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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 10, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHELLE STEEL 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.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, enough is enough. How many more times must public officials stand here before our colleagues demanding commonsense gun reform?

Malls are not safe. Schools are not safe. Places of worship are not safe. We should not be afraid to step outside our own homes for the fear of losing our lives at the mercy of an assault weapon.

We should not be afraid that we may never see our child again when we drop them off at school. We should not be afraid to attend a place of worship with loved ones.

Madam Speaker, it has been 19 years since the Federal assault weapons ban expired, 19 years since Congress has acknowledged the lives lost because of assault weapons.

In this year alone, there have been 203 mass shootings. That is 203 in 5 months. Over the past 10 years, this has resulted in 14,798 deaths, 617 of which were children and teens.

In my home State of Texas, there have been 17 mass shootings resulting in 29 deaths and 61 injured. Texas accounts for 8 percent of nationwide mass shootings. It is very troubling.

In my home county, 11 people have already died as a result of gun violence. Just this weekend, eight were killed and seven injured in Allen, Texas, at the hands of a gunman, killed for simply shopping at a mall, something we all do.

How many more victims must die before we decide that enough is enough? Instead of being concerned about human lives, House Republicans are choosing to focus on beating up on Social Security and banning books.

Our own Texas State leadership prioritizes political points over lives, politics over people. How long can leadership in Austin fail to do a single, meaningful action to take weapons of war out of the hands of violent extremists, domestic abusers, or even teenagers?

Except for the Santa Fe shooting, all of the Texas shootings have been with an assault weapon.

When five people, including a child, were shot and killed in Cleveland, Texas, our Governor tried to deflect the situation by talking about and blaming undocumented immigrants who were the victims. This is ridiculous. Immigration status has nothing to do with it. It is irrelevant. It is about people. It is about making sure we put people over politics, about making sure we put people's lives over the NRA.

I call upon my Republican colleagues to enact commonsense gun reform legislation now. We must stop making excuses. The only path toward fewer deaths as a result of gun violence is commonsense gun reform.

I call on the Supreme Court, as they approach a case that could strike down State and local laws banning AR–15s in all 50 States, to please look at precedent. Please look at the true meaning of the Second Amendment.

We must protect our children. We must protect our lives. My hope is that no more needless deaths will occur before Congress can unite against mass shootings. No more deaths. No more grief. No more waiting on legislation. It is time to put people over politics. It is time to put people over the NRA. It is time for change, and the time is now.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

IN SUPPORT OF THE SOUTHWEST ILLINOIS CONNECTOR

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

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of a project that has been decades in the making: the Southwest Illinois Connector.

This proposed expansion of Illinois State Highways 127, 154, and 3 to four lanes would create a rural expressway

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between St. Louis, Missouri, and Carbondale, Illinois.

The latest push for the Southwest Illinois Connector began in 2017 when officials in my district from Jackson, Perry, Randolph, and Monroe Counties formed the Four County Highway Coalition.

In 2019, this group partnered with the Illinois Department of Transportation to do a report and the project that would indicate exactly what this would affect. What they discovered was that it would create thousands of construction jobs. It would reduce auto accidents. It would boost economic development. It would benefit national security, and it would improve public health.

Now, I can't overstate how much of a difference this would make. The planned route of the Southwest Illinois Connector includes a stretch that is currently in the top 5 percent for traffic fatalities and injuries on two-lane highways. The Southwest Illinois Connector would also have an important impact on helping grow the economy and spur new investments in the region. It would also prove timely in the delivery of aid and assistance following a natural disaster and help address patient transport issues from rural areas for their healthcare needs.

In closing, I thank Murphysboro Mayor Will Stephens and Marc Kiehna, the Randolph County board chair, for their leadership in building a coalition of support for this long-sought-after project. This project would be the difference maker for southern Illinois.

''JOAQUIN'S FIRST SCHOOL SHOOTING''

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

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, today, I rise with a heavy heart, a heart of grief. I grieve for a Nation where 111 Americans are shot and killed every single day. I grieve for a generation of kids growing up surrounded by violence. I think of William Cho, 6 years old, who lost his parents and his younger brother, not living in a war zone but going to a shopping mall in our country.

I grieve for the parents who have suffered the inconceivable pain of losing a child, a beloved family member, parents like Patricia and Manny Oliver, who are here with us today, whose son, Joaquin, was murdered alongside 16 classmates and staff in Parkland, Florida.

Ahead of Mother's Day weekend, Patricia and Manny published a children's book, a book that illustrates the horror of America's gun epidemic from the perspective of its youngest victims.

Madam Speaker, I would like to read from ''Joaquin's First School Shooting.'' May it give some pause to all of us, especially my colleagues who continue to prioritize guns over our children.

''Joaquin's First School Shooting.''

The end of the day, was also my own.
Bled out on the floor, and never got home.
We heard a loud bang!
Then off went the alarm.
My classmates freaked out, but I tried to keep calm.
Out in the hall, a killer had a gun.
He shot into a class, then came right for us.
He took aim and fired—again, and again, and again.
One life at a time, my friends met their end.
He came up the stairs, hunting for more.
That's when we all panicked, and ran for the door.
We tried to get clear, but it was a bit late.
It was his machine gun, that decided our fates.
Our country is numb, to violence like this.
Politicians don't care. They still keep their seats.
We must not forget, or I've died in vain!
Enough is enough. Please . . . never again!

Let us remember all of the victims and remember that this is a choice. We have solutions. We can end gun violence in this country.

THE SOUTHERN BORDER IS NOT SECURE

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

Mr. KUSTOFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of H.R. 2, which is the Secure the Border Act.

Everyone knows that the southern border is not secure. At the start of his Presidency, Joe Biden halted construction of the border wall, essentially prevented Immigration and Customs Enforcement from doing its job to keep our country safe.

And took steps to end the Migrant Protection Protocols as well as other enforcement policies.

President Biden's open border policies have led to the humanitarian and national security crisis at our southern border today. Since Joe Biden took office, there have been over 5 million illegal border crossings at the southern border. Customs and Border Protection officers have seized over 14,000 pounds of deadly fentanyl that have come across our southern border. For perspective, that is enough fentanyl to kill every single American.

Furthermore, in just the first 6 months of this fiscal year, 2023, the names of 80 people who appear on the terrorist watch list were stopped trying to cross the southern border.

It is about to get much worse, because tomorrow, title 42, one of our most powerful tools to quickly expel illegal immigrants, will expire. Again, that happens tomorrow.

Title 42 is a public health order that allows migrants, who would otherwise be held in processing facilities, to be quickly expelled due to a risk of COVID–19 transmission.

The end of title 42 is expected to incentivize a worsening influx of illegal migrants. Border Patrol officials at our border are already seeing an unprecedented surge at our southern border with over 26,000 migrant apprehensions in just 72 hours.

For more than 2 years, President Biden and his administration have ignored the crisis. I can tell you that House Republicans have listened to the concerns of Americans and are working on solutions to the crisis. In our Commitment to America, we promised to create a Nation that is safe.

We are going to vote soon on the Secure the Border Act, to make sure that our southern border is, in fact, secure and to combat illegal immigration.

Just a few things that our Secure the Border Act will do:

Number 1, it will force the administration to restart construction of the border wall.

□ 1015

It will deploy technology to the southern and northern border. It will increase the number of Border Patrol agents, and it will increase their pay. It will require transparency regarding illegal crossings from the Department of Homeland Security. It will strengthen our current law to protect unaccompanied children from human trafficking. It will end catch and release. It will end the abuse of executive immigration authority. It will strengthen and streamline the asylum process.

This bill, the Secure the Border Act, fulfills our promise to the American people to offer solutions to a crisis that affects not just cities and States along the border but every city and every State in this Nation.

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

CREATE A LEGAL PATHWAY TO CITIZENSHIP

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

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise today as the daughter of immigrants to urge my colleagues to please vote ''no'' on an even more dehumanizing bill. It dehumanizes our immigrant neighbors. H.R. 2, which is known better as the child deportation act, is fueled with hateful rhetoric that I think is very dangerous for our country.

I am honestly not sure if the goal with this bill is to worsen our broken immigration system or to simply keep as many Black and Brown immigrants out of our country as they can. I know bringing back family and child deportation is immoral. Prohibiting funds to organizations providing lifesaving humanitarian aid to migrants is simply cruel.

This bill dehumanizes and is incredibly painful to see our colleagues pushing forward. Many have called it racist and inhumane, that it is fear-mongering, and that it is failed policies that will continue to worsen our broken immigration system.

We must in this Chamber protect all of our neighbors. We also must work toward protecting those who are fleeing horrific violence. We need to continue to be leaders in creating a safe haven for those who seek asylum.

We cannot and should not embrace hate rhetoric and policies that only seek to pit communities against each other, tear families apart, and put our immigrant neighbors in harm's way here in the United States, Madam Speaker, and also those from other countries.

No human being is illegal. I believe that in my heart. I will continue to fight to make sure that we pass some sort of comprehensive immigration reform that gives our immigrant neighbors the dignified, legal pathway to citizenship they deserve.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to voting against this horrible, racist bill and urge my colleagues to vote ''no.''

ENGAGING WITH THE MAMAS' CAUCUS

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize mothers of the Michigan 12th Congressional District and across our country. I wish them all Happy Mother's Day.

I am proud to be a mother of two incredible boys. That is why, last year, I joined Mothering Justice, a national organization made up of mothers to create the first-ever Congressional Mamas' Caucus.

We are fighting together for fair and equitable access to childcare, paid leave, and benefits for our care workers, and real economic justice for our families.

In the Mamas' Caucus, we are committed to advocating for all mamas. We must not only pass important policies about mothers to help mothers but with our mothers. That is why the Congressional Mamas' Caucus is so incredibly important.

We all know the cost of raising a family in our country is among the highest in the world and that our policies and social safety nets too often leave our families behind, especially communities of color. We also know that mamas are on the front lines of our fight for reproductive justice and more.

Again, we cannot leave them behind, and we cannot continue to talk about policies that directly impact them without them being there at the table to shape those policies so it can be transformative and meaningful.

If anything, Madam Speaker, the pandemic exposed just how broken our safety nets were, and the Mamas' Caucus remains committed to ending child poverty, to focus on those safety nets that continue to not serve our families currently.

I read a quote during the pandemic that I think resonates why the Mamas' Caucus is so important in this Chamber. It was a quote by a wonderful poet, Sonya Renee Taylor. In the midst and height of the pandemic, she said: ''We will not go back to normal. Normal never was. Our pre-corona existence was not normal other than we normalized greed, inequity, exhaustion, depletion, extraction, disconnection, confusion, rage, hoarding, hate, and lack. We should not long to return, my friends. We are being given the opportunity to stitch a new garment, one that fits all of humanity and nature.''

Again, this was her expression, and it resonates for mothers like myself and across the country an understanding that the pandemic gave us an opportunity to recognize those broken systems and how we need to create a new garment. The way we can do it is by bringing mothers in the room as we develop these policies that directly impact all of our families.

Madam Speaker, I welcome my colleagues to be engaged with the Congressional Mamas' Caucus, to engage on the policies we are pushing forward. I appreciate this opportunity to uplift them in this Chamber every day—not only on Mother's Day, but every single day.

18TH INSTALLMENT OF FARM BILL IMPACT SERIES

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

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to deliver the 18th installment of my farm bill impact series and recap the time I spent in Kansas with House Agriculture Committee Chairman G.T. THOMPSON.

Last week, Chairman THOMPSON and I hosted a food and agriculture listening session with more than 150 farmers, ranchers, agricultural producers, and stakeholders on a wheat farm near Gypsum, Kansas. People from a wide range of perspectives shared their thoughts about the reauthorization of the farm bill.

While everyone had different viewpoints, we united because we care about American agriculture; we care about getting ag policy right; and we want to see American farmers, ranchers, and producers thrive. There is a picture of that unity right behind us in three combines, referenced right here, hoisting American flags.

John Deere, Case, and Gleaner—green, red, and gray. When you grow up on a farm, you are born into a loyalty to one of these trusted American brands. They are different. They have different styles and different features, but they are all designed to do the same thing: harvest. They are designed to produce, to take months and months of hard work and effectively churn out a product.

Our food and agriculture listening session was no different. Everyone present brought different styles, priorities, background, and tools to the table, but we were there to do the same thing: harvest, produce, and take hard work and effectively churn out a product. That is the farm bill.

Without the advocacy and input of producers and stakeholders, my colleagues and I wouldn't have a complete picture of what needs to be done on ag legislation. We would just be one combine.

At our event, we hosted people who care about title I and people who care about title XII. There were people who care about row crops and people who care about livestock. There were representatives from commodity groups and representatives from trade associations. It was a rich, multifaceted picture of American agriculture, and I am grateful to everyone who joined us and for the Kansas agriculture heritage that inspired us to spend time together on that wheat farm.

The brave men and women who ventured west in search of new opportunities settled Kansas and took on the burden of feeding, fueling, and clothing the world. They struggled through the Dust Bowl, raised their kids in sod houses, and broke the prairie for the first time. In doing so, they laid the foundation for what we experienced last week: a shared history of feeding the world on the soil beneath our feet.

I remember in February 2021, when I just started this job in Congress, Kansas had 13 consecutive days of below-freezing temperatures, which was a 40-year record. While I was flying back and forth between Kansas and D.C., I couldn't stop thinking about the Kansas producers and all they were facing. They were out busting ice by hand at all hours so their cattle could have access to water. They were delivering baby calves and hauling them on the floorboards of trucks to someplace warmer, bottle-feeding them so they could grow and survive in the wind chills. They were out in the barn at all hours of the night, only to start over at 5 a.m. All this was so that Americans have a safe and secure food supply.

Whether it is trudging through knee-high snow in the dead of winter, working the fields in the heat of summer, or hauling water in a drought, American ag producers don't take days off. Agriculture inspires us to look back at our shared heritage, engage in the present, and plan for the future. That is what last week was about—planning for the future.

Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman THOMPSON for spending his invaluable time with me in Kansas, and I thank all of our hosts and those who came out to our event to share their perspectives.

As we work to reauthorize the farm bill, the American men and women who work tirelessly to feed, fuel, and clothe all of us are at the forefront of my mind.

Madam Speaker, I will be back on the floor soon to host another installment of my farm bill impact series.

NEW YORK CITY'S EFFORTS TO WELCOME MIGRANTS

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, New York City is again serving its traditional role as a beacon of light of opportunity for this Nation when it comes to the humane and just treatment of asylum seekers.

Madam Speaker, that lady still stands at the harbor telling us: ''Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to be free.'' That message is heard across the country. My family heard that message.

Madam Speaker, I am sure that even across the country in California, your family heard this message, a tremendous message that is at the very center of America, at the heart of America.

Last spring, in an act of political theater, Republican Governors began transporting asylum seekers to New York City and other cities across the country. In response, New Yorkers have welcomed them because this is America. They reaffirmed our commitment to ensuring that the American Dream is available for all those who want to seek it and want to make their case before government.

We should allow people to come and make their case before our government, and then we will determine whether or not they can remain in our country.

Since last spring, my city has welcomed over 60,000 new New Yorkers who are seeking asylum in our country. I congratulate and thank Mayor Eric Adams for his remarkable leadership in taking on this great challenge.

Over the past year, New York City has opened up eight new humanitarian response and relief centers and 122 emergency shelters. These shelters are currently providing over 37,000 asylum seekers with beds while their cases are being processed.

However, New York City cannot do it alone. We must get the help of FEMA. This is why I and New York City's congressional delegation fought so hard to secure nearly $40 million for much-needed Federal funding.

New York is a proud right-to-shelter city. It requires the city to provide asylum seekers with shelter, along with their families.

This week, I led a letter by the congressional delegation of our city to FEMA to oversee the immediate release of an additional $360 million in shelter and services funds. We must get that aid.

Madam Speaker, I will address another issue, the weaponization of immigration. Every day, right on this floor, we hear some of our colleagues weaponize immigration for political purposes, particularly during election season. We hear them weaponize this issue to try to score some cheap political points.

They try to say that it is the moms who walked for thousands of miles with their children fleeing violence that are carrying fentanyl and other dangerous drugs when, in fact, all the evidence from law enforcement shows us that those drugs are being transported through the ports of entry.

Madam Speaker, let's invest in making our ports of entry stronger and safer so that these dangerous drugs, weapons, and human trafficking do not continue to occur.

□ 1030

This political theater of weaponizing immigration must stop. It divides the Nation, it makes us look foolish across the world, and it diminishes us as a beacon of hope and opportunity that has that lady still on the harbor.

Madam Speaker, I encourage New York and other places in need of funding for asylum seekers to apply for a variety of benefits made available to them through the Department of Education, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Department of Health and Human Services.

Madam Speaker, this is a nation of immigrants. Don't allow immigration to be weaponized. Let's make sure we address the issue in a comprehensive way.

Keep the faith.

LOWERING COSTS

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

Mr. NICKEL. Madam Speaker, it has been just over 100 days since I was sworn into office, and it is an amazing honor and privilege to represent the people of North Carolina's 13th District.

Over the last few months, I have had the pleasure of hearing from so many of my constituents through phone calls, emails, texts, townhall meetings, and meetings all over the district.

Right now, the reality is that North Carolinians need help keeping up with the rising costs of goods and services. Seniors and young parents alike deserve the opportunity to build their families and put down roots. However, with an unfair and overburdensome tax system, coupled with the increasing cost of living, making ends meet is tough.

To show this, I commissioned an economic impact report using a sample budget based on the median costs for basic necessities through the Economic Policy Institute and the United States Census. The report shows that working families are finding it hard to pay for things like rent, groceries, childcare, and healthcare.

Madam Speaker, when you take a closer look at the budget breakdown, it is a real wake-up call. A working family could spend about 19 percent of their income on childcare, 21 percent on housing, and 22 percent on healthcare.

I have collected testimonials and survey responses from hundreds of constituents who shared their personal experiences dealing with the rising cost of childcare and the rising cost of housing.

I heard from a former State employee and mother of three who shared that she spends 50 percent of her income on childcare. She noted that over the past several years, childcare prices have not decreased and that salaries are not commensurate with inflation and the cost-of-living increases.

I also heard from a family whose youngest son, a recent college graduate with a job at the median salary in North Carolina, can't pay rent or purchase a small home in Raleigh or in the suburbs. They are worried because we want our young people to succeed, but it is hard to do so under the current circumstances.

Madam Speaker, it is clear, working families are struggling to keep up. Working families deserve to know that their leaders are willing to roll up their sleeves and find bipartisan solutions that will make a real difference in their lives and their budgets.

I am working to do just that. In Congress, I am working in a bipartisan way to level the playing field for working families by lowering out-of-pocket costs and creating a fair tax system that benefits everyone.

I am leading the charge against a proposal to implement a 30 percent national sales tax instead of a Federal income tax. That would be a disaster for working families.

I have cosponsored the COVER Now Act to lower healthcare costs. I have cosponsored the Food Deserts Act which will increase access to grocery stores and help address the cost of food. I have cosponsored the Child Care for Every Community Act to expand access to affordable childcare.

I have also just introduced today the ACRE Act to help lower mortgage costs for rural communities and enable North Carolina farmers to have greater access to credit through community banks.

Madam Speaker, as I stand here in this absolutely magnificent Chamber, I am constantly reminded just how fragile our democracy is—our government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

As the Representative for the people of North Carolina's 13th District, I will keep working hard in a bipartisan way to find solutions to get results for our families, our friends, and our neighbors.

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 34 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

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

O Lord, our God, Your thoughts are not our thoughts, neither are Your ways our ways. But we pray that You would grant us insight into Your gracious plan and provide evidence of Your steadfast love for creation even as war continues to rage in Ukraine and senseless attacks are visited upon the Ukrainian people.

You look from Your heavens and permit humanity to continue on its course toward destruction. Lord, we pray that You would redeem our foolish ways and show us the path toward peace.

The heavens are indeed higher than the Earth and Your ways beyond our comprehension. Lord, we pray that You would magnify our understanding of Your presence in the midst of the mayhem that rages throughout the world.

Your thoughts are most certainly higher than our own. We acknowledge that we cannot fully know Your purpose as we hear of innocent people having to endure unspeakable strife in their own families, in their communities, in the sanctity of their homeland. Lord, we pray that You would enlighten our minds, temper our will, that our thoughts and ways would serve to carve the way toward reconciliation.

Hear our prayers as we offer them in the hope of Your saving name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

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

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

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. CORREA 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.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Ms. Deirdre Kelly, one of his secretaries.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

MEMORIALIZING OKLAHOMAN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

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

Mrs. BICE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Police Week, which serves as a reminder to remember and memorialize law enforcement officers who gave their lives in the line of duty.

Tragically, this includes two Oklahomans, Sergeant C.J. Nelson and Sergeant Bobby Swartz. These officers have 32 years of combined service for their respective forces, and both leave behind loved ones.

I offer my deepest condolences and prayers to their families. We will always remember the sacrifice of these two heroes, and we cannot thank them enough for protecting and serving our communities.

From Isaiah 40:31, ''But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.''

UNITED STATES NORTHERN BORDER FINALLY REOPENS

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, after 3 long years of COVID restrictions, on May 12, the United States' northern border finally reopens fully to our Canadian neighbors. This is a turning point in rebuilding the relationships and economies along the U.S.-Canadian border.

In 2019, prior to the pandemic, domestic and international travel spending reached $3.1 billion in my western New York district alone.

As we emerge from a global health crisis and celebrate National Travel and Tourism Week, let's seek out opportunities to encourage and ease travel in the United States. This includes adequately funding Federal agencies to support travel, investing in infrastructure, and modernizing NEXUS and passports to improve the travel experience.

Together, we can highlight U.S. destinations ready to be explored and grow the economy.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

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

H.R. 346. An act to establish a task force on improvements for notices to air missions, and for other purposes.

REMEMBERING SERGEANT FIRST CLASS BAILEY GILLESPIE

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Sergeant First Class Bailey Gillespie, who lived in Rutherford County in my district and passed away on April 11.

Sergeant Gillespie was a member of the 27th Infantry Regiment during the Korean war. In November 1950, he was captured. He spent the next 2½ years as a POW.

During this time, he was tortured, starved, and nearly died. He was the last POW survivor of the 27th Regiment. Throughout, he kept his faith in God.

Sergeant Gillespie survived and returned home victorious. For many veterans, talking about their experiences is painful, but Sergeant Gillespie spoke about it frequently. He helped other veterans heal. He also became one of Rutherford County's most active citizens, a leader in every sense of the word.

To his beloved wife of 70 years, Joy, I extend condolences and thanks from a grateful Nation.

HONORING ANAHEIM POLICE CHIEF JORGE CISNEROS

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the career and service of retiring Anaheim Police Chief Jorge Cisneros.

Chief Cisneros is a 33-year law enforcement veteran and has served as police chief for the past 13 years for various southern California cities. He started his career way back in 1990 at the Long Beach Police Department, where he worked his way up through the ranks to become a commander.

At Long Beach, Chief Cisneros developed and administered a 15-week Spanish Community Academy for officers to enhance trust and partnership with the Latino community that then made up 40 percent of the residents of Long Beach.

In 2018, Chief Cisneros was selected as Anaheim's police chief, leading 600 employees in that department.

Chief Cisneros holds a master's degree in criminal justice from Chapman University in the city of Orange and has served as a member and current vice president of the Orange County Chiefs and Sheriffs Association.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call Jorge a good friend and mentor. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and

celebrating the career of Chief Jorge Cisneros and congratulate him on his well-deserved retirement.

REPUBLICANS ADDRESS THE DEBT CEILING

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, last month, I was grateful to join House Republicans in passing the Limit, Save, Grow Act, which will limit government spending, reduce the Federal regulatory state, and promote pro-growth energy and economic policies, creating jobs. House Republicans, led by Speaker KEVIN MCCARTHY, have acted responsibly to address the debt limit deadline.

On behalf of American families now and in the future, this legislation should next pass the Senate.

Americans are struggling every day with 40-year-high inflation, jobs destroyed, rising gas prices, and the highest interest rates in decades. Unfortunately, President Biden has insisted on a blank check to increase the debt ceiling without any reforms on how Biden spends and wastes taxpayer money.

This legislation will save an estimated $4.8 trillion over 10 years, maintaining a strong national defense and protecting Medicare and Social Security.

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.

END GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, since we were last together on the floor, gun violence has been unending. There were eight dead, seven injured at a shopping mall in Allen, Texas; one dead, four injured at a medical office in Atlanta, Georgia; six dead in Henryetta, Oklahoma; and five dead in Cleveland, Texas. These are just the high-visibility mass shootings.

Gun violence is the leading cause of death for children and teenagers and is costing our country $280 billion a year. Kids shouldn't worry about being shot if their basketball rolls into a neighbor's yard or if they knock on a door. Teenagers shouldn't worry about being shot if they pull into the wrong driveway. Families shouldn't worry about being shot if they go shopping.

Republican leadership must listen to the majority of Americans, including Republicans and gun owners who support gun violence prevention laws.

Mr. Speaker, I am calling on my Republican colleagues in the majority to bring lifesaving gun violence prevention legislation to this House floor for a vote as soon as we can.

FAMILIES DESERVE ACCESS TO NUTRITIOUS FOOD

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

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the SHOPP Act.

At its core, the legislation addresses a simple truth: Families deserve access to nutritious foods in all of its forms.

The SHOPP Act broadens the current produce prescription program, which, as it stands, limits recipients to the purchase of fresh produce only.

However, this restriction overlooks a crucial fact: Not all produce is equally accessible in all areas at all times. Frozen fruits and veggies can offer a nutritious, convenient, and year-round solution for families.

This is not about valuing one form of produce over another but about meeting families where they are in everyday life. It is about giving families the flexibility to choose the produce that works best for them, whether it is fresh or frozen.

Research clearly shows that when families have access to a variety of fruits and veggies, they eat more produce. By diversifying the options available through GusNIP, the SHOPP Act doesn't just increase access to nutrition. It also empowers families to make healthier choices.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the SHOPP Act and, in doing so, support health, support well-being, and ensure year-round nutrition for all Americans.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARL). The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is in violation of the rules of the House.

□ 1215

DEBT CEILING

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

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the chaos the Republicans have created by playing with our debt limit. The GOP's default on America plan is disastrous for American families and our economy.

There is no reason why we should debate whether America should honor its obligations and pay its debt on time. Extreme Republicans would even prefer us to default for purely political and partisan means.

Instead of bringing a serious proposal that could be passed in the Senate and signed by the President, Republicans brought a bill to the floor that would threaten Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and veterans benefits.

Time and again, we have asked Republicans to show us their budget and to present us with a comprehensive plan for our Nation. They can't do it. Instead, they come to the table with extremist policies that fail to do the one thing it is supposed to do: pay our bills on time.

President Biden and leaders JEFFRIES and SCHUMER have all made it crystal clear that we must pass a clean debt limit and honor our commitments. There is no other option.

As we get closer to June 1, I implore my Republican colleagues to see how much they are hurting the American families they claim to serve and present us with a real solution for the debt limit.

HONORING MRS. JANE JESSEN

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

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Nebraska's finest elementary educators, Mrs. Jane Jessen of Norfolk, Nebraska. Mrs. Jessen has taught at Sacred Heart Elementary School and Norfolk Catholic School since 1984.

Every single day in the classroom, she worked hard to inspire each student to find their own path and to celebrate what makes them a very important person.

Jane has lived her life to help others. She has touched the lives of so many not only in the classroom, but she has also touched the lives of those who have witnessed her resilience by living her faith during times of tragedy and sorrow.

Norfolk Catholic School won the lottery of teachers when Mrs. Jane Jessen went to work for the students.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of everybody in the First Congressional District, I thank my fifth grade teacher, Sacred Heart School, and Norfolk Catholic, Jane Jessen, for everything she has done for our State and our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Mrs. Jessen a happy retirement.

WILDFIRE SEASON

(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, I would like to highlight a potential catastrophe that may befall the Western United States in this upcoming 2023 fire season. Indeed, it is underway. A total of 196 fires have already burned a total of over 50 acres so far, and it is going to be much, much more than that since it is on the heels of wintertime when they are easier to contain.

