRIPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall file a map and a legal description of each wilderness area designated by this Act with—

(A) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

(2) FORCE OF LAW.—A map and legal description filed under paragraph (1) shall have the same force and effect as if included in this Act, except that the Secretary may correct clerical and typographical errors in the map and legal description.

(3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Each map and legal description filed under paragraph (1) shall be filed and made available for public inspection in the Office of the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

SEC. 202. ADMINISTRATION.

Subject to valid rights in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, each wilderness area designated under this Act shall be administered by the Secretary in accordance with—

(1) the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and

(2) the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.).

SEC. 203. STATE SCHOOL TRUST LAND WITHIN WILDERNESS AREAS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), if State-owned land is included in an area designated by this Act as a wilderness area, the Secretary shall offer to exchange land owned by the United States in the State of approximately equal value in accordance with section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c)) and section 5(a) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1134(a)).

(b) MINERAL INTERESTS.—The Secretary shall not transfer any mineral interests under subsection (a) unless the State transfers to the Secretary any mineral interests in land designated by this Act as a wilderness area.

SEC. 204. WATER.

(a) RESERVATION.—

(1) WATER FOR WILDERNESS AREAS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to each wilderness area designated by this Act, Congress reserves a quantity of water determined by the Secretary to be sufficient for the wilderness area.

(B) PRIORITY DATE.—The priority date of a right reserved under subparagraph (A) shall be the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) PROTECTION OF RIGHTS.—The Secretary and other officers and employees of the United States shall take any steps necessary to protect the rights reserved by paragraph (1)(A), including the filing of a claim for the quantification of the rights in any present or future appropriate stream adjudication in the courts of the State—

(A) in which the United States is or may be joined; and

(B) that is conducted in accordance with section 208 of the Department of Justice Appropriation Act, 1953 (66 Stat. 560, chapter 651).

(b) PRIOR RIGHTS NOT AFFECTED.—Nothing in this Act relinquishes or reduces any water rights reserved or appropriated by the United States in the State on or before the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) SPECIFICATION OF RIGHTS.—The Federal water rights reserved by this Act are specific to the wilderness areas designated by this Act.

(2) NO PRECEDENT ESTABLISHED.—Nothing in this Act related to reserved Federal water rights—

(A) shall establish a precedent with regard to any future designation of water rights; or

(B) shall affect the interpretation of any other Act or any designation made under any other Act.

SEC. 205. ROADS.

(a) SETBACKS.—

(1) MEASUREMENT IN GENERAL.—A setback under this section shall be measured from the center line of the road.

(2) WILDERNESS ON 1 SIDE OF ROADS.—Except as provided in subsection (b), a setback for a road with wilderness on only 1 side shall be set at—

(A) 300 feet from a paved Federal or State highway;

(B) 100 feet from any other paved road or high standard dirt or gravel road; and

(C) 30 feet from any other road.

(3) WILDERNESS ON BOTH SIDES OF ROADS.—Except as provided in subsection (b), a setback for a road with wilderness on both sides (including cherry-stems or roads separating 2 wilderness units) shall be set at—

(A) 200 feet from a paved Federal or State highway;

(B) 40 feet from any other paved road or high standard dirt or gravel road; and

(C) 10 feet from any other roads.

(b) SETBACK EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) WELL-DEFINED TOPOGRAPHICAL BARRIERS.—If, between the road and the boundary of a setback area described in paragraph (2) or (3) of subsection (a), there is a well-defined cliff edge, stream bank, or other topographical barrier, the Secretary shall use the barrier as the wilderness boundary.

(2) FENCES.—If, between the road and the boundary of a setback area specified in paragraph (2) or (3) of subsection (a), there is a fence running parallel to a road, the Secretary shall use the fence as the wilderness boundary if, in the opinion of the Secretary, doing so would result in a more manageable boundary.

(3) DEVIATIONS FROM SETBACK AREAS.—

(A) EXCLUSION OF DISTURBANCES FROM WILDERNESS BOUNDARIES.—In cases where there is an existing livestock development, dispersed camping area, borrow pit, or similar disturbance within 100 feet of a road that forms part of a wilderness boundary, the Secretary may delineate the boundary so as to exclude the disturbance from the wilderness area.

(B) LIMITATION ON EXCLUSION OF DISTURBANCES.—The Secretary shall make a boundary adjustment under subparagraph (A) only if the Secretary determines that doing so is consistent with wilderness management goals.

(C) DEVIATIONS RESTRICTED TO MINIMUM NECESSARY.—Any deviation under this paragraph from the setbacks required under in paragraph (2) or (3) of subsection (a) shall be the minimum necessary to exclude the disturbance.

(c) DELINEATION WITHIN SETBACK AREA.—The Secretary may delineate a wilderness boundary at a location within a setback under paragraph (2) or (3) of subsection (a) if, as determined by the Secretary, the delineation would enhance wilderness management goals.

SEC. 206. LIVESTOCK.

Within the wilderness areas designated under title I, the grazing of livestock authorized on the date of enactment of this Act shall be permitted to continue subject to such reasonable regulations and procedures as the Secretary considers necessary, as long as the regulations and procedures are consistent with—

(1) the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.); and

(2) section 101(f) of the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–628; 104 Stat. 4469).

SEC. 207. FISH AND WILDLIFE.

Nothing in this Act affects the jurisdiction of the State with respect to wildlife and fish on the public land located in the State.

SEC. 208. PROTECTION OF TRIBAL RIGHTS.

Nothing in this Act affects or modifies—

(1) any right of any federally recognized Indian Tribe; or

(2) any obligation of the United States to any federally recognized Indian Tribe.

SEC. 209. MANAGEMENT OF NEWLY ACQUIRED LAND.

Any land within the boundaries of a wilderness area designated under this Act that is acquired by the Federal Government shall—

(1) become part of the wilderness area in which the land is located; and

(2) be managed in accordance with this Act and other laws applicable to wilderness areas.

SEC. 210. WITHDRAWAL.

Subject to valid rights existing on the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal land referred to in title I is withdrawn from all forms of—

(1) entry, appropriation, or disposal under public law;

(2) location, entry, and patent under mining law; and

(3) disposition under all laws pertaining to mineral and geothermal leasing or mineral materials.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 1327. A bill to amend the Fair Credit Reporting Act to require that a consumer authorize the release of certain information; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. REED. Madam President, I am joined by Senator VAN HOLLEN in introducing the Consumer Credit Control Act, which gives consumers greater control over when and how their consumer reports are shared by consumer reporting agencies.

Our current consumer reporting system is backwards. Consumer reporting agencies collect massive amounts of personal information on consumers, often without their knowledge, in order to compile consumer reports. These reports are then shared with financial institutions and others, often without consent.

Following Equifax's failure several years ago to secure valuable personally identifiable information it collected on approximately 147 million Americans, it remains clear that this system needs to change. Indeed, the National Consumer Law Center's Chi Chi Wu stated in testimony before the House Financial Services Committee that the Equifax breach ''means half of the US population and nearly three-quarters of the consumers with active credit reports are now at risk of identity theft due to one of the worst—if not the worst—breaches of consumer data in American history. These Americans are at risk of having false new credit accounts, phony tax returns, and even spurious medical bills incurred in their good names.'' To make matters worse, the risks of identity fraud may only increase with time. As Ed Mierzwinski, U.S. PIRG's Federal Consumer Program Director, explains ''unlike credit card numbers, your Social Security Number and Date of Birth don't change and may even grow more valuable over time, like gold in a bank vault. Much worse, they are the keys to 'new account identity theft.' ''

The Consumer Credit Control Act aims to address these concerns and fix the current upside down system. Our legislation, at no cost to the consumer, seeks to give Americans greater control over when and how their consumer reports are released when applying for new credit, a loan, or insurance. It also requires consumer reporting agencies to verify a consumer's identity and secure the consumer's permission before releasing consumer reports in instances that are particularly susceptible to identity theft and fraud. Additionally, our legislation requires every consumer reporting agency to take appropriate steps to prevent unauthorized access to the consumer reports and personal information they maintain.

These changes are intended to make it tougher for criminals to open new fraudulent credit or insurance accounts in other people's names. They will also dramatically cut down on so-called ''trigger leads,'' where the credit reporting bureaus sell the fact that a consumer is shopping for a mortgage to other lenders. That causes prospective homebuyers to get inundated with hundreds of calls offering alternative mortgages. The credit bureaus say that these ''trigger leads'' help consumers by making sure they have access to the most attractive financing, but in reality they are a nuisance and add unnecessary stress to the already stressful process of buying a home.

I urge our colleagues to cosponsor the Consumer Credit Control Act, and I thank Senator VAN HOLLEN, the National Consumer Law Center, on behalf of its low-income clients, U.S. PIRG, the Center for Digital Democracy, Consumer Action, the Consumer Federation of America, Consumer Reports, the National Association of Consumer Advocates, and Public Citizen for their support.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 174—CONDEMNING THE HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI AND THE BRUTAL KILLING OF ESWATINI ACTIVIST THULANI MASEKO ON JANUARY 21, 2023

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 174

Whereas Eswatini, one of the world's last absolute monarchies, is ruled by King Mswati III, who has been in power for more than 36 years, and exercises ultimate authority over all branches of the national government and effectively controls local and national governance through his influence over traditional chiefs and the selection of House of Assembly candidates and control over the national electoral system;

Whereas human rights and democracy advocates in Eswatini have faced repression and persecution, including arbitrary arrests, detention, and torture, and have faced on political gatherings and restrictions on their civil liberties, including with respect to expression, assembly, and freedom of the press;

Whereas the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini has used laws such as the Suppression of Terrorism Act of 2008, and the Sedition and Subversive Activities Act of 1938, to suppress free speech and stifle criticism of the monarch;

Whereas, from June to October 2021, the country witnessed nationwide demonstrations against security sector abuses, with protests evolving into demands for democratic reforms;

Whereas King Mswati III's government employed excessive force and arbitrary arrests and detention, as well as internet shutdowns, to repress pro-democracy protests and related advocacy activities, restrict the activities of human rights advocates, and impose blanket bans on protests demanding democracy and respect for internationally-recognized human rights;

Whereas official sources note security forces in Eswatini responded with violence against protestors, reportedly killing more than 46 people, injuring more than 245, and detaining or arresting hundreds of others, although the international community suggests the true death toll is higher;

Whereas the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini detained two members of parliament on spurious charges for more than 18 months under the Suppression of Terrorism Act, and charged them with terrorism and murder for allegedly encouraging pro-democracy protests and calling for a democratically elected prime minister and other reforms;

Whereas regional human rights organizations continue to receive reports of lawyers and judges being harassed, threatened, and intimidated for their actual, alleged, or suspected support of the ongoing pro-democracy movement, in contravention of their constitutional rights;

Whereas, following a visit to Eswatini by Southern African Development Community (SADC) delegates in November 2021, King Mswati III agreed to provide for a national dialogue to address the civil unrest structured in the format of a sibaya, a royally-convened and -controlled traditional civic consultative forum, but since then has ignored widespread demands of the pleas of citizens, opposition politicians, civil society, and the regional and international community for a genuine consultative forum inclusive of diverse political views, while continuing the government's crackdown on dissenting voices;

Whereas, in October 2021, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called on the Eswatini authorities to ensure that the people of Eswatini are able to exercise their civil and political rights peacefully;

Whereas reports indicate that the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini has contracted with international security companies to train government security forces to respond to violence in the country, resulting in increased intimidation against dissenting voices;

Whereas Thulani Maseko, a prominent human rights lawyer, Chairman of the Multi-Stakeholder Forum, an organization comprised of various civil society groups calling for constitutional reforms in Eswatini, and a champion of social justice, routinely criticized King Mswati III for undermining judicial independence and called for a more democratic legal system in Eswatini;

Whereas, in 2014, Thulani Maseko and fellow human rights advocate Bheki Makhubu were charged and sentenced to two years in prison for writing and publishing an article that criticized the country's Chief Justice and drew attention to the lack of independence of Eswatini's judicial system;

Whereas, on June 30, 2015, Thulani Maseko and Bheki Makhubu were acquitted and released after Eswatini's supreme court found that they had been wrongly convicted;

Whereas Thulani Maseko made an immense contribution to the advancement of justice and human rights in Eswatini and, more broadly, throughout southern Africa, including through fact-finding missions, including to Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Malawi, where he reported on the deterioration of civic space;

Whereas, on January 21, 2023, Thulani Maseko was shot and killed by an unknown gunman at his home in Luyengo, Mbabane, in front of his wife and children;

Whereas the assassination of Thulani Maseko occurred amid a rise in Swazi government intimidation of King Mswati III's critics, many of whom have called for political reforms in Eswatini, and an overall escalation of violence in the country, including

the killings of members of the security forces and attacks on traditional leaders, as well as state security force element attacks on and legal harassment of pro-democracy advocates;

Whereas the United States Department of State, mulitlateral organizations such as the SADC, the African Union, and the European Union, as well as the human rights community, including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, have called for a full and transparent investigation into Mr. Maseko's murder;

Whereas, on January 25, 2023, the Department of State delivered a statement underscoring United States condemnation and broader global condemnation of Mr. Maseko's murder, the need for an impartial and transparent investigation and accountability for those responsible for his killing, nonviolence on all sides, and tangible movement on a credible, inclusive national dialogue;

Whereas the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini has failed to announce progress on an independent investigation to identify and bring to justice those responsible for Thulani Maseko's murder; and

Whereas a failure to investigate the unlawful killing of Thulani Maseko and to bring the perpetrators to justice would be a violation of Eswatini's obligations as a State Party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the brutal murder of Thulani Maseko and the worsening cycle of political violence and instability in Eswatini;

(2) expresses deep concern about reports of continued human rights violations against the people of Eswatini, and the harassment of advocates for human rights and democratic practice and constitutionalism in Eswatini;

(3) calls on the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini to—

(A) undertake a full, transparent, and impartial criminal investigation into the assassination of Thulani Maseko and hold perpetrators accountable;

(B) cease surveilling and intimidating human rights activists fighting to protect fundamental freedoms;

(C) uphold internationally recognized human rights, including the rights of freedom of assembly and freedom of speech, as well as corresponding rights in the Eswatini constitution;

(D) expeditiously initiate pre-dialogue preparations and announce a firm date by which a credible, inclusive dialogue on constitutional and political reform will begin starting prior to scheduled September 2023 elections;

(E) engage in good faith in a credible, inclusive national dialogue to address longstanding demands for democratic reforms; and

(F) fully staff and empower a full complement of Commission of Human Rights and Public Accountability (CHRPA) human rights investigation staff, install an appointed Commissioner, make CHRPA fully independent from the Ministry of Justice and other government interference in line with commitments to treaty conventions and the Paris Principle, and take action to address CHRPA's recommendations;

(4) calls on the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to conduct an independent investigation into Mr. Maseko's assassination and human rights violations in Eswatini;

(5) encourages the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to—

(A) maintain and expand support for journalists, human rights advocates, and the rule of law and media freedoms in Eswatini; and

(B) encourage the SADC to take action to address the political and human rights crisis in Eswatini, including by working to convene a credible consultative forum inclusive of diverse political views and civil society to address issues related to political space and democratic reform; and

(6) encourages the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury to consider targeted sanctions against any individuals and entities committing violations of internationally-recognized human rights in Eswatini.

SENATE RESOLUTION 175—RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA ON OCTOBER 1, 1953

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. ROMNEY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. HOEVEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 175

Whereas, on October 1, 1953, the Mutual Defense Treaty Between the United States and the Republic of Korea (5 U.S.T. 2368) was signed in Washington, D.C., to which the Senate provided its advice and consent to ratification on January 26, 1954;

Whereas the shared commitment to recognize an armed attack on either of the Parties as dangerous to the peace and security of the other and to ''act to meet the common danger in accordance with [each party's] constitutional processes'' remains in place today;

Whereas the United States and Korea established diplomatic relations on May 22, 1882, with the signing of the Treaty of Peace, Amity, Commerce and Navigation, and the United States reestablished its diplomatic relationship with the ''Republic of Korea'' on March 25, 1949;

Whereas, in 2023, the United States-Republic of Korea alliance marks 70 years since the cessation of hostilities in the Korean War and the signing of the Armistice Agreement on July 27, 1953, which remains in place today and neither formally ended the Korean War nor constituted a permanent settlement of peace on the Korean Peninsula;

Whereas the United States-Republic of Korea alliance is the linchpin of peace, security, and stability on the Korean Peninsula and in the Indo-Pacific region and is essential to confronting the threat posed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK);

Whereas the United States-Republic of Korea alliance is rooted in mutual trust, shared sacrifice, common values, economic interests, and generations of people-to-people ties that provide a foundation for one of the strongest, most interoperable, and enduring bilateral alliances in the world;

Whereas the United States assures its ironclad security commitment to the Republic of Korea, including the United States extended deterrent underpinned by the full range of United States capabilities, including nuclear capabilities;

Whereas the United States-Republic of Korea alliance was forged in shared sacrifice, with 1,789,000 United States soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines serving during the Korean War, of whom 36,574 paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives in defense of the Republic of Korea, including 7,174 Korean Augmentation to the United States Army (KATUSA) soldiers, and the over 7,500 members of the United States Armed Forces that remain classified by the Department of Defense as missing in action;

Whereas casualties of the Republic of Korea were more than 217,000 soldiers killed, more than 291,000 wounded, and over 1,000,000 civilians killed or missing;

Whereas the Republic of Korea has since its founding become a thriving democracy with a vibrant press and commitment to the rule of law and a free market economy;

Whereas the United States-Republic of Korea Security Consultative Meeting met on November 3, 2022, in Washington, D.C. and ''shared their common understanding that the U.S.-ROK Alliance is based on the same principles and shared values including: mutual trust, freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law'';

Whereas the United States and the Republic of Korea are committed to pursuing closely coordinated diplomatic efforts through a shared strategy to achieve the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization of North Korea and establishing peace on the Korean Peninsula;

Whereas the Republic of Korea's 2022 Strategy for a Free, Peaceful, and Prosperous Indo-Pacific Region emphasizes its desire to be a global pivotal state that commits ''to working with other key nations both within and beyond the region to foster a free and peaceful region . . . while strengthening the rules-based international order'';

Whereas President Yoon Suk Yeol took the courageous and bold step of announcing that the Government of the Republic of Korea would compensate Korean victims of Japanese wartime labor in order to facilitate the resolution of an issue that has hampered cooperation with Japan;

Whereas a robust and effective trilateral relationship between and among the United States, the Republic of Korea, and Japan is critical for joint security and interests in defending freedom and democracy, upholding human rights, promoting peace, security, and the rule of law in the Indo-Pacific and across the globe, championing women's empowerment, and combating and adapting to complex environmental challenges;

Whereas the American and Korean people share deeply rooted values of defending freedom, championing economic development, upholding human rights, and respecting the rule of law;

Whereas the United States, the Republic of Korea, and Japan have held a series of trilateral meetings, including a trilateral leaders' summit on November 13, 2022, a Foreign Ministers' meeting on September 23, 2022, and a vice ministerial meeting on February 13, 2023, at which the three countries committed to continuing trilateral exercises on ballistic missile defense and anti-submarine warfare, and further determined to explore new areas of security cooperation, including sharing DPRK missile warning data in real time;

Whereas the Republic of Korea is the United States' seventh largest goods trading partner with $162,900,000,000 in total (two-way) goods trade and $31,500,000,000 in total services trade for a combined $194,400,000,000 in 2021, and is one of the United States top sources of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), which totaled $110,600,000,000 in 2021 and, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, South Korea multinational enterprises (MNEs) in the United States employed almost 84,000 employees in 2020;

Whereas the strength of the United States-Republic of Korea relationship is due in large part to the approximately 2,500,000 Korean Americans that have made significant contributions to every facet of American society and leadership to now include four members of the House of Representatives: Andy Kim of New Jersey, Young Kim of California, Marilyn Strickland of Washington, and Michelle Steel of California; and

Whereas, in April 2023, President Yoon Suk Yeol will visit the United States at the invitation of President Joseph R. Biden: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) welcomes President Yoon Suk Yeol to the United States and urges both sides to use the occasion of this state visit to further deepen the close security, economic, and people-to-people ties between our nations;

(2) reaffirms the importance of the United States-Republic of Korea alliance as the linchpin to safeguarding peace, security, and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula and a critical component of peace in the Indo-Pacific region;

(3) reaffirms the United States' extended deterrence commitments to the Republic of Korea and that the United States will continue to ensure that its policy and posture reflects the requirements of extended deterrence;

(4) supports ongoing efforts to further strengthen, broaden, and deepen the ironclad United States-Republic of Korea alliance, including the United States-Republic of Korea Foreign and Defense Ministerial Meeting (2+2), the Security Consultative Meeting, and the Extended Deterrence Strategy and Consultation Group, to confront threats to the peace and safety of both nations, and to stand together for the common values and shared interests that unite us;

(5) calls for continued cooperation between the Governments of the United States and the Republic of Korea in the promotion of human rights;

(6) supports the Republic of Korea's engagement in regional diplomacy, including the launching of the ROK-ASEAN Solidarity Initiative, the Republic of Korea's participation in the Minerals Security Partnership, its joining of the Partners in the Blue Pacific, and its hosting of a summit with Pacific Island nations;

(7) endorses further Republic of Korea engagement with Quad initiatives;

(8) calls for close coordination to achieve the denuclearization of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the establishment of a permanent and lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula;

(9) encourages close cooperation among the United States, the Republic of Korea, and Japan to address shared challenges; and

(10) recognizes the deep partnership forged over 70 years since the signing of the Mutual Defense Treaty that has underpinned security for both countries, established a durable trust, undergirded the free and open order in the Indo-Pacific, and demonstrated the benefits of robust democracies on both sides of the Pacific.

SENATE RESOLUTION 176—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF APRIL 2023 AS THE ''MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD''

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. BOOZMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 176

Whereas millions of brave United States servicemembers and veterans have demonstrated their courage and commitment to freedom by serving the Armed Forces of the United States of America in active-duty posts around the world;

Whereas there are more than 1,600,000 children connected to the military across the United States;

Whereas it is only fitting that the people of the United States take time to recognize the contributions of servicemembers and veterans, celebrate their spirit, and let the men and women of the United States in uniform know that while they are taking care of us, the people of the United States are taking care of their children;

Whereas the recognition of a ''Month of the Military Child'' will allow the people of the United States to pay tribute to military children for their commitment, struggles, and unconditional support of United States troops;

Whereas, when a servicemember joins the military, it is a family commitment to the United States, and military children are heroes in their own way; and

Whereas a month-long salute to military children will encourage the United States to provide direct support to military children and families: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of April 2023 as the ''Month of the Military Child''; and

(2) urges the people of the United States to observe the Month of the Military Child with appropriate ceremonies and activities that honor, support, and show appreciation for military children.