The worst wildfires in the West are due to overgrowth and neglect of our Federal lands that are overpopulated with trees. They get too hot for conventional firefighting methods. When this occurs, fire retardant dropped

from aircraft is our best and sometimes only option.

Dropping retardant from aircraft ahead of advancing wildfire helps our firefighters who are on the ground in harm's way to maybe not get enveloped in fire and be able to do their jobs. It allows us time to organize evacuations and eventually contain and put the fire out.

A radical environmental organization is suing to have an injunction put on the use of fire retardants until firefighting agencies complete a yearslong permit process to use fire retardants.

It is ridiculous and amazing how out of touch they are to take away the tool of fire retardant dropped from aircraft to help put fires out in the West.

Congressman PANETTA and I are working on a bill that we are introducing called the Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act. We need this sort of thing. We need that protection.

APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule II, and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Chair announces that the Speaker appointed Mr. Matthew B. Berry as General Counsel of the United States House of Representatives, effective February 1, 2023.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 10, 2023.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section l(k) of House Resolution 895, One Hundred Tenth Congress, and section 4(d) of House Resolution 5, One Hundred Eighteenth Congress, I transmit to you notification that the following individuals each have signed an agreement not to be a candidate for the office of Senator or Representative in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress for purposes of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 until at least 3 years after they are no longer a member of the board or staff of the Office of Congressional Ethics:

Michael D. Barnes
Paul Vinovich
Lynn Westmoreland
Lorraine C. Miller
William H. Cable
Annie Cho
William P. Luther
Helen Eisner
Karen L. Haas
Kristina M. Crump
Docktrel Cromartie
Omar Ashmawy
Caleb S. Moore
Aaron Wilensky
lndhira Benitez

Copies of the signed agreements will be retained by the Office of the Clerk as part of the records of the House.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 118–38)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the Central African Republic declared in Executive Order 13667 of May 12, 2014, is to continue in effect beyond May 12, 2023.

The situation in and in relation to the Central African Republic has been marked by a breakdown of law and order; intersectarian tension; the pervasive, often forced recruitment and use of child soldiers; and widespread violence and atrocities, including those committed by Kremlin-linked and Yevgeniy Prigozhin-affiliated entities such as the Wagner Group. These dynamics threaten the peace, security, or stability of the Central African Republic and neighboring states, and continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13667 with respect to the Central African Republic.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, *May 10, 2023.*

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SECURING THE INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY AND SERVICES SUPPLY CHAIN—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 118–39)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13873 of May 15, 2019, with respect to securing the information and communications technology and services supply chain, is to continue in effect beyond May 15, 2023.

The unrestricted acquisition or use in the United States of information and communications technology or services designed, developed, manufactured, or supplied by persons owned by, controlled by, or subject to the jurisdiction or direction of foreign adversaries augments the ability of these foreign adversaries to create and exploit vulnerabilities in information and communications technology or services, with potentially catastrophic effects. This threat continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13873 with respect to securing the information and communications technology and services supply chain.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, *May 10, 2023.*

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1612

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FLOOD) at 4 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2, SECURE THE BORDER ACT OF 2023; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1163, PROTECTING TAXPAYERS AND VICTIMS OF UNEMPLOYMENT FRAUD ACT

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 383 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 383

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 2) to secure the borders of the United States, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) five hours of debate, with two hours equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Homeland Security or their respective designees, two hours equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees, and one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs 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 bill (H.R. 1163) to provide incentives for States to recover fraudulently paid Federal and State unemployment compensation, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill, modified by 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) 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 Texas is recognized for 1 hour.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

□ 1615

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, we have a crisis at our southern border that has captured the attention of the American people but has fallen on deaf ears among my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and, much more importantly, the President and the administration at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue.

Just yesterday, I received a text from multiple law enforcement officers along the southern border, whether it is with the Department of Public Safety from Texas or whether it is with Border Patrol. For example, this is a quote:

As of last night, the radios went crazy for west and south Laredo, waves of folks, literally just group after group, bum-rushing the border. The agents were spread thin as hell.

In my precinct, we are literally all doubled up because our units are breaking down every other day. Ranchers are calling every other day, stating there are folks on their property, but we can't get there fast enough.

I hate to say this, but we are getting our rear-ends handed to us. I used to have patterns, trends, and knew the dropoff, pickup areas, but now it is an ''expletive'' free-for-all.

Approximately 600 bodies at the gate just half a mile east from Yarbrough happening right now in El Paso.

I have hundreds of these texts right now flooding into my phone, like every other Member of Congress, because what is happening is an abject failure at the border. It is a humanitarian crisis for Americans and for migrants.

Mr. Speaker, 5 million have been encountered at the southern border, and 2 million have been released into the United States, incentivizing more to come.

Over 1.5 million have evaded apprehension—i.e., got-aways evading detection from Border Patrol since the beginning of this administration.

Fentanyl is pouring into our communities. Border Patrol has seized over 35,000 pounds of fentanyl. Just last Thursday morning, I met with three fentanyl moms out of dozens of moms that I met with because their children have died from fentanyl.

Eight children in the school district in the county in which I reside southwest of Austin have died of fentanyl poisoning since last August. Over 10 have had to be resuscitated, revived with Narcan.

Just last summer, 53 migrants were effectively cooked in a tractor-trailer in the hot Texas heat in San Antonio, Texas.

Mr. Speaker, 856 dead migrant bodies were found along the Rio Grande, in south Texas, and on ranches. Little girls are sold into the sex trafficking trade, held in stash houses in Laredo, Brownsville, El Paso, San Antonio, Houston, and throughout this country.

We know this to be true. It is documented to be true. Now, the administration can't even keep up with the children that we have, with 85,000, according to The New York Times, not able to be contacted.

My colleagues just blindly wipe that away, saying: That is not true. It was a phone call. They didn't get them. They must be with a family member.

What Member of this body would treat their child that way? Oh, I called and didn't get ahold of them. Oh, well.

We do that with 85,000 children. I guess that is not nearly as effective as a photo op in white pantsuits sitting next to kids in cages, allegedly, despite that those cages were created by the previous administration specifically for the protection of children. Oh, no. It doesn't look as good to have a photo op when you have 85,000 missing children.

Tomorrow, title 42 expires. Now, for the average American, title 42, they don't know what that is. What it is, is a part of our health code that allows us to say that we are going to turn people away in the middle of a pandemic.

Yet, the administration has been using that as effectively their only means of managing the border, to the extent you can call it managing the border.

In March, for example, there were approximately 200,000 apprehensions. We are going to blow right through that right now because we are at 10,000, 11,000, 12,000 apprehensions a day.

When you add those 200,000 apprehensions, not even counting all the parole, half of those are being turned away under title 42.

When title 42 expires tomorrow, more will come. There is an explosion at the border. None will be turned away because this administration has specifically chosen to ignore the law. This administration is refusing to do their job to defend the border of the United States.

The least compassionate, the least Christian, the least empathetic thing that a country could do is to allow human beings to be used as political pawns by cartels for profit while Americans die by the thousands, while migrants get raped, abused, and put in stash houses by cartels for profit by the thousands, while migrants die along the southern border by the hundreds, if not the thousands now, while our own people get overrun on their own ranches.

I sat and met with ranch owners in south Texas who had run across the dead body of a young woman, a mother with a baby, on their ranch.

Imagine the most powerful Nation in the history of the world thinking it is compassionate to have a system that allows that. Yet, that is precisely what we do.

Unfortunately, what my colleagues' response will be is, oh, we are going to have to do something about our immigration system and future flow in, figuring out what we are going to do to make sure that we reform immigration.

Don't you know that if we had comprehensive immigration reform, this would all just magically evaporate? That is completely not true.

The fact of the matter is, the starting point for any sensible border and immigration plan is a secure border in which you actually enforce the laws of the United States. Why? So people know what the rules are. We allow 600,000 to 1 million, 1.2 million, depending on the year, people to come into this country legally, as we should.

Yes, we need to reform our immigration system, but none of it matters if

we are going to embrace lawlessness and wide-open borders and ignore the rule of law to the detriment of people and to the detriment of the very system that attracts people from around the world.

We should be exporting the rule of law rather than importing lawlessness, fentanyl, death, and destruction. The legislation we have before us would be a giant step toward ensuring that we can hold this administration accountable to make sure that we secure our border, protect our citizens, and protect migrants who seek to come here.

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

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is now after 4 o'clock in the afternoon. We were scheduled to be on the floor today around noon, but when I came to the floor prepared to debate this rule, we were told first to wait and then that the House would recess so the Republicans could go back behind closed doors to negotiate among themselves.

This is becoming a pattern in this Congress. For the second session week in a row, the Rules Committee met far into the night and reported out completely closed rules that allow no amendments on the floor.

Now, after Speaker MCCARTHY realized that he couldn't pass his own bill, he spent all day negotiating in secret to twist people's arms to get enough votes from his own party to get this bill or the rule passed on the floor.

No one has seen what is coming out of the backroom deal today and allegedly moving to the floor under this very rule.

This isn't how you run the people's House, although it is apparently how the new House majority runs the people's House—backroom deals that prioritize politics or policy over people.

Turning to the matters at hand, this rule moves two bills to the floor. The first bill is H.R. 2, although, as mentioned, we still don't know what the final version of that bill will be.

We should all be able to agree that immigration and border security present vast and complex issues. Despite my colleagues' pronouncements to the contrary, we all want a secure border that protects our national security, but we also need to address the realities of migration, the forces that are driving families, even young children, to flee their homes, and the serious workforce shortages confronting businesses in our country and elsewhere.

Given the complexities of these issues, they require comprehensive and nuanced solutions. H.R. 2 is neither. It is a great example of the old adage: For every complex problem, there is a solution that is simple, clear, and wrong.

During my legal career, I spent decades working on immigration cases and within our immigration system. I know it is underfunded and dysfunctional and has been for many years. We also know that American businesses, small and large, are asking for immigration reform so that they can hire the healthcare, agricultural, research, and food service workers they need.

Solving these issues is not simple, but I am extremely disappointed that my Republican colleagues want to create more chaos by bringing an extremist, cruel, and completely unworkable bill to the floor today.

The truth is, this isn't responsible or serious governance. Without any real proposal, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle resort to conspiracy theories, fact-free rhetoric, and political theater designed to stoke fear and chaos to distract from their lack of real solutions.

We have seen how the failed and inhumane immigration policies of the prior administration weakened our economy, undermined our moral standing in the world, inflicted unimaginable cruelty upon defenseless migrant children, and did not make us any safer.

However, Republican extremists want to take us back there again. Once more, they would rather fixate and waste American taxpayer dollars to build a wall that the experts, including Customs and Border Patrol, agree will not solve the issue.

I must call out the dishonesty of claiming that families seeking legal asylum are a source of the very real scourge of fentanyl and other dangerous drug trafficking. We know from Customs and Border Patrol data that over 90 percent of fentanyl seizures occur at U.S. ports of entry in trucks or cargo ships, not in areas that a border wall might cover.

Despite this fact, the bill fails to provide needed resources at ports of entry to fight fentanyl smuggling where it is actually happening.

Just last month, House Republicans voted to cap nondefense discretionary funding, which, according to DHS, would result in the cutting of 2,400 Customs and Border Patrol officers and agents that do this work fighting the scourge of fentanyl.

How can we begin to craft measures to address either the fentanyl crisis or humanitarian issues at our border if our Republican colleagues insist on starting from a place of misplaced blame and misguided policies?

Additionally, this bill, or at least the most recent version of it that we have seen, enacts a nationwide E-Verify system without providing other reforms that give meaningful pathways for undocumented workers to legalize their status, which employers across this country are screaming for.

In doing so, this provision has the potential to wipe out half of our agricultural workforce, cause huge disruptions in our Nation's food system, allow a mass offshoring of jobs, and sink American farms from California to Pennsylvania and throughout States across the Nation.

This isn't the first Congress in which Republicans have tried to move forward on this E-Verify proposal. In every Congress, it faces opposition from the small business community, civil liberties groups, religious organizations, agricultural organizations and growers, privacy advocates, libertarian think tanks, and immigration reform groups because it fails to address our broken immigration system in a meaningful way. This time around is no different.

H.R. 2 also bans Department of Homeland Security funding for critical nonprofit and religious partners that provide shelter, food, legal assistance, and other aid to vulnerable immigrants.

That means a faith-based NGO that helps an Afghan refugee to find housing or gives support to a woman here on a U visa, a special status set aside for victims of crimes, will no longer get assistance to do that important work.

How can our Republican colleagues say this bill is only about border security when it clearly and cruelly rips resources away from those in the country legally, too?

When it comes to this bill, the immoral policies do not stop there. This legislation puts children in harm's way—the very ones the other side of the aisle claims they want to protect.

Children come or are brought to the U.S. because the conditions in their home countries are so horrific, whether due to poverty, violence, corruption, or climate change and how it is destroying their way of life.

This is a situation that has been building for decades, and H.R. 2 does nothing to address it.

During my legal career, I represented many of those children, those who were orphaned, those who were fleeing gang violence, starvation, or abuse.

If we really want to protect child victims of trafficking or children separated from their parents who arrive at our border, we don't limit their access to representation, as this bill does. We give them the tools to make the case that they are eligible to stay in this country, which a child simply cannot do unless they have a qualified attorney with them.

□ 1630

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I have seen up close how important representation is to anyone trying to navigate our immigration system, but especially kids.

When our colleagues say they want to send unaccompanied children home to safety, they are turning a blind eye to reality. The reality for most of these kids is there is no safe home. Their parents are dead or otherwise unavailable, and country conditions are so dangerous that the journey to our border is a safer alternative.

This bill would expose children to the very harms and exploitation my Republican colleagues hollowly insist they want to prevent. In addition to

limiting children's access to counsel, the bill allows them to be jailed. It guts the protections of the Flores settlement agreement, which has governed the conditions of children held in government custody for 26 years.

In doing so, the bill upends a carefully crafted system to minimize the detention of children due to the grave impact that it has on their physical and mental health. The evidence is clear: No amount of detention is safe for kids. Even a short period can cause long-term harm like psychological trauma and mental health risks.

Despite knowing this, my Republican colleagues wrote a bill that allows the long-term detention of minors who arrive in the U.S. and that jails kids and their families indefinitely.

I want to describe for a moment a tragic situation this bill creates. A mother and her child fleeing violence or starvation at home come to America in search of safety and legal asylum. When she finds the ports of entry are closed, which this bill would do, that mother takes her child and crosses between them. She then follows the rules and applies for asylum.

To be clear, she is not a risk for flight or violence. Even so, this bill requires that she and her young child could be jailed for what could be years if she is prosecuted for the misdemeanor of unlawful entry, a result that is prohibited by current law and the Flores litigation.

This legislation falsely states it is consistent with the Flores decision; although, it is clear that it is not, and that the Court has already ruled on that precise point.

If my colleagues want to come together and meaningfully work on immigration reform, it can't start from a place of cruelty against the most vulnerable. Instead, we need to recognize both the horrific conditions that cause migrants to flee their homes and the meaningful contributions that immigrants make to our country and, critically, we must provide functioning pathways for people to enter the U.S. lawfully.

Mr. Speaker, the second bill here is H.R. 1163. In addition to their misguided immigration plan, today House Republicans are bringing up a harmful bill that hinders antifraud programs, opens up new pathways to fraud in unemployment insurance programs, and opens workers up to surprise bills through no fault of their own.

My colleagues want to attack unemployment insurance, a benefit that helped millions of Americans stay afloat during the depths of the pandemic. Of course, it is important that we prevent fraud in our public programs and instances of fraud in unemployment insurance absolutely should be addressed and prosecuted.

In fact, just this morning, we learned that a Republican Member of this Chamber was indicted in New York on charges that, among other things, he allegedly stole public funds by fraudulently collecting pandemic unemployment benefits.

I hope all my colleagues agree that stealing public funds, especially during a global pandemic when so many working people lost their jobs and needed the support to keep their families healthy and fed, is unacceptable and absolutely should disqualify someone from serving in the United States Congress.

However, although my colleagues across the aisle claim that they want to fight fraud in unemployment insurance, their leadership continues to welcome the votes of this alleged fraudster in order to push a deeply unpopular and extremist agenda and they want to pass a bill that makes it harder to catch the kind of cross-State fraud that their colleague has allegedly committed by slashing $400 million in critical funding for Department of Labor antifraud programs.

It opens up opportunities for fraud in UI programs by halting the roll out of new identification verification systems and the legislation allows States to send surprise bills to workers for accidental overpayments of unemployment insurance benefits made during the pandemic.

These overpayments were made to workers who did nothing wrong and did not know they had been overpaid. These people spent their unemployment insurance on necessities like food for themselves and their children. They returned to work as soon as they could, but now Republicans, with this bill, want to send these working people a bill and punish them for an error that they didn't commit.

Ultimately, both of these proposals from my Republican colleagues are unserious and unworkable. They will wreak harm on America's economy, especially businesses unable to find workers to grow or even survive. They will wreak harm on working families, law-abiding immigrants, and terrified refugees who have the right to seek asylum at our borders.

These bills are political stunts to stir up extremist supporters, not serious solutions to complex problems, problems that require comprehensive and nuanced solutions. We are eager to work with responsible legislators from any party on an immigration bill that truly secures the border, protects Dreamers, and solves the workforce challenges we are seeing from farms to pharmacies. Such a bill would grow our economy, help our communities combat crime, and stem the flow of illegal drugs into our country.

We firmly believe that we can reach an agreement that secures our border and reforms our immigration system in a way that reflects fundamental American values, and we are ready to work on that now. We welcome assistance in that from the House majority.

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

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, just a couple of points.

First of all, this tired talking point of 90 percent of narcotics being captured at the ports of entry; well, of course, that is the only place where we have Border Patrol. Because they are overwhelmed doing processing, we don't have anybody patrolling the border between the ports of entry. So, of course, you are collecting and finding a higher percentage of narcotics at the ports of entry.

The second point, is this idea that this is treating kids inhumanely. Let's be very clear that what we do in this policy is treat children from other countries exactly as we treat them from Mexico and Canada under current law.

More importantly, President Obama, that radical, MAGA extremist, President Barack Obama asked for this fix in his bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS).

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the rule and the underlying bill, H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act of 2023.

For over 2 years, the Biden administration has continued to ignore crisis after crisis. Just 2 weeks ago, the American people saw that President Biden and the Democratic Party were just fine ignoring our looming debt crisis.

Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, House Republicans kept their promise. They kept their promise to the American people and passed a responsible solution to raising the country's debt ceiling.

Now this week, House Republicans are having to once again clean up after this administration and their reckless policies that are hurting the lives of Americans around the country, but especially in my home State of Texas.

Our southern border is not secure. This administration does not have operational control, and their claim that they have decreased immigration by 90 percent is simply laughable.

President Biden's destructive policies and continued lies to the American people have only worsened this deepening crisis.

My fellow Members and I have heard from law enforcement on the ground that this country has gone from one of the safest and most secure borders under the Trump administration, to an unsustainable humanitarian crisis of epic proportions, and it is getting worse by the hour.

With the expiration of title 42 tomorrow, it will be unfathomable of what will be facing our friends on the Texas border.

This all happened within the first 24 hours of this administration. President Biden sits in the White House and threatens to veto our bill, calling for comprehensive immigration reform, while vulnerable migrants crossing our southern border are raped, killed, or trafficked every single day.

Along with all my fellow Republican Members, I want to see comprehensive

immigration reform, but that cannot be done until this crisis on our southern border is under control. H.R. 2 will do exactly that.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will finish the border wall, will provide adequate funding for our Border Patrol agents, and ensure that the migrants most vulnerable, the unaccompanied alien children, are taken care of once they become this country's responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is just common sense. I urge my fellow Members to support the underlying bill, and I urge support for the rule.

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

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I do find it a little hard to credit the expressions of concern for the migrants who are crossing our border when yet again, today, the Governor of Texas sent a busload of migrants from the border after announcing he was providing free transportation to them.

He refuses to tell the cities where they are headed, but the migrants are on their way. So as has occurred multiple times over the last year, people were dumped in Philadelphia at 6 o'clock in the morning. Thank God that the weather has turned because when they were dumping them on New Year's Eve, it was pretty darn cold. So please spare me the crocodile tears for the humanitarian concerns when you are not willing to help ease that process.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ), a very distinguished member of the Rules Committee.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I have been at the border. I have seen the sadness and faint hope in the faces of the children seeking asylum. Imagine the desperation a mother must feel sending a child across a treacherous path to seek asylum in the United States.

It reminds me of another refugee, a mother who knew that if she did not send her child away, he would surely be killed. She placed her baby in a raft and sent him across the river.

It was the Nile River. The baby was Moses.

Mr. Speaker, the bill we are taking up today would take away important asylum paths for children. I call upon my colleagues to remember the story of Moses, to remember the humanity that must be a guiding principle for the United States in our asylum laws.

Our immigration system is surely broken. H.R. 2, though, does not fix it. Republicans, instead, are creating more chaos. Republicans are creating more chaos at the border. Chaos, not humanity, appears to be their guiding principle.

This bill destroys the asylum seekers, wrecks our agricultural economy, and fails to address the flow of fentanyl into our communities. H.R. 2 even punishes those heroic nonprofits who work to serve the vulnerable asylum seekers.

Mr. Speaker, in the Rules Committee early this morning, I presented amendments from members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus that would increase security, keep fentanyl and other deadly drugs off our streets, and protect military families.

Republicans voted against funding our fight against fentanyl. They refused any amendments to be heard on the floor today that we would have discussed last night.

Mr. Speaker, we do not have enough farmworkers to harvest our crops or in New Mexico to grow our world-renowned green chile. The provisions in this bill are bad for farmers, ranchers, and for our agricultural economy.

Instead of destroying our agricultural economy, let's pass the Farm Workforce Modernization Act. Instead of denying our students what they need, let's pass the American Dream and Promise Act.

These bipartisan bills would grow our economy. Let's work together to fix our immigration system.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I have to address, at least for a minute, this disparaging commentary about the Governor of Texas busing migrants.

Well, I guess my colleagues on the other side of the aisle would like to ignore the fact that the Democrat mayor of El Paso was teaming up with Governor Abbott to do that. The Democrat mayor of El Paso was teaming up with the Governor of Texas, Governor Abbott, to do just that. Walk a mile in our shoes in the State of Texas where we have hundreds of thousands of people pouring into our communities throughout the State of Texas. Welcome to the party.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN).

□ 1645

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, hearing my friends on the other side of the aisle talk, you know, we really are in two different universes. We live in two different universes.

The invasion that is happening at the border has not happened to this country, nor any other country that has survived. For you to make the claim of compassion, where is the compassion for the rapes that are occurring along the border?

Where is your compassion for the farmers?

It took your Vice President—I don't think she has been to the border. It took the President—I don't think he has been to the border where the crossings were really occurring. He went for a photo op.

Mr. Speaker, this is a crisis that no country that has ever had this type of invasion has been able to survive. America is at a crossroads, and this administration is guilty of opening up the borders.

There is no point of entry. That is where most of the illegals are coming that they can't track.

As my good friend from Texas, Congressman ROY, said last night at an 8-hour Rules Committee meeting, the fact is, you don't want border security. You want everybody from every country to come into America. It is not fair for the police. It is not fair for our farmers.

What about our schools that are being flooded? What about The Salvation Army that is being flooded—will be flooded?

What about our hospitals? For anybody and everybody coming into this country, it is not right.

Let's look at some of the figures. By the way, this is the strongest immigration bill that has ever been put forward.

Just over last weekend, there were 26,000 apprehensions; over 7,000 gotaways; over 164 pounds of marijuana; 84 pounds of cocaine; 11 pounds of fentanyl; and three sex offenders. This is just what was caught. What was missed?

We are on track to have over 6 to 10 million illegals in this country that are taking advantage of our citizens, taking advantage of our police force, and taking advantage of those who have lived in this country.

Get the wall built, which this bill does, and at least have some type of knowledge of who is coming.

I have been to the border, and it is a sad sight to see. I have seen what is happening when they load the buses and distribute people all over the country. What about those who have done it legally?

Last August, Biden formally ended President Trump's successful Remain in Mexico program, and within Biden's first 100 days in office, he took 94 executive actions on immigration.

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

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentleman from South Carolina.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I will just end by saying this is un-American. It is not fair. I don't know how we walk this back, but this bill is something that will protect this country. It will help this country, and it will stop what this President is implementing.

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

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I just have to push back a little bit on this idea that somehow immigrants coming to this country are taking advantage of our police and different parts of our society. I mean, the Cato Institute, of all places, has recently published a study that shows there is a net economic benefit for several generations when we have immigrants come to this country.

Of course, there is also the continuing inaccurate characterization of these folks coming here illegally when they are applying for asylum.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3½ minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), the distinguished

ranking member of the Committee on Rules.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, we are about to debate H.R. 2, a horrible immigration bill that betrays our values, hurts our farmers, and makes it easier to put fentanyl on our streets.

We are told it was rewritten in a back room in the Speaker's office. I have yet to see the rewrite. In fact, I haven't even heard a description of what was changed. I will say, for the record, from a process standpoint, this is as bad as it gets. My friends should be ashamed of themselves.

But wait. There is even more. I wasn't planning to speak today, but I have to point out the ridiculous hypocrisy of what is going on.

Republicans are here on the floor with straight faces acting like unemployment insurance fraud is one of the top problems in America. They ignore billionaires who pay no taxes, but they want us to believe there is an unemployment insurance crime spree, and so here we are.

They are going after farmers and veterans. They are going after workers and families that needed help during the pandemic while, at the same time, a sitting member of the House Republican Conference was indicted in Federal court this morning for unemployment fraud.

Let me repeat that. We have a Member of this body, a member of this Republican Conference, a key swing vote on their debt ceiling bill, a key swing vote to secure KEVIN MCCARTHY's speakership who, this morning, was in Federal custody for—let me quote this from the indictment: ''Falsely claimed to have been unemployed'' while he was making $120,000 a year.

I mean, is this a joke? GEORGE SANTOS allegedly stole almost $25,000 in unemployment benefits.

Here is the part that you can't make up. This is too absurd to be true, but it is. Their bill defunds the program that catches people who commit this kind of fraud.

I have a letter in front of me from the Department of Labor, which I will insert into the RECORD, that says, their bill defunds the program that helps them catch fraud.

Now, maybe that is why GEORGE SANTOS cosponsored it. Of course he did. If this becomes law, maybe he would have gotten away with it. I think we should rename this the George Anthony Devolder Santos fraudster protection act.

What is that old horror movie saying? The call is coming from inside the house. You are going after fraud, but the fraud is coming from inside the Republican Conference. Deal with that.

Here is the bottom line: The modern GOP has become the party of corruption and crime. It is all about power for them. They put their own power above the people we represent.

Their frontrunner for President is a sexual abuser and has been indicted for his illegal hush money payments to cover up his affair. They won't denounce it.

Their key swing vote was in Federal custody for allegedly stealing unemployment benefits and lying to Congress, and they won't kick him out.

They want to gut the Office of Congressional Ethics, and they want to make it easier for rich people to cheat on their taxes. Now they want to pass a bill that would make it easier for GEORGE SANTOS to get away with fraud.

Forget honor. Forget principles. Forget integrity. All they care about is power at any cost. It is disgraceful, it is shameful, it is wrong, and I urge a ''no'' vote on this rule and the underlying bill.

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

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

Mr. MCGOVERN raised a few good points, but one in particular: We haven't seen the bill that we are allegedly supposed to be considering with this rule.

Last night, Mr. NORMAN, who just spoke, correctly criticized this closed process. He said, ''That's a problem going forward, a huge problem because that is not the process we think is fair to everyone.''

I would simply say to the gentleman that the process has only gotten worse. Reportedly, there will be an amendment offered to this rule that we haven't even seen yet. Although, I guess the fact is we may know why we had to delay the hearing until this point; so that your Member could return from New York.

I wonder when we are going to see the open and transparent process that some of our Rules Committee colleagues have spoken so much about.

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

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I would just remind my colleagues that it was in December when we got a $1.7 trillion omnibus spending bill that was 4,000 pages long around 1 a.m., and then we voted on it the next day. In that bill there was specific language that prohibited the Department of Homeland Security from actually securing the homeland by securing the border.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD).

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for the rules package of H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act.

One year ago today I was on the border with Mexico to see firsthand the deadly, chaotic crisis that this administration has created.

With a wink and a nod, this President has welcomed more than 6 million illegal aliens into our sovereign Nation. This is a human trafficking nightmare with some 85,000 children unaccounted for tonight, more than 100,000 of our fellow citizens have been murdered from fentanyl. Drugs are manufactured in Communist China and smuggled across our southern border, an open border that has opened business for the Mexican cartels that are now operating on our side of the border.

All we hear from this administration is lies; lies that their immigration policy is based on compassion. It is exploitation, not compassion.

We hear lies that the border is not open and that it is secure.

We hear lies that the Border Patrol uses whips on illegals. Look, I have been on a horse. I know the difference between a whip and a rein.

Just this past Monday, the White House came out with the biggest lie of all: that illegal immigration is down more than 90 percent under Biden.

At this very moment, there are more than 1 million people amassed near our southern border ready for title 42 to expire and stream across our border largely unchecked. This administration's solution is to send 1,500 troops, not to push them back, but to push pencils.

If this President and his Secretary of Homeland Security cannot find the grit to secure the border, we must do it in this Chamber.

Ronald Reagan once said: ''A nation that cannot control its border is not a nation.''

Today, like Colonel William Barrett Travis, we draw the line in the sand. We will not lose our Nation. We will not surrender to the drug cartels. We will not surrender to the lies of this administration, and we will not surrender America.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I apologize to my colleagues across the aisle. I didn't realize that I needed to delay my remarks until the next round.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert into the RECORD a letter from the Department of Labor, which states that H.R. 1163 would hinder efforts to tackle unemployment insurance fraud, delay payments, and undermine State efforts to modernize and protect the system from fraud.

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

There was no objection.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION,

Washington, DC, February 27, 2023.

Hon. RICHARD NEAL,

Ranking Member, House Committee on Ways & Means, Washington DC.

DEAR RANKING MEMBER NEAL: Thank you for your questions about proposed legislation coming before the Committee regarding Unemployment Insurance (UI) fraud and overpayments.

The Biden-Harris Administration and the Committee have shared goals of holding criminals accountable and combatting fraud in the UI program, and the Department of Labor (Department) will continue to both devote resources and take additional actions in pursuit of taxpayer funds. Under the Biden-Harris Administration, the Department has worked diligently to maintain the integrity of the UI program and to guard vital relief

dollars from fraud through varied efforts to direct, guide, and support state agency efforts.

Specific to your request, Congress provided $2 billion to the Department under Section 2118 of the CARES Act through enactment of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for the goals of ''fraud prevention, equitable access, and timely payment to eligible workers''. The Department continues to invest the $2 billion in ARPA funds to detect and prevent future fraud in state UI programs, modernize state IT systems, and improve efficiency and accuracy of payments to increase the overall integrity of the program. By June 2023, at least $1.6 billion of these ARPA funds will have been made available to states through prior and new grant opportunities in service of these goals. These funds are vital to the Department's efforts to pursue transformative improvements to the UI program to help workers and combat fraud.

This ARPA funding is critical to helping all 50 states and their governors (as well as the territories) address the fraud and backlogs that emerged at the onset of the pandemic. One fundamental reason that all states and territories were so unprepared to handle the extraordinary crush of unemployment claims that spiked at the onset of the pandemic was record-low resources—in 2020, administrative funding which supports core operations for the UI program was at its lowest level in at least 30 years. This lack of long-term investment in modernizing our 53 state and territory unemployment systems was a major contributor to the degree of fraud and crisis our unemployment system experienced in 2020. The $2 billion ARPA investment in modernizing our state unemployment systems to encourage fraud prevention, equity, and timely payments is a critical step toward addressing what went wrong and ensuring our nation's unemployment system is better prepared going forward.

THE LOSS OF FUNDING WILL HINDER EFFORTS TO TACKLE UI FRAUD AND ENSURE THAT WORKERS ARE PAID THEIR EARNED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS ON-TIME AND IN THE RIGHT AMOUNTS

The proposed bill before the Committee includes a provision which would repeal Section 2118 of the CARES Act, ending the availability of funds Congress provided to the Department in ARPA to fight fraud and promote equitable access. The Department is deeply concerned that a move to repeal this section will throttle essential, ongoing efforts to strengthen and protect the UI program from fraud. The repeal of Section 2118 will force the Department and our state partners to halt work on critical technology modernization projects geared towards program integrity now and in response to future crises. All but three of 53 state and territorial UI jurisdictions are currently participating in one or more of the ARPA-funded initiatives. The Department will be stopped from delivering hundreds of millions of dollars set aside for Governors to step up the fight against unemployment fraud and implement upgrades to the delivery of UI:

Tiger Teams: ARPA funding that supports teams of multi-disciplinary experts, referred to as Tiger Teams, is helping states assess challenges and make state-specific recommendations for fraud prevention and detection, improving customer experiences, access and equity, and operational processes resulting in more timely delivery of benefits and reductions in backlogs. Should the proposed legislation proceed, the Department would be prevented from providing continued consultative services to the 30 states already participating in the project, or any additional states who have expressed interest in participating in the project but who have not yet begun their engagement. If funds are rescinded, states would no longer be able to apply for and receive Tiger Teams implementation grant funding to implement actions related to their state-tailored recommendations. This funding is projected to support critical Tiger Teams' recommendations aimed at improving state UI program integrity, including fraud prevention tools like identity authentication, identity proofing, claim risk scoring, and investigative case management.

Identity Verification: Next month DOL will announce another $200 million to assist states with recovery of funds and the implementation of required and recommended identity verification standards to improve fraud prevention. The Department is also investing ARPA funds to bring the General Service Administration's Login.gov identity verification services to state UI programs as a scalable solution to protect against the growing challenge of identity fraud. If these ARPA funds were repealed, the Department would have little choice other than to halt the existing pilot of Login.gov with the State of Arkansas and stop its expansion to two additional states this spring who are already making financial and operational commitments of state resources to engage with the Department. Our plan to launch a new nationwide in-person identity verification option with the U.S. Postal Service would also face cancellation.

Fraud Prevention Grants: ARPA fraud prevention grants to states are building effective identity verification systems to fill the gaps in states' use of systems to prevent multi-state fraud actors, like cross-matching through the National UI Integrity Center's Integrity Data Hub (IDH), which is operated by the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) and sponsored by the Department. States need this grant funding to implement and enhance data analytics tools that can flag suspicious claims, and to increase their staff capacity to investigate and recover incorrect payments made during the pandemic. If ARPA modernization funding is repealed, Governors could lose unexpended funds from already awarded grants.

Technology Modernization: By the end of June, the Department is planning to announce $600 million in ARPA-funded grants to states to modernize vulnerable state IT systems that led to chronically high levels of improper payments in the UI program before and after the COVID–19 pandemic. Such grants would help states upgrade their IT systems, the majority of which, going into the pandemic, were based on decades-old computer languages like COBOL. These outdated state systems were quickly overwhelmed by the surge of claims during the pandemic and unable to adjust to new fraud threats. If Section 2118 is repealed, the Department will not be able to fund states to implement new technologies and workflows to screen out potentially fraudulent claims, and to make needed improvements to customer experience like programming websites for easy use on mobile phones. The repeal would also end, or severely curtail, collaborative projects between the Department, states, and other stakeholders to create seamless solutions to reduce common mistakes and improper payments, such as the conversion of websites into plain language to assist workers in submitting applications without errors.

Equity Grants: ARPA Equity grants are funding states' efforts to improve equitable access to the UI system for workers, including people in rural areas, with disabilities, with low levels of literacy, and with language access barriers. Forty-eight states have applied for this project and awarded projects to date have included translating documents into different languages, hiring community navigators to explain UI benefits to vulnerable communities, making websites accessible to people with disabilities, addressing access barriers facing rural communities, and placing in-person staff in American Job Centers to help clear backlogs. These critical grant-funded projects which provide enhancements for equitable access that improve payment accuracy may not be able to be completed if the repeal of Section 2118 leads to DOL having to claw back unexpended funds; additionally, several states with pending applications for funding won't access equity funding.

Department of Labor Modernization Capacity: Federal staffing for the Employment and Training Administration and technology modernization experts in the Office of Unemployment Insurance Modernization, hired to implement cross cutting projects and provide expert assistance to states, would be severely curtailed. Data analysis and research, including state gap analyses and cross-cutting IT investments—like the State Equity Data Partnerships—may also be curtailed or cancelled. Other cross-cutting supports currently furnished to states, including fraud prevention and equity training would similarly be at risk.

The Department appreciates the intent of this legislation to accelerate the collection of fraudulent unemployment payments and strengthen fraud prevention. For example, the legislation would require a series of data cross-matches to prevent fraud, including with the Integrity Data Hub and Social Security Administration's prisoner databases that the Department has actively promoted over the last two years. Yet, the repeal of ARPA funding would directly undermine the intent of this proposed legislation. The Department and states must continue to have access to the funds Congress has made available through Section 2118 of the CARES Act to modernize, prepare, and strengthen state UI systems so the program will not be left so vulnerable to fraud during the next economic crisis. These problems developed over decades, and additional time and resources are needed for change to filter through the federal-state system.

DWINDLING ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDING HAS UNDERMINED STATE EFFORTS TO MODERNIZE AND PROTECT THE SYSTEM FROM FRAUD

The need for ARPA funding is acute because Congress has repeatedly underfunded the UI program. Before the pandemic, the unemployment system was hamstrung by historically low levels of administrative funding and the absence of any dedicated funding stream for maintaining and enhancing the information technology of systems that underpin state UI operations. Indeed, administrative funding in 2020 was at its lowest inflation adjusted level in at least 30 years. As the onset of the pandemic caused tens of millions of people to lose their jobs in a matter of weeks, state agencies were unprepared for the extraordinary spike in the number of claims to be processed and for the new fraudulent actors. As claims volumes have returned to pre-pandemic levels, state administrative funding for regular, non-pandemic UI operations declined by more than 20 percent from FY 2021 to FY 2022. As a result, states continue to struggle with hiring, training, and retaining new staff responsible for accurately adjudicating claims and ensuring only proper payments are made. The Biden-Harris Administration FY23 budget requested a $209 million increase in grants to states and an update to a decades' old funding formula that underfunded states, and Congress appropriated $159 million of this request for FY 2023.

These changes are a first step to addressing long-standing weaknesses in the UI system by providing states with needed resources to protect against fraud and to ensure equitable access to benefits. However, even with this much needed yet modest increase in funding, it only provides help in funding the regular day-to-day operations. It does not provide funding for investment in modernization of the UI system or in fraud prevention solutions and services. The Department has relied on the ARPA funds for these types of investments, and they will be jeopardized with repeal of Section 2118.

OTHER CONCERNS OF NOTE IN THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Of concern is the draft provision to extend the time for benefit offsets for overpayment collection for CARES Act programs to 10 years. Current statutes allow states to pursue a wide variety of overpayment collection activities in addition to benefit offsets, such as wage garnishments and tax return offsets. Extending benefit offsets to 10 years would block access to unemployment benefits for Americans during future national emergencies, including for individuals whose CARES Act overpayment arose due to state agency errors. This provision would undermine the stabilizing effect UI benefits have on the U.S. economy during high unemployment and would significantly worsen any economic downturn for the next decade.

Also of concern is the proposal to allow states to retain 25 percent of any fraudulent overpayment recovered under pandemic UI programs to use for further recovery efforts and other administrative costs. We have concerns that retention of one quarter of funds recovered is excessive and runs contrary to the proposed legislation's intent to restore misspent federal funds.

Similarly of concern is the proposal to allow states to retain five percent of nonfraud overpayments in the regular UI program to use for further recovery efforts and other administrative costs. We have concerns that this provision extended to nonfraud overpayments may incentivize states to recover overpayments that are not the fault of individual workers, and would otherwise have been eligible for waivers out of concerns for equity and financial hardship.

END OF ARPA INVESTMENTS IN UI REFORM WOULD SQUANDER CHANCE TO FIX THE UI SYSTEMS

Since inheriting a system in crisis, the Department under the Biden-Harris Administration has moved aggressively to thwart fraudsters and recover fraudulently paid dollars—yet there is still more to do. The Department has worked quickly to allocate the $2 billion provided under Section 2118 of the CARES Act to strengthen the UI system to ensure timeliness, equity, and accuracy, including by preventing and detecting fraud. The Department continues to work in close partnership with all state workforce agencies to ensure these improvements are effective and sustainable as part of a full spending plan for the $2 billion that will produce the greatest long-term positive impact. Taking away these funds would deny governors around the country and the UI program a once-in-a-generation chance to learn the lessons of the past and take concerted action to fix systemic problems and prevent fraud in the future.

In closing, we look forward to working with you and members of the Committee on policies that support the Department's ARPA investments to tackle UI fraud, while improving timeliness and equitable access to benefits.

If you have additional questions, please contact the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Sincerely,

BRENT PARTON,
Acting Assistant Secretary.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Homeland Security.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the closed rule and the underlying bill.

H.R. 2, the child deportation act, was developed in an extreme MAGA echo chamber. Homeland Security Committee Republicans defeated all 43 amendments offered by Democrats to fix the bill's many flaws.

This closed rule goes a step further and blocks House consideration of amendments like the one I filed adding 1,700 CBP officers at ports of entry to process migrants, facilitate trade and tourism, and interdict fentanyl.

More than 90 percent—as you have already heard—of hard drugs are interdicted at ports of entry—this is information passed to us by CBP—but Republicans refuse to make investments in the many ports of entry workforce or technology.

Worse yet, the bill does nothing to address cartels and fentanyl trafficking.

The rule doubles down on Donald Trump's border wall by blocking consideration of an amendment filed by Representative TROY CARTER to protect landowners from eminent domain.

With new border wall segments likely to cost about $46 million per mile, building 900 miles of wall could total billions.

Finally, this closed ruled blocks consideration of Representative ROBERT GARCIA's amendment to strike language that villainizes community and religious organizations which provide basic necessities to migrants.

H.R. 2 is written so poorly that it could force the American Red Cross to verify each person's immigration status before offering help. Can you imagine if groups have to say, ''Show us your papers''? That is just cruel.

I urge a ''no'' vote on the rule and the underlying bill.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD).

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Texas for his leadership on this initiative and on this bill.

It is sad that we find ourselves today having to force the administration to enforce the security of the United States border, that we have to force the Department of Homeland Security to secure the border.

What this bill will do is codify into law the effective policies under the previous administration that left this President with a secure border. What did this President have to do to maintain a secure border? He did nothing but keep the policies in place that he inherited.

We are currently averaging some 10,000 illegals per day invading the country. What is the response from the Democrats on the other side in this administration? We can do better.

We are having some 300,000 illegals invade the country on a monthly basis. Think of the three largest football stadiums in the country, that equivalency invading our border every day, invading our country.

Yet, we cannot get one Democrat vote, I predict, to vote to secure our border, to protect our country's national security, our health security, our economic security.

□ 1700

This bill will build the wall. It will hire more border agents. It will enhance technology to assist them. It will require transparency and accountability from this derelict Department of Homeland Security. It will enhance compensation for our Border Patrol. It will support local law enforcement in their efforts to help secure the border.

The fact is, no country in the history of the world has been more welcoming to migrants from all over the world, from all races, all nationalities, all ethnicities, than the United States of America. We support legal, lawful immigration, and that is why this country permits a million legal migrants every year. But we must stand united against illegal immigration, and this bill does just that.

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

Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to provide for consideration of a resolution which states that it is the House's responsibility to protect and preserve Social Security and Medicare for our future generations and reject any cuts to these essential programs.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, Social Security and Medicare are vital to many of our constituents' economic and health security. Many of my Republican friends across the aisle were calling for major cuts to these critical programs but recently some have changed their tune.

If they truly believe in a new position, I am offering my friends the opportunity to back it up with a vote in the people's House. This vote will give Members the opportunity to reassure Americans that the House won't eviscerate these foundational programs that our constituents rely upon.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. MAGAZINER) to discuss our proposal.

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, Americans are counting on us to pass real, comprehensive immigration reform. The bill being put forward by our Republicans colleagues is a cruel and counterproductive measure that will only make our immigration problems worse by restricting legal immigration, criminalizing nonprofit organizations, putting children's lives at risk, and increasing the workload of Border Patrol officers without the support they need to do their jobs.

Let's send this flawed bill back to committee for further work and instead pass H. Res. 178 to declare our sense that we are committed to protecting Social Security and Medicare.

During the President's State of the Union Address, the American people saw in real time as President Biden shamed our Republican colleagues into backing off their plans to cut Social Security and Medicare for now, but we know that there are many in their caucus that are still scheming to cut these essential programs.

Last year, Democrats and President Biden passed a measure to allow Medicare to negotiate with the drug companies to lower drug prices. We should expand this program. Social Security and Medicare are vital lifelines. We must protect them.

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

Mr. Speaker, this crisis has taken an unimaginable toll on the State of Texas, my home State, and the citizens there as well as the migrants seeking to come into this country. I get contacted every single day, like my colleagues from Texas.

In 2022, more than 2,000 Texans died from fentanyl poisoning, a 500 percent increase from 2019. I have already talked about the 53 migrants killed in a tractor-trailer in the Texas heat.

Texas has been forced to deal with it on their own, spending $4 billion of their own budget, $3 billion last cycle because we are having to deal with a job the Federal Government is supposed to do. El Paso, state of emergency; Laredo, state of emergency; Brownsville, state of emergency; San Antonio, beefing up to try to deal with the surge. We are dealing with it every single day in Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. VAN DUYNE).

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill. President's Biden's policies have caused a massive surge of 370,000 unaccompanied children to come to our southwest border since he took office. Where is the outrage? Where are the tears?

According to an HHS whistleblower, the U.S. Government has become a middleman in a large scale, multibillion-dollar child trafficking operation run by bad actors seeking to profit off the lives of children. Where is the outrage? Where are the tears?

We have seen from Members on the other side of the aisle that they are claiming that this bill is going to somehow hurt children. Are they reading the reports of minors as young as 9 who are being brought over illegally and are working the midnight shift, the graveyard shift, in meatpacking plants? Again, where are the tears? Where is the outrage?

H.R. 2 stops future surges and protects children by treating unaccompanied children from Mexico and the rest of the world in the same manner, enabling their safe return home to their families after they are screened for indications of trafficking or a credible fear of persecution.

I was on the city council for 6 years, and I was mayor for 6 years of a city of about 250,000 people. I saw the cost of illegal immigration firsthand at the local level. I saw the toll that it put on our local cities and communities in housing, in schools, in crime, in resources.

I was lucky enough to be able to partner with Immigrations and Customs Enforcement, and we saw at that time more illegal criminal aliens that were deported from our city per capita from any other city in the country. What did we see from that? Our crime dropped, and people who lived in low-income areas, minority areas, were the ones who benefited the most, because they were being targeted by that crime.

The American people did not vote for this chaos. They voted to have control over our borders. What we have seen from this administration is they continue to take every single tool out of the toolbox that is able to actually secure our borders.

The American people sent us to D.C. to secure our borders and put an end to the worst humanitarian crisis our Nation has ever seen. It is absurd that we are even here today having to pass a bill to force this administration to enforce the laws and do its most basic job, which is to enforce our laws, secure our border, and protect our Nation.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA).

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, to my colleague from Texas, I say that this bill, this set of bills, criminalizes California's and the United States' private sector.

Why do you make small businesses and large businesses criminals? We have a 3.6 percent unemployment rate in this country. Every time I have businesses in my office, they say: We need workers. We need more immigrants. This is not what this set of bills is doing.

Let's start out by recognizing the reality that we are living in the greatest country in the world, the strongest economy in the world. We need workers, and these bills fail to recognize that reality.

Let's go back and work across the aisle. I say to my colleagues on the other side, let's come up with comprehensive immigration reform and a way to keep America as the greatest economy in the world. These bills do not do that.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BRECHEEN).

Mr. BRECHEEN. Mr. Speaker, title 42 expires tomorrow. As Republicans are advancing the most conservative border bill ever, this administration is going to usher in more chaos on the southern border. It is going to be quite the contrast for the American people to witness.

Border Patrol agents are already seeing a surge, 26,000 illegals apprehended in a 72-hour period. This is on top of 5 million illegal immigrants that have come into this Nation within a 2-year period. That is more than the entire population of the State of Oklahoma, the State which I represent.

House Republicans have a plan, and it is the bill before us, the Secure the Border Act of 2023, which would resume wall construction. That includes the 200-plus miles of wall that was fully funded by Congress but shut down when President Biden, in contrast with the Constitution, with his pen said: ''Not another foot.''

This bill is going to deploy more technology. It is going to increase Border Patrol agents. It is going to end catch and release. Notice to appear in front of a judge has become notice to disappear under this administration.

Securing the border used to be a bipartisan issue. In fact, President Biden supported the Secure Fence Act of 2006 when he was a United States Senator. That bill included physical barriers; 150 miles of wall built under the Obama administration. Here is what then-Senator Biden, in his own words, said: ''Why I believe the fence is needed does not have anything to do with immigration as much as drugs.''

Biden continued: ''And let me tell you something, folks, people are driving across that border with tons, hear me, tons of everything from byproducts for methamphetamine to cocaine to heroin and it is coming up from corrupt Mexico.'' That was then-Senator Biden.

This statement is long before the fentanyl crisis, where 70,000 people from the United States died last year because of fentanyl poisoning, the leading cause of death between ages 18 and 45. Biden's own Border Patrol agents disagree with this administration.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, since the aftermath of World War II, the United States has championed its duty to uphold the international right to seek asylum by providing those fleeing persecution with safe haven here in America.

However, the Republican immigration plan in H.R. 2 and the rhetoric we have heard about it today does nothing more than sow chaos, anger, and fear about this important humanitarian system.

It puts the blame for our broken immigration system on the backs of families and children fleeing poverty and violence, instead of recognizing the complexity of the issues involving immigration and border security and blaming Congress for failing to address our broken system for decades.

It is clear that jailing families indefinitely or sending unaccompanied children back to dangerous and exploitive situations and refusing to provide working legal pathways to residents will not make us any safer; neither will wasting American taxpayer dollars to build a discredited and ineffective border wall, decimating our agricultural sector, or defunding trusted nonprofit organizations that provide support to immigrants.

These are not the comprehensive, multiprong solutions we need, the kind of solutions that Democrats have been imploring our Republican colleagues to come to the table on, solutions that secure our ports of entry, expand legal pathways, and address the root causes of migration.

A long and impactful history of immigration is at the heart of our American story. As such, we should meaningfully fix our immigration system so it works better and can continue making our county stronger. We shouldn't gut it or attempt to destroy it altogether. I want a better future than that for the United States and all of those who call it home.

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

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

What we offer today through this rule will be legislation that will strengthen our southern border, secure this country, protect Americans, protect migrants, and ensure that our communities can be safe, particularly along our southern border in States like Texas where the Speaker pro tempore and I and many of our colleagues reside and other friends of ours in Arizona, New Mexico, and California, that are dealing with this every single day.

This bill is pretty simple. It strengthens and requires the administration to enforce existing law and closes the asylum and detention loopholes that have been exploited for years. It curbs release into the interior, a massive pull factor, by requiring DHS to detain, remove, or place in a safe third country, but in doing so allows a path for migrants to be able to pursue asylum claims and just simply follows current law to not be released into the United States. Again, it is pretty straightforward.

It reimplements the asylum deals that were working and ends the bogus asylum claims. It keeps families together while asylum claims are being processed.

It protects unaccompanied children by reforming TVPRA, a request from the Obama administration. It requires DHS to immediately resume border wall construction, which President Biden has halted.

The fact is the American people are very well aware of the crisis at the border that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle seem to ignore.

I had some friends send me, while I was speaking here, the comment section from The New York Times. I am not talking about Breitbart or something. I am talking about The New York Times. Page after page after page of citizens saying, for example: Though I have always voted Democrat, my vote in the next Presidential election will go to whichever candidate has the best, most seemingly effective plan for securing our border. It is the most pressing issue for our country.

If only the President and my Democratic colleagues would agree.

□ 1715

The fact of the matter is we have a devastating crisis that is killing Americans and killing migrants. Right now, to be very clear, our Border Patrol agents and law enforcement community along the southern border are overwhelmed. They are crying out for help.

I had a man text me just a minute ago that works with Border Patrol and DPS. He said:

> We are in a Broken Arrow moment. We are overrun. We have no place to go. We have a crisis.

This body needs to respond, and we need to take action as we speak.

Mr. Speaker, shortly, I will be offering an amendment to the rule. The amendment is a very short, one-page modification that makes clear that Congress will address, within 60 days, the dangerous cartels confronting our country. It will add a sense of Congress to clarify certain language involving agricultural issues relating to E-Verify.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. ROY

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I offer an amendment to the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

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

''That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 2) to secure the borders of the United States, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment specified in section 3 of 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) five hours of debate, with two hours equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Homeland Security or their respective designees, two hours equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees, and one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.''

Add at the end the following:

''Sec. 3. The amendment referred to in the first section of this resolution is as follows:

Amend section 123 of division A to read as follows:

SEC. 123. REPORT ON MEXICAN DRUG CARTELS.

Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, Congress shall commission a report that contains the following:

(1) A national strategy to address Mexican drug cartels, and a determination regarding whether there should be a designation established to address such cartels.

(2) Information relating to actions by such cartels that causes harm to the United States.

In title VIII of division B, redesignate section 815 as section 816.

In title VIII of division B, insert after section 814 the following:

SEC. 815. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION.

It is the sense of Congress that in implementing the E-Verify Program, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure any adverse impact on the Nation's agricultural workforce, operations, and food security are considered and addressed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas is recognized.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I urge support for the resolution, as amended.

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

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 383 OFFERED BY MS. SCANLON OF PENNSYLVANIA

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question on the amendment and on the resolution.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on ordering the previous

question will be followed by 5-minute votes on:

Adoption of the amendment to the resolution, if ordered; and

Adoption of the resolution, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 215, nays 211, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 205]

YEAS—215

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
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
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)
Kelly (PA)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Langworthy
Latta
LaTurner
Lee (FL)
Lesko
Letlow
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Malliotakis
Mann
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
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
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—211

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
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
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
Gonzales, Tony
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
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nickel
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Peltola
Perez
Peters
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
Watson Coleman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—9

Auchincloss
Costa
Greene (GA)
Lawler
Massie
Moskowitz
Pence
Salazar
Santos

□ 1750

Messrs. TAKANO, CUELLAR, Ms. STRICKLAND, Messrs. DAVIS of Illinois, CLYBURN, Mses. PELOSI, JACKSON LEE, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY).

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

RECORDED VOTE

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

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 236, noes 190, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 206]

AYES—236

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
Craig
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davidson
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
Deluzio
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
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
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harder (CA)
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Houchin
Houlahan
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kaptur
Kean (NJ)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Langworthy
Latta
LaTurner
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Lesko
Letlow
Levin
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Magaziner
Malliotakis
Mann
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
Panetta
Peltola
Perez
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Salinas
Scalise
Scholten
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Sherrill
Simpson
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Sorensen
Spanberger
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
Wild
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NOES—190

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
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
Courtney
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
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
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez, Vicente
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horsford
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jackson Lee
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Kamlager-Dove
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McClellan
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nickel
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Peters
Pettersen
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Ross
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spartz
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
Watson Coleman
Wexton
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—9

Auchincloss
Costa
Dunn (FL)
Greene (GA)
Lawler
Massie
Moskowitz
Pence
Santos

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1759

Mr. GRIJALVA changed his vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the adoption of the resolution, as amended.

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

RECORDED VOTE

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

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF 118TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to House Resolution 321, this time has been designated for the taking of the official photo of the House of Representatives in session.

The House will be in a brief recess while the Chamber is being prepared for the photo. As soon as the photographer indicates that these preparations are complete, the Chair will call the House to order to resume its actual session for the taking of the photograph. At that point the Members will take their cues from the photographer. Shortly after the photographer is finished, the House will proceed with business.