SENATE RESOLUTION 177—TO AUTHORIZE TESTIMONY AND REPRESENTATION IN UNITED STATES V. POWELL

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 177

Whereas, in the case of *United States v. Powell*, Cr. No. 21-179, pending in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, the prosecution has requested the production of testimony from Daniel Schwager, a former employee of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(2) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§ 288b(a) and 288c(a)(2), the Senate may direct its counsel to represent current and former officers and employees of the Senate with respect to any subpoena, order, or request for evidence relating to their official responsibilities;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may, by the judicial or administrative process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate; and

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Daniel Schwager, a former employee of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate, is authorized to provide relevant testimony in the case of *United States v. Powell*, except concerning matters for which a privilege should be asserted.

SEC. 2. The Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Mr. Schwager, and any current or former officer or employee of the Secretary's office, in connection with the production of evidence authorized in section one of this resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 178—TO AUTHORIZE TESTIMONY AND REPRESENTATION IN UNITED STATES V. KELLY

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 178

Whereas, in the case of *United States v. Kelly*, Cr. No. 21-708, pending in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, the prosecution has requested the production of testimony from Daniel Schwager, a former employee of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(2) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§ 288b(a) and 288c(a)(2), the Senate may direct its counsel to represent current and former officers and employees of the Senate with respect to any subpoena, order, or request for evidence relating to their official responsibilities;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may, by the judicial or administrative process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate; and

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Daniel Schwager, a former employee of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate, is authorized to provide relevant testimony in the case of *United States v. Kelly*, except concerning matters for which a privilege should be asserted.

SEC. 2. The Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Mr. Schwager, and any current or former officer or employee of the Secretary's office, in connection with the production of evidence authorized in section one of this resolution.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 88. Mr. TESTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 326, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a study and clinical trials on the effects of cannabis on certain health outcomes of veterans with chronic pain and post-traumatic stress disorder, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 88. Mr. TESTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 326, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a study and clinical trials on the effects of cannabis on certain health outcomes of veterans with chronic pain and post-traumatic stress disorder, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Elizabeth Dole Veterans Programs Improvement Act of 2023''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—IMPROVEMENTS TO HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

Sec. 101. Short title.
Sec. 102. Definitions.
Sec. 103. Coordination with Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly.
Sec. 104. Home and community based services: programs.
Sec. 105. Coordination with assistance and support services for caregivers.
Sec. 106. Development of centralized website for program information.
Sec. 107. Improvements relating to Home Maker and Home Health Aide program.
Sec. 108. Reviews and other improvements relating to home and community based services.

TITLE II—IMPROVEMENTS TO FAMILY CAREGIVER PROGRAM

Sec. 201. Modification of family caregiver program of Department of Veterans Affairs to include services related to mental health and neurological disorders.
Sec. 202. Requirements relating to evaluations, assessments, and reassessments relating to eligibility of veterans and caregivers for family caregiver program.
Sec. 203. Authority for Secretary of Veterans Affairs to award grants to entities to improve provision of mental health support to family caregivers of veterans.
Sec. 204. Comptroller General report on mental health support for caregivers.

TITLE III—MEDICINAL CANNABIS RESEARCH

Sec. 301. Definitions.
Sec. 302. Department of Veterans Affairs large-scale, mixed methods, retrospective qualitative study on the effects of cannabis on certain health outcomes of veterans with chronic pain and post-traumatic stress disorder.
Sec. 303. Department of Veterans Affairs clinical trials on the effects of cannabis on certain health outcomes of veterans with chronic pain and post-traumatic stress disorder.
Sec. 304. Administration of study and clinical trials.

TITLE IV—HOUSING MATTERS

Sec. 401. Improvements to program for direct housing loans made to Native American veterans by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.
Sec. 402. Native community development financial institution relending program.
Sec. 403. Department of Veterans Affairs housing loan fees.

TITLE V—OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 501. Authority for Secretary of Veterans Affairs to award grants to States to improve outreach to veterans.
Sec. 502. Oversight of Cost of War Toxic Exposures Fund.

TITLE I—IMPROVEMENTS TO HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act''.

SEC. 102. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) CAREGIVER; FAMILY CAREGIVER.—The terms ''caregiver'' and ''family caregiver'' have the meanings given those terms under section 1720K(g) of title 38, United States Code (as added by section 104(a)(1)).

(2) COVERED PROGRAM.—The term ''covered program''—

(A) means any program of the Department for home and community based services; and

(B) includes the programs specified in section 1720K of title 38, United States Code (as added by section 104(a)(1)).

(3) DEPARTMENT.—The term ''Department'' means the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(4) HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES.—The term ''home and community based services''—

(A) means the services referred to in section 1701(6)(E) of title 38, United States Code; and

(B) includes services furnished under a program specified in section 1720K of such title (as added by section 104(a)(1)).

(5) HOME BASED PRIMARY CARE PROGRAM; HOME MAKER AND HOME HEALTH AIDE PROGRAM; VETERAN DIRECTED CARE PROGRAM.—The terms ''Home Based Primary Care program'', ''Home Maker and Home Health Aide program'', and ''Veteran Directed Care program'' mean the programs of the Department specified in subsections (d), (c), and (b) of such section 1720K, respectively.

(6) HOME HEALTH AIDE; NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN, TRIBAL HEALTH PROGRAM; URBAN INDIAN ORGANIZATION.—The terms ''home health aide'', ''Native American veteran'', ''tribal health program'', and ''Urban Indian organization'' have the meanings given those terms in subsection (g) of such section 1720K.

(7) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

(8) VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION.—The term ''veterans service organization'' means any organization recognized by the Secretary under section 5902 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 103. COORDINATION WITH PROGRAM OF ALL-INCLUSIVE CARE FOR THE ELDERLY.

Section 1720C of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(f) In furnishing services to a veteran under the program conducted pursuant to subsection (a), if a medical center of the Department through which such program is administered is located in a geographic area in which services are available to the veteran under a PACE program (as such term is defined in sections 1894(a)(2) and 1934(a)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395eee(a)(2); 1396u–4(a)(2))), the Secretary shall establish a partnership with the PACE program operating in that area for the furnishing of such services.''.

SEC. 104. HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES: PROGRAMS.

(a) PROGRAMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 1720J the following new section:

''§ 1720K. Home and community based services: programs

''(a) IN GENERAL.—In furnishing non-institutional alternatives to nursing home care under the authority of section 1720C of this title (or any other authority under this chapter or other provision of law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs), the Secretary shall carry out each of the programs specified in this section in accordance with such relevant authorities except as otherwise provided in this section.

''(b) VETERAN DIRECTED CARE PROGRAM.—(1) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in collaboration with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall carry out a program to be known as the 'Veteran Directed Care program' under which the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may enter into agreements with the providers described in paragraph (2) to provide to eligible veterans funds to obtain such in-home care services and related items that support clinical need and improve quality of life as determined appropriate by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and selected by the veteran, including through the veteran hiring individuals to provide such services and items or directly purchasing such services and items.

''(2) The providers described in this paragraph are the following:

''(A) An Aging and Disability Resource Center, an area agency on aging, or a State agency.

''(B) A center for independent living.

''(C) Any other entity as determined appropriate by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

''(3) In carrying out the Veteran Directed Care program, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—

''(A) administer such program through each medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs;

''(B) ensure the availability of such program in American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands of the United States, and any other territory or possession of the United States; and

''(C) ensure the availability of such program for eligible veterans who are Native American veterans receiving care and services furnished by the Indian Health Service, a tribal health program, an Urban Indian organization, or (in the case of a Native Hawaiian veteran) a Native Hawaiian health care system.

''(4) If a veteran participating in the Veteran Directed Care program is hospitalized, the veteran may continue to use funds under the program during a period of hospitalization in the same manner that the veteran would be authorized to use such funds under the program if the veteran were not hospitalized, as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

''(c) HOME MAKER AND HOME HEALTH AIDE PROGRAM.—(1) The Secretary shall carry out a program to be known as the 'Home Maker and Home Health Aide program' under which the Secretary may enter into agreements with home health agencies to provide to eligible veterans such home health aide services as may be determined appropriate by the Secretary.

''(2) In carrying out the Home Maker and Home Health Aide program, the Secretary shall ensure the availability of such program—

''(A) in the locations specified in subparagraph (B) of subsection (b)(3); and

''(B) for the veteran populations specified in subparagraph (C) of such subsection.

''(d) HOME BASED PRIMARY CARE PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall carry out a program to be known as the 'Home Based Primary Care program' under which the Secretary may furnish to eligible veterans in-home health care, the provision of which is overseen by a health care provider of the Department.

''(e) PURCHASED SKILLED HOME CARE PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall carry out a program to be known as the 'Purchased Skilled Home Care program' under which the Secretary may furnish to eligible veterans such in-home care services as may be determined appropriate and selected by the Secretary for the veteran.

''(f) CAREGIVER SUPPORT.—(1) With respect to a caregiver of a veteran participating in a program under this section who is a family caregiver, the Secretary shall—

''(A) if the veteran meets the requirements of a covered veteran under section 1720G(b) of this title, provide to such caregiver the option of enrolling in the program of general caregiver support services under such section;

''(B) subject to paragraph (2), provide to such caregiver not fewer than 14 days of covered respite care each year; and

''(C) conduct on an annual basis (and, to the extent practicable, in connection with in-person services provided under the program in which the veteran is participating), a wellness check of such caregiver.

''(2) The Secretary shall provide not fewer than 30 days of covered respite care each year to any caregiver who provides services funded under the Veteran Directed Care program under subsection (b).

''(3) Covered respite care provided to a caregiver of a veteran under paragraph (1) or (2), as the case may be, may exceed 14 days annually or 30 days annually, respectively, if an extension is requested by the caregiver or veteran and determined medically appropriate by the Secretary.

''(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) The terms 'Aging and Disability Resource Center', 'area agency on aging', and 'State agency' have the meanings given those terms in section 102 of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3002).

''(2) The terms 'caregiver' and 'family caregiver', with respect to a veteran, have the meanings given those terms, respectively, under subsection (d) of section 1720G of this title with respect to an eligible veteran under subsection (a) of such section or a covered veteran under subsection (b) of such section, as the case may be.

''(3) The term 'center for independent living' has the meaning given that term in section 702 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796a).

''(4) The term 'covered respite care' means, with respect to a caregiver of a veteran, respite care that—

''(A) includes 24-hour per day care of the veteran commensurate with the care provided by the caregiver;

''(B) is medically and age-appropriate; and

''(C) includes in-home care services.

''(5) The term 'eligible veteran' means any veteran—

''(A) for whom the Secretary determines participation in a specific program under this section is medically necessary to promote, preserve, or restore the health of the veteran; and

''(B) who absent such participation would be at increased risk for hospitalization, placement in a nursing home, or emergency room care.

''(6) The term 'home health aide' means an individual employed by a home health agency to provide in-home care services.

''(7) The term 'in-home care service' means any service, including a personal care service, provided to enable the recipient of such service to live at home.

''(8) The term 'Native American veteran' has the meaning given that term in section 3765 of this title.

''(9) The terms 'Native Hawaiian' and 'Native Hawaiian health care system' have the meanings given those terms in section 12 of the Native Hawaiian Health Care Improvement Act (42 U.S.C. 11711).

''(10) The terms 'tribal health program' and 'Urban Indian organization' have the meanings given those terms in section 4 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603).''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such subchapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1720J the following new item:

''1720K. Home and community based services: programs.''.

(b) DEADLINE FOR IMPROVED ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall ensure that the Veteran Directed Care program and the Home Maker and Home Health Aide program are administered through each medical center of the Department in accordance with section 1720K of title 38, United States Code (as added by subsection (a)(1)), by not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) ADMINISTRATION OF VETERAN DIRECTED CARE PROGRAM.—

(1) PROCEDURES.—The Secretary shall establish procedures to identify staffing needs for the Program and define the roles and responsibilities of personnel of the Program at the national, Veterans Integrated Service Network, and facility levels, including responsibilities for engagement with veterans participating in the Program, veterans interested in the Program, and providers described in section 1720K(b)(2), as added by subsection (a)(1).

(2) STAFFING MODEL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a staffing model for the administration of the Program at each medical center of the Department.

(B) STAFFING RATIO.—The Secretary shall establish a staffing ratio for administration of the Program at each facility of the Department at which the Program is carried out, which shall include a specified number of full-time equivalent employees, with no collateral duties, per number of veterans served by the Program.

(3) FUNDING FOR PROGRAM.—

(A) COST ESTIMATES.—The Secretary shall develop methods for tracking and reporting demand by veterans for and use by veterans of services under the Program to inform yearly cost estimates for the Program.

(B) SPECIFIC REQUEST.—In the budget justification materials submitted to Congress in support of the budget of the Department for any fiscal year (as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code), the Secretary shall include a separate statement of the amount requested for the Program.

(4) PROGRAM DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''Program'' means the Veteran Directed Care program.

SEC. 105. COORDINATION WITH ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR CAREGIVERS.

(a) COORDINATION WITH PROGRAM OF COMPREHENSIVE ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILY CAREGIVERS.—

(1) COORDINATION.—Section 1720G(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(14)(A) In the case of a veteran or caregiver who seeks services under this subsection and is denied such services, or a veteran or the family caregiver of a veteran who is discharged from the program under this subsection, the Secretary shall—

''(i) if the veteran meets the requirements of a covered veteran under subsection (b), provide to such caregiver the option of enrolling in the program of general caregiver support services under such subsection;

''(ii) assess the veteran or caregiver for participation in any other available program of the Department for home and community based services (including the programs specified in section 1720K of this title) for which the veteran or caregiver may be eligible and, with respect to the veteran, store (and make accessible to the veteran) the results of such assessment in the electronic medical record of the veteran; and

''(iii) provide to the veteran or caregiver written information on any such program identified pursuant to the assessment under clause (ii), including information about facilities, eligibility requirements, and relevant contact information for each such program.

''(B)(i) Subject to clause (ii), for each veteran or family caregiver who is discharged from the program under this subsection, a caregiver support coordinator shall provide for a smooth and personalized transition from such program to an appropriate program of the Department for home and community based services (including the programs specified in section 1720K of this title), including by integrating caregiver support across programs.

''(ii) To the extent practicable, the Secretary shall not discharge a veteran or family caregiver from the program under this subsection until appropriate home and community based services are selected by the veteran or caregiver and are being provided to the veteran and caregiver pursuant to clause (i).''.

(2) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to denials and discharges described in paragraph (14) of such section, as added by paragraph (1), occurring on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 1720G(d) of such title is amended—

(1) by striking ''or a covered veteran'' each place it appears and inserting '', a veteran denied or discharged as specified in paragraph (14) of such subsection, or a covered veteran''; and

(2) by striking ''under subsection (a), means'' each place it appears and inserting ''under subsection (a) or a veteran denied or discharged as specified in paragraph (14) of such subsection, means''.

(c) REVIEW RELATING TO CAREGIVER CONTACT.—The Secretary shall conduct a review of the capacity of the Department to establish a streamlined system for contacting all caregivers enrolled in the program of general caregiver support services under section 1720G(b) of title 38, United States Code, to provide to such caregivers program updates and alerts relating to emerging services for which such caregivers or the veterans for which they provide care may be eligible.

SEC. 106. DEVELOPMENT OF CENTRALIZED WEBSITE FOR PROGRAM INFORMATION.

(a) CENTRALIZED WEBSITE.—The Secretary shall develop and maintain a centralized and publicly accessible internet website of the Department as a clearinghouse for information and resources relating to covered programs.

(b) CONTENTS.—The website under subsection (a) shall contain the following:

(1) A description of each covered program.

(2) An informational assessment tool that enables users to—

(A) assess the eligibility of a veteran, or a caregiver of a veteran, for any covered program; and

(B) receive information, as a result of such assessment, on any covered program for which the veteran or caregiver (as the case may be) may be eligible.

(3) A list of required procedures for the directors of medical facilities of the Department to follow in determining the eligibility and suitability of veterans for participation in a covered program, including procedures applicable to instances in which the resource constraints of a facility (or of a community in which a facility is located) may result in the inability to address the health needs of a

veteran under a covered program in a timely manner.

(c) UPDATES.—The Secretary shall ensure the website under subsection (a) is updated on a periodic basis.

SEC. 107. IMPROVEMENTS RELATING TO HOME MAKER AND HOME HEALTH AIDE PROGRAM.

(a) PILOT PROGRAM FOR COMMUNITIES WITH SHORTAGE OF HOME HEALTH AIDES.—

(1) PROGRAM.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall carry out a pilot program under which the Secretary shall provide home maker and home health aide services to veterans who reside in communities with a shortage of home health aides.

(2) LOCATIONS.—The Secretary shall select 10 geographic locations in which the Secretary determines there is a shortage of home health aides at which to carry out the pilot program under paragraph (1).

(3) NURSING ASSISTANTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the pilot program under paragraph (1), the Secretary may hire nursing assistants as new employees of the Department, or reassign nursing assistants who are existing employees of the Department, to provide to veterans in-home care services (including basic tasks authorized by the State certification of the nursing assistant) under the pilot program, in lieu of or in addition to the provision of such services through non-Department home health aides.

(B) RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING PROGRAMS.—Nursing assistants hired or reassigned under subparagraph (A) may provide services to a veteran under the pilot program under paragraph (1) while serving as part of a health care team for the veteran under the Home Based Primary Care program or any other program as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(4) DURATION.—The pilot program under paragraph (1) shall be for a duration of three years.

(5) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than one year prior to the termination of the pilot program under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the results of the pilot program as of the date of the report and the feasibility and advisability of extending the pilot program or making the pilot program permanent.

(b) REPORT ON USE OF FUNDS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report containing, with respect to the period beginning in fiscal year 2011 and ending in fiscal year 2022, the following:

(1) An identification of the amount of funds that were included in a budget of the Department during such period for the provision of in-home care to veterans under the Home Maker and Home Health Aide program in effect during such period but were not expended for the provision of such care, disaggregated by medical center of the Department for which such unexpended funds were budgeted.

(2) An identification of the number of veterans for whom, during such period, the hours during which a home health aide was authorized to provide services to the veteran under such program were reduced, including a detailed description of why such reduction occurred, such as clinical need or provider availability.

(c) UPDATED GUIDANCE ON PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue updated guidance for the Home Maker and Home Health Aide program.

(2) MATTERS TO INCLUDE.—Guidance updated under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A process for the transition of veterans from the Home Maker and Home Health Aide program to other covered programs.

(B) A requirement for the directors of the medical facilities of the Department to complete such process whenever a veteran with care needs has been denied services from home health agencies under the Home Maker and Home Health Aide program as a result of the clinical needs or behavioral issues of the veteran.

SEC. 108. REVIEWS AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS RELATING TO HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES.

(a) OFFICE OF GERIATRIC AND EXTENDED CARE.—

(1) REVIEW OF PROGRAMS.—The Under Secretary for Health of the Department shall conduct a review of each program administered through the Office of Geriatric and Extended Care of the Department or the Caregiver Support Program Office of the Department, or any successor office, to—

(A) ensure consistency in program management;

(B) eliminate service gaps at the medical center level;

(C) ensure the clinical needs of veterans are being met;

(D) ensure the availability of, and the access by veterans to, home and community based services, including for veterans living in rural areas; and

(E) ensure proper coordination between covered programs.

(2) ASSESSMENT OF STAFFING NEEDS.—The Secretary shall conduct an assessment of the staffing needs of the Office of Geriatric and Extended Care of the Department and the Caregiver Support Program Office of the Department, or any successor office.

(3) GOALS FOR GEOGRAPHIC ALIGNMENT OF CARE.—

(A) ESTABLISHMENT OF GOALS.—The Director of the Office of Geriatric and Extended Care and the head of the Caregiver Support Program Office, or the head of any successor office, shall establish quantitative goals to enable aging or disabled veterans who are not located near medical centers of the Department to access extended care services (including by improving access to home and community based services for such veterans).

(B) IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE.—Each goal established under subparagraph (A) shall include a timeline for the implementation of the goal at each medical center of the Department.

(4) GOALS FOR IN-HOME SPECIALTY CARE.—The Director of the Office of Geriatric and Extended Care and the head of the Caregiver Support Program Office, or the head of any successor office, shall establish quantitative goals to address the specialty care needs of veterans through in-home care, including by ensuring the education of home health aides and caregivers of veterans in the following areas:

(A) Dementia care.

(B) Care for spinal cord injuries and diseases.

(C) Ventilator care.

(D) Other specialty care areas as determined by the Secretary.

(5) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report containing the findings of the review under paragraph (1), the results of the assessment under paragraph (2), and the goals established under paragraphs (3) and (4).

(b) REVIEW OF INCENTIVES AND EFFORTS RELATING TO HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES.—

(1) REVIEW.—The Secretary shall conduct a review of the following:

(A) The financial and organizational incentives and disincentives for the directors of medical centers of the Department to establish or expand covered programs at such medical centers.

(B) Any incentives or disincentives for such directors to provide to veterans home and community based services in lieu of institutional care.

(C) The efforts taken by the Secretary to enhance spending of the Department for extended care by balancing spending between institutional care and home and community based services.

(D) The plan of the Under Secretary for Health of the Department to accelerate efforts to enhance spending as specified in subparagraph (C), to match the progress of similar efforts taken by the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services with respect to spending of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services for extended care.

(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the findings of the review under paragraph (1).

(c) REVIEW OF RESPITE CARE SERVICES.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall conduct a review of the use, availability, cost, and effectiveness of the respite care services furnished by the Secretary under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, to include—

(1) the frequency in which Department is unable to meet the need for such services;

(2) a detailed description of why the Department is unable to meet the need for such services; and

(3) a detailed description of the actions the Department has taken or plans to take to ensure that the need for such services is met.

(d) COLLABORATION TO IMPROVE HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES.—

(1) FEEDBACK AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON CAREGIVER SUPPORT.—

(A) FEEDBACK AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Secretary shall solicit from the entities described in subparagraph (B) feedback and recommendations regarding opportunities for the Secretary to enhance home and community based services for veterans and caregivers of veterans, including through the potential provision by the entity of care and respite services to veterans and caregivers who may not be eligible for any program under section 1720G of title 38, United States Code, or section 1720K of such title (as added by section 104(a)(1)), but have a need for assistance.