RECESS

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess while the Chamber is being prepared.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1811

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 6 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.

(Thereupon, the Members sat for the official photograph of the House of Representatives for the 118th Congress.)

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2, SECURE THE BORDER ACT OF 2023; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1163, PROTECTING TAXPAYERS AND VICTIMS OF UNEMPLOYMENT FRAUD ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. AMODEI). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on adoption of the resolution (H. Res. 383) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2) to secure the borders of the United States, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1163) to provide incentives for States to recover fraudulently paid Federal and State unemployment compensation, and for other purposes, on which the ayes and noes were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 215, noes 209, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 207]

AYES—215

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)
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
Issa
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kean (NJ)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Langworthy
Latta
LaTurner
Lee (FL)
Lesko
Letlow
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Malliotakis
Mann
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
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
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—209

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
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
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Correa
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	Morelle	Schrier
Jackson (IL)	Moulton	Scott (VA)
Jackson (NC)	Mrvan	Scott, David
Jackson Lee	Mullin	Sewell
Jacobs	Nadler	Sherman
Jayapal	Napolitano	Sherrill
Jeffries	Neal	Slotkin
Johnson (GA)	Neguse	Smith (WA)
Kamlager-Dove	Nickel	Sorensen
Kaptur	Norcross	Soto
Keating	Ocasio-Cortez	Spanberger
Kelly (IL)	Omar	Stansbury
Khanna	Pallone	Stanton
Kildee	Panetta	Stevens
Kilmer	Pappas	Strickland
Kim (NJ)	Pascrell	Swalwell
Krishnamoorthi	Payne	Sykes
Kuster	Pelosi	Takano
Landsman	Peltola	Thanedar
Larsen (WA)	Perez	Thompson (CA)
Larson (CT)	Peters	Thompson (MS)
Lee (CA)	Pettersen	Titus
Lee (NV)	Phillips	Tlaib
Lee (PA)	Pingree	Tokuda
Leger Fernandez	Pocan	Tonko
Levin	Porter	Torres (CA)
Lieu	Pressley	Torres (NY)
Lofgren	Quigley	Trahan
Lynch	Ramirez	Trone
Magaziner	Raskin	Underwood
Manning	Ross	Vargas
Matsui	Ruiz	Vasquez
McBath	Ruppersberger	Veasey
McClellan	Ryan	Velázquez
McCollum	Salinas	Wasserman Schultz
McGarvey	Sánchez	
McGovern	Sarbanes	Waters
Meeks	Scanlon	Watson Coleman
Menendez	Schakowsky	Wexton
Meng	Schiff	Wild
Mfume	Schneider	Williams (GA)
Moore (WI)	Scholten	Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—11

Auchincloss	Hunt	Pence
Carter (TX)	Lawler	Salazar
Case	Massie	Santos
Costa	Moskowitz	

□ 1817

So the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

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

SECURE THE BORDER ACT OF 2023

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 383, I call up the bill (H.R. 2) to secure the borders of the United States, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 383, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2

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 ''Secure the Border Act of 2023''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

DIVISION A—BORDER SECURITY

Sec. 101. Definitions.
Sec. 102. Border wall construction.
Sec. 103. Strengthening the requirements for barriers along the southern border.
Sec. 104. Border and port security technology investment plan.
Sec. 105. Border security technology program management.
Sec. 106. U.S. Customs and Border Protection technology upgrades.
Sec. 107. U.S. Customs and Border Protection personnel.
Sec. 108. Anti-Border Corruption Act reauthorization.
Sec. 109. Establishment of workload staffing models for U.S. Border Patrol and Air and Marine Operations of CBP.
Sec. 110. Operation Stonegarden.
Sec. 111. Air and Marine Operations flight hours.
Sec. 112. Eradication of carrizo cane and salt cedar.
Sec. 113. Border patrol strategic plan.
Sec. 114. U.S. Customs and Border Protection spiritual readiness.
Sec. 115. Restrictions on funding.
Sec. 116. Collection of DNA and biometric information at the border.
Sec. 117. Eradication of narcotic drugs and formulating effective new tools to address yearly losses of life; ensuring timely updates to U.S. Customs and Border Protection field manuals.
Sec. 118. Publication by U.S. Customs and Border Protection of operational statistics.
Sec. 119. Alien criminal background checks.
Sec. 120. Prohibited identification documents at airport security checkpoints; notification to immigration agencies.
Sec. 121. Prohibition against any COVID–19 vaccine mandate or adverse action against DHS employees.
Sec. 122. CBP One app limitation.
Sec. 123. Report on Mexican drug cartels.
Sec. 124. GAO study on costs incurred by States to secure the southwest border.
Sec. 125. Report by Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security.
Sec. 126. Offsetting authorizations of appropriations.
Sec. 127. Report to Congress on foreign terrorist organizations.
Sec. 128. Assessment by Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security on the mitigation of unmanned aircraft systems at the southwest border.

DIVISION B—IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

TITLE I—ASYLUM REFORM AND BORDER PROTECTION

Sec. 101. Safe third country.
Sec. 102. Credible fear interviews.
Sec. 103. Clarification of asylum eligibility.
Sec. 104. Exceptions.
Sec. 105. Employment authorization.
Sec. 106. Asylum fees.
Sec. 107. Rules for determining asylum eligibility.
Sec. 108. Firm resettlement.
Sec. 109. Notice concerning frivolous asylum applications.
Sec. 110. Technical amendments.
Sec. 111. Requirement for procedures relating to certain asylum applications.

TITLE II—BORDER SAFETY AND MIGRANT PROTECTION

Sec. 201. Inspection of applicants for admission.
Sec. 202. Operational detention facilities.

TITLE III—PREVENTING UNCONTROLLED MIGRATION FLOWS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Sec. 301. United States policy regarding Western Hemisphere cooperation on immigration and asylum.
Sec. 302. Negotiations by Secretary of State.
Sec. 303. Mandatory briefings on United States efforts to address the border crisis.

TITLE IV—ENSURING UNITED FAMILIES AT THE BORDER

Sec. 401. Clarification of standards for family detention.

TITLE V—PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

Sec. 501. Findings.
Sec. 502. Repatriation of unaccompanied alien children.
Sec. 503. Special immigrant juvenile status for immigrants unable to reunite with either parent.
Sec. 504. Rule of construction.

TITLE VI—VISA OVERSTAYS PENALTIES

Sec. 601. Expanded penalties for illegal entry or presence.

TITLE VII—IMMIGRATION PAROLE REFORM

Sec. 701. Immigration parole reform.
Sec. 702. Implementation.
Sec. 703. Cause of action.
Sec. 704. Severability.

TITLE VIII—LEGAL WORKFORCE

Sec. 801. Employment eligibility verification process.
Sec. 802. Employment eligibility verification system.
Sec. 803. Recruitment, referral, and continuation of employment.
Sec. 804. Good faith defense.
Sec. 805. Preemption and States' rights.
Sec. 806. Repeal.
Sec. 807. Penalties.
Sec. 808. Fraud and misuse of documents.
Sec. 809. Protection of Social Security Administration programs.
Sec. 810. Fraud prevention.
Sec. 811. Use of employment eligibility verification photo tool.
Sec. 812. Identity authentication employment eligibility verification pilot programs.
Sec. 813. Inspector General audits.
Sec. 814. Agriculture workforce study.
Sec. 815. Sense of Congress on further implementation.
Sec. 816. Repealing regulations.

DIVISION A—BORDER SECURITY

SEC. 101. DEFINITIONS.

In this division:

(1) CBP.—The term ''CBP'' means U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

(2) COMMISSIONER.—The term ''Commissioner'' means the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

(3) DEPARTMENT.—The term ''Department'' means the Department of Homeland Security.

(4) OPERATIONAL CONTROL.—The term ''operational control'' has the meaning given such term in section 2(b) of the Secure Fence Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–367; 8 U.S.C. 1701 note).

(5) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(6) SITUATIONAL AWARENESS.—The term ''situational awareness'' has the meaning given such term in section 1092(a)(7) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328; 6 U.S.C. 223(a)(7)).

(7) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.—The term ''unmanned aircraft system'' has the meaning given such term in section 44801 of title 49, United States Code.

SEC. 102. BORDER WALL CONSTRUCTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) IMMEDIATE RESUMPTION OF BORDER WALL CONSTRUCTION.—Not later than seven days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall resume all activities related to the construction of the border wall along the border between the United States and Mexico that were underway or being planned for prior to January 20, 2021.

(2) USE OF FUNDS.—To carry out this section, the Secretary shall expend all unexpired funds appropriated or explicitly obligated for the construction of the border wall that were appropriated or obligated, as the case may be, for use beginning on October 1, 2019.

(3) USE OF MATERIALS.—Any unused materials purchased before the date of the enactment of this Act for construction of the border wall may be used for activities related to the construction of the border wall in accordance with paragraph (1).

(b) PLAN TO COMPLETE TACTICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND TECHNOLOGY.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter until construction of the border wall has been completed, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an implementation plan, including annual benchmarks for the construction of 200 miles of such wall and associated cost estimates for satisfying all requirements of the construction of the border wall, including installation and deployment of tactical infrastructure, technology, and other elements as identified by the Department prior to January 20, 2021, through the expenditure of funds appropriated or explicitly obligated, as the case may be, for use, as well as any future funds appropriated or otherwise made available by Congress.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(2) TACTICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term ''tactical infrastructure'' includes boat ramps, access gates, checkpoints, lighting, and roads associated with a border wall.

(3) TECHNOLOGY.—The term ''technology'' includes border surveillance and detection technology, including linear ground detection systems, associated with a border wall.

SEC. 103. STRENGTHENING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR BARRIERS ALONG THE SOUTHERN BORDER.

Section 102 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (Division C of Public Law 104–208; 8 U.S.C. 1103 note) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall take such actions as may be necessary (including the removal of obstacles to detection of illegal entrants) to design, test, construct, install, deploy, integrate, and operate physical barriers, tactical infrastructure, and technology in the vicinity of the southwest border to achieve situational awareness and operational control of the southwest border and deter, impede, and detect unlawful activity.'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking ''FENCING AND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS'' and inserting ''PHYSICAL BARRIERS'';

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the heading, by striking ''FENCING'' and inserting ''BARRIERS'';

(ii) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

''(A) REINFORCED BARRIERS.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall construct a border wall, including physical barriers, tactical infrastructure, and technology, along not fewer than 900 miles of the southwest border until situational awareness and operational control of the southwest border is achieved.'';

(iii) by amending subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

''(B) PHYSICAL BARRIERS AND TACTICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall deploy along the southwest border the most practical and effective physical barriers, tactical infrastructure, and technology available for achieving situational awareness and operational control of the southwest border.'';

(iv) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) by amending clause (i) to read as follows:

''(i) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall consult with the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, appropriate representatives of State, Tribal, and local governments, and appropriate private property owners in the United States to minimize the impact on natural resources, commerce, and sites of historical or cultural significance for the communities and residents located near the sites at which physical barriers, tactical infrastructure, and technology are to be constructed. Such consultation may not delay such construction for longer than seven days.''; and

(II) in clause (ii)—

(aa) in subclause (I), by striking ''or'' after the semicolon at the end;

(bb) by amending subclause (II) to read as follows:

''(II) delay the transfer to the United States of the possession of property or affect the validity of any property acquisition by the United States by purchase or eminent domain, or to otherwise affect the eminent domain laws of the United States or of any State; or''; and

(cc) by adding at the end the following new subclause:

''(III) create any right or liability for any party.''; and

(v) by striking subparagraph (D);

(C) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking ''Attorney General'' and inserting ''Secretary of Homeland Security'';

(ii) by striking ''this subsection'' and inserting ''this section''; and

(iii) by striking ''construction of fences'' and inserting ''the construction of physical barriers, tactical infrastructure, and technology'';

(D) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

''(3) AGENT SAFETY.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary of Homeland Security, when designing, testing, constructing, installing, deploying, integrating, and operating physical barriers, tactical infrastructure, or technology, shall incorporate such safety features into such design, test, construction, installation, deployment, integration, or operation of such physical barriers, tactical infrastructure, or technology, as the case may be, that the Secretary determines are necessary to maximize the safety and effectiveness of officers and agents of the Department of Homeland Security or of any other Federal agency deployed in the vicinity of such physical barriers, tactical infrastructure, or technology.''; and

(E) in paragraph (4), by striking ''this subsection'' and inserting ''this section'';

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall waive all legal requirements necessary to ensure the expeditious design, testing, construction, installation, deployment, integration, operation, and maintenance of the physical barriers, tactical infrastructure, and technology under this section. The Secretary shall ensure the maintenance and effectiveness of such physical barriers, tactical infrastructure, or technology. Any such action by the Secretary shall be effective upon publication in the Federal Register.'';

(B) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

''(2) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than seven days after the date on which the Secretary of Homeland Security exercises a waiver pursuant to paragraph (1), the Secretary shall notify the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate of such waiver.''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

''(e) TECHNOLOGY.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall deploy along the southwest border the most practical and effective technology available for achieving situational awareness and operational control.

''(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ADVANCED UNATTENDED SURVEILLANCE SENSORS.—The term 'advanced unattended surveillance sensors' means sensors that utilize an onboard computer to analyze detections in an effort to discern between vehicles, humans, and animals, and ultimately filter false positives prior to transmission.

''(2) OPERATIONAL CONTROL.—The term 'operational control' has the meaning given such term in section 2(b) of the Secure Fence Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–367; 8 U.S.C. 1701 note).

''(3) PHYSICAL BARRIERS.—The term 'physical barriers' includes reinforced fencing, the border wall, and levee walls.

''(4) SITUATIONAL AWARENESS.—The term 'situational awareness' has the meaning given such term in section 1092(a)(7) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328; 6 U.S.C. 223(a)(7)).

''(5) TACTICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term 'tactical infrastructure' includes boat ramps, access gates, checkpoints, lighting, and roads.

''(6) TECHNOLOGY.—The term 'technology' includes border surveillance and detection technology, including the following:

''(A) Tower-based surveillance technology.

''(B) Deployable, lighter-than-air ground surveillance equipment.

''(C) Vehicle and Dismount Exploitation Radars (VADER).

''(D) 3-dimensional, seismic acoustic detection and ranging border tunneling detection technology.

''(E) Advanced unattended surveillance sensors.

''(F) Mobile vehicle-mounted and man-portable surveillance capabilities.

''(G) Unmanned aircraft systems.

''(H) Tunnel detection systems and other seismic technology.

''(I) Fiber-optic cable.

''(J) Other border detection, communication, and surveillance technology.

''(7) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.—The term 'unmanned aircraft system' has the meaning given such term in section 44801 of title 49, United States Code.''.

SEC. 104. BORDER AND PORT SECURITY TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commissioner, in consultation with covered officials and border and port security technology stakeholders, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a strategic 5-year technology investment plan (in this section referred to as the ''plan''). The plan may include a classified annex, if appropriate.

(b) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—The plan shall include the following:

(1) An analysis of security risks at and between ports of entry along the northern and southern borders of the United States.

(2) An identification of capability gaps with respect to security at and between such ports of entry to be mitigated in order to—

(A) prevent terrorists and instruments of terror from entering the United States;

(B) combat and reduce cross-border criminal activity, including—

(i) the transport of illegal goods, such as illicit drugs; and

(ii) human smuggling and human trafficking; and

(C) facilitate the flow of legal trade across the southwest border.

(3) An analysis of current and forecast trends relating to the number of aliens who—

(A) unlawfully entered the United States by crossing the northern or southern border of the United States; or

(B) are unlawfully present in the United States.

(4) A description of security-related technology acquisitions, to be listed in order of priority, to address the security risks and capability gaps analyzed and identified pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively.

(5) A description of each planned security-related technology program, including objectives, goals, and timelines for each such program.

(6) An identification of each deployed security-related technology that is at or near the end of the life cycle of such technology.

(7) A description of the test, evaluation, modeling, and simulation capabilities, including target methodologies, rationales, and timelines, necessary to support the acquisition of security-related technologies pursuant to paragraph (4).

(8) An identification and assessment of ways to increase opportunities for communication and collaboration with the private sector, small and disadvantaged businesses, intragovernment entities, university centers of excellence, and federal laboratories to ensure CBP is able to engage with the market for security-related technologies that are available to satisfy its mission needs before engaging in an acquisition of a security-related technology.

(9) An assessment of the management of planned security-related technology programs by the acquisition workforce of CBP.

(10) An identification of ways to leverage already-existing acquisition expertise within the Federal Government.

(11) A description of the security resources, including information security resources, required to protect security-related technology from physical or cyber theft, diversion, sabotage, or attack.

(12) A description of initiatives to—

(A) streamline the acquisition process of CBP; and

(B) provide to the private sector greater predictability and transparency with respect to such process, including information relating to the timeline for testing and evaluation of security-related technology.

(13) An assessment of the privacy and security impact on border communities of security-related technology.

(14) In the case of a new acquisition leading to the removal of equipment from a port of entry along the northern or southern border of the United States, a strategy to consult with the private sector and community stakeholders affected by such removal.

(15) A strategy to consult with the private sector and community stakeholders with respect to security impacts at a port of entry described in paragraph (14).

(16) An identification of recent technological advancements in the following:

(A) Manned aircraft sensor, communication, and common operating picture technology.

(B) Unmanned aerial systems and related technology, including counter-unmanned aerial system technology.

(C) Surveillance technology, including the following:

(i) Mobile surveillance vehicles.

(ii) Associated electronics, including cameras, sensor technology, and radar.

(iii) Tower-based surveillance technology.

(iv) Advanced unattended surveillance sensors.

(v) Deployable, lighter-than-air, ground surveillance equipment.

(D) Nonintrusive inspection technology, including non-x-ray devices utilizing muon tomography and other advanced detection technology.

(E) Tunnel detection technology.

(F) Communications equipment, including the following:

(i) Radios.

(ii) Long-term evolution broadband.

(iii) Miniature satellites.

(c) LEVERAGING THE PRIVATE SECTOR.—To the extent practicable, the plan shall—

(1) leverage emerging technological capabilities, and research and development trends, within the public and private sectors;

(2) incorporate input from the private sector, including from border and port security stakeholders, through requests for information, industry day events, and other innovative means consistent with the Federal Acquisition Regulation; and

(3) identify security-related technologies that are in development or deployed, with or without adaptation, that may satisfy the mission needs of CBP.

(d) FORM.—To the extent practicable, the plan shall be published in unclassified form on the website of the Department.

(e) DISCLOSURE.—The plan shall include an identification of individuals not employed by the Federal Government, and their professional affiliations, who contributed to the development of the plan.

(f) UPDATE AND REPORT.—Not later than the date that is two years after the date on which the plan is submitted to the appropriate congressional committees pursuant to subsection (a) and biennially thereafter for ten years, the Commissioner shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees—

(1) an update of the plan, if appropriate; and

(2) a report that includes—

(A) the extent to which each security-related technology acquired by CBP since the initial submission of the plan or most recent update of the plan, as the case may be, is consistent with the planned technology programs and projects described pursuant to subsection (b)(5); and

(B) the type of contract and the reason for acquiring each such security-related technology.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(2) COVERED OFFICIALS.—The term ''covered officials'' means—

(A) the Under Secretary for Management of the Department;

(B) the Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department; and

(C) the Chief Information Officer of the Department.

(3) UNLAWFULLY PRESENT.—The term ''unlawfully present'' has the meaning provided such term in section 212(a)(9)(B)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(9)(B)(ii)).

SEC. 105. BORDER SECURITY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM MANAGEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle C of title IV of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 231 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 437. BORDER SECURITY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM MANAGEMENT.

''(a) MAJOR ACQUISITION PROGRAM DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'major acquisition program' means an acquisition program of the Department that is estimated by the Secretary to require an eventual total expenditure of at least $100,000,000 (based on fiscal year 2023 constant dollars) over its life-cycle cost.

''(b) PLANNING DOCUMENTATION.—For each border security technology acquisition program of the Department that is determined to be a major acquisition program, the Secretary shall—

''(1) ensure that each such program has a written acquisition program baseline approved by the relevant acquisition decision authority;

''(2) document that each such program is satisfying cost, schedule, and performance thresholds as specified in such baseline, in compliance with relevant departmental acquisition policies and the Federal Acquisition Regulation; and

''(3) have a plan for satisfying program implementation objectives by managing contractor performance.

''(c) ADHERENCE TO STANDARDS.—The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Management and the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, shall ensure border security technology acquisition program managers who are responsible for carrying out this section adhere to relevant internal control standards identified by the Comptroller General of the United States. The Commissioner shall provide information, as needed, to assist the Under Secretary in monitoring management of border security technology acquisition programs under this section.

''(d) PLAN.—The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Management, in coordination with the Under Secretary for Science and Technology and the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a plan for testing, evaluating, and using independent verification and validation of resources relating to the proposed acquisition of border security technology. Under such plan, the proposed acquisition of new border security technologies shall be evaluated through a series of assessments, processes, and audits to ensure—

''(1) compliance with relevant departmental acquisition policies and the Federal Acquisition Regulation; and

''(2) the effective use of taxpayer dollars.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 436 the following new item:

''Sec. 437. Border security technology program management.''.

(c) PROHIBITION ON ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 437 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by subsection (a).

SEC. 106. U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES.

(a) SECURE COMMUNICATIONS.—The Commissioner shall ensure that each CBP officer or agent, as appropriate, is equipped with a secure radio or other two-way communication device that allows each such officer or agent to communicate—

(1) between ports of entry and inspection stations; and

(2) with other Federal, State, Tribal, and local law enforcement entities.

(b) BORDER SECURITY DEPLOYMENT PROGRAM.—

(1) EXPANSION.—Not later than September 30, 2025, the Commissioner shall—

(A) fully implement the Border Security Deployment Program of CBP; and

(B) expand the integrated surveillance and intrusion detection system at land ports of entry along the northern and southern borders of the United States.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated for such purpose, there is authorized to be appropriated $33,000,000 for fiscal years 2024 and 2025 to carry out paragraph (1).

(c) UPGRADE OF LICENSE PLATE READERS AT PORTS OF ENTRY.—

(1) UPGRADE.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commissioner shall upgrade all existing license plate readers in need of upgrade, as determined by the Commissioner, on the northern and southern borders of the United States.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated for such purpose, there is authorized to be appropriated $125,000,000 for fiscal years 2023 and 2024 to carry out paragraph (1).

SEC. 107. U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION PERSONNEL.

(a) RETENTION BONUS.—To carry out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated up to $100,000,000 to the Commissioner to provide a retention bonus to any front-line U.S. Border Patrol law enforcement agent—

(1) whose position is equal to or below level GS-12 of the General Schedule;

(2) who has five years or more of service with the U.S. Border Patrol; and

(3) who commits to two years of additional service with the U.S. Border Patrol upon acceptance of such bonus.

(b) BORDER PATROL AGENTS.—Not later than September 30, 2025, the Commissioner shall hire, train, and assign a sufficient number of Border Patrol agents to maintain an active duty presence of not fewer than 22,000 full-time equivalent Border Patrol agents, who may not perform the duties of processing coordinators.

(c) PROHIBITION AGAINST ALIEN TRAVEL.—No personnel or equipment of Air and Marine Operations may be used for the transportation of non-detained aliens, or detained aliens expected to be administratively released upon arrival, from the southwest border to destinations within the United States.

(d) GAO REPORT.—If the staffing level required under this section is not achieved by the date associated with such level, the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) conduct a review of the reasons why such level was not so achieved; and

(2) not later than September 30, 2027, publish on a publicly available website of the Government Accountability Office a report relating thereto.

SEC. 108. ANTI-BORDER CORRUPTION ACT REAUTHORIZATION.

(a) HIRING FLEXIBILITY.—Section 3 of the Anti-Border Corruption Act of 2010 (6 U.S.C. 221; Public Law 111–376) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following new subsections:

''(b) WAIVER REQUIREMENT.—Subject to subsection (c), the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall waive the application of subsection (a)(1)—

''(1) to a current, full-time law enforcement officer employed by a State or local law enforcement agency who—

''(A) has continuously served as a law enforcement officer for not fewer than three years;

''(B) is authorized by law to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of, or the incarceration of any person for, any violation of law, and has statutory powers for arrest or apprehension; and

''(C) is not currently under investigation, has not been found to have engaged in criminal activity or serious misconduct, has not resigned from a law enforcement officer position under investigation or in lieu of termination, and has not been dismissed from a law enforcement officer position;

''(2) to a current, full-time Federal law enforcement officer who—

''(A) has continuously served as a law enforcement officer for not fewer than three years;

''(B) is authorized to make arrests, conduct investigations, conduct searches, make seizures, carry firearms, and serve orders, warrants, and other processes;

''(C) is not currently under investigation, has not been found to have engaged in criminal activity or serious misconduct, has not resigned from a law enforcement officer position under investigation or in lieu of termination, and has not been dismissed from a law enforcement officer position; and

''(D) holds a current Tier 4 background investigation or current Tier 5 background investigation; or

''(3) to a member of the Armed Forces (or a reserve component thereof) or a veteran, if such individual—

''(A) has served in the Armed Forces for not fewer than three years;

''(B) holds, or has held within the past five years, a Secret, Top Secret, or Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmented Information clearance;

''(C) holds, or has undergone within the past five years, a current Tier 4 background investigation or current Tier 5 background investigation;

''(D) received, or is eligible to receive, an honorable discharge from service in the Armed Forces and has not engaged in criminal activity or committed a serious military or civil offense under the Uniform Code of Military Justice; and

''(E) was not granted any waivers to obtain the clearance referred to in subparagraph (B).

''(c) TERMINATION OF WAIVER REQUIREMENT; SNAP-BACK.—The requirement to issue a waiver under subsection (b) shall terminate if the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) certifies to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate that CBP has met all requirements pursuant to section 107 of the Secure the Border Act of 2023 relating to personnel levels. If at any time after such certification personnel levels fall below such requirements, the Commissioner shall waive the application of subsection (a)(1) until such time as the Commissioner re-certifies to such Committees that CBP has so met all such requirements.''.

(b) SUPPLEMENTAL COMMISSIONER AUTHORITY; REPORTING; DEFINITIONS.—The Anti-Border Corruption Act of 2010 is amended by adding at the end the following new sections:

''SEC. 5. SUPPLEMENTAL COMMISSIONER AUTHORITY.

''(a) NONEXEMPTION.—An individual who receives a waiver under section 3(b) is not exempt from any other hiring requirements relating to suitability for employment and eligibility to hold a national security designated position, as determined by the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

''(b) BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS.—An individual who receives a waiver under section 3(b) who holds a current Tier 4 background investigation shall be subject to a Tier 5 background investigation.

''(c) ADMINISTRATION OF POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection is authorized to administer a polygraph examination to an applicant or employee who is eligible for or receives a waiver under section 3(b) if information is discovered before the completion of a background investigation that results in a determination that a polygraph examination is necessary to make a final determination regarding suitability for employment or continued employment, as the case may be.

''SEC. 6. REPORTING.

''(a) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this section and annually thereafter while the waiver authority under section 3(b) is in effect, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall submit to Congress a report that includes, with respect to each such reporting period, the following:

''(1) Information relating to the number of waivers granted under such section 3(b).

''(2) Information relating to the percentage of applicants who were hired after receiving such a waiver.

''(3) Information relating to the number of instances that a polygraph was administered to an applicant who initially received such a waiver and the results of such polygraph.

''(4) An assessment of the current impact of such waiver authority on filling law enforcement positions at U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

''(5) An identification of additional authorities needed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection to better utilize such waiver authority for its intended goals.

''(b) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—The first report submitted under subsection (a) shall include the following:

''(1) An analysis of other methods of employment suitability tests that detect deception and could be used in conjunction with traditional background investigations to evaluate potential applicants or employees for suitability for employment or continued employment, as the case may be.

''(2) A recommendation regarding whether a test referred to in paragraph (1) should be adopted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection when the polygraph examination requirement is waived pursuant to section 3(b).

''SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.

''In this Act:

''(1) FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—The term 'Federal law enforcement officer' means a 'law enforcement officer', as such term is defined in section 8331(20) or 8401(17) of title 5, United States Code.

''(2) SERIOUS MILITARY OR CIVIL OFFENSE.—The term 'serious military or civil offense' means an offense for which—

''(A) a member of the Armed Forces may be discharged or separated from service in the Armed Forces; and

''(B) a punitive discharge is, or would be, authorized for the same or a closely related offense under the Manual for Court-Martial, as pursuant to Army Regulation 635–200, chapter 14–12.

''(3) TIER 4; TIER 5.—The terms 'Tier 4' and 'Tier 5', with respect to background investigations, have the meaning given such terms under the 2012 Federal Investigative Standards.

''(4) VETERAN.—The term 'veteran' has the meaning given such term in section 101(2) of title 38, United States Code.''.

(c) POLYGRAPH EXAMINERS.—Not later than September 30, 2025, the Secretary shall increase to not fewer than 150 the number of trained full-time equivalent polygraph examiners for administering polygraphs under the Anti-Border Corruption Act of 2010, as amended by this section.

SEC. 109. ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKLOAD STAFFING MODELS FOR U.S. BORDER PATROL AND AIR AND MARINE OPERATIONS OF CBP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commissioner, in coordination with the Under Secretary for Management, the Chief Human Capital Officer, and the Chief Financial Officer of the Department, shall implement a workload staffing model for each of the following:

(1) The U.S. Border Patrol.

(2) Air and Marine Operations of CBP.

(b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMISSIONER.—Subsection (c) of section 411 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 211), is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (18) and (19) as paragraphs (20) and (21), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (17) the following new paragraphs:

''(18) implement a staffing model for the U.S. Border Patrol, Air and Marine Operations, and the Office of Field Operations that includes consideration for essential frontline operator activities and functions, variations in operating environments, present and planned infrastructure, present and planned technology, and required operations support levels to enable such entities to manage and assign personnel of such entities to ensure field and support posts possess adequate resources to carry out duties specified in this section;

''(19) develop standard operating procedures for a workforce tracking system within the U.S. Border Patrol, Air and Marine Operations, and the Office of Field Operations, train the workforce of each of such entities on the use, capabilities, and purpose of such system, and implement internal controls to ensure timely and accurate scheduling and reporting of actual completed work hours and activities;''.

(c) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act with respect to subsection (a) and paragraphs (18) and (19) of section 411(c) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (as amended by subsection (b)), and annually thereafter with respect to such paragraphs (18) and (19), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes a status update on the following:

(A) The implementation of such subsection (a) and such paragraphs (18) and (19).

(B) Each relevant workload staffing model.

(2) DATA SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY REQUIRED.—Each report required under paragraph (1) shall include information relating to the data sources and methodology used to generate each relevant staffing model.

(d) INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW.—Not later than 90 days after the Commissioner develops the workload staffing models pursuant to subsection (a), the Inspector General of the Department shall review such models and provide feedback to the Secretary and the appropriate congressional committees with respect to the degree to which such models are responsive to the recommendations of the Inspector General, including the following:

(1) Recommendations from the Inspector General's February 2019 audit.

(2) Any further recommendations to improve such models.

(e) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

SEC. 110. OPERATION STONEGARDEN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title XX of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''SEC. 2010. OPERATION STONEGARDEN.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Department a program to be known as 'Operation Stonegarden', under which the Secretary, acting through the Administrator, shall make grants to eligible law enforcement agencies, through State administrative agencies, to enhance border security in accordance with this section.

''(b) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a law enforcement agency shall—

''(1) be located in—

''(A) a State bordering Canada or Mexico; or

''(B) a State or territory with a maritime border;

''(2) be involved in an active, ongoing, U.S. Customs and Border Protection operation coordinated through a U.S. Border Patrol sector office; and

''(3) have an agreement in place with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to support enforcement operations.

''(c) PERMITTED USES.—A recipient of a grant under this section may use such grant for costs associated with the following:

''(1) Equipment, including maintenance and sustainment.

''(2) Personnel, including overtime and backfill, in support of enhanced border law enforcement activities.

''(3) Any activity permitted for Operation Stonegarden under the most recent fiscal year Department of Homeland Security's Homeland Security Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity.

''(d) PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE.—The Secretary shall award grants under this section to grant recipients for a period of not fewer than 36 months.

''(e) NOTIFICATION.—Upon denial of a grant to a law enforcement agency, the Administrator shall provide written notice to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, including the reasoning for such denial.

''(f) REPORT.—For each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028 the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report that contains—

''(1) information on the expenditure of grants made under this section by each grant recipient; and

''(2) recommendations for other uses of such grants to further support eligible law enforcement agencies.

''(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated $110,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028 for grants under this section.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (a) of section 2002 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 603) is amended to read as follows:

''(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary, through the Administrator, may award grants under sections 2003, 2004, 2009, and 2010 to State, local, and Tribal governments, as appropriate.''.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2009 the following new item:

''Sec. 2010. Operation Stonegarden.''.

SEC. 111. AIR AND MARINE OPERATIONS FLIGHT HOURS.

(a) AIR AND MARINE OPERATIONS FLIGHT HOURS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall ensure that not fewer than 110,000 annual flight hours are carried out by Air and Marine Operations of CBP.

(b) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS.—The Secretary, after coordination with the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, shall ensure that Air and Marine Operations operate unmanned aircraft systems on the southern border of the United States for not less than 24 hours per day.

(c) PRIMARY MISSIONS.—The Commissioner shall ensure the following:

(1) The primary missions for Air and Marine Operations are to directly support the following:

(A) U.S. Border Patrol activities along the borders of the United States.

(B) Joint Interagency Task Force South and Joint Task Force East operations in the transit zone.

(2) The Executive Assistant Commissioner of Air and Marine Operations assigns the greatest priority to support missions specified in paragraph (1).

(d) HIGH DEMAND FLIGHT HOUR REQUIREMENTS.—The Commissioner shall—

(1) ensure that U.S. Border Patrol Sector Chiefs identify air support mission-critical hours; and

(2) direct Air and Marine Operations to support requests from such Sector Chiefs as a component of the primary mission of Air and Marine Operations in accordance with subsection (c)(1)(A).

(e) CONTRACT AIR SUPPORT AUTHORIZATIONS.—The Commissioner shall contract for air support mission-critical hours to meet the requests for such hours, as identified pursuant to subsection (d).

(f) SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Chief of the U.S. Border Patrol shall be the executive agent with respect to the use of small unmanned aircraft by CBP for the purposes of the following:

(A) Meeting the unmet flight hour operational requirements of the U.S. Border Patrol.

(B) Achieving situational awareness and operational control of the borders of the United States.

(2) COORDINATION.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Chief of the U.S. Border Patrol shall coordinate—

(A) flight operations with the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to ensure the safe and efficient operation of the national airspace system; and

(B) with the Executive Assistant Commissioner for Air and Marine Operations of CBP to—

(i) ensure the safety of other CBP aircraft flying in the vicinity of small unmanned aircraft operated by the U.S. Border Patrol; and

(ii) establish a process to include data from flight hours in the calculation of got away statistics.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (3) of section 411(e) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 211(e)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon at the end;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following new subparagraph:

''(C) carry out the small unmanned aircraft (as such term is defined in section 44801 of title 49, United States Code) requirements pursuant to subsection (f) of section 111 of the Secure the Border Act of 2023; and''.

(g) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section may be construed as conferring, transferring, or delegating to the Secretary, the Commissioner, the Executive Assistant Commissioner for Air and Marine Operations of CBP, or the Chief of the U.S. Border Patrol any authority of the Secretary of Transportation or the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration relating to the use of airspace or aviation safety.

(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) GOT AWAY.—The term ''got away'' has the meaning given such term in section 1092(a)(3) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328; 6 U.S.C. 223(a)(3)).

(2) TRANSIT ZONE.—The term ''transit zone'' has the meaning given such term in section 1092(a)(8) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328; 6 U.S.C. 223(a)(8)).

SEC. 112. ERADICATION OF CARRIZO CANE AND SALT CEDAR.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with the heads of relevant Federal, State, and local agencies, shall hire contractors to begin eradicating the carrizo cane plant and any salt cedar along the Rio Grande River that impedes border security operations. Such eradication shall be completed—

(1) by not later than September 30, 2027, except for required maintenance; and

(2) in the most expeditious and cost-effective manner possible to maintain clear fields of view.

(b) APPLICATION.—The waiver authority under subsection (c) of section 102 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1103 note), as amended by section 103 of this division, shall apply to activities carried out pursuant to subsection (a).

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a strategic plan to eradicate all carrizo cane plant and salt cedar along the Rio Grande River that impedes border security operations by not later than September 30, 2027.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated $7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028 to the Secretary to carry out this subsection.

SEC. 113. BORDER PATROL STRATEGIC PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and biennially thereafter, the Commissioner, acting through the Chief of the U.S. Border Patrol, shall issue a Border Patrol Strategic Plan (referred to in this section as the ''plan'') to enhance the security of the borders of the United States.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The plan shall include the following:

(1) A consideration of Border Patrol Capability Gap Analysis reporting, Border Security Improvement Plans, and any other strategic document authored by the U.S. Border Patrol to address security gaps between ports of entry, including efforts to mitigate threats identified in such analyses, plans, and documents.

(2) Information relating to the dissemination of information relating to border security or border threats with respect to the efforts of the Department and other appropriate Federal agencies.

(3) Information relating to efforts by U.S. Border Patrol to—

(A) increase situational awareness, including—

(i) surveillance capabilities, such as capabilities developed or utilized by the Department of Defense, and any appropriate technology determined to be excess by the Department of Defense; and

(ii) the use of manned aircraft and unmanned aircraft;

(B) detect and prevent terrorists and instruments of terrorism from entering the United States;

(C) detect, interdict, and disrupt between ports of entry aliens unlawfully present in the United States;

(D) detect, interdict, and disrupt human smuggling, human trafficking, drug trafficking, and other illicit cross-border activity;

(E) focus intelligence collection to disrupt transnational criminal organizations outside of the international and maritime borders of the United States; and

(F) ensure that any new border security technology can be operationally integrated with existing technologies in use by the Department.

(4) Information relating to initiatives of the Department with respect to operational coordination, including any relevant task forces of the Department.

(5) Information gathered from the lessons learned by the deployments of the National Guard to the southern border of the United States.

(6) A description of cooperative agreements relating to information sharing with State, local, Tribal, territorial, and other Federal law enforcement agencies that have jurisdiction on the borders of the United States.

(7) Information relating to border security information received from the following:

(A) State, local, Tribal, territorial, and other Federal law enforcement agencies that have jurisdiction on the borders of the United States or in the maritime environment.

(B) Border community stakeholders, including representatives from the following:

(i) Border agricultural and ranching organizations.

(ii) Business and civic organizations.

(iii) Hospitals and rural clinics within 150 miles of the borders of the United States.

(iv) Victims of crime committed by aliens unlawfully present in the United States.

(v) Victims impacted by drugs, transnational criminal organizations, cartels, gangs, or other criminal activity.

(vi) Farmers, ranchers, and property owners along the border.

(vii) Other individuals negatively impacted by illegal immigration.

(8) Information relating to the staffing requirements with respect to border security for the Department.

(9) A prioritized list of Department research and development objectives to enhance the security of the borders of the United States.

(10) An assessment of training programs, including such programs relating to the following:

(A) Identifying and detecting fraudulent documents.

(B) Understanding the scope of CBP enforcement authorities and appropriate use of force policies.

(C) Screening, identifying, and addressing vulnerable populations, such as children and victims of human trafficking.

SEC. 114. U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION SPIRITUAL READINESS.

Not later than one year after the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter for five years, the Commissioner shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the availability and usage of the assistance of chaplains, prayer groups, houses of worship, and other spiritual resources for members of CBP who identify as religiously affiliated and have attempted suicide, have suicidal ideation, or are at risk of suicide, and metrics on the impact such resources have in assisting religiously affiliated members who have access to and utilize such resources compared to religiously affiliated members who do not.

SEC. 115. RESTRICTIONS ON FUNDING.

(a) ARRIVING ALIENS.—No funds are authorized to be appropriated to the Department to process the entry into the United States of aliens arriving in between ports of entry.

(b) RESTRICTION ON NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION SUPPORT FOR UNLAWFUL ACTIVITY.—No funds are authorized to be appropriated to the Department for disbursement to any nongovernmental organization that facilitates or encourages unlawful activity, including unlawful entry, human trafficking, human smuggling, drug trafficking, and drug smuggling.

(c) RESTRICTION ON NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION FACILITATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION.—No funds are authorized to be appropriated to the Department for disbursement to any nongovernmental organization to provide, or facilitate the provision of, transportation, lodging, or immigration legal services to inadmissible aliens who enter the United States after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 116. COLLECTION OF DNA AND BIOMETRIC INFORMATION AT THE BORDER.

Not later than 14 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall ensure and certify to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate that CBP is fully compliant with Federal DNA and biometric collection requirements at United States land borders.

SEC. 117. ERADICATION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND FORMULATING EFFECTIVE NEW TOOLS TO ADDRESS YEARLY LOSSES OF LIFE; ENSURING TIMELY UPDATES TO U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION FIELD MANUALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than triennially thereafter, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall review and update, as necessary, the current policies and manuals of the Office of Field Operations related to inspections at ports of

entry, and the U.S. Border Patrol related to inspections between ports of entry, to ensure the uniform implementation of inspection practices that will effectively respond to technological and methodological changes designed to disguise unlawful activity, such as the smuggling of drugs and humans, along the border.

(b) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 90 days after each update required under subsection (a), the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate a report that summarizes any policy and manual changes pursuant to subsection (a).

SEC. 118. PUBLICATION BY U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION OF OPERATIONAL STATISTICS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the seventh day of each month beginning with the second full month after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall publish on a publicly available website of the Department of Homeland Security information relating to the total number of alien encounters and nationalities, unique alien encounters and nationalities, gang affiliated apprehensions and nationalities, drug seizures, alien encounters included in the terrorist screening database and nationalities, arrests of criminal aliens or individuals wanted by law enforcement and nationalities, known got aways, encounters with deceased aliens, and all other related or associated statistics recorded by U.S. Customs and Border Protection during the immediately preceding month. Each such publication shall include the following:

(1) The aggregate such number, and such number disaggregated by geographic regions, of such recordings and encounters, including specifications relating to whether such recordings and encounters were at the southwest, northern, or maritime border.

(2) An identification of the Office of Field Operations field office, U.S. Border Patrol sector, or Air and Marine Operations branch making each recording or encounter.

(3) Information relating to whether each recording or encounter of an alien was of a single adult, an unaccompanied alien child, or an individual in a family unit.

(4) Information relating to the processing disposition of each alien recording or encounter.

(5) Information relating to the nationality of each alien who is the subject of each recording or encounter.

(6) The total number of individuals included in the terrorist screening database (as such term is defined in section 2101 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 621)) who have repeatedly attempted to cross unlawfully into the United States.

(7) The total number of individuals included in the terrorist screening database who have been apprehended, including information relating to whether such individuals were released into the United States or removed.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—If the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection in any month does not publish the information required under subsection (a), or does not publish such information by the date specified in such subsection, the Commissioner shall brief the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate regarding the reason relating thereto, as the case may be, by not later than the date that is two business days after the tenth day of such month.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ALIEN ENCOUNTERS.—The term ''alien encounters'' means aliens apprehended, determined inadmissible, or processed for removal by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

(2) GOT AWAY.—The term ''got away'' has the meaning given such term in section 1092(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (6 U.S.C. 223(a)).

(3) TERRORIST SCREENING DATABASE.—The term ''terrorist screening database'' has the meaning given such term in section 2101 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 621).

(4) UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILD.—The term ''unaccompanied alien child'' has the meaning given such term in section 462(g) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g)).

SEC. 119. ALIEN CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than seven days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commissioner shall certify to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate that CBP has real-time access to the criminal history databases of all countries of origin and transit for aliens encountered by CBP to perform criminal history background checks for such aliens.

(b) STANDARDS.—The certification required under subsection (a) shall also include a determination whether the criminal history databases of a country are accurate, up to date, digitized, searchable, and otherwise meet the standards of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for criminal history databases maintained by State and local governments.

(c) CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall annually submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate a certification that each database referred to in subsection (b) which the Secretary accessed or sought to access pursuant to this section met the standards described in subsection (b).

SEC. 120. PROHIBITED IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS AT AIRPORT SECURITY CHECKPOINTS; NOTIFICATION TO IMMIGRATION AGENCIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may not accept as valid proof of identification a prohibited identification document at an airport security checkpoint.

(b) NOTIFICATION TO IMMIGRATION AGENCIES.—If an individual presents a prohibited identification document to an officer of the Transportation Security Administration at an airport security checkpoint, the Administrator shall promptly notify the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Director of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the head of the appropriate local law enforcement agency to determine whether the individual is in violation of any term of release from the custody of any such agency.

(c) ENTRY INTO STERILE AREAS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), if an individual is found to be in violation of any term of release under subsection (b), the Administrator may not permit such individual to enter a sterile area.

(2) EXCEPTION.—An individual presenting a prohibited identification document under this section may enter a sterile area if the individual—

(A) is leaving the United States for the purposes of removal or deportation; or

(B) presents a covered identification document.

(d) COLLECTION OF BIOMETRIC INFORMATION FROM CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS SEEKING ENTRY INTO THE STERILE AREA OF AN AIRPORT.—Beginning not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall collect biometric information from an individual described in subsection (e) prior to authorizing such individual to enter into a sterile area.

(e) INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBED.—An individual described in this subsection is an individual who—

(1) is seeking entry into the sterile area of an airport;

(2) does not present a covered identification document; and

(3) the Administrator cannot verify is a national of the United States.

(f) PARTICIPATION IN IDENT.—Beginning not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in coordination with the Secretary, shall submit biometric data collected under this section to the Automated Biometric Identification System (IDENT).

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration.

(2) BIOMETRIC INFORMATION.—The term ''biometric information'' means any of the following:

(A) A fingerprint.

(B) A palm print.

(C) A photograph, including—

(i) a photograph of an individual's face for use with facial recognition technology; and

(ii) a photograph of any physical or anatomical feature, such as a scar, skin mark, or tattoo.

(D) A signature.

(E) A voice print.

(F) An iris image.

(3) COVERED IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENT.—The term ''covered identification document'' means any of the following, if the document is valid and unexpired:

(A) A United States passport or passport card.

(B) A biometrically secure card issued by a trusted traveler program of the Department of Homeland Security, including—

(i) Global Entry;

(ii) Nexus;

(iii) Secure Electronic Network for Travelers Rapid Inspection (SENTRI); and

(iv) Free and Secure Trade (FAST).

(C) An identification card issued by the Department of Defense, including such a card issued to a dependent.

(D) Any document required for admission to the United States under section 211(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1181(a)).

(E) An enhanced driver's license issued by a State.

(F) A photo identification card issued by a federally recognized Indian Tribe.

(G) A personal identity verification credential issued in accordance with Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12.

(H) A driver's license issued by a province of Canada.

(I) A Secure Certificate of Indian Status issued by the Government of Canada.

(J) A Transportation Worker Identification Credential.

(K) A Merchant Mariner Credential issued by the Coast Guard.

(L) A Veteran Health Identification Card issued by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(M) Any other document the Administrator determines, pursuant to a rule making in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code, will satisfy the identity

verification procedures of the Transportation Security Administration.

(4) IMMIGRATION LAWS.—The term ''immigration laws'' has the meaning given that term in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

(5) PROHIBITED IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENT.—The term ''prohibited identification document'' means any of the following (or any applicable successor form):

(A) U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Form I–200, Warrant for Arrest of Alien.

(B) U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Form I–205, Warrant of Removal/Deportation.

(C) U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Form I–220A, Order of Release on Recognizance.

(D) U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Form I–220B, Order of Supervision.

(E) Department of Homeland Security Form I–862, Notice to Appear.

(F) U.S. Customs and Border Protection Form I–94, Arrival/Departure Record (including a print-out of an electronic record).

(G) Department of Homeland Security Form I–385, Notice to Report.

(H) Any document that directs an individual to report to the Department of Homeland Security.

(I) Any Department of Homeland Security work authorization or employment verification document.

(6) STERILE AREA.—The term ''sterile area'' has the meaning given that term in section 1540.5 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

SEC. 121. PROHIBITION AGAINST ANY COVID–19 VACCINE MANDATE OR ADVERSE ACTION AGAINST DHS EMPLOYEES.

(a) LIMITATION ON IMPOSITION OF NEW MANDATE.—The Secretary may not issue any COVID–19 vaccine mandate unless Congress expressly authorizes such a mandate.

(b) PROHIBITION ON ADVERSE ACTION.—The Secretary may not take any adverse action against a Department employee based solely on the refusal of such employee to receive a vaccine for COVID–19.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall report to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate on the following:

(1) The number of Department employees who were terminated or resigned due to the COVID–19 vaccine mandate.

(2) An estimate of the cost to reinstate such employees.

(3) How the Department would effectuate reinstatement of such employees.

(d) RETENTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF UNVACCINATED EMPLOYEES.—The Secretary shall make every effort to retain Department employees who are not vaccinated against COVID–19 and provide such employees with professional development, promotion and leadership opportunities, and consideration equal to that of their peers.

SEC. 122. CBP ONE APP LIMITATION.

(a) LIMITATION.—The Department may use the CBP One Mobile Application or any other similar program, application, internet-based portal, website, device, or initiative only for inspection of perishable cargo.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commissioner shall report to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate the date on which CBP began using CBP One to allow aliens to schedule interviews at land ports of entry, how many aliens have scheduled interviews at land ports of entry using CBP One, the nationalities of such aliens, and the stated final destinations of such aliens within the United States, if any.

SEC. 123. REPORT ON MEXICAN DRUG CARTELS.

Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, Congress shall commission a report that contains the following:

(1) A national strategy to address Mexican drug cartels, and a determination regarding whether there should be a designation established to address such cartels.

(2) Information relating to actions by such cartels that causes harm to the United States.

SEC. 124. GAO STUDY ON COSTS INCURRED BY STATES TO SECURE THE SOUTHWEST BORDER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study to examine the costs incurred by individual States as a result of actions taken by such States in support of the Federal mission to secure the southwest border, and the feasibility of a program to reimburse such States for such costs.

(b) CONTENTS.—The study required under subsection (a) shall include consideration of the following:

(1) Actions taken by the Department of Homeland Security that have contributed to costs described in such subsection incurred by States to secure the border in the absence of Federal action, including the termination of the Migrant Protection Protocols and cancellation of border wall construction.

(2) Actions taken by individual States along the southwest border to secure their borders, and the costs associated with such actions.

(3) The feasibility of a program within the Department of Homeland Security to reimburse States for the costs incurred in support of the Federal mission to secure the southwest border.

SEC. 125. REPORT BY INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter for five years, the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report examining the economic and security impact of mass migration to municipalities and States along the southwest border. Such report shall include information regarding costs incurred by the following:

(1) State and local law enforcement to secure the southwest border.

(2) Public school districts to educate students who are aliens unlawfully present in the United States.

(3) Healthcare providers to provide care to aliens unlawfully present in the United States who have not paid for such care.

(4) Farmers and ranchers due to migration impacts to their properties.

(b) CONSULTATION.—To produce the report required under subsection (a), the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall consult with the individuals and representatives of the entities described in paragraphs (1) through (4) of such subsection.

SEC. 126. OFFSETTING AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.—No funds are authorized to be appropriated for the Alternatives to Detention Case Management Pilot Program or the Office of the Immigration Detention Ombudsman for the Office of the Secretary and Emergency Management of the Department of Homeland Security.

(b) MANAGEMENT DIRECTORATE.—No funds are authorized to be appropriated for electric vehicles or St. Elizabeths campus construction for the Management Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security.

(c) INTELLIGENCE, ANALYSIS, AND SITUATIONAL AWARENESS.—There is authorized to be appropriated $216,000,000 for Intelligence, Analysis, and Situational Awareness of the Department of Homeland Security.

(d) U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION.—No funds are authorized to be appropriated for the Shelter Services Program for U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

SEC. 127. REPORT TO CONGRESS ON FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter for five years, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate an assessment of foreign terrorist organizations attempting to move their members or affiliates into the United States through the southern, northern, or maritime border.

(b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ''foreign terrorist organization'' means an organization described in section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189).

SEC. 128. ASSESSMENT BY INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY ON THE MITIGATION OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS AT THE SOUTHWEST BORDER.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate an assessment of U.S. Customs and Border Protection's ability to mitigate unmanned aircraft systems at the southwest border. Such assessment shall include information regarding any intervention between January 1, 2021, and the date of the enactment of this Act, by any Federal agency affecting in any manner U.S. Customs and Border Protection's authority to so mitigate such systems.

DIVISION B—IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

TITLE I—ASYLUM REFORM AND BORDER PROTECTION

SEC. 101. SAFE THIRD COUNTRY.

Section 208(a)(2)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158(a)(2)(A)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''if the Attorney General determines'' and inserting ''if the Attorney General or the Secretary of Homeland Security determines—'';

(2) by striking ''that the alien may be removed'' and inserting the following:

''(i) that the alien may be removed'';

(3) by striking '', pursuant to a bilateral or multilateral agreement, to'' and inserting ''to'';

(4) by inserting ''or the Secretary, on a case by case basis,'' before ''finds that'';

(5) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(6) by adding at the end the following:

''(ii) that the alien entered, attempted to enter, or arrived in the United States after transiting through at least one country outside the alien's country of citizenship, nationality, or last lawful habitual residence en route to the United States, unless—

''(I) the alien demonstrates that he or she applied for protection from persecution or torture in at least one country outside the alien's country of citizenship, nationality, or last lawful habitual residence through which the alien transited en route to the United States, and the alien received a final judgment denying the alien protection in each country;

''(II) the alien demonstrates that he or she was a victim of a severe form of trafficking in which a commercial sex act was induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act was under the age of 18 years; or in which the trafficking included the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery, and was unable to apply for protection from persecution in each country through which the alien transited en route to the United States as a result of such severe form of trafficking; or

''(III) the only countries through which the alien transited en route to the United States were, at the time of the transit, not parties to the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, or the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.''.

SEC. 102. CREDIBLE FEAR INTERVIEWS.

Section 235(b)(1)(B)(v) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1225(b)(1)(B)(v)) is amended by striking ''there is a significant possibility'' and all that follows, and inserting '', taking into account the credibility of the statements made by the alien in support of the alien's claim, as determined pursuant to section 208(b)(1)(B)(iii), and such other facts as are known to the officer, the alien more likely than not could establish eligibility for asylum under section 208, and it is more likely than not that the statements made by, and on behalf of, the alien in support of the alien's claim are true.''.

SEC. 103. CLARIFICATION OF ASYLUM ELIGIBILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 208(b)(1)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158(b)(1)(A)) is amended by inserting after ''section 101(a)(42)(A)'' the following: ''(in accordance with the rules set forth in this section), and is eligible to apply for asylum under subsection (a)''.

(b) PLACE OF ARRIVAL.—Section 208(a)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''or who arrives in the United States (whether or not at a designated port of arrival and including an alien who is brought to the United States after having been interdicted in international or United States waters),''; and

(2) by inserting after ''United States'' the following: ''and has arrived in the United States at a port of entry (including an alien who is brought to the United States after having been interdicted in international or United States waters),''.

SEC. 104. EXCEPTIONS.