(B) COVERED ENTITIES.—The entities described in this subparagraph are veterans service organizations and nonprofit organizations with a focus on caregiver support or long-term care (as determined by the Secretary).

(2) COLLABORATION FOR NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS.—The Secretary shall collaborate with the Director of the Indian Health Service and representatives from tribal health programs and Urban Indian organizations to ensure the availability of home and community based services for Native American veterans, including Native American veterans receiving health care and medical services under multiple health care systems.

TITLE II—IMPROVEMENTS TO FAMILY CAREGIVER PROGRAM

SEC. 201. MODIFICATION OF FAMILY CAREGIVER PROGRAM OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO INCLUDE SERVICES RELATED TO MENTAL HEALTH AND NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1720G of title 38, United States Code, as amended by section 105, is further amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2)(C)(ii), by striking ''neurological'' and inserting ''a neurological disorder'';

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(ii)(II), by inserting '', including through public or private entities'' before the semicolon; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by adding at the end the following new clause:

''(v)(I) For purposes of determining the amount and degree of personal care services provided under clause (i) with respect to a veteran described in subclause (II), the Secretary shall take into account relevant documentation evidencing the provision of personal care services with respect to the veteran during the preceding three-year period.

''(II) A veteran described in this subclause is a veteran whose need for personal care services as described in paragraph (2)(C) is based in whole or in part on—

''(aa) a diagnosis of mental illness or history of suicidal ideation that puts the veteran at risk of self-harm; or

''(bb) a neurological disorder.''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(15) The Secretary shall establish a process and requirements for clinicians of facilities of the Department—

''(A) to document incidents in which an eligible veteran participating in the program established under paragraph (1)—

''(i) presents at such a facility for treatment for an emergent or urgent mental health crisis; or

''(ii) is assessed by such a clinician to be at risk for suicide; and

''(B) to provide such documentation, including any safety plans developed and referrals made to a suicide prevention coordinator of the Department, to such program.'';

(2) in subsection (b)(2)(B), by striking ''neurological'' and inserting ''a neurological disorder''; and

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5);

(B) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph (4):

''(4) the term 'neurological disorder' means a disease of the brain, spinal cord, nerves, or neuromuscular system.''; and

(C) in paragraph (5)(B), as redesignated by subparagraph (A), by striking ''neurological'' and inserting ''a neurological disorder''.

(b) TIMING FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF REQUIREMENTS AND PROCESSES.—

(1) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—

(A) establish the process and requirements required under paragraph (15) of section 1720G(a) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1)(B); and

(B) submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a description of such process and requirements.

(2) CERTIFICATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall require all clinicians of facilities of the Department to certify to the Secretary that the clinician understands the process and requirements established under paragraph (1)(A).

(B) FACILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term ''facilities of the Department'' has the meaning given that term in section 1701 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 202. REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO EVALUATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, AND REASSESSMENTS RELATING TO ELIGIBILITY OF VETERANS AND CAREGIVERS FOR FAMILY CAREGIVER PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 1720G of title 38, United States Code, as amended by section 201(a)(1), is further amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

''(16)(A) For purposes of conducting evaluations and assessments to determine eligibility of a veteran and caregiver for the program established under paragraph (1) or conducting reassessments to determine continued eligibility for such program, the Secretary shall—

''(i) take into account relevant documentation and medical records generated by Department and non-Department health care providers, including qualified mental health professionals and neurological specialists;

''(ii) if the caregiver of the veteran claims that the serious injury or need for personal care services of the veteran as described in paragraph (2) is based in whole or in part on psychological trauma or another mental disorder, ensure—

''(I) a qualified mental health professional that treats the veteran participates in the evaluation process; and

''(II) a qualified mental health professional participates in the assessment or reassessment process; and

''(iii) if the caregiver of the veteran claims that the serious injury or need for personal care services of the veteran as described in paragraph (2) is based in whole or in part on a neurological disorder, ensure—

''(I) a neurological specialist that treats the veteran participates in the evaluation process; and

''(II) a neurological specialist participates in the assessment or reassessment process.

''(B)(i) The Secretary shall establish an appropriate time limit during a 24-hour period for the active participation of a veteran in an evaluation, assessment, or reassessment to determine eligibility of the veteran for the program established under paragraph (1).

''(ii) In determining an appropriate time limit for a veteran under clause (i), the Secretary shall—

''(I) take into consideration necessary accommodations for the veteran stemming from the disability or medical condition of the veteran; and

''(II) consult with the primary care provider, neurological specialist, or qualified mental health professional that is treating the veteran.

''(C) The Secretary shall not require the presence of a veteran during portions of an evaluation, assessment, or reassessment to determine eligibility of the veteran for the program established under paragraph (1) that only require the active participation of the caregiver.

''(D)(i) The Secretary shall make reasonable efforts to assist a caregiver and veteran in obtaining evidence necessary to substantiate the claims of the caregiver and veteran in the application process for evaluation, assessment, or reassessment for the program established under paragraph (1).

''(ii)(I) As part of the assistance provided to a caregiver or veteran under clause (i), the Secretary shall make reasonable efforts to obtain relevant private records that the caregiver or veteran adequately identifies to the Secretary.

''(II) Whenever the Secretary, after making reasonable efforts under subclause (I), is unable to obtain all of the relevant records sought, the Secretary shall notify the caregiver and veteran that the Secretary is unable to obtain records with respect to the claim, which shall include—

''(aa) an identification of the records the Secretary is unable to obtain;

''(bb) a brief explanation of the efforts that the Secretary made to obtain such records; and

''(cc) an explanation that the Secretary will make a determination based on the evidence of record and that this clause does not prohibit the submission of records at a later date if such submission is otherwise allowed.

''(III) The Secretary shall make not fewer than two requests to a custodian of a private record in order for an effort to obtain such record to be treated as reasonable under subclause (I), unless it is made evident by the first request that a second request would be futile in obtaining such record.

''(iii) Under regulations prescribed by the Secretary, the Secretary—

''(I) shall encourage a caregiver and veteran to submit relevant private medical records of the veteran to the Secretary to substantiate the claims of the caregiver and veteran in the application process for evaluation, assessment, or reassessment for the program established under paragraph (1) if such submission does not burden the caregiver or veteran; and

''(II) may require the caregiver or veteran to authorize the Secretary to obtain such relevant private medical records if such authorization is required to comply with Federal, State, or local law.

''(17)(A) The Secretary, in consultation with a health care provider, neurological specialist, or qualified mental health professional that is treating a veteran, shall waive the reassessment requirement for the veteran for participation in the program established under paragraph (1) if—

''(i) the serious injury of the veteran under paragraph (2) is significantly caused by a degenerative or chronic condition; and

''(ii) such condition is unlikely to improve the dependency of the veteran for personal care services.

''(B) The Secretary shall require a health care provider, neurological specialist, or qualified mental health professional that is treating a veteran to certify at appropriate intervals determined by the Secretary the clinical decision of the provider, specialist, or professional under subparagraph (A).

''(C) The Secretary may rescind a waiver under subparagraph (A) with respect to a veteran and require a reassessment of the veteran if a health care provider, neurological specialist, or qualified mental health professional that is treating the veteran makes a clinical determination that the level of dependency of the veteran for personal care services has diminished since the last certification of the clinical decision of the provider, specialist, or professional under subparagraph (B).''.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—Subsection (d) of such section, as amended by section 201(a)(3), is further amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (6);

(2) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraph (5):

''(5) The term 'neurological specialist' means a neurologist, neuropsychiatrist, physiatrist, geriatrician, certified brain injury specialist, neurology nurse, neurology

nurse practitioner, neurology physician assistant, or such other licensed medical professional as the Secretary considers appropriate.''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(7) The term 'qualified mental health professional' means a psychiatrist, psychologist, licensed clinical social worker, psychiatric nurse, licensed professional mental health counselor, or other licensed mental health professional as the Secretary considers appropriate.''.

SEC. 203. AUTHORITY FOR SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO AWARD GRANTS TO ENTITIES TO IMPROVE PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TO FAMILY CAREGIVERS OF VETERANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, as amended by section 104(a)(1), is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''§ 1720L. Grants to provide mental health support to family caregivers of veterans

''(a) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this section to provide for assistance by the Secretary to entities to carry out programs that improve the provision of mental health support to the family caregivers of veterans participating in the family caregiver program.

''(b) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may award grants to carry out, coordinate, improve, or otherwise enhance mental health counseling, treatment, or support to the family caregivers of veterans participating in the family caregiver program.

''(c) APPLICATION.—(1) To be eligible for a grant under this section, an entity shall submit to the Secretary an application therefor at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

''(2) Each application submitted under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

''(A) A detailed plan for the use of the grant.

''(B) A description of the programs or efforts through which the entity will meet the outcome measures developed by the Secretary under subsection (g).

''(C) A description of how the entity will distribute grant amounts equitably among areas with varying levels of urbanization.

''(d) DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary shall seek to ensure that grants awarded under this section are equitably distributed among entities located in States with varying levels of urbanization.

''(e) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall prioritize awarding grants under this section that will serve the following areas:

''(1) Areas with high rates of veterans enrolled in the family caregiver program.

''(2) Areas with high rates of—

''(A) suicide among veterans; or

''(B) referrals to the Veterans Crisis Line.

''(f) REQUIRED ACTIVITIES.—Any grant awarded under this section shall be used—

''(1) to expand existing programs, activities, and services;

''(2) to establish new or additional programs, activities, and services; or

''(3) for travel and transportation to facilitate carrying out paragraph (1) or (2).

''(g) OUTCOME MEASURES.—(1) The Secretary shall develop and provide to each entity that receives a grant under this section written guidance on the following:

''(A) Outcome measures.

''(B) Policies of the Department.

''(2) In developing outcome measures under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consider the following goals:

''(A) Increasing the utilization of mental health services among family caregivers of veterans participating in the family caregiver program.

''(B) Reducing barriers to mental health services among family caregivers of veterans participating in such program.

''(h) TRACKING REQUIREMENTS.—(1) The Secretary shall establish appropriate tracking requirements with respect to the entities receiving a grant under this section.

''(2) Not less frequently than annually, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on such tracking requirements.

''(i) PERFORMANCE REVIEW.—The Secretary shall—

''(1) review the performance of each entity that receives a grant under this section; and

''(2) make information regarding such performance publicly available.

''(j) REMEDIATION PLAN.—(1) In the case of an entity that receives a grant under this section and does not meet the outcome measures developed by the Secretary under subsection (g), the Secretary shall require the entity to submit to the Secretary a remediation plan under which the entity shall describe how and when it plans to meet such outcome measures.

''(2) The Secretary may not award a subsequent grant under this section to an entity described in paragraph (1) unless the Secretary approves the remediation plan submitted by the entity under such paragraph.

''(k) FUNDING REQUEST.—In the budget justification materials submitted to Congress in support of the budget of the Department for any fiscal year (as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31), the Secretary shall include a separate statement of the amount requested to be appropriated for that fiscal year to carry out this section.

''(l) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2025 $50,000,000 to carry out this section.

''(m) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) The terms 'caregiver' and 'family caregiver' have the meanings given those terms in section 1720G(d) of this title.

''(2) The term 'family caregiver program' means the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers under section 1720G(a) of this title.

''(3) The term 'Veterans Crisis Line' means the toll-free hotline for veterans established under section 1720F(h) of this title.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such subchapter, as amended by section 104(a)(2), is further amended by adding at the end the following new item:

''1720L. Grants to provide mental health support to family caregivers of veterans.''.

SEC. 204. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT ON MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR CAREGIVERS.

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the provision of mental health support to caregivers of veterans.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the need for mental health support among caregivers participating in the caregiver programs.

(2) An assessment of options for mental health support in facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs and in the community for caregivers participating in the caregiver programs.

(3) An assessment of the availability and accessibility of mental health support in facilities of the Department and in the community for caregivers participating in the caregiver programs.

(4) An assessment of the awareness among caregivers of the availability of mental health support in facilities of the Department and in the community for caregivers participating in the caregiver programs.

(5) An assessment of barriers to mental health support in facilities of the Department and in the community for caregivers participating in the caregiver programs.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CAREGIVER.—The term ''caregiver'' has the meaning given that term in section 1720G(d) of title 38, United States Code.

(2) CAREGIVER PROGRAMS.—The term ''caregiver programs'' means—

(A) the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers under subsection (a) of section 1720G of title 38, United States Code; and

(B) the program of support services for caregivers under subsection (b) of such section.

TITLE III—MEDICINAL CANNABIS RESEARCH

SEC. 301. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) COVERED VETERAN.—The term ''covered veteran'' means a veteran who is enrolled in the patient enrollment system of the Department of Veterans Affairs established and operated under section 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code.

(2) SECRETARY.— The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 302. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS LARGE-SCALE, MIXED METHODS, RETROSPECTIVE QUALITATIVE STUDY ON THE EFFECTS OF CANNABIS ON CERTAIN HEALTH OUTCOMES OF VETERANS WITH CHRONIC PAIN AND POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER.

(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, through the Office of Research and Development of the Department of Veterans Affairs, shall carry out a large-scale, mixed methods, retrospective, and qualitative study on the effects of cannabis on the health outcomes of covered veterans diagnosed with chronic pain and covered veterans diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder.

(2) OBSERVATIONAL STUDY.—The study required by paragraph (1) shall be conducted as an observational study on the effects of cannabis use on the health of covered veterans.

(3) ELEMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The study required by paragraph (1) shall—

(i) triangulate a range of data sources;

(ii) compare the positive and negative health outcomes of covered veterans who use cannabis, utilizing outcomes that can be measured in an electronic health record of the Department and through data sets of the Department relating to claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary;

(iii) elicit the positive and negative outcomes of cannabis use for covered veterans through semi-structured interviews;

(iv) estimate current and future health system needs to address positive and negative outcomes of cannabis use for covered veterans;

(v) include a qualitative, open-ended survey provided to covered veterans who have sought care from the Department for chronic pain or post-traumatic stress disorder during the five-year period preceding the survey; and

(vi) include an assessment of—

(I) all records within the Veterans Health Administration for covered veterans participating in the study; and

(II) all records within the Veterans Benefits Administration for covered veterans participating in the study.

(B) HEALTH OUTCOMES.—A comparison of health outcomes under subparagraph (A)(ii) shall include an assessment of the following:

(i) The reduction or increase in opiate use or dosage.

(ii) The reduction or increase in benzodiazepine use or dosage.

(iii) The reduction or change in use of other types of medication.

(iv) The reduction or increase in alcohol use.

(v) The reduction or increase in the prevalence of substance abuse disorders.

(vi) Sleep quality.

(vii) Osteopathic pain (including pain intensity and pain-related outcomes).

(viii) Agitation.

(ix) Quality of life.

(x) Mortality and morbidity.

(xi) Hospital readmissions.

(xii) Any newly developed or exacerbated health conditions, including mental health conditions.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall commence the implementation of the study required by subsection (a)(1).

(c) DURATION OF STUDY.—The study required by subsection (a)(1) shall be carried out for an 18-month period.

(d) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the completion of the study required by subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the study.

(2) ABILITY TO CONDUCT CLINICAL TRIALS.—The Secretary shall include in the report required by paragraph (1) an assessment of whether the Secretary is able to meet the criteria necessary to conduct the clinical trials required under section 303, including consideration of subsection (e)(1) of such section.

SEC. 303. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CLINICAL TRIALS ON THE EFFECTS OF CANNABIS ON CERTAIN HEALTH OUTCOMES OF VETERANS WITH CHRONIC PAIN AND POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER.

(a) CLINICAL TRIALS REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary indicates in the report required by section 302(d) that the Secretary is able to meet the criteria necessary to proceed to clinical trials, commencing not later than 180 days after the submittal of that report, the Secretary shall carry out a series of clinical trials on the effects of cannabis appropriate for investigational use, as determined by the Food and Drug Administration under section 505(i) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(i)), on the health outcomes of covered veterans diagnosed with chronic pain and covered veterans diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—The clinical trials required by paragraph (1) shall include, as appropriate, an evaluation of key symptoms, clinical outcomes, and conditions associated with chronic pain and post-traumatic stress disorder, which may include—

(A) with respect to covered veterans diagnosed with chronic pain, an evaluation of the effects of the use of cannabis on—

(i) osteopathic pain (including pain intensity and pain-related outcomes);

(ii) the reduction or increase in opioid use or dosage;

(iii) the reduction or increase in benzodiazepine use or dosage;

(iv) the reduction or increase in alcohol use;

(v) the reduction or increase in the prevalence of substance use disorders;

(vi) inflammation;

(vii) sleep quality;

(viii) agitation;

(ix) quality of life;

(x) exacerbated or new mental health conditions; and

(xi) suicidal ideation.

(B) with respect to covered veterans diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, an evaluation of the effects of the use of cannabis on—

(i) the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as established by or derived from the clinician administered PTSD scale, the PTSD checklist, the PTSD symptom scale, the post-traumatic diagnostic scale, and other applicable methods of evaluating symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder;

(ii) the reduction or increase in benzodiazepine use or dosage;

(iii) the reduction or increase in alcohol use;

(iv) the reduction or increase in the prevalence of substance use disorders;

(v) mood;

(vi) anxiety;

(vii) social functioning;

(viii) agitation;

(ix) suicidal ideation; and

(x) sleep quality, including frequency of nightmares and night terrors.

(3) OPTIONAL ELEMENTS.—The clinical trials required by paragraph (1) may include, as appropriate, an evaluation of the effects of the use of cannabis to treat chronic pain and post-traumatic stress disorder on other symptoms, clinical outcomes, and conditions not covered by paragraph (2), which may include—

(A) pulmonary function;

(B) cardiovascular events;

(C) head, neck, and oral cancer;

(D) testicular cancer;

(E) ovarian cancer;

(F) transitional cell cancer;

(G) intestinal inflammation;

(H) motor vehicle accidents; or

(I) spasticity.

(b) LONG-TERM OBSERVATIONAL STUDY.—The Secretary may carry out a long-term observational study of the participants in the clinical trials required by subsection (a).

(c) TYPE OF CANNABIS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the clinical trials required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall study varying forms of cannabis, including whole plant raw material and extracts, and may study varying routes of administration.

(2) PLANT CULTIVARS.—Of the varying forms of cannabis required under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall study plant cultivars with varying ratios of tetrahydrocannabinol to cannabidiol.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(1) develop a plan to implement this section and submit such plan to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(2) issue any requests for proposals the Secretary determines appropriate for such implementation.

(e) TERMINATION OF CLINICAL TRIALS.—

(1) CLINICAL GUIDELINE REQUIREMENTS OR EXCESSIVE RISK.—The Secretary may terminate the clinical trials required by subsection (a) if the Secretary determines that the Department of Veterans Affairs is unable to meet clinical guideline requirements necessary to conduct such trials or the clinical trials would create excessive risk to participants.

(2) COMPLETION UPON SUBMITTAL OF FINAL REPORT.—The Secretary may terminate the clinical trials required by subsection (a) upon submittal of the final report required under subsection (f)(2).

(f) REPORTS.—

(1) PERIODIC REPORTS.—During the five-year period beginning on the date of the commencement of clinical trials required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit periodically, but not less frequently than annually, to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives reports on the implementation of this section.

(2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than one year after the completion of the five-year period specified in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a final report on the implementation of this section.

SEC. 304. ADMINISTRATION OF STUDY AND CLINICAL TRIALS.

(a) DEMOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION.—In carrying out the study required by section 302 and the clinical trials required by section 303, the Secretary shall ensure representation in such study and trials of demographics that represent the population of veterans in the United States, as determined by the most recently available data from the American Community Survey of the Bureau of the Census.

(b) DATA PRESERVATION.—The Secretary shall ensure that the study required by section 302 and the clinical trials required by section 303 include a mechanism to ensure—

(1) the preservation of all data, including all data sets and survey results, collected or used for purposes of such study and trials in a manner that will facilitate further research; and

(2) registration of such data in the database of privately and publicly funded clinical studies maintained by the National Library of Medicine (or successor database).

(c) ANONYMOUS DATA.—The Secretary shall ensure that data relating to any study or clinical trial conducted under this Act is anonymized and cannot be traced back to an individual patient.

(d) EFFECT ON OTHER BENEFITS.—The eligibility or entitlement of a covered veteran to any other benefit under the laws administered by the Secretary or any other provision of law shall not be affected by the participation of the covered veteran in the study under section 302, a clinical trial under section 303(a), or a study under section 303(b).

(e) EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.—Nothing in this Act shall affect or modify—

(1) the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.);

(2) section 351 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262); or

(3) the authority of the Commissioner of Food and Drugs and the Secretary of Health and Human Services—

(A) under—

(i) the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.); or

(ii) section 351 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262); or

(B) to promulgate Federal regulations and guidelines pertaining to cannabidiol, marijuana, or other subject matter addressed in this title.

TITLE IV—HOUSING MATTERS

SEC. 401. IMPROVEMENTS TO PROGRAM FOR DIRECT HOUSING LOANS MADE TO NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS BY THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITIES AND REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) DIRECT HOUSING LOANS TO NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS.—Section 3762(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(a) The Secretary may make a direct housing loan to a Native American veteran under this subchapter if the Secretary ensures the following:

''(1) That each Native American veteran to whom the Secretary makes a direct housing loan under this subchapter—

''(A) holds, possesses, or purchases using the proceeds of the loan a meaningful interest in a lot or dwelling (or both) that is located on trust land; and

''(B) will purchase, construct, or improve (as the case may be) a dwelling on the lot using the proceeds of the loan.

''(2) That each such Native American veteran will convey to the Secretary by an appropriate instrument the interest referred to in paragraph (1)(A) as security for a direct housing loan under this subchapter.

''(3) That the Secretary, including the Secretary's employees or agents, may enter upon the trust land for the purposes of carrying out such actions as the Secretary determines are necessary, including—

''(A) to evaluate the advisability of the loan;

''(B) to monitor any purchase, construction, or improvements carried out using the proceeds of the loan; and

''(C) to manage any servicing or post-foreclosure activities, including acquisition, property inspections, and property management.

''(4) That there are established standards and procedures that apply to the foreclosure of the interest conveyed by a Native American veteran pursuant to paragraph (2), including—

''(A) procedures for foreclosing the interest; and

''(B) procedures for the resale of the lot or dwelling (or both) purchased, constructed, or improved using the proceeds of the loan.

''(5) That the loan is made in a responsible and prudent manner, subject to standards and procedures as are necessary for the reasonable protection of the financial interests of the United States.''.

(2) MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING, AGREEMENTS, AND DETERMINATIONS.—Section 3762(b) of such title is amended to read as follows:

''(b)(1) To carry out the purpose of subsection (a), the Secretary may—

''(A) enter into a memorandum of understanding with a tribal organization, other entity, or individual;

''(B) rely on agreements or determinations of other Federal agencies to guarantee, insure, or make loans on trust land; and

''(C) enter into other agreements or take such other actions as the Secretary determines necessary.

''(2) If the Secretary determines that the requirements under subsection (a) are not being enforced by a tribal organization, other entity, or individual that is a party to any memorandum of understanding, agreement, or determination described in paragraph (1), the Secretary may cease making new direct housing loans to Native Americans veterans under this subchapter within the area of the authority of the tribal organization, other entity, or individual (as the case may be).''.

(b) DIRECT LOANS TO NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS TO REFINANCE EXISTING MORTGAGE LOANS.—Section 3762(h) of such title is amended to read as follows:

''(h) The Secretary may make direct loans to Native American veterans in order to enable such veterans to refinance existing mortgage loans for any of the following purposes:

''(1) To refinance an existing loan made under this section, if the loan—

''(A) meets the requirements set forth in subparagraphs (B), (C), and (E) of paragraph (1) of section 3710(e) of this title;

''(B) will bear an interest rate at least one percentage point less than the interest rate borne by the loan being refinanced; and

''(C) complies with paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 3710(e) of this title, except that for the purposes of this subsection the reference to subsection (a)(8) of section 3710 of this title in such paragraphs (2) and (3) shall be deemed to be a reference to this subsection.

''(2) To refinance an existing mortgage loan not made under this section on a dwelling owned and occupied by the veteran as the veteran's home, if all of the following requirements are met:

''(A) The loan will be secured by the same dwelling as was the loan being refinanced.

''(B) The loan will provide the veteran with a net tangible benefit.

''(C) The nature and condition of the property is such as to be suitable for dwelling purposes.

''(D) The amount of the loan does not exceed either of the following:

''(i) 100 percent of the reasonable value of the dwelling, with such reasonable value determined under the procedures established by the Secretary under subsection (d)(2).

''(ii) An amount equal to the sum of the balance of the loan being refinanced and such closing costs (including any discount points) as may be authorized by the Secretary to be included in the loan.

''(E) Notwithstanding subparagraph (D), if a loan is made for both the purpose of this paragraph and to make energy efficiency improvements, the loan must not exceed either of the following:

''(i) 100 percent of the reasonable value of the dwelling as improved for energy efficiency, with such reasonable value determined under the procedures established by the Secretary under subsection (d)(2).

''(ii) The amount referred to under subparagraph (D)(ii), plus the applicable amount specified under section 3710(d)(2) of this title.

''(F) The loan meets all other requirements the Secretary may establish under this subchapter.

''(G) The existing mortgage being refinanced is a first lien on the property and secured of record.

''(3) To refinance an existing mortgage loan to repair, alter, or improve a dwelling owned by the veteran and occupied by the veteran as the veteran's home, if all of the following requirements are met:

''(A) The loan will be secured by the same dwelling as was the loan being refinanced.

''(B) The nature and condition of the property is such as to be suitable for dwelling purposes, and the repair, alteration, or improvement substantially protects or improves the basic livability or utility of such property.

''(C) The amount of the loan, including the costs of repairs, alterations, and improvements, does not exceed either of the following:

''(i) 100 percent of the reasonable value of the dwelling as repaired, altered, or improved, with such reasonable value determined under the procedures established by the Secretary under subsection (d)(2).

''(ii) An amount equal to the sum of—

''(I) the balance of the loan being refinanced;

''(II) the actual cost of repairs, alterations, or improvements; and

''(III) such closing costs (including any discount points) as may be authorized by the Secretary to be included in the loan.

''(D) The loan meets all other requirements the Secretary may establish under this subchapter.

''(E) The existing mortgage loan being refinanced is a first lien on the property and secured of record.''.

(c) EXPANSION OF OUTREACH PROGRAM ON AVAILABILITY OF DIRECT HOUSING LOANS FOR NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS.—Section 3762(i)(2) of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(G) Pursuant to subsection (g)(4), assisting Native American veterans in qualifying for mortgage financing by—

''(i) partnering with local service providers, such as tribal organizations, tribally designated housing entities, Native community development financial institutions, and nonprofit organizations, for conducting outreach, homebuyer education, housing counseling, and post-purchase education; and

''(ii) providing other technical assistance as needed.

''(H) Attending conferences and conventions conducted by the network of Native community development financial institutions and other Native American homeownership organizations to provide information and training to Native community development financial institutions about the availability of the relending program under section 3762A of this title.''.

(d) ADEQUATE PERSONNEL.—Section 3762 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(k) The Secretary shall assign a sufficient number of personnel of the Department dedicated to carrying out the authority of the Secretary under this subchapter, including construction and valuation specialists to assist with issues unique to new construction and renovations on trust land.''.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—Section 3765 of such title is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by amending subparagraph (C) to read as follows:

''(C) is located in the State of Alaska within a region established under section 7(a) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1606(a));'';

(B) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

''(E) is defined by the Secretary of the Interior and recognized by the United States as land over which an Indian Tribe has governmental dominion; or

''(F) is on any land that the Secretary determines is provided to Native American veterans because of their status as Native Americans.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

''(6) The term 'community development financial institution' has the meaning given that term in section 103 of the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4702).

''(7) The term 'Indian Tribe' means any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Alaska Native village or regional or village corporation as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), which is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.

''(8) The term 'Native community development financial institution' means any entity—

''(A) that has been certified as a community development financial institution by the Secretary of the Treasury;

''(B) that is not less than 51 percent owned or controlled by Native Americans; and

''(C) for which not less than 51 percent of the activities of the entity serve Native Americans.

''(9) The term 'net tangible benefit' shall have such meaning as the Secretary determines appropriate, but shall include the refinance of an interim construction loan.

''(10) The term 'other technical assistance' means services to assist a Native American veteran to navigate the steps necessary for securing a mortgage loan on trust land, including pre-development activities related to utilities, identifying appropriate residential construction services, and obtaining lease clearances and title status reports from the applicable tribal organization or the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

''(11) The term 'tribally designated housing entity' has the meaning given that term in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103).''.

(f) INTEREST RATE REDUCTION FINANCING LOAN.—Section 3729(b)(4)(F) of such title is amended by striking ''3762(h)'' and inserting ''3762(h)(1)''.

(g) REGULATIONS.—Section 3761 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(c) The Secretary shall prescribe such regulations as may be necessary to carry out this subchapter.''.

SEC. 402. NATIVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTION RELENDING PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter V of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 3762 the following new section:

''§ 3762A. Native community development financial institution relending program

''(a) PURPOSE.—The Secretary may make a loan to a Native community development financial institution for the purpose of allowing the institution to relend loan amounts to qualified Native American veterans, subject to the requirements of this section.

''(b) STANDARDS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish standards to be used in evaluating whether to make a loan to a Native community development financial institution under this section.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In establishing standards under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall ensure that a Native community development financial institution—

''(A) is able to originate and service loans for single-family homes;

''(B) is able to operate the relending program in a manner consistent with the mission of the Department to serve veterans; and

''(C) uses loan amounts received under this section only for the purpose of relending, as described in subsection (c), to Native American veterans.

''(c) RELENDING REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—A Native community development financial institution that receives a loan under this section shall use the loan amounts to make loans to Native American veterans residing on trust land.

''(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A loan to a Native American veteran made by a Native community development financial institution under paragraph (1) shall—

''(A) be limited either to the purpose of purchase, construction, or improvement of a dwelling located on trust land or to the refinance of an existing mortgage loan for a dwelling on trust land, consistent with the requirements of section 3762(h) of this title; and

''(B) comply with such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines are necessary to protect against predatory lending, including the interest rate charged on a loan to a Native American veteran.

''(d) REPAYMENT.—A loan made to a Native community development financial institution under this section shall—

''(1) be payable to the Secretary upon such terms and conditions as are prescribed in regulations pursuant to this subchapter; and

''(2) bear interest at a rate of one percent.

''(e) OVERSIGHT.—Subject to notice and opportunity for a hearing, whenever the Secretary finds with respect to loans made under subsections (a) or (c) that any Native community development financial institution has failed to maintain adequate loan accounting records, to demonstrate proper ability to service loans adequately, or to exercise proper credit judgment, or that such Native community development financial institution has willfully or negligently engaged in practices otherwise detrimental to the interest of veterans or of the Government, the Secretary may take such actions as the Secretary determines necessary to protect veterans or the Government, such as requiring immediate repayment of any loans made under subsection (a) and the assignment to the Secretary of loans made under subsection (c).''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 37 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 3762 the following new item:

''3762A. Native community development financial institution relending program.''.

(c) NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN HOUSING LOAN PROGRAM ACCOUNT.—Section 3763 of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(c) Of amounts available in the Account, the Secretary may use for loans made under section 3762A of this title—

''(1) in fiscal year 2024, not more than $5,000,000; and

''(2) in any fiscal year after fiscal year 2024, an amount as determined necessary by the Secretary to meet the demand for such loans.''.

SEC. 403. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HOUSING LOAN FEES.

The loan fee table in section 3729(b)(2) of title 38, United States Code, as most recently amended by section 204 of the Joseph Maxwell Cleland and Robert Joseph Dole Memorial Veterans Benefits and Health Care Improvement Act of 2022 (division U of Public Law 117–328), is further amended by striking ''November 14, 2031'' each place it appears and inserting ''March 14, 2032''.

TITLE V—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 501. AUTHORITY FOR SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO AWARD GRANTS TO STATES TO IMPROVE OUTREACH TO VETERANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 63 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating sections 6307 and 6308 and sections 6308 and 6309, respectively; and

(2) by inserting after section 6306 the following new section 6307:

''§ 6307. Grants to States to improve outreach to veterans

''(a) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this section to provide for assistance by the Secretary to States to carry out programs that improve outreach and assistance to veterans and the spouses, children, and parents of veterans, to ensure that such individuals are fully informed about, and assisted in applying for, any veterans and veterans-related benefits and programs (including State veterans programs) for which they may be eligible.

''(b) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may award grants to States—

''(1) to carry out, coordinate, improve, or otherwise enhance—

''(A) outreach activities; or

''(B) activities to assist in the development and submittal of claims for veterans and veterans-related benefits; or

''(2) to increase the number of county or tribal veterans service officers serving in the State by hiring new, additional such officers.

''(c) APPLICATION.—(1) To be eligible for a grant under this section, a State shall submit to the Secretary an application therefor at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

''(2) Each application submitted under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

''(A) A detailed plan for the use of the grant.

''(B) A description of the programs through which the State will meet the outcome measures developed by the Secretary under subsection (i).

''(C) A description of how the State will distribute grant amounts equitably among counties with varying levels of urbanization.

''(D) A plan for how the grant will be used to meet the unique needs of American Indian veterans, Alaska Native veterans, or Native Hawaiian veterans, elderly veterans, and veterans from other underserved communities.

''(d) DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary shall seek to ensure that grants awarded under this section are equitably distributed among States with varying levels of urbanization.

''(e) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall prioritize awarding grants under this section that will serve the following areas:

''(1) Areas with a critical shortage of county or tribal veterans service officers.

''(2) Areas with high rates of—

''(A) suicide among veterans; or

''(B) referrals to the Veterans Crisis Line.

''(f) USE OF COUNTY OR TRIBAL VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS.—A State that receives a grant under this section to carry out an activity described in subsection (b)(1) shall carry out the activity through—

''(1) a county or tribal veterans service officer of the State; or

''(2) if the State does not have a county or tribal veterans service officer, or if the county or tribal veterans service officers of the State cover only a portion of that State, an appropriate entity of a State, local, or tribal government, or another publicly funded entity, as determined by the Secretary.

''(g) REQUIRED ACTIVITIES.—Any grant awarded under this section shall be used—

''(1) to expand existing programs, activities, and services;

''(2) to hire new, additional county or tribal veterans service officers; or

''(3) for travel and transportation to facilitate carrying out paragraph (1) or (2).

''(h) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—A grant under this section may be used to provide education and training, including on-the-job training, for State, county, local, and tribal government employees who provide (or when trained will provide) veterans outreach services in order for those employees to obtain accreditation in accordance with procedures approved by the Secretary.

''(i) OUTCOME MEASURES.—(1) The Secretary shall develop and provide to each State that receives a grant under this section written guidance on the following:

''(A) Outcome measures.

''(B) Policies of the Department.

''(2) In developing outcome measures under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consider the following goals:

''(A) Increasing the use of veterans and veterans-related benefits, particularly among vulnerable populations.

''(B) Increasing the number of county and tribal veterans service officers recognized by

the Secretary for the representation of veterans under chapter 59 of this title.

''(j) TRACKING REQUIREMENTS.—(1) With respect to each grant awarded under this section, the Secretary shall track the use of veterans and veterans-related benefits among the population served by the grant, including the average period of time between the date on which a veteran applies for such a benefit and the date on which the veteran receives the benefit, disaggregated by type of benefit.

''(2) Not less frequently than annually, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the information tracked under paragraph (1).

''(k) PERFORMANCE REVIEW.—(1) The Secretary shall—

''(A) review the performance of each State that receives a grant under this section; and

''(B) make information regarding such performance publicly available.

''(l) REMEDIATION PLAN.—(1) In the case of a State that receives a grant under this section and does not meet the outcome measures developed by the Secretary under subsection (i), the Secretary shall require the State to submit a remediation plan under which the State shall describe how and when it plans to meet such outcome measures.

''(2) The Secretary may not award a subsequent grant under this section to a State described in paragraph (1) unless the Secretary approves the remediation plan submitted by the State.

''(m) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) The term 'county or tribal veterans service officer' includes a local equivalent veterans service officer.

''(2) The term 'Veterans Crisis Line' means the toll-free hotline for veterans established under section 1720F(h) of this title.

''(n) FUNDING REQUEST.—In the budget justification materials submitted to Congress in support of the Department budget for any fiscal year (as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31), the Secretary shall include a separate statement of the amount requested to be appropriated for that fiscal year to carry out this section.

''(o) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for each of fiscal years 2023, 2024, and 2025, $50,000,000 to carry out this section.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 63 of such title is amended by striking the items relating to sections 6307 and 6308 and inserting the following new items:

''6307. Grants to States to improve outreach to veterans.
''6308. Outreach for eligible dependents.
''6309. Biennial report to Congress.''.

SEC. 502. OVERSIGHT OF COST OF WAR TOXIC EXPOSURES FUND.

(a) PLAN REQUIRED.—Not later July 1, 2023, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a plan for obligating and expending amounts in the Cost of War Toxic Exposures Fund established by section 324(a) of title 38, United States Code.

(b) CONTENTS.—The plan submitted pursuant to subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A detailed explanation for how the Secretary interprets ''the delivery of veterans' health care associated with exposure to environmental hazards'' for purposes of section 324(c)(1) of title 38, United States Code.

(2) A list of the medical services most commonly sought from the Department in connection with exposure to environmental hazards in the active military, naval, air, or space service.

(3) A list of the medical conditions for which services described in paragraph (2) of this subsection are most commonly sought from the Department.

(4) A detailed explanation of how the Secretary interprets ''expenses incident to the delivery of veterans' health care and benefits associated with exposure to environmental hazards'' for purposes of paragraph (2) of such section.

(5) A list of the expenses described in paragraph (4) of this subsection.

(6) A detailed description of how the Secretary interprets ''medical and other research relating to exposure to environmental hazards'' for purposes of paragraph (3) of such section.

(7) A list of the research described by such paragraph.

(8) A detailed plan for tracking the following:

(A) The health care furnished to individuals who became eligible for or entitled to such heath care because of a provision of or amendment made by the Honoring our PACT Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–168; 136 Stat. 1759).

(B) Reliance by toxic-exposed veterans on health care provided to such veterans pursuant to the Honoring our PACT Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–168; 136 Stat. 1759).

(C) The costs incurred by the Department for the furnishing of health care to toxic exposed veterans for conditions that can be reasonably attributed to toxic exposure.

(c) MONTHLY REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than two weeks after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than once every month thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report detailing the obligations and expenditures by the Secretary with respect to the amounts in the Cost of War Toxic Exposures Fund, disaggregated by obligations and expenditures of the Veterans Benefits Administration and the Veterans Health Administration, including with respect to information technology, general administration, operating expenses, and research.

(2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, the Committee on the Budget, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, the Committee on the Budget, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(d) ANNUAL AUDITS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and not less frequently than once each year thereafter, the Inspector General of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall conduct an audit of the obligation and expenditure of amounts in the Cost of War Toxic Exposures Fund.

(e) COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives an interim report and a final report on the degree to which the Secretary follows and executes the plan submitted pursuant to subsection (a).

(2) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) An assessment of the methodology the Secretary uses to create an annual budget for the Cost of War Toxic Exposures Fund for inclusion in each budget of the President submitted to Congress for a fiscal year pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code.

(B) Identification of such adverse consequences to programs of the Department as the Comptroller General may find is created by the implementation of such Fund.

(C) An assessment of the long-term viability of the Cost of War Toxic Exposures Fund, including budgetary implications on future authorizing and appropriations legislation.

(D) Recommendations for such legislative or administrative action as may resolve or mitigate the adverse consequences identified pursuant to subparagraph (B) or any long-term viability issues that may be identified pursuant to the assessment required by subparagraph (C).

(f) DEFINITIONS OF TOXIC EXPOSURE AND TOXIC-EXPOSED VETERAN.—In this section, the terms ''toxic exposure'' and ''toxic-exposed veteran'' have the meanings given such terms in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I have 13 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at 9:45 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet in executive session during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at 10 a.m.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at 3:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AIRLAND

The Subcommittee on Airland of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND SPENDING OVERSIGHT

The Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND BORDER MANAGEMENT

The Subcommittee on Government Operations and Border Management of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at 2:30. p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NEAR EAST, SOUTH ASIA, CENTRAL ASIA, AND COUNTERTERRORISM

The Subcommittee on Near East, South Asia, Central Asia, and Counterterrorism of the Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL

The Subcommittee on Personnel of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2023

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 12 noon on Thursday, April 27; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that following the conclusion of morning business, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 3, S.J. Res. 4; that the cloture motions filed during yesterday's session ripen at 12:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. For the information of the Senate, there will be two rollcall votes starting at approximately 12:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TOMORROW

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam 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 7:31 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, April 27, 2023, at 12 noon.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate April 26, 2023:

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

JOSHUA DAVID JACOBS, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR BENEFITS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING CAPTAIN THEODORE CHESTER KALAGIAN

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent Captain Theodore Chester Kalagian of Russellville, Tennessee for his service to our country. Mr. Kalagian was drafted on Friday, May 13, 1966, and graduated from Officer Candidate School as a 2nd Lieutenant.

After his commission, he was assigned to Ft. Lewis, Washington Training Center as the Motor Officer for 2 years. He was then assigned to the 330th General Support Company of the 765th Transportation Battalion in Vietnam. While in Vietnam, he was awarded a Bronze Star and an Army Commendation Medal.

He returned to the U.S. and was assigned to Ft. Stewart, GA, as well as Frankfurt, Germany and Ft. Ben Harrison, IN, and was released from active duty on September 13, 1973.

HONORING CAROLINE MASON FOR HER LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO PROMOTING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Caroline B. Mason for her extraordinary lifetime and legacy of public service and leadership in education.

A dedicated, lifelong scholar, Caroline proudly earned her undergraduate degree from Denison University and master's degree from Case Western University. Additionally, she pursued graduate studies at University College Dublin in Ireland, one of Europe's preeminent research-intensive universities.

Caroline began her teaching career in the classroom at the all-girls Laurel School and continued to excel as an instructor in classrooms at hallowed educational institutions including the Boston Conservatory of Music and Harvard College. Known for her academic rigor and leadership, Caroline was appointed to serve as principal at the all-girls Mount Saint Mary High School. Caroline continued her pursuit of academic excellence as Head's Fellow at the Klingenstein Institute Teacher's College at Columbia University.

In 1993, Caroline was appointed Head of School for Albany Academy for Girls, the oldest continuous all-girls school in the United States founded in 1814. During her tenure, Caroline increased enrollment, brought fiscal discipline, strengthened the curriculum, developed a comprehensive faculty evaluation program, constructed the new library, gymnasium, and Slingerland Wing. She strengthened cherished Academy traditions such as Bacon Bat, ring sisters, the 4th and 8th grade plays, Wassail, Thanksgiving lunch, senior May term, and senior speeches. Caroline brightened the hallways with fresh flowers, art exhibition posters, and warmly greeted the students at the curb every morning with a welcoming smile. Perhaps above all, she invested in extraordinary faculty to instill intellectual rigor, challenging curriculum standards, and true academic excellence. She frequently sat in to observe students and teachers in classrooms. Caroline was formative and determinative to what it means to be an "Academy Girl" for thousands of girls and women.

In 2003, due to her effective leadership, Caroline was appointed to Head of School for Albany Academy earning the distinction of being the only individual to head two schools simultaneously. She combined the academic departments under a single head ensuring that course standards were equal, increased enrollment, and organized the multi-disciplinary Melville Symposium and the Memorial Day Chapel Service. Caroline stepped down as Head of Schools in 2007 and she remains deeply dedicated to the Albany Academies community.

On behalf of the United States Congress and New York's 21st District, I am honored to recognize Caroline's immense contribution to academic excellence and the pursuit of the American Dream for tens of thousands of students. Caroline embodies what it means to be a patriotic American who has given so much of her intellectual gifts to generations of young students who excel as leaders in all fields today. We, and I, cannot thank her enough for her lifetime of service.

RECOGNIZING LEE VERNON NEWBY, JR.

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize Lee Vernon Newby, Jr., a veteran of World War II and long-time resident of Detroit in Michigan's 12th District Strong, as he celebrates 100 years of life.

Mr. Newby is a United States Marine Corps Veteran who served from April 1, 1943 to January 8, 1946. He served and was wounded at Guadalcanal during World War II. Mr. Newby is one of the illustrious Montford Point Marines, the barrier-breaking first African Americans to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps who fought prejudice and hostility while completing training and serving our country. The Montford Point Marines provided critical power to the victories won in the Pacific Theater during World War II.