Paragraph (2) of section 208(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158(b)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

''(2) EXCEPTIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to an alien if the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General determines that—

''(i) the alien ordered, incited, assisted, or otherwise participated in the persecution of any person on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion;

''(ii) the alien has been convicted of any felony under Federal, State, tribal, or local law;

''(iii) the alien has been convicted of any misdemeanor offense under Federal, State, tribal, or local law involving—

''(I) the unlawful possession or use of an identification document, authentication feature, or false identification document (as those terms and phrases are defined in the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred), unless the alien can establish that the conviction resulted from circumstances showing that—

''(aa) the document or feature was presented before boarding a common carrier;

''(bb) the document or feature related to the alien's eligibility to enter the United States;

''(cc) the alien used the document or feature to depart a country wherein the alien has claimed a fear of persecution; and

''(dd) the alien claimed a fear of persecution without delay upon presenting himself or herself to an immigration officer upon arrival at a United States port of entry;

''(II) the unlawful receipt of a Federal public benefit (as defined in section 401(c) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1611(c))), from a Federal entity, or the unlawful receipt of similar public benefits from a State, tribal, or local entity; or

''(III) possession or trafficking of a controlled substance or controlled substance paraphernalia, as those phrases are defined under the law of the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred, other than a single offense involving possession for one's own use of 30 grams or less of marijuana (as marijuana is defined under the law of the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred);

''(iv) the alien has been convicted of an offense arising under paragraph (1)(A) or (2) of section 274(a), or under section 276;

''(v) the alien has been convicted of a Federal, State, tribal, or local crime that the Attorney General or Secretary of Homeland Security knows, or has reason to believe, was committed in support, promotion, or furtherance of the activity of a criminal street gang (as defined under the law of the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred or in section 521(a) of title 18, United States Code);

''(vi) the alien has been convicted of an offense for driving while intoxicated or impaired, as those terms are defined under the law of the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred (including a conviction for driving while under the influence of or impaired by alcohol or drugs), without regard to whether the conviction is classified as a misdemeanor or felony under Federal, State, tribal, or local law, in which such intoxicated or impaired driving was a cause of serious bodily injury or death of another person;

''(vii) the alien has been convicted of more than one offense for driving while intoxicated or impaired, as those terms are defined under the law of the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred (including a conviction for driving while under the influence of or impaired by alcohol or drugs), without regard to whether the conviction is classified as a misdemeanor or felony under Federal, State, tribal, or local law;

''(viii) the alien has been convicted of a crime—

''(I) that involves conduct amounting to a crime of stalking;

''(II) of child abuse, child neglect, or child abandonment; or

''(III) that involves conduct amounting to a domestic assault or battery offense, including—

''(aa) a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence, as described in section 921(a)(33) of title 18, United States Code;

''(bb) a crime of domestic violence, as described in section 40002(a)(12) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(12)); or

''(cc) any crime based on conduct in which the alien harassed, coerced, intimidated, voluntarily or recklessly used (or threatened to use) force or violence against, or inflicted physical injury or physical pain, however slight, upon a person—

''(AA) who is a current or former spouse of the alien;

''(BB) with whom the alien shares a child;

''(CC) who is cohabitating with, or who has cohabitated with, the alien as a spouse;

''(DD) who is similarly situated to a spouse of the alien under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction where the offense occurred; or

''(EE) who is protected from that alien's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the United States or of any State, tribal government, or unit of local government;

''(ix) the alien has engaged in acts of battery or extreme cruelty upon a person and the person—

''(I) is a current or former spouse of the alien;

''(II) shares a child with the alien;

''(III) cohabitates or has cohabitated with the alien as a spouse;

''(IV) is similarly situated to a spouse of the alien under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction where the offense occurred; or

''(V) is protected from that alien's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the United States or of any State, tribal government, or unit of local government;

''(x) the alien, having been convicted by a final judgment of a particularly serious crime, constitutes a danger to the community of the United States;

''(xi) there are serious reasons for believing that the alien has committed a serious nonpolitical crime outside the United States prior to the arrival of the alien in the United States;

''(xii) there are reasonable grounds for regarding the alien as a danger to the security of the United States;

''(xiii) the alien is described in subclause (I), (II), (III), (IV), or (VI) of section 212(a)(3)(B)(i) or section 237(a)(4)(B) (relating to terrorist activity), unless, in the case only of an alien inadmissible under subclause (IV) of section 212(a)(3)(B)(i), the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General determines, in the Secretary's or the Attorney General's discretion, that there are not reasonable grounds for regarding the alien as a danger to the security of the United States;

''(xiv) the alien was firmly resettled in another country prior to arriving in the United States; or

''(xv) there are reasonable grounds for concluding the alien could avoid persecution by relocating to another part of the alien's country of nationality or, in the case of an alien having no nationality, another part of the alien's country of last habitual residence.

''(B) SPECIAL RULES.—

''(i) PARTICULARLY SERIOUS CRIME; SERIOUS NONPOLITICAL CRIME OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(x), the Attorney General or Secretary of Homeland Security, in their discretion, may determine that a conviction constitutes a particularly serious crime based on—

''(aa) the nature of the conviction;

''(bb) the type of sentence imposed; or

''(cc) the circumstances and underlying facts of the conviction.

''(II) DETERMINATION.—In making a determination under subclause (I), the Attorney General or Secretary of Homeland Security may consider all reliable information and is not limited to facts found by the criminal court or provided in the underlying record of conviction.

''(III) TREATMENT OF FELONIES.—In making a determination under subclause (I), an alien who has been convicted of a felony (as defined under this section) or an aggravated felony (as defined under section 101(a)(43)), shall be considered to have been convicted of a particularly serious crime.

''(IV) INTERPOL RED NOTICE.—In making a determination under subparagraph (A)(xi), an Interpol Red Notice may constitute reliable evidence that the alien has committed a serious nonpolitical crime outside the United States.

''(ii) CRIMES AND EXCEPTIONS.—

''(I) DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED OR IMPAIRED.—A finding under subparagraph (A)(vi) does not require the Attorney General or Secretary of Homeland Security to find the first conviction for driving while intoxicated or impaired (including a conviction for driving while under the influence of or impaired by alcohol or drugs) as a predicate offense. The Attorney General or Secretary of Homeland Security need only make a factual determination that the alien previously was convicted for driving while intoxicated or impaired as those terms are defined under the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred (including a conviction for driving while under the influence of or impaired by alcohol or drugs).

''(II) STALKING AND OTHER CRIMES.—In making a determination under subparagraph (A)(viii), including determining the existence of a domestic relationship between the alien and the victim, the underlying conduct of the crime may be considered, and the Attorney General or Secretary of Homeland Security is not limited to facts found by the criminal court or provided in the underlying record of conviction.

''(III) BATTERY OR EXTREME CRUELTY.—In making a determination under subparagraph (A)(ix), the phrase 'battery or extreme cruelty' includes—

''(aa) any act or threatened act of violence, including any forceful detention, which results or threatens to result in physical or mental injury;

''(bb) psychological or sexual abuse or exploitation, including rape, molestation, incest, or forced prostitution, shall be considered acts of violence; and

''(cc) other abusive acts, including acts that, in and of themselves, may not initially appear violent, but that are a part of an overall pattern of violence.

''(IV) EXCEPTION FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.—An alien who was convicted of an offense described in clause (viii) or (ix) of subparagraph (A) is not ineligible for asylum on that basis if the alien satisfies the criteria under section 237(a)(7)(A).

''(C) SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to an alien whose claim is based on—

''(i) personal animus or retribution, including personal animus in which the alleged persecutor has not targeted, or manifested an animus against, other members of an alleged particular social group in addition to the member who has raised the claim at issue;

''(ii) the applicant's generalized disapproval of, disagreement with, or opposition to criminal, terrorist, gang, guerilla, or other non-state organizations absent expressive behavior in furtherance of a discrete cause against such organizations related to control of a State or expressive behavior that is antithetical to the State or a legal unit of the State;

''(iii) the applicant's resistance to recruitment or coercion by guerrilla, criminal, gang, terrorist, or other non-state organizations;

''(iv) the targeting of the applicant for criminal activity for financial gain based on wealth or affluence or perceptions of wealth or affluence;

''(v) the applicant's criminal activity; or

''(vi) the applicant's perceived, past or present, gang affiliation.

''(D) DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS.—

''(i) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this paragraph:

''(I) FELONY.—The term 'felony' means—

''(aa) any crime defined as a felony by the relevant jurisdiction (Federal, State, tribal, or local) of conviction; or

''(bb) any crime punishable by more than one year of imprisonment.

''(II) MISDEMEANOR.—The term 'misdemeanor' means—

''(aa) any crime defined as a misdemeanor by the relevant jurisdiction (Federal, State, tribal, or local) of conviction; or

''(bb) any crime not punishable by more than one year of imprisonment.

''(ii) CLARIFICATIONS.—

''(I) CONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of this paragraph, whether any activity or conviction also may constitute a basis for removal is immaterial to a determination of asylum eligibility.

''(II) ATTEMPT, CONSPIRACY, OR SOLICITATION.—For purposes of this paragraph, all references to a criminal offense or criminal conviction shall be deemed to include any attempt, conspiracy, or solicitation to commit the offense or any other inchoate form of the offense.

''(III) EFFECT OF CERTAIN ORDERS.—

''(aa) IN GENERAL.—No order vacating a conviction, modifying a sentence, clarifying a sentence, or otherwise altering a conviction or sentence shall have any effect under this paragraph unless the Attorney General or Secretary of Homeland Security determines that—

''(AA) the court issuing the order had jurisdiction and authority to do so; and

''(BB) the order was not entered for rehabilitative purposes or for purposes of ameliorating the immigration consequences of the conviction or sentence.

''(bb) AMELIORATING IMMIGRATION CONSEQUENCES.—For purposes of item (aa)(BB), the order shall be presumed to be for the purpose of ameliorating immigration consequences if—

''(AA) the order was entered after the initiation of any proceeding to remove the alien from the United States; or

''(BB) the alien moved for the order more than one year after the date of the original order of conviction or sentencing, whichever is later.

''(cc) AUTHORITY OF IMMIGRATION JUDGE.—An immigration judge is not limited to consideration only of material included in any order vacating a conviction, modifying a sentence, or clarifying a sentence to determine whether such order should be given any effect under this paragraph, but may consider such additional information as the immigration judge determines appropriate.

''(E) ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General may by regulation establish additional limitations and conditions, consistent with this section, under which an alien shall be ineligible for asylum under paragraph (1).

''(F) NO JUDICIAL REVIEW.—There shall be no judicial review of a determination of the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General under subparagraph (A)(xiii).''.

SEC. 105. EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION.

Paragraph (2) of section 208(d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158(d)) is amended to read as follows:

''(2) EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION.—

''(A) AUTHORIZATION PERMITTED.—An applicant for asylum is not entitled to employment authorization, but such authorization may be provided under regulation by the Secretary of Homeland Security. An applicant who is not otherwise eligible for employment authorization shall not be granted such authorization prior to the date that is 180 days after the date of filing of the application for asylum.

''(B) TERMINATION.—Each grant of employment authorization under subparagraph (A), and any renewal or extension thereof, shall be valid for a period of 6 months, except that such authorization, renewal, or extension shall terminate prior to the end of such 6 month period as follows:

''(i) Immediately following the denial of an asylum application by an asylum officer, unless the case is referred to an immigration judge.

''(ii) 30 days after the date on which an immigration judge denies an asylum application, unless the alien timely appeals to the Board of Immigration Appeals.

''(iii) Immediately following the denial by the Board of Immigration Appeals of an appeal of a denial of an asylum application.

''(C) RENEWAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may not grant, renew, or extend employment authorization to an alien if the alien was previously granted employment authorization under subparagraph (A), and the employment authorization was terminated pursuant to a circumstance described in subparagraph (B)(i), (ii), or (iii), unless a Federal court of appeals remands the alien's case to the Board of Immigration Appeals.

''(D) INELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may not grant employment authorization to an alien under this paragraph if the alien—

''(i) is ineligible for asylum under subsection (b)(2)(A); or

''(ii) entered or attempted to enter the United States at a place and time other than lawfully through a United States port of entry.''.

SEC. 106. ASYLUM FEES.

Paragraph (3) of section 208(d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158(d)) is amended to read as follows:

''(3) FEES.—

''(A) APPLICATION FEE.—A fee of not less than $50 for each application for asylum shall be imposed. Such fee shall not exceed the cost of adjudicating the application. Such fee shall not apply to an unaccompanied alien child who files an asylum application in proceedings under section 240.

''(B) EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION.—A fee may also be imposed for the consideration of an application for employment authorization under this section and for adjustment of status under section 209(b). Such a fee shall not exceed the cost of adjudicating the application.

''(C) PAYMENT.—Fees under this paragraph may be assessed and paid over a period of time or by installments.

''(D) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to limit the authority of the Attorney General or Secretary of Homeland Security to set adjudication and naturalization fees in accordance with section 286(m).''.

SEC. 107. RULES FOR DETERMINING ASYLUM ELIGIBILITY.

Section 208 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(f) RULES FOR DETERMINING ASYLUM ELIGIBILITY.—In making a determination under subsection (b)(1)(A) with respect to whether an alien is a refugee within the meaning of section 101(a)(42)(A), the following shall apply:

''(1) PARTICULAR SOCIAL GROUP.—The Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General shall not determine that an alien is a member of a particular social group unless the alien articulates on the record, or provides a basis on the record for determining, the definition and boundaries of the alleged particular social group, establishes that the particular social group exists independently from the alleged persecution, and establishes that the alien's claim of membership in a particular social group does not involve—

''(A) past or present criminal activity or association (including gang membership);

''(B) presence in a country with generalized violence or a high crime rate;

''(C) being the subject of a recruitment effort by criminal, terrorist, or persecutory groups;

''(D) the targeting of the applicant for criminal activity for financial gain based on perceptions of wealth or affluence;

''(E) interpersonal disputes of which governmental authorities in the relevant society or region were unaware or uninvolved;

''(F) private criminal acts of which governmental authorities in the relevant society or region were unaware or uninvolved;

''(G) past or present terrorist activity or association;

''(H) past or present persecutory activity or association; or

''(I) status as an alien returning from the United States.

''(2) POLITICAL OPINION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General may not determine that an alien holds a political opinion with respect to which the alien is subject to persecution if the political opinion is constituted solely by generalized disapproval of, disagreement with, or opposition to criminal, terrorist, gang, guerilla, or other non-state organizations and does not include expressive behavior in furtherance of a cause against such organizations related to efforts by the State to control such organizations or behavior that is antithetical to or otherwise opposes the ruling legal entity of the State or a unit thereof.

''(3) PERSECUTION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General may not determine that an alien has been subject to persecution or has a well-founded fear of persecution based only on—

''(A) the existence of laws or government policies that are unenforced or infrequently enforced, unless there is credible evidence that such a law or policy has been or would be applied to the applicant personally; or

''(B) the conduct of rogue foreign government officials acting outside the scope of their official capacity.

''(4) DISCRETIONARY DETERMINATION.—

''(A) ADVERSE DISCRETIONARY FACTORS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General may only grant asylum to an alien if the alien establishes that he or she warrants a favorable exercise of discretion. In making such a determination, the Attorney General or Secretary of Homeland Security shall consider, if applicable, an alien's use of fraudulent documents to enter the United States, unless the alien arrived in the United States by air, sea, or land directly from the applicant's home country without transiting through any other country.

''(B) FAVORABLE EXERCISE OF DISCRETION NOT PERMITTED.—Except as provided in subparagraph (C), the Attorney General or Secretary of Homeland Security shall not favorably exercise discretion under this section for any alien who—

''(i) has accrued more than one year of unlawful presence in the United States, as defined in sections 212(a)(9)(B)(ii) and (iii), prior to filing an application for asylum;

''(ii) at the time the asylum application is filed with the immigration court or is referred from the Department of Homeland Security, has—

''(I) failed to timely file (or timely file a request for an extension of time to file) any required Federal, State, or local income tax returns;

''(II) failed to satisfy any outstanding Federal, State, or local tax obligations; or

''(III) income that would result in tax liability under section 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and that was not reported to the Internal Revenue Service;

''(iii) has had two or more prior asylum applications denied for any reason;

''(iv) has withdrawn a prior asylum application with prejudice or been found to have abandoned a prior asylum application;

''(v) failed to attend an interview regarding his or her asylum application with the Department of Homeland Security, unless the alien shows by a preponderance of the evidence that—

''(I) exceptional circumstances prevented the alien from attending the interview; or

''(II) the interview notice was not mailed to the last address provided by the alien or the alien's representative and neither the alien nor the alien's representative received notice of the interview; or

''(vi) was subject to a final order of removal, deportation, or exclusion and did not file a motion to reopen to seek asylum based on changed country conditions within one year of the change in country conditions.

''(C) EXCEPTIONS.—If one or more of the adverse discretionary factors set forth in subparagraph (B) are present, the Attorney General or the Secretary, may, notwithstanding such subparagraph (B), favorably exercise discretion under section 208—

''(i) in extraordinary circumstances, such as those involving national security or foreign policy considerations; or

''(ii) if the alien, by clear and convincing evidence, demonstrates that the denial of the application for asylum would result in exceptional and extremely unusual hardship to the alien.

''(5) LIMITATION.—If the Secretary or the Attorney General determines that an alien fails to satisfy the requirement under paragraph (1), the alien may not be granted asylum based on membership in a particular social group, and may not appeal the determination of the Secretary or Attorney General, as applicable. A determination under this paragraph shall not serve as the basis for any motion to reopen or reconsider an application for asylum or withholding of removal for any reason, including a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel, unless the alien complies with the procedural requirements for such a motion and demonstrates that counsel's failure to define, or provide a basis for defining, a formulation of a particular social group was both not a strategic choice and constituted egregious conduct.

''(6) STEREOTYPES.—Evidence offered in support of an application for asylum that promotes cultural stereotypes about a country, its inhabitants, or an alleged persecutor, including stereotypes based on race, religion, nationality, or gender, shall not be admissible in adjudicating that application, except that evidence that an alleged persecutor holds stereotypical views of the applicant shall be admissible.

''(7) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(A) The term 'membership in a particular social group' means membership in a group that is—

''(i) composed of members who share a common immutable characteristic;

''(ii) defined with particularity; and

''(iii) socially distinct within the society in question.

''(B) The term 'political opinion' means an ideal or conviction in support of the furtherance of a discrete cause related to political control of a state or a unit thereof.

''(C) The term 'persecution' means the infliction of a severe level of harm constituting an exigent threat by the government of a country or by persons or an organization that the government was unable or unwilling to control. Such term does not include—

''(i) generalized harm or violence that arises out of civil, criminal, or military strife in a country;

''(ii) all treatment that the United States regards as unfair, offensive, unjust, unlawful, or unconstitutional;

''(iii) intermittent harassment, including brief detentions;

''(iv) threats with no actual effort to carry out the threats, except that particularized threats of severe harm of an immediate and menacing nature made by an identified entity may constitute persecution; or

''(v) non-severe economic harm or property damage.''.

SEC. 108. FIRM RESETTLEMENT.

Section 208 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158), as amended by this title, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) FIRM RESETTLEMENT.—In determining whether an alien was firmly resettled in another country prior to arriving in the United States under subsection (b)(2)(A)(xiv), the following shall apply:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—An alien shall be considered to have firmly resettled in another country if, after the events giving rise to the alien's asylum claim—

''(A) the alien resided in a country through which the alien transited prior to arriving in or entering the United States and—

''(i) received or was eligible for any permanent legal immigration status in that country;

''(ii) resided in such a country with any non-permanent but indefinitely renewable legal immigration status (including asylee, refugee, or similar status, but excluding status of a tourist); or

''(iii) resided in such a country and could have applied for and obtained an immigration status described in clause (ii);

''(B) the alien physically resided voluntarily, and without continuing to suffer persecution or torture, in any one country for one year or more after departing his country of nationality or last habitual residence and prior to arrival in or entry into the United States, except for any time spent in Mexico by an alien who is not a native or citizen of Mexico solely as a direct result of being returned to Mexico pursuant to section 235(b)(3) or of being subject to metering; or

''(C) the alien is a citizen of a country other than the country in which the alien alleges a fear of persecution, or was a citizen of such a country in the case of an alien who renounces such citizenship, and the alien was present in that country after departing his country of nationality or last habitual residence and prior to arrival in or entry into the United States.

''(2) BURDEN OF PROOF.—If an immigration judge determines that an alien has firmly resettled in another country under paragraph

(1), the alien shall bear the burden of proving the bar does not apply.

''(3) FIRM RESETTLEMENT OF PARENT.—An alien shall be presumed to have been firmly resettled in another country if the alien's parent was firmly resettled in another country, the parent's resettlement occurred before the alien turned 18 years of age, and the alien resided with such parent at the time of the firm resettlement, unless the alien establishes that he or she could not have derived any permanent legal immigration status or any non-permanent but indefinitely renewable legal immigration status (including asylum, refugee, or similar status, but excluding status of a tourist) from the alien's parent.''.

SEC. 109. NOTICE CONCERNING FRIVOLOUS ASYLUM APPLICATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 208(d)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158(d)(4)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ''the Secretary of Homeland Security or'' before ''the Attorney General'';

(2) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and of the consequences, under paragraph (6), of knowingly filing a frivolous application for asylum; and'' and inserting a semicolon;

(3) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period and inserting ''; and''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) ensure that a written warning appears on the asylum application advising the alien of the consequences of filing a frivolous application and serving as notice to the alien of the consequence of filing a frivolous application.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 208(d)(6) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158(d)(6)) is amended by striking ''If the'' and all that follows and inserting:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General determines that an alien has knowingly made a frivolous application for asylum and the alien has received the notice under paragraph (4)(C), the alien shall be permanently ineligible for any benefits under this chapter, effective as the date of the final determination of such an application.

''(B) CRITERIA.—An application is frivolous if the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General determines, consistent with subparagraph (C), that—

''(i) it is so insufficient in substance that it is clear that the applicant knowingly filed the application solely or in part to delay removal from the United States, to seek employment authorization as an applicant for asylum pursuant to regulations issued pursuant to paragraph (2), or to seek issuance of a Notice to Appear in order to pursue Cancellation of Removal under section 240A(b); or

''(ii) any of the material elements are knowingly fabricated.

''(C) SUFFICIENT OPPORTUNITY TO CLARIFY.—In determining that an application is frivolous, the Secretary or the Attorney General, must be satisfied that the applicant, during the course of the proceedings, has had sufficient opportunity to clarify any discrepancies or implausible aspects of the claim.

''(D) WITHHOLDING OF REMOVAL NOT PRECLUDED.—For purposes of this section, a finding that an alien filed a frivolous asylum application shall not preclude the alien from seeking withholding of removal under section 241(b)(3) or protection pursuant to the Convention Against Torture.''.

SEC. 110. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.

Section 208 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2)(D), by inserting ''Secretary of Homeland Security or the'' before ''Attorney General''; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by inserting ''Secretary of Homeland Security or the'' before ''Attorney General'';

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''Attorney General'' each place such term appears and inserting ''Secretary of Homeland Security'';

(B) in paragraph (2), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting ''Secretary of Homeland Security or the'' before ''Attorney General''; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by inserting ''Secretary of Homeland Security or the'' before ''Attorney General''; and

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''Secretary of Homeland Security or the'' before ''Attorney General'' each place such term appears; and

(B) in paragraph (5)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''Attorney General'' and inserting ''Secretary of Homeland Security''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting ''Secretary of Homeland Security or the'' before ''Attorney General''.

SEC. 111. REQUIREMENT FOR PROCEDURES RELATING TO CERTAIN ASYLUM APPLICATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall establish procedures to expedite the adjudication of asylum applications for aliens—

(1) who are subject to removal proceedings under section 240 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229a); and

(2) who are nationals of a Western Hemisphere country sanctioned by the United States, as described in subsection (b), as of January 1, 2023.

(b) WESTERN HEMISPHERE COUNTRY SANCTIONED BY THE UNITED STATES DESCRIBED.—Subsection (a) shall apply only to an asylum application filed by an alien who is a national of a Western Hemisphere country subject to sanctions pursuant to—

(1) the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (22 U.S.C. 6021 note);

(2) the Reinforcing Nicaragua's Adherence to Conditions for Electoral Reform Act of 2021 or the RENACER Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 note); or

(3) Executive Order 13692 (80 Fed. Reg. 12747; declaring a national emergency with respect to the situation in Venezuela).

(c) APPLICABILITY.—This section shall only apply to an alien who files an application for asylum after the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE II—BORDER SAFETY AND MIGRANT PROTECTION

SEC. 201. INSPECTION OF APPLICANTS FOR ADMISSION.

Section 235 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1225) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in clauses (i) and (ii), by striking ''section 212(a)(6)(C)'' inserting ''subparagraph (A) or (C) of section 212(a)(6)''; and

(II) by adding at the end the following:

''(iv) INELIGIBILITY FOR PAROLE.—An alien described in clause (i) or (ii) shall not be eligible for parole except as expressly authorized pursuant to section 212(d)(5), or for parole or release pursuant to section 236(a).''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in clause (ii), by striking ''asylum.'' and inserting ''asylum and shall not be released (including pursuant to parole or release pursuant to section 236(a) but excluding as expressly authorized pursuant to section 212(d)(5)) other than to be removed or returned to a country as described in paragraph (3).''; and

(II) in clause (iii)(IV)—

(aa) in the header by striking ''DETENTION'' and inserting ''DETENTION, RETURN, OR REMOVAL''; and

(bb) by adding at the end the following: ''The alien shall not be released (including pursuant to parole or release pursuant to section 236(a) but excluding as expressly authorized pursuant to section 212(d)(5)) other than to be removed or returned to a country as described in paragraph (3).'';

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking ''Subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C),'' and inserting ''Subject to subparagraph (B) and paragraph (3),''; and

(II) by adding at the end the following: ''The alien shall not be released (including pursuant to parole or release pursuant to section 236(a) but excluding as expressly authorized pursuant to section 212(d)(5)) other than to be removed or returned to a country as described in paragraph (3).''; and

(ii) by striking subparagraph (C);

(C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (5); and

(D) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

''(3) RETURN TO FOREIGN TERRITORY CONTIGUOUS TO THE UNITED STATES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may return to a foreign territory contiguous to the United States any alien arriving on land from that territory (whether or not at a designated port of entry) pending a proceeding under section 240 or review of a determination under subsection (b)(1)(B)(iii)(III).

''(B) MANDATORY RETURN.—If at any time the Secretary of Homeland Security cannot—

''(i) comply with its obligations to detain an alien as required under clauses (ii) and (iii)(IV) of subsection (b)(1)(B) and subsection (b)(2)(A); or

''(ii) remove an alien to a country described in section 208(a)(2)(A),

the Secretary of Homeland Security shall, without exception, including pursuant to parole or release pursuant to section 236(a) but excluding as expressly authorized pursuant to section 212(d)(5), return to a foreign territory contiguous to the United States any alien arriving on land from that territory (whether or not at a designated port of entry) pending a proceeding under section 240 or review of a determination under subsection (b)(1)(B)(iii)(III).

''(4) ENFORCEMENT BY STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL.—The attorney general of a State, or other authorized State officer, alleging a violation of the detention, return, or removal requirements under paragraph (1), (2), or (3) that affects such State or its residents, may bring an action against the Secretary of Homeland Security on behalf of the residents of the State in an appropriate United States district court to obtain appropriate injunctive relief.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(e) AUTHORITY TO PROHIBIT INTRODUCTION OF CERTAIN ALIENS.—If the Secretary of Homeland Security determines, in his discretion, that the prohibition of the introduction of aliens who are inadmissible under subparagraph (A) or (C) of section 212(a)(6) or under section 212(a)(7) at an international land or maritime border of the United States is necessary to achieve operational control (as defined in section 2 of the Secure Fence Act of 2006 (8 U.S.C. 1701 note)) of such border, the Secretary may prohibit, in whole or in part, the introduction of such aliens at such border for such period of time as the Secretary determines is necessary for such purpose.''.

SEC. 202. OPERATIONAL DETENTION FACILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30, 2023, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall take all necessary actions to reopen or restore all U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facilities that were in operation on January 20, 2021, that subsequently closed or with respect to which the use was altered, reduced, or discontinued after January 20, 2021. In carrying out the requirement under this subsection, the Secretary may use the authority under section 103(a)(11) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1103(a)(11)).

(b) SPECIFIC FACILITIES.—The requirement under subsection (a) shall include at a minimum, reopening, or restoring, the following facilities:

(1) Irwin County Detention Center in Georgia.