Mr. Newby proudly serves as a member of the Montford Point Marines of America, Detroit Chapter and was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest civilian award in the Nation, under President Obama's administration.

Please join me in commending Mr. Lee Vernon Newby, Jr. for his outstanding service to our country as we celebrate his 100th birthday.

HONORING SPECIALIST KEITH SEVIER JONES, SR.

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent Specialist Keith Sevier Jones, Sr. of Johnson City, Tennessee for his distinguished service as a partner of The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration.

Drafted in the summer of 1966, SPC. Jones reported to basic training in Ft. Riley with the 9th Infantry Division.

Following his training, he deployed to Vietnam as a combat medic where he earned the Combat Medic Badge.

He continued his tour of Vietnam in the Mekong Delta, prior to deploying to Ft. Campbell, where he concluded his service.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF DR. WILLIAM HUFFMAN

HON. ERIC BURLISON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Dr. William Huffman, CPA, a professor of accounting at the Robert W. Plaster School of Business at Missouri Southern State University in Joplin, Missouri.

Professor Huffman recently received the 2023 Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching from Missouri Governor Mike Parson. The award is presented annually to an outstanding faculty member who has shown a commitment to high standards of teaching and advising, and has provided years of service to the university, the local community, and the university's students.

Professor Huffman holds a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree with an emphasis in accounting from Pittsburg State University in Kansas, a master's degree in accounting from Kansas State University, and a PhD in accounting from the University of North Texas.

Following a successful career as an accountant in the private sector, Professor Huffman began his teaching career. He has taught at Missouri Southern State University for 23 years where he is the faculty adviser to

the university's accounting club and serves on several other university committees. He previously was recognized as the MSSU Outstanding Teacher and was awarded the Regional Teaching Excellence Award from the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs. His research interests include accounting humor and accounting ethics.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize Dr. Huffman's commitment to excellence in teaching. There can be no more noble calling than preparing the next generation of young people for a productive work life.

CONGRATULATING SASHA COLBY OF WAIMĀNALO, RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE SEASON 15 WINNER

HON. JILL N. TOKUDA

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Hawaii-born Sasha Kekauoha, more famously known as Sasha Colby, on being crowned the winner of "RuPaul's Drag Race" Season 15. I am so proud that a fellow Windward girl, hailing from the homesteads of Waimānalo, has earned the title of America's Next Drag Superstar.

With her historic win, Sasha became the first person of Native Hawaiian ancestry to compete and win the competition, the fourth trans contestant to ever win Drag Race U.S., and the first American Drag Race winner to have also won the annual Miss Continental drag pageant. RuPaul herself even referred to Sasha as, "the kind of talent that comes around once in a generation."

Born and raised in Waimānalo, Hawaii, Sasha is the youngest of seven children and attended Kailua High School. Her drag journey began when she started taking dance classes at a local studio. Having grown up in a very religious household, Sasha spent much of her youth as a closeted trans person, living in constant fear of being found out. However, dance gave her the opportunity to be herself and meet and be with others that identified as LGBTQ+.

Through that dance studio, Sasha met her drag mom and made friends who would become her second family. Together, they showed her what life could be like living as a trans woman and helped introduce Sasha to the drag performance scene.

Sasha, a seasoned drag legend with 20 years of experience, had one of the most accomplished runs on RuPaul's Drag Race. She showed an undeniable confidence in her approach to nearly every challenge. Sasha came into the finale with the strongest track record of any of her competitors—along with never landing in the bottom in any of the show's challenges, she also racked up four challenge wins over the course of the season, more than any other queen on the show.

From the very start of the 15-week-long competition, Sasha put her vulnerabilities front and center for the world to see, often drawing upon her Native Hawaiian and Irish heritage and childhood trauma as sources of inspiration for her performances.

Throughout Drag Race, she authentically represented her Hawaiian culture both in her looks and interviews, talking about the legacy she's building for her home state and about being māhū. Māhū are "third gender" individuals who fulfill spiritual and social roles in traditional Hawaiian culture. Centuries ago, four large stones were placed on Waikīkī Beach to honor four māhū, "extraordinary individuals of both male and female spirit," who brought their healing powers to O'ahu from Tahiti. Today, trans people are still among the most revered members in the Hawaiian community.

Sasha also used her platform to share with the nation and the rest of the world the stories of Hawaii, Polynesian culture, and the trans experience in America. For example, on the show, she introduced audiences to the history of Honolulu nightclubs like The Glades Nightclub in the 1950s and 1960s. The Glades would get raided weekly by police and for "misrepresenting" themselves as female drag queens and trans women would have to wear a button that read, "I'm a Boy," or face the possibility of being arrested and paying a hefty fine.

Seventy years later, we are seeing increasing attacks on LGBTQ+ rights that particularly target trans people and drag queens including state laws banning drag queen performances and gender affirming care. In her own words, Sasha says, "I am literally the living embodiment of what they [state legislators] want to eradicate." But these anti-trans attacks have not deterred Sasha at all. She said it best during the Drag Race finale: "This goes to every trans person, past, present and future," she said. "Because we are not going anywhere." Sasha's win is not only well deserved; it gives us hope.

I look forward to all that Sasha will accomplish as a leader, a proud māhū, and an activist, and I know that she will continue to serve as a beacon of light and hope to so many people across the country and around the world who are afraid or unable to be fully themselves.

Congratulations to Sasha Colby. She is truly every drag queen's favorite drag queen.

HONORING ENSIGN STEPHEN DICKMANN

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Naval Officer Stephen Dickmann of Greeneville, Tennessee for his distinguished service during the Vietnam War, from May 1965 to August 1967.

Ensign Dickmann served as Supply and Disbursing Officer and General Quarters Cryptography Officer aboard USS *Richard B. Anderson*, named after Medal of Honor recipient USMC PFC Richard B. Anderson. Anderson was deployed in the area of the Mekong Delta and the waters off the coast of Vietnam, the South China Sea, the Gulf of Siam, and the Gulf of Tonkin. Anderson engaged in search and rescue and surveillance operations and shore bombardment in support of ground troops.

Ensign Dickmann's Supply Department was responsible for maintaining the inventory of repair parts, as well as paying and feeding the crew, the ship's laundry, the ship's store, and the ship's barber shop until he was medically discharged. It was subsequently determined he had been exposed to Agent Orange.

RE-INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF AVIATION ACT OF 2023

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleague, Rep. STAUBER, in re-introducing the bipartisan and bicameral National Center for the Advancement of Aviation Act of 2023. Our Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation has worked for years to make American skies the safest in the world, and to strengthen the industry workforce to maintain the highest standards of aviation excellence.

Our legislation, the National Center for the Advancement of Aviation (NCAA) will support and promote collaboration among civil, commercial, and military aviation sectors to address the demands and challenges associated with ensuring a safe and vibrant national aviation system through research, education, and training. This will also contribute to the economic growth of $4.7 billion in the aviation industry as noted by the International Air Transport Association (IATA, 2022). According to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the global economic impact could be impacted either directly or indirectly. This suggests that the NCAA Act would increase opportunities in the job market impacting the economy positively. Furthermore, the National Center for Advancement in Aviation could support the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Flight Plan 21 through optimizing training opportunities to provide the aviation industry a pool of diverse and qualified professionals from varied backgrounds.

Too often in the past, innovation and lessons learned from various aviation sectors have not been shared in a collaborative or timely manner, especially with rapid developments in new technology. Our bill helps break down silos across commercial aviation, general aviation, and military aviation sectors. This will not only improve safety and best practices, but also expand opportunities for those interested in the aviation workforce—for the young and not so young, from those just starting out, to those with experience who want to move into other fields within aviation.

The NCAA Act focuses on four key areas with an emphasis on aviation workforce development. First, it will support education efforts and provide resources to curriculum developers so educators at all levels have the tools and training to educate the next generation of aviation professionals.

Second, the National Center for Advancement in Aviation will provide a forum to leverage and share expertise across industry sectors, including the dissemination of existing high school education curriculum to develop and deploy a workforce of pilots, aerospace engineers, unmanned aircraft system operators, aviation maintenance technicians, or other aviation maintenance professionals needed in the coming decades.

Third, it will serve as a central repository for economic and safety data research and analysis allowing a comprehensive perspective of

industry information that would improve safety for all stakeholders.

Finally, it will support symposiums and conferences to facilitate collaboration across the industry and develop future advancements for the aviation and aerospace community.

This legislation also allows the FAA to focus on safety, certification, and air traffic operations. Diversity

Our aviation and aerospace industry supports over 10 million jobs and contributes more than $1.2 trillion per year to the national economy. More than 130 organizations including schools, airports, airlines, manufacturers, unions, and other entities involved in aviation and aerospace have expressed strong support for this legislation. The list of organizations supporting this legislation is provided below.

AAR Corp, ACI Jet, Aeronautical Repair Station Association, Aerospace Center of Excellence, Aerospace Industries Association, Aerospace Maintenance Council, Air Care Alliance, Air Line Pilots Association, International, Air Medical Operators Association, Air Wisconsin Airlines, Airbus, Aircraft Electronics Association, Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, Airlines for America, Alabama General Aviation Alliance, Alaska Airlines, Alaska Airmen Association, Alaskan Aviation Safety Foundation, Allegiant Airlines.

Alliance for Aviation Across America, Allied Pilots Association, American Airlines, American Bonanza Society, American Yankee Association, Arizona Airports Association, Arizona Flight Training Working Group, Arizona Pilots Association, Arizona Safety Advisory Group, Arkansas General Aviation Association, Armed Forces Aero Club, Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International, Association of California Airports, Atlas Air Worldwide, Aviation Council of Pennsylvania, Aviation Spectrum Resources, Inc., Aviation Technician Education Council, California Pilots Association, Cape Air, Cargo Airline Association.

Cessna Flyer Association, Choose Aerospace, Inc., Citation Jet Pilots, Inc., Coalition of Airline Pilots Associations, Colorado Aviation Business Association, Commemorative Air Force, Community and Airport Partnership for Safe Operations, CommutAir, Compass Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Delta State University.

EAA Type Club Coalition, EAA Warbirds of America, East Central Ohio Pilots Association, East Hampton Aviation Association, Empire Airlines, Endeavor Air, Envoy Air, EVAC, the Emergency Volunteers Air Corps, Experimental Aircraft Association, ExpressJet Airlines, FAST, FedEx Express, Flight School Association of North America, Flying Knights Flying Club, Flying Physicians Association, Friends of Linden Airport, Frontier Airlines, Fullerton Airport Pilots Association, General Aviation Council of Hawaii, General Aviation Manufacturers Association.

Glasair Aircraft Owners Association, GoJet Airlines, Grumman Owners & Pilots Association, HAECO Americas, Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission, Hawaiian Airlines, Helicopter Association International, Horizon Air, International Air Transport Association, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, International Council of Air Shows, Inc., International Council of Airshows Foundation, Iowa Aviation Association, JetBlue Airways, Kentucky Aviation Association, Kimmel Aviation Insurance, L3Harris Technologies, Ladd Gardner Aviation Insurance, Inc., Lancair Owners and Builders Organization, Lewis University Airport.

LIFT Academy, Long Island Business Aviation Association, Los Alamos Airport, Louisiana Airport Managers and Associates, Maine Aeronautics Association, Maine Aviation Business Association, Massachusetts Airport Management Association, Michigan Business Aviation Association, Mid-Atlantic Aviation Coalition, Minnesota Pilots Association, Minnesota Seaplane Pilots Association, Mississippi Agricultural Association, Montana Pilots Association, Mooney Summit, Inc., National Agricultural Aviation Association, National Air Carrier Association, National Air Traffic Controllers Association, National Air Transportation Association, National Association of State Aviation Officials, National Business Aviation Association.

National Coalition for Aviation and Space Education, NetJets, NetJets Association of Shared Aircraft Pilots, New Hampshire Pilots Association, New Jersey Aviation Association, New Mexico Airport Manager's Association, New York Aviation Management Association, North American Trainer Association, Ohio Regional Business Aviation Association, Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission, Oklahoma Airport Operators Association, Oklahoma Pilots Association, Oregon Pilots Association, Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals, Palo Alto Airport Association, Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum, Pearl River Community College, Pennsylvania Drone Association, Petaluma Area Pilots Association, Piedmont Airlines.

Piper Flyer Association, Plane and Pilot News, Professional Aviation Maintenance Association, PSA Airlines, Pure White Smoke Oil, Inc., Recreational Aviation Foundation, Redlands Airport Association, Red Star Pilots Association, Regional Air Cargo Carriers Association, Regional Airline Association, Republic Airways, Rhode Island Pilots Association, San Carlos Pilots Association, San Diego Christian College, Scottsdale Flying Club, Seaplane Pilots Association, Skill Aviation Services, LLC, Sopwith Flying Club, South Carolina Aviation Association, South Dakota Pilots Association.

Southwest Airlines, Southwest Airlines Pilots Association, Spirit Airlines, StandardAero, Start Skydiving, Inc., ST Engineering North America, Stennis International Airport, STS Aviation Group, Sturdivant Brothers Flying Service, Sun Country Airlines, T–34 Mentor Association, The Boeing Company, The Museum of Flight, Seattle, Washington, Tradewind Aviation, Trans States Airlines, Triumph Airborne Structures, Tyonek Services Group, Inc., U.S. Contract Tower Association, U.S. Parachute Association.

United Airlines, UPS, Vertical Flight Society, Veterans Airlift Command, Virginia Aviation Business Association, Washington Pilots Association, Washington Seaplane Pilots Association, Women in Aviation International, Wencor Group, Western Aero Club, Zerowait, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will address the demands and challenges our aviation and aerospace industry face today and tomorrow. I strongly encourage my colleagues to join us in cosponsoring the National Center for the Advancement of Aviation Act of 2023.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM ''BILLY'' SAPA

HON. RYAN K. ZINKE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, the community of Columbia Falls, Montana suffered a great loss recently with the passing of William ''Billy'' Sapa.

Billy was the kind of guy every small town needs. He was the owner and operator of the Blue Moon Nite Club—a local restaurant and watering hole previously owned by his parents. He was the dedicated head coach of the Columbia Falls High School Wildcats baseball team, operated his multi-generational family farm, host of the summer rodeo series, and I am proud to say he was my friend.

While Billy is known for his sense of humor and loyalty to his people, he wasn't known as one to brag, which is why it came as a surprise to many in the Flathead Valley that Billy was signed by the New York Yankees after college. He was in his first year as a pitcher and the world was his oyster. He could have done anything, a hardworking kid from a small Montana timber and manufacturing town. It was a tragic twist of fate that brought Billy back to the valley to take care of his family and led him to a life of building our little community.

Billy was a proud patriot, a loving father, and a staple in the Columbia Falls community. He loved the community of Columbia Falls and will be dearly missed. I thank Billy and the entire Sapa family for all they've done to make the Flathead Valley a great place to call home.

Rest easy brother.

HONORING COLONEL ROGER H. DOUGHERTY

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent Colonel Roger H. Dougherty of Kingsport, Tennessee for his service in the United States Marine Corps from August 1966 to July 1999. In 1966 he entered the Corps through the Platoon Leaders Class program while attending Olivet College in Michigan. Three years later, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant; after basic training and Army Flight School he joined a USMC CH–46 flight crew where he flew with HMM–164 in Vietnam until October of 1972.

The composite squadron was the Aviation Combat Element (ACE) of the 31st Marine Amphibious Unit; during his service, his unit provided assault support for combat operations for the South Vietnamese Marines following the Easter Offensive against the invading North Vietnamese Army in and around Quang Tri. He was a part of the recapture of the Citadel in Quang Tri where all aircraft received a wall of small arms fire. For his insertion into and out of a hot landing zone he was awarded an Air Medal (AM) for individual action and two Strike-Flight Air Medals.

Following his combat tour in Vietnam he remained on active duty and became the Commanding Officer (CO) of his combat squadron from 1984 through 1986. In addition to his Vietnam awards and for his extreme bravery in the air, he earned two Legion of Merit medals, Meritorious Service medal, Defense Meritorious Service medal, and various other unit and deployment medals.

REMEMBERING MOTHER CARRIE LEE (HAMILTON) SIMMONS

HON. BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my great sadness and sincerest sympathy over the loss of Mother Carrie Lee (Hamilton) Simmons, who departed this life for her Heavenly Home on April 20, 2023. It will never be forgotten how much Mother Simmons loved the Lord and contributed to society.

Originally from Georgia before later settling in New Jersey, Mother Simmons was active in her community and leaves behind a lasting legacy. She devoted her life to service including as a healthcare worker, who worked hard as a Certified Nursing Assistant at the former Donnelly Hospital for over 25 years. Additionally, she fellowshipped at Friendship Baptist and El-Bethel Baptist Church, and then became a devout member of Calvary Missionary Baptist Church. Furthermore, she was known for her always-open door, her "world famous" sweet potato pie and candied yams, and for always cooking beans in the kitchen.

Her memory and legacy will be forever remembered by her beloved husband, children, and extended family. I extend my condolences and prayers to all her loved ones as they grieve. We thank God for the memory of Mother Simmons, and may God continue to bless your family at this difficult hour.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ROCKY WOOD

HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Rocky Wood of Haysi, Virginia. A native of Southwest Virginia, Rocky was an active and dedicated member of the Haysi community.

During his life, Rocky was the town's Vice Mayor, Chairman of the Building Code Committee of Dickenson County, Chief of the Haysi Volunteer Fire Department, Member of the Virginia Department of Forestry Honor Guard, owner and operator of Wood Construction Company and a member of Grace Fellowship Baptist Church.

A seven-year employee of the Virginia Department of Forestry as a forest technician, Rocky was responding to a 15-acre wildfire along Lester's Fork Road in Buchanan County at the time of his passing.

Rocky is survived by his wife Debbie; daughters, Lindsey (Chase Cooley) Wood and Lauren Wood, both of the home; bonus children, Jesse (Dove) Goodpaster of Bristol, VA and Toni (Nate) Long of Wise, VA; his mother, Nina Wood of Haysi, VA; grandchildren, Finn and CeCe Goodpaster, Paislee Fleming and Owen Ramey; father and mother in law, Jerry and Joan Deel of Birchleaf, VA and a host of uncles, aunts, cousins and friends. I wish them condolences on the loss of their loved one.

Rocky's contributions to Haysi and Southwest Virginia will not be forgotten. He will be missed.

HONORING SP5. (U.S. ARMY) MARK L. FRENCH

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent SP5. (U.S. Army) Mark L. French of Seymour, Tennessee along with over 100 veterans and families from Sevier, Tennessee for their military service.

Stationed at Ford Ord, CA, SP5. French's was charged with leading his Generator Section and setting up a preventative maintenance program with help from a Civil Service employee to train fellow enlistees on servicing generators.

He furthered his expertise to assist our country's readiness by studying at a specialized school, where he was taught how to test for nerve gas, blood agents and Agent Orange in combat regions.

HONORING DR. MARK S. WATSON

HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK" FLEISCHMANN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Mark Watson and recognize a lifetime of service to his community.

For over 50 years, Dr. Watson has been employed as City Manager serving the City of Oak Ridge, Tennessee as well as six prior cities in the states of Texas, Montana, and Arizona. Mark has been serving in his present role since 2010. In 2017, Dr. Watson was recognized by the International City/County Management Association for his 45-year career in public service. The following year, Dr. Watson received the Community Partnership Award by the International City/County Management Association for his efforts in developing a public, private partnership for the redevelopment of the renowned American Museum of Science and Energy in Oak Ridge.

Dr. Watson has continued the community's focus on economic diversification and has addressed infrastructure needs throughout Oak Ridge for the purpose of being the service provider for the city and the Department of Energy complex. Mark has worked in many communities identified as rural, suburban, agricultural, military, medical, scientific, and communities bordered internationally.

Mark received his PhD from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and his Bachelor and Master's Degrees in Public Administration from the University of Kansas. His alma mater recently recognized him with a Lifetime Achievement Award in City Management. Dr. Watson frequently lectures at universities nationwide and most recently received the University of Tennessee MPPA Fellow in Professional Practice for his contributions to the education and professional development of MPPA students at UTK.

It is with great pleasure that I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Mark Watson for his years of service and wish him the very best in his retirement.

STATE OF ISRAEL

HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD remarks submitted at the request of a Virginia Beach constituent, Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman of Temple Lev Tikvah, and are a reflection of his views:

The significant 75th anniversary of the State of Israel, the world's only Jewish state and a staunch U.S. ally, behooves to reflect on the major personality behind the only country whose people restored its sovereignty following 2,000 years of forced exile and oppression. While the modern Zionist movement with roots in 19th century Europe, saw the rebirth of Jewish statehood the solution to historical antisemitism culminating in the unfathomable Holocaust, the tormenting reality remains that antisemitism's deadly venom has not died out and is a potent force aimed at both Israel and world Jewry, with a precipitous rise in the U.S.

Against great odds Israel not only survived but has thrived, literally making the desert bloom and is the only source of Western and democratic enlightenment in the troubled Middle East. The world is a better place because Israel is in it, contributing to its progress in diverse ways. However, Israel is the only country threatened with annihilation since its inception. The terrorizing Islamic Republic of Iran and its proxies challenge both Israel and the U.S. The Abraham Accords have broadened the scope of Israel's rapprochement with the Sunni Arab world that regards Israel an asset facing the common Iranian Shite threat. The complex conflict with the Palestinians awaits permanent peaceful solution, as Israel preserves its Jewish and democratic identity.

The latest critical biography by esteemed professors Motti Golani of Tel Aviv University and Jehuda Reinhartz of Brandies University (the Founding Father. Tel Aviv: Am Oved Publishers. 2020), establishes Dr. Chaim Weizmann (1874–1952), the Zionist leader and Israel's first president, as the unquestionable founding father. David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister and Weizmann's disciple and rival, read the Declaration of Independence on May 14, 1948, as the British departed. President Harry Truman, the first world leader to announce his critical support, only eleven minutes following the historic proclamation despite the State Department's opposition. Weizmann's ceaseless efforts secured Truman's support, saving the Negev region for the future state when showing the map to sympathetic Truman who requested that Weizmann become president. As the authors insightfully assert, ''A biography like history is a story of encounters.''

It was Dr. Weizmann, the East European Jewish scientist with a doctorate in chemistry from the University of Manchester and his inventive aid to the British in WWI coupled with dogged personal efforts and diplomatic skills, that paved the way for the first international breakthrough of the budding Zionist enterprise, the Balfour Declaration of November 2, 1917 supporting a Jewish national home in Palestine. Weizmann's foremost goal was creating a Jewish state even if entailing territorial concessions to the Arabs, with steadfast concern for maintaining morality as he opposed Jewish terror against the British Mandate rulers of Palestine. He was a British citizen since 1910 and held that the British empire and the Jewish Zionist cause were mutually interdependent, later adding the United States as a desired friend and essential big brother.

Weizmann could not convince the United States to accept Jewish refugees after Hitler's rise to power, nor the British Eden and Churchill to bomb Auschwitz. He only partially attracted German Jewish scientists of Noble Prize stature to join the Hebrew University which he cofounded with Albert Einstein and Judah Magnes in 1925, as well as his Ziv Institute. Those scientists that Weizmann sought to save were blind to the coming disaster and not impressed with what was offered them, including Freud and Einstein. The Holocaust weighed heavily on Weizmann who had a complex bond with East European Jewry from which he emerged. It remained his ever-beloved family though Western Europe became his preferred physical and cultural home. He could not bring himself to visit the DP Camps and facilitated sending Ben-Gurion instead, strengthening his rival's stature. Yet, Ben-Gurion said about Weizmann, ''That the state did not make him but he made the state.''

Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman is founder of Temple Lev Tikvah in Virginia Beach. He is past president of the Hampton Roads Board of Rabbis and Cantors. He was born in Chu, Kazakhstan (USSR) to Polish Holocaust survivors who met in Siberia. Rabbi Zoberman and his family were at the Wetzlar DP Camp, Germany, American Zone, from 1947 to 1949. He grew up in Haifa, Israel.

His maternal great grandma, Rachel Leah, and the mother of Dr. Chaim Weitzmann, Rachel Leah, were first cousins.

HONORING SPC. LARRY G. HEATHERLY

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent SPC. Larry G. Heatherly for his distinguished service to the U.S. Army.

Entering service in 1969, Tennessee Native SPC. Larry Heatherly attended Signal School in Ft. Gordon, GA for teletype operator training.

SPC. Heatherly served at Long Binh Post in South Vietnam through the fall of 1970, earning the Army Commendation Medal and Good Conduct Medal. Join me in recognizing his sacrifice and service.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES PROTECTION ACT

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague, Representative TOKUDA, in introducing our bill to protect one of the most unique and fragile environments on Earth, our Hawaii, from devastating invasive species.

Invasive species pose an especially grave threat to Hawaii's unique ecosystems, natural resources and agricultural communities, in part due to Hawaii's unique geography. Hawaii is the most isolated island chain and one of the most ecologically diverse places in the world. We are 2,282 miles from the Continental United States, 2,952 miles from Japan and 4,772 miles from Washington, D.C., with no other islands in close proximity. We have within our constrained borders ten of the thirteen world climate zones, with ecosystems ranging from desert to tropical, where plants and animals that found their way to Hawaii evolved like nowhere else. A 2014 survey identified fully 9,975 endemic species in Hawaii. These species include the Hawaiian scarlet honeycreeper, the ʻiʻiwi; the flowering evergreen; and the state mammal of Hawaii, the ʻilioholoikauaua (Hawaiian monk seal).

However, tragically, in large part due to invasive species, Hawaii has become the endangered species and extinction capital of the world. The Pacific Islands are home to 44 percent of the threatened and endangered species listed under the Endangered Species Act, and Hawaii currently has 468 species listed as endangered, more than any other state and almost half of the total endangered species nationwide. Many of these species are critically endangered and face an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild. Although we will never know the true number of species that have gone extinct in Hawaii, in 2021 alone nine Hawaiian species were declared extinct.

As one particularly poignant example, four years ago the Atlantic published an article, ''The Last of Its Kind,'' which chronicled the death of George the snail. He was the last achatinella apexfulva, a species of tree snail that is endemic to the island of Oʻahu. This article calls attention to the fact that snails in Hawaii are disappearing at an alarming rate, perhaps faster than any animal on Earth right now, victims of various factors in part linked to invasive species.

The threat to our state tree, the ʻōhiʻa lehua, is also illustrative of our growing crisis. Used for poi boards and outrigger canoes, the ʻōhiʻa lehua is important to Hawaiian culture and the islands' watersheds. As the first tree to grow in new Hawaii lava flows, ʻōhiʻa lehua grows throughout the watershed creating new soil, stabilizing steep mountain ridges and comprises approximately 80 percent of Hawaii's native forests. However, rapid ʻōhiʻa death, or ROD, caused by an invasive fungal pathogen, kills ʻōhiʻa trees quickly, and threatens the stability of Hawaii's native forests. Since its discovery on the Big Island in 2014, ROD has spread to Kauaʻi, Mauʻi and Oʻahu, and has killed hundreds of thousands of trees.

Hawaii's unique circumstances also have given rise to one of our nation's most diverse and productive agricultural communities. With a year-round growing cycle, our crops have ranged throughout our history from the highest quality sugar and pineapple and cattle to tropical specialty crops like fruit and cut flowers in the highest demand worldwide.

Yet it is exactly because these crops like our natural resources have adapted to Hawaii's uniqueness that they are the most susceptible to devastation from external species against which they have no natural defenses. Invasive species have drastically impacted agriculture in Hawaii, threatening some of the island's most valuable crops in the state's third-largest industry.

One of Hawaii's most valuable crops, the macadamia nut, remains under threat from the macadamia felted coccid. Macadamia felted coccid has been found in all of Hawaii Island's macadamia growing regions. The felted coccid reduces macadamia tree output by draining nutrients from the tree.

The cattle industry, which is one of Hawaii's most important agricultural commodities, has been dramatically affected by the introduction of the invasive two-lined spittlebug. Since being detected in 2016, the pest now infects more than 200,000 acres of grassland and is clearing lands for invasives grasses that further affect Hawaii's ecosystems.

Yet despite these incontrovertible and growing impacts of external species on Hawaii's natural resources and economy, existing federal law leaves Hawaii largely defenseless against increasingly destructive invasives.

Imports by air and sea, the only means of in-bound transportation to our island state, lack any effective regulation to screen out invasives. This is despite a fairly robust screening of exports from Hawaii to the Continental United States to screen out invasives from Hawaii viewed as harmful to mainland agriculture (invasives that, ironically, were invasives into Hawaii to start with).

I sought to crack down on this lax regime to prevent and curb invasives with my introduction of H.R. 3468 in 2005, modeled after New Zealand and other isolated jurisdictions with then like now the most stringent invasive species prevention regimes in the world. Since the introduction of that bill, the threats from invasives have only grown. Since 2005, 195 invasive species have been introduced to Hawaii. That is in addition to the roughly 5,000 invasive species that have been introduced to Hawaii throughout its history.

Our bill, the Hawaii Invasive Species Protection Act, will require the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Inspection Service (APHIS), in cooperation with other federal departments and the State of Hawaii, to conduct visual, x-ray and canine inspections, as appropriate, on person, baggage, cargo and any other article destined for direct movement to the State of Hawaii. The inspections will search for high-risk invasive species and agricultural materials. The inspections will be conducted at airports, ports and postal sorting facilities prior to direct travel to the State of Hawaii.

Our bill further requires APHIS to work with the State of Hawaii to develop and publish a list of the high-risk invasive species and agricultural materials for the State of Hawaii. It pays for these inspections by increasing Agriculture Quarantine Inspection fees to cover the full cost of inspection.

Inaction is not an option. For example, the coffee berry borer, which was discovered in Kona on Hawaii Island in 2010 already infects all of the coffee growing islands in Hawaii. The coffee berry borer can cause yield losses of between 30 and 35 percent and affects the quality of the coffee beans, directly impacting the income of growers. Had this bill been implemented, it may have helped prevent coffee leaf rust from entering Hawaii. The confirmed and continued presence of this fungal disease, which can lead to yield losses of between 50 and 80 percent, on multiple Hawaiian islands could leave one of Hawaii's most iconic industries devastated.

If we truly care about the threat that continued and escalating invasive species pose to one of the most invaluable and unique ecosystems on earth, in addition to our unique economy and way of life, then the stark reality

is that this bill is what it will take. Again, it is not revolutionary when compared to other countries that have not only recognized this threat but actually done something about it.

And it is certainly not revolutionary when compared to longstanding domestic restrictions on exports from Hawaii, leading to the basic point that if these invasive species prevention requirements are good enough for the rest of the country and much of the world then they're good enough for Hawaii.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to the House for its understanding and careful consideration of Hawaii's challenge and opportunity and ask for our bill's expeditious passage.

Mahalo.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF SUSAN MASSY

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of a great Kansan, Susan Massy, journalism adviser for 44 years, all but 2 at Shawnee Mission Northwest High School.

Since 1980, Susan Massy built an award-winning journalism program and has been a passionate educator for her students in Shawnee, Kansas. Last year, the school's newspaper, The Northwest Passage, and the school yearbook, The Lair became recipients of top awards. Many students pursued careers in journalism because of their experience in Mrs. Massy's classroom and her continued mentorship.

In addition to educating students, Mrs. Massy became an advocate for her students outside of the classroom. She worked with the Kansas Legislature to pass the Students Publication Act, which gave school publications protections against censorship of school principals, administrators and school boards. She encouraged her students to stand up for themselves and brought them in to testify before the state legislature. She has been a key component in amplifying the voices of students across the state, teaching them that responsible journalism is vitally important to the longevity of our country.

During the COVID–19 Pandemic, Mrs. Massy led her students graciously and compassionately through uncertain times, giving them space to hone their skills despite not having all the tools at home that they did in the classroom. Despite the obstacles they faced completing schoolwork online, Mrs. Massy and her program were able to continue publishing their news magazine and their yearbook. This type of diligence encouraged by Mrs. Massy has earned the publications a number 45 and number 1 spot in the Pacemaker Top 100.

Susan Massy's love and dedication to her community has made her an integral part of educational journalism in our state. Mrs. Massy has received an Individual Honor of Recognition from the National Student Press Association (NSPA), a Charles R. O'Malley Award for Excellence in Teaching, and a Journalism Education Association (JEA) Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Susan Massy on her illustrious career. I wish her happiness in her well-deserved retirement with her husband, David, their daughters Caitlin and Erika, and Clover, their rescue dog.

HONORING SERGEANT (RET.) JOHN WAYNE JEFFRIES

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent Sgt. (Ret.) John Wayne Jeffries of Mountain City, Tennessee for his distinguished service to the U.S. Marine Corps.

A member of Alpha Co 1st BLT 4th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, Sgt. Jeffries arrived in Vietnam in the fall of 1967 to fight on the front lines of the conflict in the search and destroy battalion. His tour of duty took him throughout Vietnam, from Con Thien to Khe Sanh, and many fire bases in between. To conclude his deployment in 1968, his battalion was sent into the DMZ to destroy an NVA battalion consisting of 300, which was actually an NVA division of 2,000.

Sgt. Jeffries' battalion fought for many days and nights, with little food and even less sleep. Join me in thanking Sgt. Jeffries and the men he fought with for their service and may their sacrifice to our Nation not be forgotten.

HONORING UNITED HELPERS FOR THEIR 125 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE NORTH COUNTRY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize United Helpers for their 125 years of giving aid to those in need across the North Country.

United Helpers is a non-profit organization that currently provides medical, physical, and emotional assistance to over 1,000 North Country residents each day. The organization was created in 1898 when 10 women banded together to address the major issue of child homelessness in their local community. By 1902, the group had incorporated, created a constitution, and completed construction on the United Helpers Home located in Ogdensburg, New York. While the home was originally built to house only indigent youths, it expanded rapidly over the next fifty years to house newborns and elderly men and women as well. Throughout the twentieth century, United Helpers continued to expand their services, reacting to local and national tragedies with a deep desire to provide aid to those who find themselves in hopeless situations.

For over a century, the organization has provided care for those who were impacted by unprecedented times and has always sought to provide value to their community in any way possible. During the great Depression, the home saw a drastic influx in those requiring help, and During World War II, many of those same residents assisted the war effort by sewing bandages, writing supportive notes to soldiers, and planting victory gardens. The organization has continued to evolve as the needs of the community have shifted, and in 2019, they reorganized their services into three branches; rehabilitation & senior care, behavioral health & life skills, and independent senior living. Through selfless and compassionate acts, United Helpers have left an undeniable mark on communities and individuals across the North Country. Their organization continues to grow and become ever more successful in their mission to contribute necessary and vital services to individuals and families in need.

On behalf of New York's 21st District, I would like to congratulate United Helpers on their 125 years of extraordinary service to North Country residents, and I would like to thank every community member who has supported the organization's mission to help those in need.

RECOGNIZING THE 115TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE U.S. ARMY RESERVE

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 115th anniversary of the founding of the United States Army Reserve.

For generations, our servicemembers have leveraged a wide array of professional skills, educational backgrounds, and expertise all while serving in uniform. In cities and towns across America, the U.S. Army Reserve has always been comprised of brave, strong, purposeful men and women with great passions, talents, and abilities.

Throughout our history whether it was the Cold War, Korea, Vietnam, the Middle East, Afghanistan, or the Global War on Terror, the Army Reserve has been ready to serve at a moment's notice. Through crises, operations, emergencies, and natural disasters, their service has made impacts on so many people.

Since the activation of the Medical Reserve 115 years ago, the United States has mobilized more than one million Army Reserve soldiers in defense of the country. On any given day, more than 20,000 Citizen Soldiers are assigned across the Department of Defense or mobilized in support of Combatant Commands around the globe. Thousands more participate in overseas deployment training or annual joint exercises that strengthen our alliances and partnerships around the world.

As we navigate ever-evolving challenges, the steadfastness of the Army Reserve is critical to our national security apparatus. Harnessing broad civilian expertise in areas like artificial intelligence, cyber, and logistics is vital in providing every advantage possible.

These servicemembers begin their next 115 years of service as one of the most experienced forces in our Nation's history, and I am grateful for the service of each and every one of them. I look forward to continuing to support Army Reserve servicemembers in achieving their mission of—"Ready Now," and "Shaping Tomorrow!"

HONORING MSGT. ROBERT HENSLEY

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent Master Sergeant Robert Wayne Hensley of Gray, Tennessee. MSgt. Hensley proudly served in the Air Force from 1966 to 1988.

After attending basic training at Amarillo Air Force Base in 1967, he was deployed to Danang Air Base, South Vietnam, where he assisted in providing security during the Tet Offensive. In 1968, he was moved to Misawa Air Base in Japan, and traveled all over the world moving from Air base to Air base.

His last duty station was Soesterberg Air Base in the Netherlands, where he retired in 1988. After returning home, he connected with the American Legion and has held multiple high-ranking positions in his 24 years of service. Currently, he serves in the American Legion as the National Executive Committee Member of Tennessee.

CELEBRATING GSM INSURORS 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, today, I wish to celebrate the 100th anniversary of GSM Insurors, an insurance agency that has been serving the growing needs of Rockport and the blossoming Texas coast for generations.

GSM Insurors was founded in 1923 as the Rockport Insurance Agency by Theodore Johnson, a Rockport pioneer and then President of the First National Bank of Rockport. The agency was the first of its kind in the area, serving the interests of ship builders, ranchers, merchants, businesses, and newcomers to the blossoming Texas Coast.

Five years later, A.C. Glass purchased the agency from the Johnsons and also became the President of the First National Bank. As the agency prospered throughout the following years, James H. Sorenson, Jr. acquired half ownership of the agency in 1946, changing its name to Glass & Sorenson.

On May 1, 1953, the agency once again changed its name to Glass, Sorenson, & McDavid after John M. McDavid, Sr., the son-in-law of Theodore Johnson, purchased one-third of the agency and became the new general manager. In 1978, the present evolution was finished, and the agency was incorporated under the new Agency name, Glass, Sorenson, & McDavid Inc.

In 1991, John M. McDavid, Jr., the grandson of Theodore Johnson and son of John M. McDavid, Sr., became the third generation to serve as CEO and still serves in that role today. In 1998, Glass, Sorenson, & McDavid Inc became a founding partner of The Insurors Group which is now ranked as one of Top 50 Brokers of U.S. Business Insurance by Business Insurance Magazine and one of the Top 20 Agency Partnerships in the Nation by Insurance Journal. To this day, GSM operates as a 4th generation family business continuing their track record of great success and service to the coastal Texas community.

On behalf of the 118th Congress, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to GSM Insurors for having reached their centennial anniversary. Having served the needs of Rockport and surrounding coastal communities in Texas, GSM Insurors is an American success story that is worth honoring on this historic milestone.

IN MEMORY OF MELINDA GRACZYK

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Melinda Graczyk, a long-time resident of Redford Township in Michigan's 12th District Strong, as we mourn their passing.

I first met Melinda through their advocacy work to end malaria with nonprofit organization, Nothing But Nets. More recently, Melinda embraced their passion to serve the underrepresented, chairing Redford's newly formed commission for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Melinda was also a sitting member of Redford's Downtown Development Authority, hoping to bring fresh ideas to breathe new life into the community.

Melinda was a long-standing member of the Redford Jaycees. Through the Jaycees they volunteered to build and maintain local community gardens, which provided thousands of pounds of fresh, organic vegetables to families in need across Redford. Through their love of nature and gardening, they also helped start a farmers market and worked as a master gardener for years, providing our residents with a local source for fresh, locally grown food at an affordable price.

As a volunteer and eventually president of Redford's festival committee, they helped plan and execute all of Redford's local festivals throughout the year. These festivals have been a great opportunity for residents to gather, creating a stronger sense of community. As a member of Redford's first Community Emergency Response Team, Melinda volunteered countless hours helping to search for missing persons and aiding the public during Redford community events.

Melinda's passion, hard work and love for Redford Township will be greatly missed. Please join me in recognition of their tremendous service, as we honor their memory.

HONORING SERGEANT JOSEPH (JOE) S. HERRON

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent Sergeant Joseph (Joe) S. Herron, who started his journey with the United States Army in 1964. After high school, he decided to pursue the life of a Paratrooper.

After finishing basic training and his Airborne Jump school, he joined the 82nd Airborne Division and was stationed at Fort Bragg. Shortly afterwards, he deployed to the Dominican Republic after the assassination of the country's president.

In 1966, Herron was redeployed to Vietnam where he joined the 101st Airborne Division, also known as the "Screaming Eagles". He jumped a total of 13 times and earned the rank of Sergeant before his tour ended in 1967. During his service in Vietnam, he was awarded the Bronze Star for his bravery while in a combat zone.

After returning home, he worked with CSX Railroad for 35 years as the Intermodal Operations Manager. He also had a strong interest in politics and in 2002, Mr. Herron was elected to the Sullivan County Commission until his retirement in 2020.

HONORING YAZOO CITY 2023 MHSAA BOYS CLASS 4A BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Yazoo City High School Boys Basketball team's Class 4A State Championship.

On Thursday, March 2, the Yazoo City Varsity Basketball team won their neutral playoff game against Raymond (MS) by a score of 53–43.

At the beginning of school when workouts began, all players had the number 27 on the back of their practice workout gear. They didn't understand why they all had the number 27. The number 27 represented how many years it had been since the school's last boys' basketball state championship. It was a reminder every day to work hard so it would not become 28 years. The team embraced the challenge all season and on March 2, 2023, the 27-year drought of a state championship was over. Yazoo City finished with a 30–5 record.

I would like to recognize Head Coach Anthony Carlyle, who led his alma mater to the second state title in program history in the Class 4A championship game 27 years later. It's Carlyle's 6th championship as a head coach in Mississippi. He's 6–0 in championship games.

I would also like to recognize the student-athletes: Daveon Henry, William Grayson, Damarion Winston, Dalon Henry, Jermon Baymon, Tamarion Hoover, Kortae Meadows, Travis Jones, Jacolby Little, Chris Gates, Demond Collum, Caleb Crozier, Xaquarius Thomas, Cheimion Banks, JaCorion Taylor, TJ Rials, Jr. and Jamarion Bryant.

And finally, I would like to recognize the assistant coaches: Richard Bass, Charles Gates and Vernon Morris, the managers, Josh Young, Laterrian Johnson and Jaylan Carlyle and the entire Yazoo City School District for their support in this historic win.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the accomplishments and hard work of the student-athletes, coaches, and volunteers of Yazoo City High School's Varsity Boys Basketball program. I look forward to seeing their continued excellence on the court.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF COACH TODD MANESS

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Coach Todd Maness. A beloved member of our community, Coach Maness' life was marked by his dedicated mentorship as a football coach.

Coach Maness' strong work ethic and passion for football were evident at a young age. A standout fullback and middle linebacker at North Moore High School, he made up for his lack of size with spirit and determination. He attended Wingate University to play football before he was injured in a car accident during his sophomore year that left him paralyzed from the chest down. Despite this overwhelming setback, Coach Maness took up coaching to satisfy his passion for football. He served as an assistant coach for the North Moore High School football team for over 10 years before moving to coach at the middle school and youth level where he was the head coach for the Broncos in the Sandhills Optimist youth football league. Coach Maness was also a dedicated artist. Determined to continue making art after his injury, he adopted a new painting style where he held the paintbrush in his mouth to accommodate his disability.

Having coached football in Moore County over the span of three decades, Coach Maness was known for his resiliency, positive attitude, and excellent leadership. In addition to instructing players on skills and strategy, he was praised for his commitment to teaching the importance of good character and sportsmanship as well as techniques to improve player safety. Through his strength and determination in the face of adversity, Coach Maness set an excellent example for his players and peers both on and off the field.

Sadly, Coach Maness passed away on March 28, 2023, at the age of 51. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and all who knew and loved him. Coach Maness' passion for football and commitment to teaching others represents the very best of our community. He leaves behind a remarkable legacy, and I join our entire community in gratitude as we honor his extraordinary life.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring the life and legacy of Coach Todd Maness.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE BASE ACCESS PRIVILEGES IMPROVEMENT ACT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I reintroduce legislation that would standardize and streamline military base access for designated support personnel across the Nation. I thank my colleague Congressman DONALD NORCROSS (D–NJ01) for being the bill's original cosponsor.

Our outstanding service members require and deserve a great amount of backing. Every day, civilians access bases to provide services, transport goods, or conduct training. Unfortunately. from state to state—or even facility to facility—there are different standards of bureaucracy that these support workers must deal with.