(2) C. Carlos Carreiro Immigration Detention Center in Bristol County, Massachusetts.

(3) Etowah County Detention Center in Gadsden, Alabama.

(4) Glades County Detention Center in Moore Haven, Florida.

(5) South Texas Family Residential Center.

(c) EXCEPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), the Secretary of Homeland Security is authorized to obtain equivalent capacity for detention facilities at locations other than those listed in subsection (b).

(2) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not take action under paragraph (1) unless the capacity obtained would result in a reduction of time and cost relative to the cost and time otherwise required to obtain such capacity.

(3) SOUTH TEXAS FAMILY RESIDENTIAL CENTER.—The exception under paragraph (1) shall not apply to the South Texas Family Residential Center. The Secretary shall take all necessary steps to modify and operate the South Texas Family Residential Center in the same manner and capability it was operating on January 20, 2021.

(d) PERIODIC REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter until September 30, 2027, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a detailed plan for and a status report on—

(1) compliance with the deadline under subsection (a);

(2) the increase in detention capabilities required by this section—

(A) for the 90 day period immediately preceding the date such report is submitted; and

(B) for the period beginning on the first day of the fiscal year during which the report is submitted, and ending on the date such report is submitted;

(3) the number of detention beds that were used and the number of available detention beds that were not used during—

(A) the 90 day period immediately preceding the date such report is submitted; and

(B) the period beginning on the first day of the fiscal year during which the report is submitted, and ending on the date such report is submitted;

(4) the number of aliens released due to a lack of available detention beds; and

(5) the resources the Department of Homeland Security needs in order to comply with the requirements under this section.

(e) NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall notify Congress, and include with such notification a detailed description of the resources the Department of Homeland Security needs in order to detain all aliens whose detention is mandatory or nondiscretionary under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.)—

(1) not later than 5 days after all U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facilities reach 90 percent of capacity;

(2) not later than 5 days after all U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facilities reach 95 percent of capacity; and

(3) not later than 5 days after all U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facilities reach full capacity.

(f) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means—

(1) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives;

(2) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives;

(3) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate; and

(4) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

TITLE III—PREVENTING UNCONTROLLED MIGRATION FLOWS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

SEC. 301. UNITED STATES POLICY REGARDING WESTERN HEMISPHERE COOPERATION ON IMMIGRATION AND ASYLUM.

It is the policy of the United States to enter into agreements, accords, and memoranda of understanding with countries in the Western Hemisphere, the purposes of which are to advance the interests of the United States by reducing costs associated with illegal immigration and to protect the human capital, societal traditions, and economic growth of other countries in the Western Hemisphere. It is further the policy of the United States to ensure that humanitarian and development assistance funding aimed at reducing illegal immigration is not expended on programs that have not proven to reduce illegal immigrant flows in the aggregate.

SEC. 302. NEGOTIATIONS BY SECRETARY OF STATE.

(a) AUTHORIZATION TO NEGOTIATE.—The Secretary of State shall seek to negotiate agreements, accords, and memoranda of understanding between the United States, Mexico, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, and other countries in the Western Hemisphere with respect to cooperation and burden sharing required for effective regional immigration enforcement, expediting legal claims by aliens for asylum, and the processing, detention, and repatriation of foreign nationals seeking to enter the United States unlawfully. Such agreements shall be designed to facilitate a regional approach to immigration enforcement and shall, at a minimum, provide that—

(1) the Government of Mexico authorize and accept the rapid entrance into Mexico of nationals of countries other than Mexico who seek asylum in Mexico, and process the asylum claims of such nationals inside Mexico, in accordance with both domestic law and international treaties and conventions governing the processing of asylum claims;

(2) the Government of Mexico authorize and accept both the rapid entrance into Mexico of all nationals of countries other than Mexico who are ineligible for asylum in Mexico and wish to apply for asylum in the United States, whether or not at a port of entry, and the continued presence of such nationals in Mexico while they wait for the adjudication of their asylum claims to conclude in the United States;

(3) the Government of Mexico commit to provide the individuals described in paragraphs (1) and (2) with appropriate humanitarian protections;

(4) the Government of Honduras, the Government of El Salvador, and the Government of Guatemala each authorize and accept the entrance into the respective countries of nationals of other countries seeking asylum in the applicable such country and process such claims in accordance with applicable domestic law and international treaties and conventions governing the processing of asylum claims;

(5) the Government of the United States commit to work to accelerate the adjudication of asylum claims and to conclude removal proceedings in the wake of asylum adjudications as expeditiously as possible;

(6) the Government of the United States commit to continue to assist the governments of countries in the Western Hemisphere, such as the Government of Honduras, the Government of El Salvador, and the Government of Guatemala, by supporting the enhancement of asylum capacity in those countries; and

(7) the Government of the United States commit to monitoring developments in hemispheric immigration trends and regional asylum capabilities to determine whether additional asylum cooperation agreements are warranted.

(b) NOTIFICATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH CASE-ZABLOCKI ACT.—The Secretary of State shall, in accordance with section 112b of title 1, United States Code, promptly inform the relevant congressional committees of each agreement entered into pursuant to subsection (a). Such notifications shall be submitted not later than 48 hours after such agreements are signed.

(c) ALIEN DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''alien'' has the meaning given such term in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

SEC. 303. MANDATORY BRIEFINGS ON UNITED STATES EFFORTS TO ADDRESS THE BORDER CRISIS.

(a) BRIEFING REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than once every 90 days thereafter until the date described in subsection (b), the Secretary of State, or the designee of the Secretary of State, shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees an in-person briefing on efforts undertaken pursuant to the negotiation authority provided by section 302 of this title to monitor, deter, and prevent illegal immigration to the United States, including by entering into agreements, accords, and memoranda of understanding with foreign countries and by using United States foreign assistance to stem the root causes of migration in the Western Hemisphere.

(b) TERMINATION OF MANDATORY BRIEFING.—The date described in this subsection is the date on which the Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, determines and certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that illegal immigration flows have subsided to a manageable rate.

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''appropriate congressional committees'' means the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

TITLE IV—ENSURING UNITED FAMILIES AT THE BORDER

SEC. 401. CLARIFICATION OF STANDARDS FOR FAMILY DETENTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 235 of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(j) CONSTRUCTION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, judicial determination, consent decree, or settlement agreement, the detention of any alien child who is

not an unaccompanied alien child shall be governed by sections 217, 235, 236, and 241 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1187, 1225, 1226, and 1231). There is no presumption that an alien child who is not an unaccompanied alien child should not be detained.

''(2) FAMILY DETENTION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall—

''(A) maintain the care and custody of an alien, during the period during which the charges described in clause (i) are pending, who—

''(i) is charged only with a misdemeanor offense under section 275(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1325(a)); and

''(ii) entered the United States with the alien's child who has not attained 18 years of age; and

''(B) detain the alien with the alien's child.''.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the amendments in this section to section 235 of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232) are intended to satisfy the requirements of the Settlement Agreement in Flores v. Meese, No. 85–4544 (C.D. Cal), as approved by the court on January 28, 1997, with respect to its interpretation in Flores v. Johnson, 212 F. Supp. 3d 864 (C.D. Cal. 2015), that the agreement applies to accompanied minors.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply to all actions that occur before, on, or after such date.

(d) PREEMPTION OF STATE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, judicial determination, consent decree, or settlement agreement, no State may require that an immigration detention facility used to detain children who have not attained 18 years of age, or families consisting of one or more of such children and the parents or legal guardians of such children, that is located in that State, be licensed by the State or any political subdivision thereof.

TITLE V—PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

SEC. 501. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Implementation of the provisions of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 that govern unaccompanied alien children has incentivized multiple surges of unaccompanied alien children arriving at the southwest border in the years since the bill's enactment.

(2) The provisions of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 that govern unaccompanied alien children treat unaccompanied alien children from countries that are contiguous to the United States disparately by swiftly returning them to their home country absent indications of trafficking or a credible fear of return, but allowing for the release of unaccompanied alien children from noncontiguous countries into the interior of the United States, often to those individuals who paid to smuggle them into the country in the first place.

(3) The provisions of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 governing unaccompanied alien children have enriched the cartels, who profit hundreds of millions of dollars each year by smuggling unaccompanied alien children to the southwest border, exploiting and sexually abusing many such unaccompanied alien children on the perilous journey.

(4) Prior to 2008, the number of unaccompanied alien children encountered at the southwest border never exceeded 1,000 in a single year.

(5) The United States is currently in the midst of the worst crisis of unaccompanied alien children in our nation's history, with over 350,000 such unaccompanied alien children encountered at the southwest border since Joe Biden became President.

(6) In 2022, during the Biden Administration, 152,057 unaccompanied alien children were encountered, the most ever in a single year and an over 400 percent increase compared to the last full fiscal year of the Trump Administration in which 33,239 unaccompanied alien children were encountered.

(7) The Biden Administration has lost contact with at least 85,000 unaccompanied alien children who entered the United States since Joe Biden took office.

(8) The Biden Administration dismantled effective safeguards put in place by the Trump Administration that protected unaccompanied alien children from being abused by criminals or exploited for illegal and dangerous child labor.

(9) A recent New York Times investigation found that unaccompanied alien children are being exploited in the labor market and ''are ending up in some of the most punishing jobs in the country.''.

(10) The Times investigation found unaccompanied alien children, ''under intense pressure to earn money'' in order to ''send cash back to their families while often being in debt to their sponsors for smuggling fees, rent, and living expenses,'' feared ''that they had become trapped in circumstances they never could have imagined.''.

(11) The Biden Administration's Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra compared placing unaccompanied alien children with sponsors, to widgets in an assembly line, stating that, ''If Henry Ford had seen this in his plant, he would have never become famous and rich. This is not the way you do an assembly line.''.

(12) Department of Health and Human Services employees working under Secretary Xavier Becerra's leadership penned a July 2021 memorandum expressing serious concern that ''labor trafficking was increasing'' and that the agency had become ''one that rewards individuals for making quick releases, and not one that rewards individuals for preventing unsafe releases.''.

(13) Despite this, Secretary Xavier Becerra pressured then-Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement Cindy Huang to prioritize releases of unaccompanied alien children over ensuring their safety, telling her ''if she could not increase the number of discharges he would find someone who could'' and then-Director Huang resigned one month later.

(14) In June 2014, the Obama-Biden Administration requested legal authority to exercise discretion in returning and removing unaccompanied alien children from non-contiguous countries back to their home countries.

(15) In August 2014, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 5320, which included the Protection of Children Act.

(16) This title ends the disparate policies of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 by ensuring the swift return of all unaccompanied alien children to their country of origin if they are not victims of trafficking and do not have a fear of return.

SEC. 502. REPATRIATION OF UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 235 of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by amending the heading to read as follows: ''RULES FOR UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.—'';

(ii) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''who is a national or habitual resident of a country that is contiguous with the United States'';

(II) in clause (i), by inserting ''and'' at the end;

(III) in clause (ii), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a period; and

(IV) by striking clause (iii); and

(iii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''(8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.) may—'' and inserting ''(8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.)—'';

(II) in clause (i), by inserting before ''permit such child to withdraw'' the following: ''may''; and

(III) in clause (ii), by inserting before ''return such child'' the following: ''shall''; and

(B) in paragraph (5)(D)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking '', except for an unaccompanied alien child from a contiguous country subject to exceptions under subsection (a)(2),'' and inserting ''who does not meet the criteria listed in paragraph (2)(A)''; and

(ii) in clause (i), by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: '', which shall include a hearing before an immigration judge not later than 14 days after being screened under paragraph (4)'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting before the semicolon the following: ''believed not to meet the criteria listed in subsection (a)(2)(A)''; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting before the period the following: ''and does not meet the criteria listed in subsection (a)(2)(A)''; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking ''an unaccompanied alien child in custody shall'' and all that follows, and inserting the following: ''an unaccompanied alien child in custody—

''(A) in the case of a child who does not meet the criteria listed in subsection (a)(2)(A), shall transfer the custody of such child to the Secretary of Health and Human Services not later than 30 days after determining that such child is an unaccompanied alien child who does not meet such criteria; or

''(B) in the case of a child who meets the criteria listed in subsection (a)(2)(A), may transfer the custody of such child to the Secretary of Health and Human Services after determining that such child is an unaccompanied alien child who meets such criteria.''; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by inserting at the end the following:

''(D) INFORMATION ABOUT INDIVIDUALS WITH WHOM CHILDREN ARE PLACED.—

''(i) INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED TO HOMELAND SECURITY.—Before placing a child with an individual, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide to the Secretary of Homeland Security, regarding the individual with whom the child will be placed, information on—

''(I) the name of the individual;

''(II) the social security number of the individual;

''(III) the date of birth of the individual;

''(IV) the location of the individual's residence where the child will be placed;

''(V) the immigration status of the individual, if known; and

''(VI) contact information for the individual.

''(ii) ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY.—Not later than 30 days after receiving the information listed in clause (i), the Secretary of Homeland Security, upon determining that an individual with whom a child is placed is unlawfully

present in the United States and not in removal proceedings pursuant to chapter 4 of title II of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1221 et seq.), shall initiate such removal proceedings.''; and

(B) in paragraph (5)—

(i) by inserting after ''to the greatest extent practicable'' the following: ''(at no expense to the Government)''; and

(ii) by striking ''have counsel to represent them'' and inserting ''have access to counsel to represent them''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to any unaccompanied alien child (as such term is defined in section 462(g) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g))) apprehended on or after the date that is 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 503. SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE STATUS FOR IMMIGRANTS UNABLE TO REUNITE WITH EITHER PARENT.

Section 101(a)(27)(J) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)(J)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking '', and whose reunification with 1 or both of the immigrant's parents is not viable due to abuse, neglect, abandonment, or a similar basis found under State law''; and

(2) in clause (iii)—

(A) in subclause (I), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in subclause (II), by inserting ''and'' after the semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(III) an alien may not be granted special immigrant status under this subparagraph if the alien's reunification with any one parent or legal guardian is not precluded by abuse, neglect, abandonment, or any similar cause under State law;''.

SEC. 504. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this title shall be construed to limit the following procedures or practices relating to an unaccompanied alien child (as defined in section 462(g)(2) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g)(2))):

(1) Screening of such a child for a credible fear of return to his or her country of origin.

(2) Screening of such a child to determine whether he or she was a victim of trafficking.

(3) Department of Health and Human Services policy in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act requiring a home study for such a child if he or she is under 12 years of age.

TITLE VI—VISA OVERSTAYS PENALTIES

SEC. 601. EXPANDED PENALTIES FOR ILLEGAL ENTRY OR PRESENCE.

Section 275 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1325) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by inserting after ''for a subsequent commission of any such offense'' the following: ''or if the alien was previously convicted of an offense under subsection (e)(2)(A)'';

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''at least $50 and not more than $250'' and inserting ''not less than $500 and not more than $1,000''; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting after ''in the case of an alien who has been previously subject to a civil penalty under this subsection'' the following: ''or subsection (e)(2)(B)''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(e) VISA OVERSTAYS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—An alien who was admitted as a nonimmigrant has violated this paragraph if the alien, for an aggregate of 10 days or more, has failed—

''(A) to maintain the nonimmigrant status in which the alien was admitted, or to which it was changed under section 248, including complying with the period of stay authorized by the Secretary of Homeland Security in connection with such status; or

''(B) to comply otherwise with the conditions of such nonimmigrant status.

''(2) PENALTIES.—An alien who has violated paragraph (1)—

''(A) shall—

''(i) for the first commission of such a violation, be fined under title 18, United States Code, or imprisoned not more than 6 months, or both; and

''(ii) for a subsequent commission of such a violation, or if the alien was previously convicted of an offense under subsection (a), be fined under such title 18, or imprisoned not more than 2 years, or both; and

''(B) in addition to, and not in lieu of, any penalty under subparagraph (A) and any other criminal or civil penalties that may be imposed, shall be subject to a civil penalty of—

''(i) not less than $500 and not more than $1,000 for each violation; or

''(ii) twice the amount specified in clause (i), in the case of an alien who has been previously subject to a civil penalty under this subparagraph or subsection (b).''.

TITLE VII—IMMIGRATION PAROLE REFORM

SEC. 701. IMMIGRATION PAROLE REFORM.

Section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5)) is amended to read as follows:

''(5)(A) Except as provided in subparagraphs (B) and (C) and section 214(f), the Secretary of Homeland Security, in the discretion of the Secretary, may temporarily parole into the United States any alien applying for admission to the United States who is not present in the United States, under such conditions as the Secretary may prescribe, on a case-by-case basis, and not according to eligibility criteria describing an entire class of potential parole recipients, for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit. Parole granted under this subparagraph may not be regarded as an admission of the alien. When the purposes of such parole have been served in the opinion of the Secretary, the alien shall immediately return or be returned to the custody from which the alien was paroled. After such return, the case of the alien shall be dealt with in the same manner as the case of any other applicant for admission to the United States.

''(B) The Secretary of Homeland Security may grant parole to any alien who—

''(i) is present in the United States without lawful immigration status;

''(ii) is the beneficiary of an approved petition under section 203(a);

''(iii) is not otherwise inadmissible or removable; and

''(iv) is the spouse or child of a member of the Armed Forces serving on active duty.

''(C) The Secretary of Homeland Security may grant parole to any alien—

''(i) who is a national of the Republic of Cuba and is living in the Republic of Cuba;

''(ii) who is the beneficiary of an approved petition under section 203(a);

''(iii) for whom an immigrant visa is not immediately available;

''(iv) who meets all eligibility requirements for an immigrant visa;

''(v) who is not otherwise inadmissible; and

''(vi) who is receiving a grant of parole in furtherance of the commitment of the United States to the minimum level of annual legal migration of Cuban nationals to the United States specified in the U.S.-Cuba Joint Communiqué on Migration, done at New York September 9, 1994, and reaffirmed in the Cuba-United States: Joint Statement on Normalization of Migration, Building on the Agreement of September 9, 1994, done at New York May 2, 1995.

''(D) The Secretary of Homeland Security may grant parole to an alien who is returned to a contiguous country under section 235(b)(3) to allow the alien to attend the alien's immigration hearing. The grant of parole shall not exceed the time required for the alien to be escorted to, and attend, the alien's immigration hearing scheduled on the same calendar day as the grant, and to immediately thereafter be escorted back to the contiguous country. A grant of parole under this subparagraph shall not be considered for purposes of determining whether the alien is inadmissible under this Act.

''(E) For purposes of determining an alien's eligibility for parole under subparagraph (A), an urgent humanitarian reason shall be limited to circumstances in which the alien establishes that—

''(i)(I) the alien has a medical emergency; and

''(II)(aa) the alien cannot obtain necessary treatment in the foreign state in which the alien is residing; or

''(bb) the medical emergency is life-threatening and there is insufficient time for the alien to be admitted to the United States through the normal visa process;

''(ii) the alien is the parent or legal guardian of an alien described in clause (i) and the alien described in clause (i) is a minor;

''(iii) the alien is needed in the United States in order to donate an organ or other tissue for transplant and there is insufficient time for the alien to be admitted to the United States through the normal visa process;

''(iv) the alien has a close family member in the United States whose death is imminent and the alien could not arrive in the United States in time to see such family member alive if the alien were to be admitted to the United States through the normal visa process;

''(v) the alien is seeking to attend the funeral of a close family member and the alien could not arrive in the United States in time to attend such funeral if the alien were to be admitted to the United States through the normal visa process;

''(vi) the alien is an adopted child with an urgent medical condition who is in the legal custody of the petitioner for a final adoption-related visa and whose medical treatment is required before the expected award of a final adoption-related visa; or

''(vii) the alien is a lawful applicant for adjustment of status under section 245 and is returning to the United States after temporary travel abroad.

''(F) For purposes of determining an alien's eligibility for parole under subparagraph (A), a significant public benefit may be determined to result from the parole of an alien only if—

''(i) the alien has assisted (or will assist, whether knowingly or not) the United States Government in a law enforcement matter;

''(ii) the alien's presence is required by the Government in furtherance of such law enforcement matter; and

''(iii) the alien is inadmissible, does not satisfy the eligibility requirements for admission as a nonimmigrant, or there is insufficient time for the alien to be admitted to the United States through the normal visa process.

''(G) For purposes of determining an alien's eligibility for parole under subparagraph (A), the term 'case-by-case basis' means that the facts in each individual case are considered and parole is not granted based on membership in a defined class of aliens to be granted parole. The fact that aliens are considered for or granted parole one-by-one and not as a group is not sufficient to establish that the parole decision is made on a 'case-by-case basis'.

''(H) The Secretary of Homeland Security may not use the parole authority under this paragraph to parole an alien into the United States for any reason or purpose other than those described in subparagraphs (B), (C), (D), (E), and (F).

''(I) An alien granted parole may not accept employment, except that an alien granted parole pursuant to subparagraph (B) or (C) is authorized to accept employment for the duration of the parole, as evidenced by an employment authorization document issued by the Secretary of Homeland Security.

''(J) Parole granted after a departure from the United States shall not be regarded as an admission of the alien. An alien granted parole, whether as an initial grant of parole or parole upon reentry into the United States, is not eligible to adjust status to lawful permanent residence or for any other immigration benefit if the immigration status the alien had at the time of departure did not authorize the alien to adjust status or to be eligible for such benefit.

''(K)(i) Except as provided in clauses (ii) and (iii), parole shall be granted to an alien under this paragraph for the shorter of—

''(I) a period of sufficient length to accomplish the activity described in subparagraph (D), (E), or (F) for which the alien was granted parole; or

''(II) 1 year.

''(ii) Grants of parole pursuant to subparagraph (A) may be extended once, in the discretion of the Secretary, for an additional period that is the shorter of—

''(I) the period that is necessary to accomplish the activity described in subparagraph (E) or (F) for which the alien was granted parole; or

''(II) 1 year.

''(iii) Aliens who have a pending application to adjust status to permanent residence under section 245 may request extensions of parole under this paragraph, in 1-year increments, until the application for adjustment has been adjudicated. Such parole shall terminate immediately upon the denial of such adjustment application.

''(L) Not later than 90 days after the last day of each fiscal year, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and make available to the public, a report—

''(i) identifying the total number of aliens paroled into the United States under this paragraph during the previous fiscal year; and

''(ii) containing information and data regarding all aliens paroled during such fiscal year, including—

''(I) the duration of parole;

''(II) the type of parole; and

''(III) the current status of the aliens so paroled.''.

SEC. 702. IMPLEMENTATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), this title and the amendments made by this title shall take effect on the date that is 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), each of the following exceptions apply:

(1) Any application for parole or advance parole filed by an alien before the date of the enactment of this Act shall be adjudicated under the law that was in effect on the date on which the application was properly filed and any approved advance parole shall remain valid under the law that was in effect on the date on which the advance parole was approved.

(2) Section 212(d)(5)(J) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by section 701 of this title, shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) Aliens who were paroled into the United States pursuant to section 212(d)(5)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5)(A)) before January 1, 2023, shall continue to be subject to the terms of parole that were in effect on the date on which their respective parole was approved.

SEC. 703. CAUSE OF ACTION.

Any person, State, or local government that experiences financial harm in excess of $1,000 due to a failure of the Federal Government to lawfully apply the provisions of this title or the amendments made by this title shall have standing to bring a civil action against the Federal Government in an appropriate district court of the United States for appropriate relief.

SEC. 704. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this title or any amendment by this title, or the application of such provision or amendment to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this title and the application of such provision or amendment to any other person or circumstance shall not be affected.

TITLE VIII—LEGAL WORKFORCE

SEC. 801. EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION PROCESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 274A(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(b)) is amended to read as follows:

''(b) EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION PROCESS.—

''(1) NEW HIRES, RECRUITMENT, AND REFERRAL.—The requirements referred to in paragraphs (1)(B) and (3) of subsection (a) are, in the case of a person or other entity hiring, recruiting, or referring an individual for employment in the United States, the following:

''(A) ATTESTATION AFTER EXAMINATION OF DOCUMENTATION.—

''(i) ATTESTATION.—During the verification period (as defined in subparagraph (E)), the person or entity shall attest, under penalty of perjury and on a form, including electronic format, designated or established by the Secretary by regulation not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of title VIII of division B of the Secure the Border Act of 2023, that it has verified that the individual is not an unauthorized alien by—

''(I) obtaining from the individual the individual's social security account number or United States passport number and recording the number on the form (if the individual claims to have been issued such a number), and, if the individual does not attest to United States nationality under subparagraph (B), obtaining such identification or authorization number established by the Department of Homeland Security for the alien as the Secretary of Homeland Security may specify, and recording such number on the form; and

''(II) examining—

''(aa) a document relating to the individual presenting it described in clause (ii); or

''(bb) a document relating to the individual presenting it described in clause (iii) and a document relating to the individual presenting it described in clause (iv).

''(ii) DOCUMENTS EVIDENCING EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION AND ESTABLISHING IDENTITY.—A document described in this subparagraph is an individual's—

''(I) unexpired United States passport or passport card;

''(II) unexpired permanent resident card that contains a photograph;

''(III) unexpired employment authorization card that contains a photograph;

''(IV) in the case of a nonimmigrant alien authorized to work for a specific employer incident to status, a foreign passport with Form I–94 or Form I–94A, or other documentation as designated by the Secretary specifying the alien's nonimmigrant status as long as the period of status has not yet expired and the proposed employment is not in conflict with any restrictions or limitations identified in the documentation;

''(V) passport from the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) or the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) with Form I–94 or Form I–94A, or other documentation as designated by the Secretary, indicating nonimmigrant admission under the Compact of Free Association Between the United States and the FSM or RMI; or

''(VI) other document designated by the Secretary of Homeland Security, if the document—

''(aa) contains a photograph of the individual and biometric identification data from the individual and such other personal identifying information relating to the individual as the Secretary of Homeland Security finds, by regulation, sufficient for purposes of this clause;

''(bb) is evidence of authorization of employment in the United States; and

''(cc) contains security features to make it resistant to tampering, counterfeiting, and fraudulent use.

''(iii) DOCUMENTS EVIDENCING EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION.—A document described in this subparagraph is an individual's social security account number card (other than such a card which specifies on the face that the issuance of the card does not authorize employment in the United States).

''(iv) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING IDENTITY OF INDIVIDUAL.—A document described in this subparagraph is—

''(I) an individual's unexpired State issued driver's license or identification card if it contains a photograph and information such as name, date of birth, gender, height, eye color, and address;

''(II) an individual's unexpired United States military identification card;

''(III) an individual's unexpired Native American tribal identification document issued by a tribal entity recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs; or

''(IV) in the case of an individual under 18 years of age, a parent or legal guardian's attestation under penalty of law as to the identity and age of the individual.

''(v) AUTHORITY TO PROHIBIT USE OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS.—If the Secretary of Homeland Security finds, by regulation, that any document described in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) as establishing employment authorization or identity does not reliably establish such authorization or identity or is being used fraudulently to an unacceptable degree, the Secretary may prohibit or place conditions on its use for purposes of this paragraph.

''(vi) SIGNATURE.—Such attestation may be manifested by either a handwritten or electronic signature.

''(B) INDIVIDUAL ATTESTATION OF EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION.—During the verification period (as defined in subparagraph (E)), the individual shall attest, under penalty of perjury on the form designated or established for purposes of subparagraph (A), that the individual is a citizen or national of the United States, an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, or an alien who is authorized under this Act or by the Secretary of Homeland Security to be hired, recruited, or referred for such employment. Such attestation may be manifested by either a handwritten or electronic signature. The individual shall also provide that individual's social security account number or United States passport number (if the individual claims to have been issued such a

number), and, if the individual does not attest to United States nationality under this subparagraph, such identification or authorization number established by the Department of Homeland Security for the alien as the Secretary may specify.

''(C) RETENTION OF VERIFICATION FORM AND VERIFICATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—After completion of such form in accordance with subparagraphs (A) and (B), the person or entity shall—

''(I) retain a paper or electronic version of the form and make it available for inspection by officers of the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, or the Department of Labor during a period beginning on the date of the recruiting or referral of the individual, or, in the case of the hiring of an individual, the date on which the verification is completed, and ending—

''(aa) in the case of the recruiting or referral of an individual, 3 years after the date of the recruiting or referral; and

''(bb) in the case of the hiring of an individual, the later of 3 years after the date the verification is completed or one year after the date the individual's employment is terminated; and

''(II) during the verification period (as defined in subparagraph (E)), make an inquiry, as provided in subsection (d), using the verification system to seek verification of the identity and employment eligibility of an individual.