The Base Access Privileges Improvement Act will create an overarching set of access standards for people with constant, legitimate need to access military installations. For truckers who already carry national identification credentials, they will be able to streamline delivery of household goods to military members on base. For union workers who are training or repairing systems, it will make the time spent getting on base more efficient and effective.

As Ranking Member of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness, I'm critically aware that the military requires support from the Nation. Military installations are secure for a good reason: our service members maintain a constant state of preparedness. However, for those civilians who are already appropriately vetted and cleared, we must ease the burdens currently in place for their access to do the job we've asked and the military needs.

Military bases can maintain the highest level of scrutiny for those seeking access, while still equalizing the requirements across the nation. Adding access permissions for those already thoroughly screened will help make our military a more lethal force. The legislation I reintroduce today would ensure just that.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBORAH K. ROSS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes on April 25, 2023 due to a family medical situation. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 193 and YEA on Roll Call No. 194.

ENCOURAGING THE EXPANSION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE ABRAHAM ACCORDS TO URGE OTHER NATIONS TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AND ENSURE THAT EXISTING AGREEMENTS REAP TANGIBLE SECURITY AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR THE CITIZENS OF THOSE COUNTRIES AND ALL PEOPLES IN THE REGION

SPEECH OF

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2023

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I have worked on issues related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict for over four decades since I began as a staffer on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in 1979. Israel, led by leaders like Golda Meir and Moshe Dayan, was David fighting Goliath—a young, bold democracy under threats from every direction. Israel has long been America's strongest ally, and our support for Israel's democracy, economic stability, and defense is ironclad. On the 75th anniversary of Israel's independence, I am proud to vote for a resolution that supports this remarkable milestone.

With that said, I am extremely disappointed that the resolution missed a crucial opportunity. The juxtaposition is startling: This resolution presumes business as usual when it is anything but. We have reached an inflection point in the U.S.-Israel relationship. For 70 years, we have found common cause with Israel because they have been the only democracy in the Middle East. For the first time in our history, an Israeli Prime Minister has put bipartisan support for Israel in jeopardy by exploiting partisan fissures within the United States, rejecting the notion of a two-state solution and opting to advance his own right-wing political agenda.

Netanyahu's cabinet of right-wing extremists has put the very rights and political inclusion of LGBTQ+ individuals, women, secular Jews, Palestinians, and Arabs alike in peril. As the United States continues to play a crucial role in supporting Israel, on a bipartisan basis, we must be clear that an aggressive anti-democratic tilt in Israel threatens our strong, longstanding partnership based on shared democratic values.

The resolution unfortunately did not mention the longstanding, bipartisan support for a two-state solution, nor did it condemn attacks against Israel's democratic institutions, including an independent judiciary, and incitements of violence against Palestinians.

When Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich made comments on March 3, 2023, suggesting the Palestinian city Huwara ''needs to be wiped out, but the State of Israel needs to do it,'' Arab nations involved in the Abraham Accords immediately condemned this abhorrent incitement of violence. To be clear, the actions of Ministers Ben Gvir and Smotrich to bless settler violence, incite violence against Palestinians, and threaten annexation of large portions of the West Bank imperil the Abraham Accords themselves, let alone the prospects for expansion to other Arab nations.

I will cast my vote in support of Israel and the Abraham Accords, with great concern. My hope is that constructive U.S. engagement, and the will of the Israeli people in favor of a peaceful, demilitarized, democratic Jewish state, will be the forces that prevail.

RECOGNIZING THE FOOD BANK OF THE ALBEMARLE FOR THEIR 40TH ANNIVERSARY AND YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. DONALD G. DAVIS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Food Bank of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. Since the food bank started serving its local community 40 years ago, it has been striving to ensure neighbors, friends, and families always have a meal.

Since its early days, the Food Bank of the Albemarle has distributed more than 46 million meals to hungry men, women, and children in

15 counties across northeast North Carolina. What started as a small, humble operation has become an essential food source for the region. The food bank is well on its way to becoming a ''nutrition bank,'' as it now boasts a newly expanded facility, including a Teaching Kitchen.

On Wednesday, April 5, 2023, the Food Bank hosted a 40th-anniversary celebration for the community, which included a tour of the new facility, food to enjoy, and the return of their renowned Sort-A-Rama food packing competition: ''Pack Madness.'' The competition consisted of twelve teams bagging up as many apples as possible in under 45 minutes—some healthy competition is always good when it ultimately helps feed our local communities.

The Food Bank of the Albemarle and its volunteers have made it their mission to help anyone in need, and northeastern North Carolina is better because of it.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Food Bank of the Albemarle on its 40 years of service. I know volunteers will continue their phenomenal work, and I cannot wait for them to celebrate another 40 years of service to the region.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call votes 193 and 194, I was not present because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted ''AYE.''

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF U.S. ARMY MASTER SERGEANT, LOUIS GRAZIANO

HON. ERIC BURLISON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the World War II achievements of U.S. Army Master Sergeant, Retired, Louis Graziano who is celebrating his 100th birthday this year.

Mr. Graziano joined the U.S. Army in January 1943. After his basic training, he made the Atlantic crossing to the United Kingdom on the Queen Mary with 16,000 other American troops. A major storm hit during the crossing and nearly capsized the ship about 700 miles off the coast of Scotland. Once safely ashore, he boarded a train for Camp Weston in Crewe, England, where he was placed in Headquarters OISE Section Command Z to continue his combat training. While there, he was approached by a general who sent him to London on a special mission for the Army. To this day, Mr. Graziano has not revealed the contents of this classified mission to anyone.

Returning from London after six weeks, Mr. Graziano was made a Utilities-NCO Sergeant overseeing 35 men who were tasked with erecting accommodations for the large number of arriving troops. This effort earned him the nickname, the ''Mayor of Tent City.''

Mr. Graziano's next assignment was to travel 700 miles south to board landing ships that would take him and his fellow soldiers across the English Channel for a coming invasion. Little did Mr. Graziano know that he would be landing in the third wave on Omaha Beach in Normandy, as part of history's largest seaborn invasion. Facing machine gun fire as he drove his gasoline truck off the LST, he and those with him scrambled to the limited safety of a cliff, only to take fire from German troops from a cliff-side bunker. Mr. Graziano smartly grabbed a flamethrower and set fire to the grass under the bunker forcing the Germans out of its protection.

Mr. Graziano later suffered severe frostbite during the Battle of the Bulge and spent three weeks recovering in an infirmary avoiding the amputation of both feet. Mr. Graziano subsequently landed in France where his unit set up Special Headquarters Command in Reims, where he oversaw maintenance of all the facilities. While there, he was privileged to witness the historic occasion of Germany's unconditional surrender in Europe, signing the German Instrument of Surrender at General Eisenhower's Headquarters on May 7, 1945.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Master Sergeant Graziano, a brave hero and a great American, for his commitment to freedom. Without brave men like him, our world would look much different today. Please join me in thanking him for his brave contributions to America.

RECOGNIZING DR. DOON GIBBS, BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LAB

HON. NICK LaLOTA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mr. LALOTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding leadership of Dr. Doon Gibbs, who has dedicated his 40-year career at Brookhaven National Laboratory to advance science and technology to secure our Nation's future.

Brookhaven National Laboratory is one of 17 national laboratories overseen and funded by the U.S. Department of Energy. The Lab has yielded seven Nobel Prize-winning discoveries and countless advances in science, transformative technology, and pioneering research.

Dr. Gibbs joined Brookhaven National Laboratory as an assistant physicist in 1983 and became the Director in 2013. Under his leadership, construction of the National Synchrotron Light Source II was completed on time, under budget, and with increased scope. Dr. Gibbs was also instrumental in overseeing the design and construction of the Lab's Center for Functional Nanomaterials.

Dr. Gibbs's vision and leadership has enabled our nation's scientists to efficiently address challenges that are of critical importance to our national security. I thank Dr. Gibbs for his many years of service at Brookhaven National Laboratory and I wish him the best in his retirement.

CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE HARDIN SIMMONS COWBOY BAND

HON. JODEY C. ARRINGTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the centennial anniversary of the Hardin Simmons Cowboy Band from West Texas.

The Cowboy Band has represented Abilene in 42 states and 17 countries. They have been a pivotal staple in countless celebrations and exciting events, including the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, six Presidential Inaugural Parades, 11 Gubernatorial Parades, and Texas' Cotton Bowl Parade.

Regardless of where they play, I'm thankful that these God-fearing, freedom-loving young men and women will always call West Texas home.

Congratulations to Hardin Simmons University and its beloved Cowboy Band for reaching this important milestone. God bless and go West Texas.

FLORIDA SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER (FSBDC) AT FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

HON. MARIA ELVIRA SALAZAR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Ms. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, Florida International University (FIU) is one of the top universities in the Nation, and the presence of the Florida Small Business Development Center (FSBDC) at FIU has had a great impact on the South Florida economy. Established under FJU's College of Business in 2014, the Center is a team of highly experienced business consultants providing assistance and training to entrepreneurs and business owners in Miami-Dade County to help them start, grow, and succeed.

It is vital that individuals starting a business have access to resources that will help ensure their long-term success. The FSBDC at FIU works one-on-one with Miami-Dade County small businesses providing startup assistance, access to capital, marketing. financial management, international trade, human resources, and business strategy advising.

Since its inception in 2014, the FSBDC at FIU has delivered more than 112,900 hours of consulting to 6,964 Miami-Dade County small businesses, resulting in business owners securing over $425 million in capital, securing $287.5 million in government contracts, increasing sales by $379.2 million, impacting 28,829 jobs, and launching 415 new businesses. In my district alone, the Florida SBDC at FIU provided 3,859 consulting hours to 490 local small businesses in 2022. Additionally, last year the center assisted entrepreneurs in Florida's 27th Congressional district to launch 25 new businesses; secure $23.5 million in capital; and obtain $18.9 million in government contracts.

On April 10, 2023 the U.S. Small Business Administration announced the Center as the

winner of the 2023 Small Business Development Center Excellence and Innovation Award, which recognizes the country's top small business center. Congratulations to everyone who has contributed to the success of the Center. They are incredibly deserving of this award.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL INFERTILITY AWARENESS WEEK

HON. MARILYN STRICKLAND

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National Infertility Awareness Week. Started in 1989, we salute the parents, doctors, researchers, and others for working to destigmatize infertility and bring awareness to the many barriers people face when trying to start and build their families.

Most Americans are not aware that approximately one in five Americans are impacted by infertility. The disease affects both men and women of all races, religious backgrounds, and economic status.

Through the revolutionary contributions of research scientists and considerable medical advancements, fertility treatments have vastly improved since the first successful in vitro fertilization pregnancy and live birth occurred in 1978. Such advancements include early infertility detection through detailed and data-driven testing, advanced egg-freezing technology, and progressive procedures that allow young cancer patients to preserve their fertility prior to undergoing lifesaving chemotherapy treatments. Organizations like RESOLVE: the National Infertility Association advocate for millions of individuals and couples in this country who need medical assistance to have a family. Other groups, such as the Military Family Building Coalition (MFBC), have focused on raising awareness for active duty servicemembers and their spouses facing unique challenges with family building. They are actively working to bring awareness to these unique challenges and advance laws and policies that will help our servicemembers sacrificing for our country achieve their dream of building or expanding their own family. The Alliance for Fertility Preservation stresses the importance of affordable fertility preservation options for individuals undergoing cancer treatment. In fact, in the absence of comprehensive and reliable fertility preservation and family building healthcare coverage, the option of having children may not otherwise be available for millions of Americans without the financial assistance of organizations like RESOLVE, AFP, and MFBC, and countless other worthwhile organizations.

While advancements have been a substantial step forward for family building, significant medical, financial, and health equity barriers still exist for others who require medical assistance to combat infertility.

During this National Infertility Awareness Week, I call on my colleagues in Congress to do more to remove many of the barriers that currently exist for those experiencing infertility challenges in their pursuit of having a child. The ability to have children and the timing of building a family is a basic human right, and thus we must work together to pass legislation to create a path for these American families.

PROCLAMATION ON ''ENDJEWHATREDDAY''

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation on ''EndJewHatredDay.''

Whereas, hate crimes targeting the Jewish community continue to rise in the United States, we must strongly condemn any and all acts of antisemitism; and

Whereas, April 29, 2023, marks the recognition of the second annual ''EndJewHatredDay,'' where individuals throughout the United States unite to end all forms of antisemitism and bigotry towards the Jewish community; and

Whereas, we must all commit to protect the Jewish community and respect Jewish culture as a crucial element of America's religious freedoms; and

Whereas, ''EndJewHatredDay'' shall serve as a day where we mourn the trauma and history of hatred against the Jewish people and vow for these actions to ''never again'' be repeated.

Proclaimed, that I, Congressman DOUG LAMBORN and the 5th Congressional District of Colorado shall wholeheartedly condemn antisemitism in all forms and declare every April 29 to be ''EndJewHatredDay.''

HONORING THE 48 YEARS OF SERVICE OF SHERIFF PATRICK A. RUSSO

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary service of Sheriff Patrick A. Russo. Sheriff Russo has spent the past 48 years protecting his local community with both the Rensselaer County Sheriff's Office and the Troy Police Department.

Sheriff Russo spent the first 10 years of his career working as a police officer in the Troy Police Department before being promoted to a Uniformed Sergeant. Ten years later, he was promoted once more to the role of Detective Sergeant, where he served as the head of the Special Operations Section's Narcotics unit. In this role, Sheriff Russo supervised all narcotic investigations and oversaw a multi-jurisdictional task force, which coordinated operations with local, state, and federal agencies.

Following his time with the Troy Police Department, Sheriff Russo joined the Rensselaer County Sheriff's Office and served as county Undersecretary for 19 years before being elected to County Sheriff in 2015. During his tenure, Sheriff Russo made major strides in increasing inter-agency cooperation aimed at attacking the drug problem within Rensselaer County. He also focused on developing new programs for both youths and senior citizens meant to facilitate community engagement and communication.

Sheriff Russo's dedication to the protection and support of his community extended far beyond his work in law enforcement. He was a member of several community organizations, including the City of Troy Labor Management Committee, the Charter Revision Committee, and the Rensselaer County Alternatives to Incarceration Board. Sheriff Russo also served as the Chairman of the Troy Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, the Housing Authority Public Safety Committee, and the Housing Authority Tenant Relations Committee. Whether in his private or professional life, Sheriff Russo continually demonstrated his commitment to improving the lives of his fellow Rensselaer County residents.

Over the course of Sheriff Russo's 48 years of service, he received numerous honors recognizing his extraordinary impact. While with the Troy Police Department, he was named the recipient of the 1985 John J. Givney Police Award, recognizing him as Troy's police officer of the year. He also received various other honors during his career for his dedication to combatting illegal drugs within Rensselaer County.

Sheriff Patrick Russo's unwavering dedication to the members of his community has left a legacy that will continue to remain long after his retirement. On behalf of New York's 21st District, I am honored to celebrate and remember his distinguished career.

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 Thursday, April 27, 2023 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 2

9 a.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Subcommittee on Commodities, Risk Management, and Trade

To hold hearings to examine commodity programs, credit, and crop insurance, focusing on producer perspectives on the farm safety net.

SD–106

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Air Force in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2024 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by a closed session in SVC–217.

SD–G50

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2024 for the Department of the Interior.
SD–366

10 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2024 for the Army.
SD–192

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
To hold hearings to examine advancing security and prosperity through international conservation.
SD–124

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program, focusing on improving community resilience.
SD–538

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Business meeting to consider S. 1067, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to citizen petitions, S. 1114, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the 180-day exclusivity period, S. 1214, to set forth limitations on exclusive approval or licensure of drugs designated for rare diseases or conditions, an original bill entitled, ''Pharmacy Benefit Manager Reform Act'', and other pending calendar business.
SD–430

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine improving access to Federal grants for underserved communities.
SD–562

Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine Supreme Court ethics reform.
SH–216

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support
To hold hearings to examine the current readiness of the Joint Force.
SR–232A

Select Committee on Intelligence
To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.
SH–219

2:45 p.m.
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development
To hold hearings to examine rural housing legislation.
SD–538

3 p.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations
Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2024 for East Asia and the Pacific.
SD–419

4:45 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
To hold hearings to examine Department of Defense space activities in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2024 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SR–222

MAY 3

10 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2024 for the Department of Energy, including the National Nuclear Security Administration.
SD–192

Committee on the Budget
To hold hearings to examine the real cost of fossil fuels.
SD–608

Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine the 2024 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers budget and implementation of Water Resources Development Act of 2022.
SD–406

Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine barriers to mental health care, focusing on improving provider directory accuracy to reduce the prevalence of ghost networks.
SD–215

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold hearings to examine S. 195, to provide compensation to the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community for the taking without just compensation of land by the United States inside the exterior boundaries of the L'Anse Indian Reservation that were guaranteed to the Community under a treaty signed in 1854, S. 382, to take certain land in the State of Washington into trust for the benefit of the Puyallup Tribe of the Puyallup Reservation, and an original bill to amend the Act of August 9, 1955, to modify the authorized purposes and term period of tribal leases.
SD–628

Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights
To hold hearings to examine competition in the digital advertising ecosystem.
SD–226

Select Committee on Intelligence
To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.
SH–219

3 p.m.
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the effectiveness of the Office of Integrated Veteran Care.
SR–418

MAY 4

10 a.m.
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
Subcommittee on Commodities, Risk Management, and Trade
To hold hearings to examine commodity programs, credit, and crop insurance, focusing on industry perspectives on risk management and access to credit.
SH–216

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.
SD–366

MAY 10

10 a.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Subcommittee on National Parks
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2024 for the National Park Service.
SD–366

1 p.m.
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine the need to make insulin affordable for all Americans.
SH–216

MAY 11

10 a.m.
Committee on Environment and Public Works
Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife
To hold hearings to examine water affordability and small system assistance.
SD–406

MAY 16

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Environment and Public Works
Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure
To hold hearings to examine perspectives on new and existing US Army Corps of Engineers authorities to respond to water management issues including drought and water conservation.
SD–406

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1353–S1402

Measures Introduced: Thirty-nine bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1289–1327, and S. Res. 174–178. **Pages S1381–83**

Measures Passed:

Justice for Jana Elementary Act: Committee on Environment and Public Works was discharged from further consideration of S. 418, to provide financial assistance to schools impacted by radioactive contaminants, and the bill was then passed. **Pages S1360–62**

Udall Foundation Reauthorization Act: Senate passed S. 1311, to reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund. **Pages S1362–63**

Heavy-Duty Engine and Vehicle Standards: By 50 yeas to 49 nays (Vote No 98), Senate passed S.J. Res. 11, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to ''Control of Air Pollution From New Motor Vehicles: Heavy-Duty Engine and Vehicle Standards'', after agreeing to the motion to proceed. **Pages S1360, S1363–65**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

Committee on Environment and Public Works was discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution. **Page S1360**

Mutual Defense Treaty 70th Anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 175, recognizing the importance of the 70th anniversary of the signing of the Mutual Defense Treaty between the United States and the Republic of Korea on October 1, 1953. **Pages S1370–77**

Month of the Military Child: Senate agreed to S. Res. 176, supporting the designation of April 2023 as the ''Month of the Military Child''. **Page S1377**

Authorizing Testimony and Representation: Senate agreed to S. Res. 177, to authorize testimony and representation in *United States v. Powell.* **Page S1377**

Authorizing Testimony and Representation: Senate agreed to S. Res. 178, to authorize testimony and representation in *United States v. Kelly.* **Page S1377**

Measures Considered:

VA Medicinal Cannabis Research Act: By 57 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. 97), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 326, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a study and clinical trials on the effects of cannabis on certain health outcomes of veterans with chronic pain and post-traumatic stress disorder. **Page S1360**

Senator Schumer entered a motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S1360**

Equal Rights Amendment—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S.J. Res 4, removing the deadline for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. **Pages S1365–69**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the joint resolution at approximately 12 noon, on Thursday, April 27, 2023; and that the motions to invoke cloture filed on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, ripen at 12:30 p.m., on Thursday, April 27, 2023. **Page S1402**

Escort Committee—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the President of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with a like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort His Excellency Yoon Suk Yeol, President of the Republic of Korea, into the House Chamber for the joint meeting on Thursday, April 27, 2023. **Page S1377**

Farbiarz Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Michael Farbiarz, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey. **Page S1369**

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 Anthony Devos Johnstone, of Montana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit. **Page S1369**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S1369**

Kirsch Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Robert Kirsch, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey. **Page S1369**

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 Michael Farbiarz, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey. **Page S1369**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S1369**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S1369**

Merchant Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Orelia Eleta Merchant, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York. **Page S1370**

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 Robert Kirsch, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey. **Page S1370**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S1370**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S1370**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 74 yeas to 25 nays (Vote No. EX. 96), Joshua David Jacobs, of Washington, to be Under Secretary for Benefits of the Department of Veterans Affairs. **Pages S1353–59**

Messages from the House: **Page S1380**

Measures Referred: **Page S1380**

Executive Communications: **Pages S1380–81**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S1381**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1383–85**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S1385–92**

Additional Statements: **Pages S1379–80**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S1392–S1401**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S1401–02**

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—98) **Pages S1359, S1360, S1365**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:31 p.m., until 12 p.m. on Thursday, April 27, 2023. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1402.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: VETERANS AFFAIRS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2024 and advance appropriations requests for fiscal year 2025 for the Department of Veterans Affairs, after receiving testimony from Denis McDonough, Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

APPROPRIATIONS: ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2024 for the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation, after receiving testimony from Michael L. Connor, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, and Lieutenant General Scott A. Spellmon, Chief of Engineers and Commanding General, Army Corps of Engineers, both of the Department of Defense; and Camille Calimlim Touton, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2024 for the

Department of Commerce, after receiving testimony from Gina M. Raimondo, Secretary of Commerce.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported 1,279 nominations in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Space Force.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded open and closed hearings to examine the Department of Energy and National Nuclear Security Administration atomic energy defense activities in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2024 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Jennifer Granholm, Secretary, and Jill Hruby, Under Secretary for Nuclear Security, National Nuclear Security Administration, both of the Department of Energy.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST AND FUTURE YEARS DEFENSE PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Airland concluded a hearing to examine Air Force modernization in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2024 and the Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from Andrew P. Hunter, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Lieutenant General S. Clinton Hinote, USAF, Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategy, Integration, and Requirements, Lieutenant General Richard G. Moore, Jr., USAF, Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Programs, and Lieutenant General James C. Slife, USAF, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, all of the Department of Defense.

ANTI-CORRUPTION LAWS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Personnel concluded a hearing to examine public integrity and anti-corruption laws at the Department of Defense, after receiving testimony from Colonel Lawrence B. Wilkerson, USA (Ret.), Caroline Krass, General Counsel, Carrie F. Ricci, General Counsel, Department of the Army, John P. Coffey, General Counsel, Department of the Navy, and Peter J. Beshar, General Counsel, Department of the Air Force, all of the Department of Defense; and Danielle Brian, Project On Government Oversight.

HOUSING CHALLENGES

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine building consensus to address housing challenges, including S. 735, to strengthen the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, and S.32, to increase the number of landlords participating in the Housing Choice Voucher program, after receiving testimony from Lou Tisler, National NeighborWorks Association, Vanessa Brown Calder, Cato Institute, and Diane Yentel, National Low Income Housing Coalition, all of Washington, D.C.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Committee on the Budget: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the health costs of climate change, after receiving testimony from Maryland Delegate Stephanie Smith, Annapolis; Katelyn Moretti, Brown Emergency Medicine, Providence, Rhode Island; Michael Greenstone, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois; Carl J. Schramm, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York; and Michael Shellenberger, Environmental Progress, Albany, California.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 1189, to establish a pilot grant program to improve recycling accessibility;

S. 1194, to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to carry out certain activities to improve recycling and composting programs in the United States; and

The nominations of David M. Uhlmann, of Michigan, and Joseph Goffman, of Pennsylvania, both to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

CLEANER AND STRONGER ECONOMY

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine opportunities to improve project reviews for a cleaner and stronger economy, after receiving testimony from Christy Goldfuss, Natural Resources Defense Council, Dana Johnson, WE ACT for Environmental Justice, Jay Timmons, National Association of Manufacturers, and Martin J. Durbin, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Global Energy Institute, all of Washington, D.C.; and Christina Hayes, Americans for a Clean Energy Grid, Arlington, Virginia.

USAID BUDGET

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2024 for the United States Agency for International Development, after receiving testimony from Samantha Power, Administrator, United States Agency for International Development.

TUNISIA

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on Near East, South Asia, Central Asia, and Counterterrorism

concluded hearings to examine U.S. policy on Tunisia, after receiving testimony from Joshua Harris, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs; and Megan Doherty, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for the Middle East, United States Agency for International Development.

BOSTON MARATHON BOMBINGS

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight concluded a hearing to examine 10 years since the Boston Marathon bombings, focusing on lessons learned, after receiving testimony from Richard Serino, Harvard University National Preparedness Leadership Initiative, former Deputy Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Abington, Massachusetts; Kerry Sleeper, Secure Community Network, Suffield, Connecticut; and Edward F. Davis III, Edward Davis Company, former Commissioner of the Boston Police Department, Boston, Massachusetts.

INCREASED MIGRATION ALONG SOUTHERN BORDER

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Government Operations and Border Management concluded a hearing to examine the effects of increased migration on communities along the southern border, after receiving testimony from Mayor Douglas J. Nicholls, Yuma, Arizona; Mayor Clea McCaa II, Sierra Vista, Arizona; Francisco Garcia, Pima County Deputy County Administrator and Chief Medical Officer, Tucson, Arizona; and Chief Kevin Hearod, McAlester Police Department, McAlester, Oklahoma.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Julie A. Su, of California, to be Secretary of Labor.

POST-DOBBS AMERICA

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine a post-*Dobbs* America, after receiving testimony from Michele Bratcher Goodwin, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Nisha Verma, Physicians for Reproductive Health, Atlanta, Georgia; Ingrid Skop, Lozier Institute, San Antonio, Texas; Monique Chireau Wubbenhorst, University of Notre Dame de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture, South Bend, Indiana; and Amanda Zurawski, Austin, Texas.

SBA OVERSIGHT

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the SBA's implementation of final rules to expand access to capital, after receiving testimony from Patrick Kelley, Associate Administrator, Office of Capital Access, and Sheldon Shoemaker, Deputy Inspector General, Office of Inspector General, both of the Small Business Administration; Hilda Kennedy, AmPac Tri-State CDC, Inc., dba AmPac Business Capital, Ontario, California; and Chris Pilkerton, Accion Opportunity Fund, Tilghman, Maryland.

VETERANS AFFAIRS LEGISLATION

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine S. 280, to ensure that only licensed health care professionals furnish disability examinations under a certain Department of Veterans Affairs pilot program for use of contract physicians for disability examinations, S. 291, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs the Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration, S. 350, to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship to include spouses and children of individuals who die from a service-connected disability within 120 days of serving in the Armed Forces, S. 414, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and to expand eligibility for dependency and indemnity compensation paid to certain survivors of certain veterans, S. 498, to reauthorize and improve a grant program to assist institutions of higher education in establishing maintaining, improving, and operating Student Veteran Centers, S. 572, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide answers to questions submitted for the record to the Secretary by members of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives within 45 business days, S. 656, to amend title 38, United States Code, to revise the rules for approval by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of commercial driver education programs for purposes of veterans education assistance, S. 740, to amend title 38, United States Code, to reinstate criminal penalties for persons charging veterans unauthorized fees relating to claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, S. 774, to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a pilot program to hire transitioning servicemembers to be Border Patrol agents, S. 897, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make a permanent increase in the number of judges presiding over the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, S. 1090, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to update the payment system of the Department of Veterans Affairs to

allow for electronic fund transfer of educational assistance, administered by the Secretary, to a foreign institution of higher education, an original bill entitled, ''Student Veterans Transparency and Protection Act'', an original bill entitled, ''Love Lives On Act'', and an original bill entitled, ''Veterans Second Amendment Protection Act'', after receiving testimony from Joseph Garcia, Executive Director, Education Service, Kevin Friel, Deputy Director, Pension and Fiduciary Service, and Nick Pamperin, Executive Director, Veteran Readiness and Employment Service, all of the Veterans Benefits Administration, and David Barrans, Chief Counsel, Benefits Law Group, Office of General Counsel, all of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and Shane L. Liermann, Disabled American Veterans, Tammy Barlet, Student Veterans of America, Ashlynne Haycock-Lohmann, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, and Diane Boyd Rauber, National Organization of Veterans' Advocates, Inc., all of Washington, D.C.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 52 public bills, H.R. 2870–2921; and 5 resolutions, H. Res. 328–332, were introduced. **Pages H2047–49**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H2051–52**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 327, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2811) to provide for a responsible increase to the debt ceiling, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 39) disapproving the rule submitted by the Department of Commerce relating to ''Procedures Covering Suspension of Liquidation, Duties and Estimated Duties in Accord With Presidential Proclamation 10414'' (H. Rept. 118–43). **Pages H2046–47**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Obernolte to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H1953**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:40 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Page H1958**

Order of Business—Consideration of H. Con. Res. 30: Agreed by unanimous consent that it be in order at any time on April 27, 2023 to consider H. Con. Res. 30 in the House if called up by the chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs or his designee; that the concurrent resolution be considered as read; that the previous question be considered as ordered on the concurrent resolution to adoption without intervening motion except for 80 minutes of debate with 20 minutes controlled by Representative McCaul of Texas, 20 minutes controlled by Representative Meeks of New York, and 40 minutes controlled by Representative Gaetz of Florida or their respective designees. **Page H1960**

Recess: The House recessed at 1:15 p.m. and reconvened at 1:29 p.m. **Page H1977**

Suspensions—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures. Consideration began Tuesday, April 25th. Advanced, Local Emergency Response Telecommunications Parity Act: H.R. 1353, amended, to direct the Federal Communications Commission to issue rules for the provision of emergency connectivity service, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 422 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 197; and **Pages H1978–79**

Precision Agriculture Satellite Connectivity Act: H.R. 1339, to require the Federal Communications Commission to review certain rules of the Commission and develop recommendations for rule changes to promote precision agriculture, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 409 yeas to 11 nays, Roll No. 200. **Page H2039**

Limit, Save, Grow Act of 2023: The House passed H.R. 2811, to provide for a responsible increase to the debt ceiling, by a yea-and-nay vote of 217 yeas to 215 nays, Roll No. 199. **Pages H1960–77, H1979–S2038**

Rejected the Ryan (NY) motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Ways and Means, by a yea-and-nay vote of 211 yeas to 221 nays, Roll No. 198. **Pages H2037–38**

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment printed in H. Rept. 118–43 shall be considered as adopted. **Pages H1979–S2012**

H. Res. 327, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2811) and the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 39) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 219 ayes to 210 noes, Roll No. 196, after the previous question

was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 218 yeas to 210 nays, Roll No. 195. **Pages H1977–78**

Authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to celebrate a King Kamehameha Day Lei Draping Ceremony: The House agreed to discharge from committee and agree to H. Con. Res. 35, authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to celebrate a King Kamehameha Day Lei Draping Ceremony. **Page H2039**

Authorizing video recording in the House Chamber during a joint meeting of Congress for certain educational purposes: The House agreed to discharge from committee and agree to H. Res. 328, authorizing video recording in the House Chamber during a joint meeting of Congress for certain educational purposes. **Pages H2039–40**

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, April 27th. **Page H2040**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Five yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1977–78, H1978, H1979, H2037–38, H2038, and H2039.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Committee Meetings

PRODUCER PERSPECTIVES ON THE 2023 FARM BILL

Committee on Agriculture: Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities, Risk Management, and Credit held a hearing entitled ''Producer Perspectives on the 2023 Farm Bill''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

PROVIDER RELIEF FUND AND HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE SHORTAGES

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled ''Provider Relief Fund and Healthcare Workforce Shortages''. Testimony was heard from Carole Johnson, Administrator, Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services.

APPROPRIATIONS—FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development held an oversight hearing and budget hearing on the Federal Aviation Administration. Testimony was heard from Billy Nolen, Acting Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE GRANTMAKING COMPONENTS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on the Department of Justice Grantmaking Components. Testimony was heard from the following Department of Justice officials: Hugh T. Clements, Jr., Director, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services; Allison Randall, Acting Director, Office on Violence Against Women; and Rachel Johnson, Chief Financial Officer, Office of Justice Programs.

U.S. MILITARY POSTURE AND NATIONAL SECURITY CHALLENGES IN EUROPE

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''U.S. Military Posture and National Security Challenges in Europe''. Testimony was heard from Celeste Wallander, Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, Department of Defense; and General Christopher G. Cavoli, Commander, U.S. European Command, Department of Defense.

FY24 NATIONAL SECURITY SPACE PROGRAMS HEARING

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces held a hearing entitled ''FY24 National Security Space Programs Hearing''. Testimony was heard from John Plumb, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Space Policy, Department of Defense; Frank Cavelli, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Space Acquisitions and Integration, U.S. Air Force; Christopher Scolese, Director, National Reconnaissance Office, Department of Defense; and Tonya P. Wilkerson, Deputy Director, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense.

FISCAL YEAR 2024 ARMY MODERNIZATION PROGRAMS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces held a hearing entitled ''Fiscal Year 2024 Army Modernization Programs''. Testimony was heard from Douglas R. Bush, Assistant Secretary for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology, Department of the Army; General James E. Rainey, Commanding General, Army Futures Command; and Lieutenant General Erik C. Peterson, Deputy Chief of Staff, G–8, Department of the Army.

REDUCING HEALTH CARE COSTS FOR WORKING AMERICANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Committee on Education and Workforce: Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions held a hearing entitled ''Reducing Health Care Costs for

Working Americans and Their Families''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LOWERING UNAFFORDABLE COSTS: LEGISLATIVE SOLUTIONS TO INCREASE TRANSPARENCY AND COMPETITION IN HEALTH CARE

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled ''Lowering Unaffordable Costs: Legislative Solutions to Increase Transparency and Competition in Health Care''. Testimony was heard from Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services; and public witnesses.

EXPOSING THE ENVIRONMENTAL, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND NATIONAL SECURITY RISKS OF THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S RUSH TO GREEN POLICIES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials held a hearing entitled ''Exposing the Environmental, Human Rights, and National Security Risks of the Biden Administration's Rush to Green Policies''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 835, the ''Fair Investment Opportunities for Professional Experts Act''; H.R. 1579, the ''Accredited Investor Definition Review Act''; H.R. 1548, the ''Improving Access to Small Business Information Act''; H.R. 2792, the ''Small Entity Update Act''; H.R. 2797, the ''Equal Opportunity for All Investors Act''; H.R. 2793, the ''Encouraging Public Offerings Act of 2023''; H.R. 2610, a bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to specify certain registration statement contents for emerging growth companies, to permit issuers to file draft registration statements with the Securities and Exchange Commission for confidential review, and for other purposes; H.R. 2608, a bill to amend the Federal securities laws to specify the periods for which financial statements are required to be provided by an emerging growth company, and for other purposes; H.R. 2795, the ''Enhancing Multi-Class Share Disclosures Act''; H.R. 2593, the ''Senior Security Act''; H.R. 2812, the ''Middle Market IPO Underwriting Cost Act''; H.R. 2796, the ''Promoting Opportunities for Non-Traditional Capital Formation Act''; H.R. 2799, the ''Expanding Access to Capital Act''; H.R. 2798, the ''CFPB Transparency and Accountability Reform Act''; H.R. 1807, the ''Improving Disclosure for Investors Act of 2023''. H.R. 835, H.R. 1579, H.R. 1548, H.R. 2792, H.R. 2797, H.R. 2793, H.R. 2610, H.R. 2608, H.R. 2795, H.R. 2593, H.R. 2812, H.R. 2796, H.R. 2799, H.R. 2798, and H.R. 1807 were ordered reported, as amended.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee began a markup on H.R. 1690, to authorize Secretary of State to negotiate regional immigration agreements, and for other purposes; and H.R. 589, to impose sanctions on the Supreme Leader of Iran and the President of Iran and their respective offices for human rights abuses and support for terrorism.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee On Homeland Security: Full Committee began a markup on H.R. 2794, the ''Border Reinforcement Act of 2023''.

THE PATH TOWARD A MORE MODERN AND EFFECTIVE CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE

Committee on House Administration: Subcommittee on Modernization held a hearing entitled ''The Path Toward a More Modern and Effective Congressional Research Service''. Testimony was heard from Mary B. Mazanec, Director, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT OF THE BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Oversight of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives''. Testimony was heard from Steven Dettelbach, Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Department of Justice.

THE BIDEN BORDER CRISIS: EXPLOITATION OF UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Immigration Integrity, Security, and Enforcement held a hearing entitled ''The Biden Border Crisis: Exploitation of Unaccompanied Alien Children''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXAMINING THE PRESIDENT'S FY 2024 BUDGET REQUEST FOR THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Federal Lands held a hearing entitled ''Examining the President's FY 2024 Budget Request for the U.S. Forest Service''. Testimony was heard from Randy Moore, Chief, National Forest Systems, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture.

EXAMINING THE PRESIDENT'S FY 2024 BUDGET REQUEST FOR THE BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT, THE BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT, AND THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing entitled ''Examining the President's FY 2024 Budget Request for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, and the U.S. Geological Survey''. Testimony was heard from the following Department of the Interior officials: Liz Klein, Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management; Paul Huang, Deputy Director, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement; and David Applegate, Director, U.S. Geological Survey.

THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE'S 2023 HIGH RISK LIST

Committee on Oversight and Accountability: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''The Government Accountability Office's 2023 High Risk List''. Testimony was heard from Gene L Dodaro, Comptroller General, Government Accountability Office.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF SCHOOL CLOSURES, PART 2: THE PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS, MS. RANDI WEINGARTEN

Committee on Oversight and Accountability: Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic held a hearing entitled ''The Consequences of School Closures, Part 2: The President of the American Federation of Teachers, Ms. Randi Weingarten''. Testimony was heard from a public witness.

CHINA IN OUR BACKYARD: HOW CHINESE MONEY LAUNDERING ORGANIZATIONS ENRICH THE CARTELS

Committee on Oversight and Accountability: Subcommittee on Health Care and Financial Services held a hearing entitled ''China in Our Backyard: How Chinese Money Laundering Organizations Enrich the Cartels''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''An Overview of the National Science Foundation Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2024''. Testimony was heard from Sethuraman Panchanathan, Director, National Science Foundation; and Dan Reed, Chair, National Science Board.

HELP WANTED: EXPLORING HOW ALTERNATIVE PATHS TO STUDENT DEBT CAN HELP TO STRENGTHEN SMALL BUSINESS

Committee on Small Business: Subcommittee on Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Workforce Development held a hearing entitled ''Help Wanted: Exploring How Alternative Paths to Student Debt Can Help to Strengthen Small Business''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 2741, the ''Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2023''. H.R. 2741 was ordered reported, as amended.

HEARING ON SOCIAL SECURITY FUNDAMENTALS: A FACT-BASED FOUNDATION

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Social Security held a hearing entitled ''Hearing on Social Security Fundamentals: A Fact-Based Foundation''. Testimony was heard from Stephen Goss, Chief Actuary, Social Security Administration; Barry Huston, Analyst, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; and Phillip Swagel, Director, Congressional Budget Office.

HEARING ON TAX-EXEMPT HOSPITALS AND THE COMMUNITY BENEFIT STANDARD

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Oversight held a hearing entitled ''Hearing on Tax-Exempt Hospitals and the Community Benefit Standard''. Testimony was heard from Jessica Lucas-Judy, Director, Strategic Issues, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2023

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the posture of United States European Command and United States Transportation Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2024 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be followed by a

closed session at 12:30 p.m. in SVC–217, 8 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Credit Reporting Agencies, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Foreign Relations: business meeting to consider the nominations of Elizabeth H. Richard, of Virginia, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large, Eric W. Kneedler, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Rwanda, Kathleen A. FitzGibbon, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Niger, Karen Sasahara, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the State of Kuwait, Elizabeth Rood, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to Turkmenistan, Martina Anna Tkadlec Strong, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, Hugo Yue-Ho Yon, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Maldives, Ann Marie Yastishock, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Solomon Islands and Ambassador to the Republic of Vanuatu, Robin Dunnigan, of California, to be Ambassador to Georgia, and David J. Kostelancik, of Illinois, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Albania, all of the Department of State, and other pending calendar business, 10 a.m., S–116, Capitol.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider S. 1207, to establish a National Commission on Online Child Sexual Exploitation Prevention, S. 1199, to combat the sexual exploitation of children by supporting victims and promoting accountability and transparency by the tech industry, S. 1080, to amend the Controlled Substances Act to require electronic communication service providers and remote computing services to report to the Attorney General certain controlled substances violations, and the nominations of Michael Arthur Delaney, of New Hampshire, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit, Charnelle Bjelkengren, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington, Amanda K. Brailsford, to be United States District Judge for the District of Idaho, S. Kato Crews, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado, Marian F. Gaston, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California, Molly R. Silfen, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims, and Eric G. Olshan, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania, Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SD–106.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Commodity Markets, Digital Assets, and Rural Development, hearing entitled ''The Future of Digital Assets: Identifying the Regulatory Gaps in Spot Market Regulation'', 2 p.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Drug Enforcement Administration, 9 a.m., H–309 Capitol.

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Federal Bureau of Investigation, 1:30 p.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, budget hearing on the Federal Trade Commission, 2 p.m., 2362–A Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Department of the Air Force Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Request'', 12:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Intelligence and Special Operations, hearing entitled ''A Review of the Defense Intelligence Enterprise's Posture and Capabilities in Strategic Competition and in Synchronizing Intelligence Efforts to Counter the People's Republic of China'', 4 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce, hearing entitled ''Addressing America's Data Privacy Shortfalls: How a National Standard Fills Gaps to Protect Americans' Personal Information'', 2 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''The Biosafety of Risky Research: Examining if Science is Outpacing Policy and Safety'', 2:30 p.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Digital Assets, Financial Technology, and Inclusion, hearing entitled ''The Future of Digital Assets: Identifying the Regulatory Gaps in Digital Asset Market Structure'', 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on National Security, Illicit Finance, and International Financial Institutions, hearing entitled ''Oversight of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) and the Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence (TFI)'', 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection, hearing entitled ''CISA 2025: The State of American Cybersecurity from CISA's Perspective'', 2 p.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on House Administration, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''American Confidence in Elections: State Tools to Promote Voter Confidence'', 2:30 p.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance, hearing entitled ''Fixing FISA: How a Law Designed to Protect Americans Has Been Weaponized Against Them'', 9 a.m., 2237 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet, hearing entitled ''Oversight of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office'', 9 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, markup on the H.J. Res. 29, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Lesser Prairie-Chicken; Threatened Status With Section 4(d) Rule for the Northern Distinct Population Segment and Endangered Status for the Southern Distinct Population Segment''; H.J. Res. 46, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the

National Marine Fisheries Service relating to ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Regulations for Listing Endangered and Threatened Species and Designating Critical Habitat''; H.J. Res. 49, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Northern Long-Eared Bat''; H.R. 215, the ''WATER for California Act''; H.R. 764, the ''Trust the Science Act''; H.R. 1245, the ''Grizzly Bear State Management Act of 2023''; H.R. 1319, the ''Biking on Long-Distance Trails Act''; H.R. 1419, the ''Comprehensive Grizzly Bear Management Act of 2023''; and H.R. 1567, the ''ACRES Act'', 9:45 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''An Overview of the Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Budget Request for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration'', 1 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Hearing on Accountability and Transparency at the Internal Revenue Service with IRS Commissioner Werfel'', 1 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Subcommittee on Defense Intelligence and Overhead Architecture, hearing entitled ''Defense Intelligence Agency Budget Hearing'', 9 a.m., HVC–304. This hearing is closed.

Joint Meeting

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: to hold hearings to examine church, state, and Russia's war on Ukraine, 1 p.m., 2020, Rayburn Building.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

12 noon, Thursday, April 27

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S.J. Res. 4, Equal Rights Amendment, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 12:30 p.m.

Following disposition of S.J. Res. 4, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Anthony Devos Johnstone, of Montana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

(At 11 a.m., His Excellency Yoon Suk Yeol, President of the Republic of Korea, will address a Joint Meeting of Congress in the Hall of the House of Representatives. Senators should gather in the Senate Chamber at 10:20 a.m., to proceed as a body to the House Chamber at 10:30 a.m.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Thursday, April 27

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Joint Meeting to receive His Excellency Yoon Suk Yeol, President of the Republic of Korea. Consideration of H. Con. Res. 30—Directing the President, pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution, to remove all United States Armed Forces, other than United States Armed Forces assigned to protect the United States Embassy, from Somalia.

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