''(ii) CONFIRMATION.—

''(I) CONFIRMATION RECEIVED.—If the person or other entity receives an appropriate confirmation of an individual's identity and work eligibility under the verification system within the time period specified, the person or entity shall record on the form an appropriate code that is provided under the system and that indicates a final confirmation of such identity and work eligibility of the individual.

''(II) TENTATIVE NONCONFIRMATION RECEIVED.—If the person or other entity receives a tentative nonconfirmation of an individual's identity or work eligibility under the verification system within the time period specified, the person or entity shall so inform the individual for whom the verification is sought. If the individual does not contest the nonconfirmation within the time period specified, the nonconfirmation shall be considered final. The person or entity shall then record on the form an appropriate code which has been provided under the system to indicate a final nonconfirmation. If the individual does contest the nonconfirmation, the individual shall utilize the process for secondary verification provided under subsection (d). The nonconfirmation will remain tentative until a final confirmation or nonconfirmation is provided by the verification system within the time period specified. In no case shall an employer terminate employment of an individual because of a failure of the individual to have identity and work eligibility confirmed under this section until a nonconfirmation becomes final. Nothing in this clause shall apply to a termination of employment for any reason other than because of such a failure. In no case shall an employer rescind the offer of employment to an individual because of a failure of the individual to have identity and work eligibility confirmed under this subsection until a nonconfirmation becomes final. Nothing in this subclause shall apply to a recission of the offer of employment for any reason other than because of such a failure.

''(III) FINAL CONFIRMATION OR NONCONFIRMATION RECEIVED.—If a final confirmation or nonconfirmation is provided by the verification system regarding an individual, the person or entity shall record on the form an appropriate code that is provided under the system and that indicates a confirmation or nonconfirmation of identity and work eligibility of the individual.

''(IV) EXTENSION OF TIME.—If the person or other entity in good faith attempts to make an inquiry during the time period specified and the verification system has registered that not all inquiries were received during such time, the person or entity may make an inquiry in the first subsequent working day in which the verification system registers that it has received all inquiries. If the verification system cannot receive inquiries at all times during a day, the person or entity merely has to assert that the entity attempted to make the inquiry on that day for the previous sentence to apply to such an inquiry, and does not have to provide any additional proof concerning such inquiry.

''(V) CONSEQUENCES OF NONCONFIRMATION.—

''(aa) TERMINATION OR NOTIFICATION OF CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT.—If the person or other entity has received a final nonconfirmation regarding an individual, the person or entity may terminate employment of the individual (or decline to recruit or refer the individual). If the person or entity does not terminate employment of the individual or proceeds to recruit or refer the individual, the person or entity shall notify the Secretary of Homeland Security of such fact through the verification system or in such other manner as the Secretary may specify.

''(bb) FAILURE TO NOTIFY.—If the person or entity fails to provide notice with respect to an individual as required under item (aa), the failure is deemed to constitute a violation of subsection (a)(1)(A) with respect to that individual.

''(VI) CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT AFTER FINAL NONCONFIRMATION.—If the person or other entity continues to employ (or to recruit or refer) an individual after receiving final nonconfirmation, a rebuttable presumption is created that the person or entity has violated subsection (a)(1)(A).

''(D) EFFECTIVE DATES OF NEW PROCEDURES.—

''(i) HIRING.—Except as provided in clause (iii), the provisions of this paragraph shall apply to a person or other entity hiring an individual for employment in the United States as follows:

''(I) With respect to employers having 10,000 or more employees in the United States on the date of the enactment of title VIII of division B of the Secure the Border Act of 2023, on the date that is 6 months after the date of the enactment of title.

''(II) With respect to employers having 500 or more employees in the United States, but less than 10,000 employees in the United States, on the date of the enactment of title VIII of division B of the Secure the Border Act of 2023, on the date that is 12 months after the date of the enactment of such title.

''(III) With respect to employers having 20 or more employees in the United States, but less than 500 employees in the United States, on the date of the enactment of title VIII of division B of the Secure the Border Act of 2023, on the date that is 18 months after the date of the enactment of such title.

''(IV) With respect to employers having one or more employees in the United States, but less than 20 employees in the United States, on the date of the enactment of title VIII of division B of the Secure the Border Act of 2023, on the date that is 24 months after the date of the enactment of such title.

''(ii) RECRUITING AND REFERRING.—Except as provided in clause (iii), the provisions of this paragraph shall apply to a person or other entity recruiting or referring an individual for employment in the United States on the date that is 12 months after the date of the enactment of title VIII of division B of the Secure the Border Act of 2023.

''(iii) AGRICULTURAL LABOR OR SERVICES.—With respect to an employee performing agricultural labor or services, this paragraph shall not apply with respect to the verification of the employee until the date that is 36 months after the date of the enactment of title VIII of division B of the Secure the Border Act of 2023. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the term 'agricultural labor or services' has the meaning given such term by the Secretary of Agriculture in regulations and includes agricultural labor as defined in section 3121(g) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, agriculture as defined in section 3(f) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 203(f)), the handling, planting, drying, packing, packaging, processing, freezing, or grading prior to delivery for storage of any agricultural or horticultural commodity in its unmanufactured state, all activities required for the preparation, processing or manufacturing of a product of agriculture (as such term is defined in such section 3(f)) for further distribution, and activities similar to all the foregoing as they relate to fish or shellfish facilities. An employee described in this clause shall not be counted for purposes of clause (i).

''(iv) EXTENSIONS.—

''(I) ON REQUEST.—Upon request by an employer having 50 or fewer employees, the Secretary shall allow a one-time 6-month extension of the effective date set out in this subparagraph applicable to such employer. Such request shall be made to the Secretary and shall be made prior to such effective date.

''(II) FOLLOWING REPORT.—If the study under section 814 of title VIII of division B of the Secure the Border Act of 2023 has been submitted in accordance with such section, the Secretary of Homeland Security may extend the effective date set out in clause (iii) on a one-time basis for 12 months.

''(v) TRANSITION RULE.—Subject to paragraph (4), the following shall apply to a person or other entity hiring, recruiting, or referring an individual for employment in the United States until the effective date or dates applicable under clauses (i) through (iii):

''(I) This subsection, as in effect before the enactment of title VIII of division B of the Secure the Border Act of 2023.

''(II) Subtitle A of title IV of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note), as in effect before the effective date in section 807(c) of title VIII of division B of the Secure the Border Act of 2023.

''(III) Any other provision of Federal law requiring the person or entity to participate in the E-Verify Program described in section 403(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note), as in effect before the effective date in section 807(c) of title VIII of division B of the Secure the Border Act of 2023, including Executive Order 13465 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note; relating to Government procurement).

''(E) VERIFICATION PERIOD DEFINED.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this paragraph:

''(I) In the case of recruitment or referral, the term 'verification period' means the period ending on the date recruiting or referring commences.

''(II) In the case of hiring, the term 'verification period' means the period beginning on the date on which an offer of employment is extended and ending on the date that is three business days after the date of hire, except as provided in clause (iii). The offer of employment may be conditioned in accordance with clause (ii).

''(ii) JOB OFFER MAY BE CONDITIONAL.—A person or other entity may offer a prospective employee an employment position that is conditioned on final verification of the identity and employment eligibility of the employee using the procedures established under this paragraph.

''(iii) SPECIAL RULE.—Notwithstanding clause (i)(II), in the case of an alien who is authorized for employment and who provides evidence from the Social Security Administration that the alien has applied for a social security account number, the verification period ends three business days after the alien receives the social security account number.

''(2) REVERIFICATION FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH LIMITED WORK AUTHORIZATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), a person or entity shall make an inquiry, as provided in subsection (d), using the verification system to seek reverification of the identity and employment eligibility of all individuals with a limited period of work authorization employed by the person or entity during the three business days after the date on which the employee's work authorization expires as follows:

''(i) With respect to employers having 10,000 or more employees in the United States on the date of the enactment of title VIII of division B of the Secure the Border Act of 2023, beginning on the date that is 6 months after the date of the enactment of such title.

''(ii) With respect to employers having 500 or more employees in the United States, but less than 10,000 employees in the United States, on the date of the enactment of title VIII of division B of the Secure the Border Act of 2023, beginning on the date that is 12 months after the date of the enactment of such title.

''(iii) With respect to employers having 20 or more employees in the United States, but less than 500 employees in the United States, on the date of the enactment of title VIII of division B of the Secure the Border Act of 2023, beginning on the date that is 18 months after the date of the enactment of such title.

''(iv) With respect to employers having one or more employees in the United States, but less than 20 employees in the United States, on the date of the enactment of title VIII of division B of the Secure the Border Act of 2023, beginning on the date that is 24 months after the date of the enactment of such title.

''(B) AGRICULTURAL LABOR OR SERVICES.—With respect to an employee performing agricultural labor or services, or an employee recruited or referred by a farm labor contractor (as defined in section 3 of the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (29 U.S.C. 1801)), subparagraph (A) shall not apply with respect to the reverification of the employee until the date that is 36 months after the date of the enactment of title VIII of division B of the Secure the Border Act of 2023. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the term 'agricultural labor or services' has the meaning given such term by the Secretary of Agriculture in regulations and includes agricultural labor as defined in section 3121(g) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, agriculture as defined in section 3(f) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 203(f)), the handling, planting, drying, packing, packaging, processing, freezing, or grading prior to delivery for storage of any agricultural or horticultural commodity in its unmanufactured state, all activities required for the preparation, processing, or manufacturing of a product of agriculture (as such term is defined in such section 3(f)) for further distribution, and activities similar to all the foregoing as they relate to fish or shellfish facilities. An employee described in this subparagraph shall not be counted for purposes of subparagraph (A).

''(C) REVERIFICATION.—Paragraph (1)(C)(ii) shall apply to reverifications pursuant to this paragraph on the same basis as it applies to verifications pursuant to paragraph (1), except that employers shall—

''(i) use a form designated or established by the Secretary by regulation for purposes of this paragraph; and

''(ii) retain a paper or electronic version of the form and make it available for inspection by officers of the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, or the Department of Labor during the period beginning on the date the reverification commences and ending on the date that is the later of 3 years after the date of such reverification or 1 year after the date the individual's employment is terminated.

''(3) PREVIOUSLY HIRED INDIVIDUALS.—

''(A) ON A MANDATORY BASIS FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the date that is 6 months after the date of the enactment of title VIII of division B of the Secure the Border Act of 2023, an employer shall make an inquiry, as provided in subsection (d), using the verification system to seek verification of the identity and employment eligibility of any individual described in clause (ii) employed by the employer whose employment eligibility has not been verified under the E-Verify Program described in section 403(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note).

''(ii) INDIVIDUALS DESCRIBED.—An individual described in this clause is any of the following:

''(I) An employee of any unit of a Federal, State, or local government.

''(II) An employee who requires a Federal security clearance working in a Federal, State, or local government building, a military base, a nuclear energy site, a weapons site, or an airport or other facility that requires workers to carry a Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC).

''(III) An employee assigned to perform work in the United States under a Federal contract, except that this subclause—

''(aa) is not applicable to individuals who have a clearance under Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 (HSPD 12 clearance), are administrative or overhead personnel, or are working solely on contracts that provide Commercial Off The Shelf goods or services as set forth by the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council, unless they are subject to verification under subclause (II); and

''(bb) only applies to contracts over the simple acquisition threshold as defined in section 2.101 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations.

''(B) ON A MANDATORY BASIS FOR MULTIPLE USERS OF SAME SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NUMBER.—In the case of an employer who is required by this subsection to use the verification system described in subsection (d), or has elected voluntarily to use such system, the employer shall make inquiries to the system in accordance with the following:

''(i) The Commissioner of Social Security shall notify annually employees (at the employee address listed on the Wage and Tax Statement) who submit a social security account number to which more than one employer reports income and for which there is a pattern of unusual multiple use. The notification letter shall identify the number of employers to which income is being reported as well as sufficient information notifying the employee of the process to contact the Social Security Administration Fraud Hotline if the employee believes the employee's identity may have been stolen. The notice shall not share information protected as private, in order to avoid any recipient of the notice from being in the position to further commit or begin committing identity theft.

''(ii) If the person to whom the social security account number was issued by the Social Security Administration has been identified and confirmed by the Commissioner, and indicates that the social security account number was used without their knowledge, the Secretary and the Commissioner shall lock the social security account number for employment eligibility verification purposes and shall notify the employers of the individuals who wrongfully submitted the social security account number that the employee may not be work eligible.

''(iii) Each employer receiving such notification of an incorrect social security account number under clause (ii) shall use the verification system described in subsection (d) to check the work eligibility status of the applicable employee within 10 business days of receipt of the notification.

''(C) ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS.—Subject to paragraph (2), and subparagraphs (A) through (C) of this paragraph, beginning on the date that is 30 days after the date of the enactment of title VIII of division B of the Secure the Border Act of 2023, an employer may make an inquiry, as provided in subsection (d), using the verification system to seek verification of the identity and employment eligibility of any individual employed by the employer. If an employer chooses voluntarily to seek verification of any individual employed by the employer, the employer shall seek verification of all individuals employed at the same geographic location or, at the option of the employer, all individuals employed within the same job category, as the employee with respect to whom the employer seeks voluntarily to use the verification system. An employer's decision about whether or not voluntarily to seek verification of its current workforce under this subparagraph may not be considered by any government agency in any proceeding, investigation, or review provided for in this Act.

''(D) VERIFICATION.—Paragraph (1)(C)(ii) shall apply to verifications pursuant to this paragraph on the same basis as it applies to verifications pursuant to paragraph (1), except that employers shall—

''(i) use a form designated or established by the Secretary by regulation for purposes of this paragraph; and

''(ii) retain a paper or electronic version of the form and make it available for inspection by officers of the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, or the Department of Labor during the period beginning on the date the verification commences and ending on the date that is the later of 3 years after the date of such verification or 1 year after the date the individual's employment is terminated.

''(4) EARLY COMPLIANCE.—

''(A) FORMER E-VERIFY REQUIRED USERS, INCLUDING FEDERAL CONTRACTORS.—Notwithstanding the deadlines in paragraphs (1) and (2), beginning on the date of the enactment of title VIII of division B of the Secure the Border Act of 2023, the Secretary is authorized to commence requiring employers required to participate in the E-Verify Program described in section 403(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note), including employers required to participate in such program by reason of Federal acquisition laws (and regulations promulgated under those laws, including the Federal Acquisition Regulation), to commence compliance with the requirements of this subsection (and any additional requirements of

such Federal acquisition laws and regulation) in lieu of any requirement to participate in the E-Verify Program.

''(B) FORMER E-VERIFY VOLUNTARY USERS AND OTHERS DESIRING EARLY COMPLIANCE.—Notwithstanding the deadlines in paragraphs (1) and (2), beginning on the date of the enactment of title VIII of division B of the Secure the Border Act of 2023, the Secretary shall provide for the voluntary compliance with the requirements of this subsection by employers voluntarily electing to participate in the E-Verify Program described in section 403(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note) before such date, as well as by other employers seeking voluntary early compliance.

''(5) COPYING OF DOCUMENTATION PERMITTED.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the person or entity may copy a document presented by an individual pursuant to this subsection and may retain the copy, but only (except as otherwise permitted under law) for the purpose of complying with the requirements of this subsection.

''(6) LIMITATION ON USE OF FORMS.—A form designated or established by the Secretary of Homeland Security under this subsection and any information contained in or appended to such form, may not be used for purposes other than for enforcement of this Act and any other provision of Federal criminal law.

''(7) GOOD FAITH COMPLIANCE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a person or entity is considered to have complied with a requirement of this subsection notwithstanding a technical or procedural failure to meet such requirement if there was a good faith attempt to comply with the requirement.

''(B) EXCEPTION IF FAILURE TO CORRECT AFTER NOTICE.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply if—

''(i) the failure is not de minimus;

''(ii) the Secretary of Homeland Security has explained to the person or entity the basis for the failure and why it is not de minimus;

''(iii) the person or entity has been provided a period of not less than 30 calendar days (beginning after the date of the explanation) within which to correct the failure; and

''(iv) the person or entity has not corrected the failure voluntarily within such period.

''(C) EXCEPTION FOR PATTERN OR PRACTICE VIOLATORS.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to a person or entity that has engaged or is engaging in a pattern or practice of violations of subsection (a)(1)(A) or (a)(2).

''(8) SINGLE EXTENSION OF DEADLINES UPON CERTIFICATION.—In a case in which the Secretary of Homeland Security has certified to the Congress that the employment eligibility verification system required under subsection (d) will not be fully operational by the date that is 6 months after the date of the enactment of title VIII of division B of the Secure the Border Act of 2023, each deadline established under this section for an employer to make an inquiry using such system shall be extended by 6 months. No other extension of such a deadline shall be made except as authorized under paragraph (1)(D)(iv).''.

(b) DATE OF HIRE.—Section 274A(h) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(h)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) DEFINITION OF DATE OF HIRE.—As used in this section, the term 'date of hire' means the date of actual commencement of employment for wages or other remuneration, unless otherwise specified.''.

SEC. 802. EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION SYSTEM.

Section 274A(d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(d)) is amended to read as follows:

''(d) EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION SYSTEM.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Patterned on the employment eligibility confirmation system established under section 404 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall establish and administer a verification system through which the Secretary (or a designee of the Secretary, which may be a nongovernmental entity)—

''(A) responds to inquiries made by persons at any time through a toll-free electronic media concerning an individual's identity and whether the individual is authorized to be employed; and

''(B) maintains records of the inquiries that were made, of verifications provided (or not provided), and of the codes provided to inquirers as evidence of their compliance with their obligations under this section.

''(2) INITIAL RESPONSE.—The verification system shall provide confirmation or a tentative nonconfirmation of an individual's identity and employment eligibility within 3 working days of the initial inquiry. If providing confirmation or tentative nonconfirmation, the verification system shall provide an appropriate code indicating such confirmation or such nonconfirmation.

''(3) SECONDARY CONFIRMATION PROCESS IN CASE OF TENTATIVE NONCONFIRMATION.—In cases of tentative nonconfirmation, the Secretary shall specify, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social Security, an available secondary verification process to confirm the validity of information provided and to provide a final confirmation or nonconfirmation not later than 10 working days after the date on which the notice of the tentative nonconfirmation is received by the employee. The Secretary, in consultation with the Commissioner, may extend this deadline once on a case-by-case basis for a period of 10 working days, and if the time is extended, shall document such extension within the verification system. The Secretary, in consultation with the Commissioner, shall notify the employee and employer of such extension. The Secretary, in consultation with the Commissioner, shall create a standard process of such extension and notification and shall make a description of such process available to the public. When final confirmation or nonconfirmation is provided, the verification system shall provide an appropriate code indicating such confirmation or nonconfirmation.

''(4) DESIGN AND OPERATION OF SYSTEM.—The verification system shall be designed and operated—

''(A) to maximize its reliability and ease of use by persons and other entities consistent with insulating and protecting the privacy and security of the underlying information;

''(B) to respond to all inquiries made by such persons and entities on whether individuals are authorized to be employed and to register all times when such inquiries are not received;

''(C) with appropriate administrative, technical, and physical safeguards to prevent unauthorized disclosure of personal information;

''(D) to have reasonable safeguards against the system's resulting in unlawful discriminatory practices based on national origin or citizenship status, including—

''(i) the selective or unauthorized use of the system to verify eligibility; or

''(ii) the exclusion of certain individuals from consideration for employment as a result of a perceived likelihood that additional verification will be required, beyond what is required for most job applicants;

''(E) to maximize the prevention of identity theft use in the system; and

''(F) to limit the subjects of verification to the following individuals:

''(i) Individuals hired, referred, or recruited, in accordance with paragraph (1) or (4) of subsection (b).

''(ii) Employees and prospective employees, in accordance with paragraph (1), (2), (3), or (4) of subsection (b).

''(iii) Individuals seeking to confirm their own employment eligibility on a voluntary basis.

''(5) RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY.—As part of the verification system, the Commissioner of Social Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security (and any designee of the Secretary selected to establish and administer the verification system), shall establish a reliable, secure method, which, within the time periods specified under paragraphs (2) and (3), compares the name and social security account number provided in an inquiry against such information maintained by the Commissioner in order to validate (or not validate) the information provided regarding an individual whose identity and employment eligibility must be confirmed, the correspondence of the name and number, and whether the individual has presented a social security account number that is not valid for employment. The Commissioner shall not disclose or release social security information (other than such confirmation or nonconfirmation) under the verification system except as provided for in this section or section 205(c)(2)(I) of the Social Security Act.

''(6) RESPONSIBILITIES OF SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY.—As part of the verification system, the Secretary of Homeland Security (in consultation with any designee of the Secretary selected to establish and administer the verification system), shall establish a reliable, secure method, which, within the time periods specified under paragraphs (2) and (3), compares the name and alien identification or authorization number (or any other information as determined relevant by the Secretary) which are provided in an inquiry against such information maintained or accessed by the Secretary in order to validate (or not validate) the information provided, the correspondence of the name and number, whether the alien is authorized to be employed in the United States, or to the extent that the Secretary determines to be feasible and appropriate, whether the records available to the Secretary verify the identity or status of a national of the United States.

''(7) UPDATING INFORMATION.—The Commissioner of Social Security and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall update their information in a manner that promotes the maximum accuracy and shall provide a process for the prompt correction of erroneous information, including instances in which it is brought to their attention in the secondary verification process described in paragraph (3).

''(8) LIMITATION ON USE OF THE VERIFICATION SYSTEM AND ANY RELATED SYSTEMS.—

''(A) NO NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION CARD.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize, directly or indirectly, the issuance or use of national identification cards or the establishment of a national identification card.

''(B) CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—The Secretary may authorize or direct any person or entity responsible for granting access to, protecting, securing, operating, administering, or regulating part of the critical infrastructure (as defined in section 1016(e) of

the Critical Infrastructure Protection Act of 2001 (42 U.S.C. 5195c(e))) to use the verification system to the extent the Secretary determines that such use will assist in the protection of the critical infrastructure.

''(9) REMEDIES.—If an individual alleges that the individual would not have been dismissed from a job or would have been hired for a job but for an error of the verification mechanism, the individual may seek compensation only through the mechanism of the Federal Tort Claims Act, and injunctive relief to correct such error. No class action may be brought under this paragraph.''.

SEC. 803. RECRUITMENT, REFERRAL, AND CONTINUATION OF EMPLOYMENT.

(a) ADDITIONAL CHANGES TO RULES FOR RECRUITMENT, REFERRAL, AND CONTINUATION OF EMPLOYMENT.—Section 274A(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking ''for a fee'';

(2) in paragraph (1), by amending subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

''(B) to hire, continue to employ, or to recruit or refer for employment in the United States an individual without complying with the requirements of subsection (b).''; and

(3) in paragraph (2), by striking ''after hiring an alien for employment in accordance with paragraph (1),'' and inserting ''after complying with paragraph (1),''.

(b) DEFINITION.—Section 274A(h) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(h)), as amended by section 801(b) of this title, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(5) DEFINITION OF RECRUIT OR REFER.—As used in this section, the term 'refer' means the act of sending or directing a person who is in the United States or transmitting documentation or information to another, directly or indirectly, with the intent of obtaining employment in the United States for such person. Only persons or entities referring for remuneration (whether on a retainer or contingency basis) are included in the definition, except that union hiring halls that refer union members or nonunion individuals who pay union membership dues are included in the definition whether or not they receive remuneration, as are labor service entities or labor service agencies, whether public, private, for-profit, or nonprofit, that refer, dispatch, or otherwise facilitate the hiring of laborers for any period of time by a third party. As used in this section, the term 'recruit' means the act of soliciting a person who is in the United States, directly or indirectly, and referring the person to another with the intent of obtaining employment for that person. Only persons or entities referring for remuneration (whether on a retainer or contingency basis) are included in the definition, except that union hiring halls that refer union members or nonunion individuals who pay union membership dues are included in this definition whether or not they receive remuneration, as are labor service entities or labor service agencies, whether public, private, for-profit, or nonprofit that recruit, dispatch, or otherwise facilitate the hiring of laborers for any period of time by a third party.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, except that the amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act insofar as such amendments relate to continuation of employment.

SEC. 804. GOOD FAITH DEFENSE.

Section 274A(a)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(a)(3)) is amended to read as follows:

''(3) GOOD FAITH DEFENSE.—

''(A) DEFENSE.—An employer (or person or entity that hires, employs, recruits, or refers (as defined in subsection (h)(5)), or is otherwise obligated to comply with this section) who establishes that it has complied in good faith with the requirements of subsection (b)—

''(i) shall not be liable to a job applicant, an employee, the Federal Government, or a State or local government, under Federal, State, or local criminal or civil law for any employment-related action taken with respect to a job applicant or employee in good-faith reliance on information provided through the system established under subsection (d); and

''(ii) has established compliance with its obligations under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) and subsection (b) absent a showing by the Secretary of Homeland Security, by clear and convincing evidence, that the employer had knowledge that an employee is an unauthorized alien.

''(B) MITIGATION ELEMENT.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(i), if an employer proves by a preponderance of the evidence that the employer uses a reasonable, secure, and established technology to authenticate the identity of the new employee, that fact shall be taken into account for purposes of determining good faith use of the system established under subsection (d).

''(C) FAILURE TO SEEK AND OBTAIN VERIFICATION.—Subject to the effective dates and other deadlines applicable under subsection (b), in the case of a person or entity in the United States that hires, or continues to employ, an individual, or recruits or refers an individual for employment, the following requirements apply:

''(i) FAILURE TO SEEK VERIFICATION.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—If the person or entity has not made an inquiry, under the mechanism established under subsection (d) and in accordance with the timeframes established under subsection (b), seeking verification of the identity and work eligibility of the individual, the defense under subparagraph (A) shall not be considered to apply with respect to any employment, except as provided in subclause (II).

''(II) SPECIAL RULE FOR FAILURE OF VERIFICATION MECHANISM.—If such a person or entity in good faith attempts to make an inquiry in order to qualify for the defense under subparagraph (A) and the verification mechanism has registered that not all inquiries were responded to during the relevant time, the person or entity can make an inquiry until the end of the first subsequent working day in which the verification mechanism registers no nonresponses and qualify for such defense.

''(ii) FAILURE TO OBTAIN VERIFICATION.—If the person or entity has made the inquiry described in clause (i)(I) but has not received an appropriate verification of such identity and work eligibility under such mechanism within the time period specified under subsection (d)(2) after the time the verification inquiry was received, the defense under subparagraph (A) shall not be considered to apply with respect to any employment after the end of such time period.''.

SEC. 805. PREEMPTION AND STATES' RIGHTS.

Section 274A(h)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(h)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

''(2) PREEMPTION.—

''(A) SINGLE, NATIONAL POLICY.—The provisions of this section preempt any State or local law, ordinance, policy, or rule, including any criminal or civil fine or penalty structure, insofar as they may now or hereafter relate to the hiring, continued employment, or status verification for employment eligibility purposes, of unauthorized aliens.

''(B) STATE ENFORCEMENT OF FEDERAL LAW.—

''(i) BUSINESS LICENSING.—A State, locality, municipality, or political subdivision may exercise its authority over business licensing and similar laws as a penalty for failure to use the verification system described in subsection (d) to verify employment eligibility when and as required under subsection (b).

''(ii) GENERAL RULES.—A State, at its own cost, may enforce the provisions of this section, but only insofar as such State follows the Federal regulations implementing this section, applies the Federal penalty structure set out in this section, and complies with all Federal rules and guidance concerning implementation of this section. Such State may collect any fines assessed under this section. An employer may not be subject to enforcement, including audit and investigation, by both a Federal agency and a State for the same violation under this section. Whichever entity, the Federal agency or the State, is first to initiate the enforcement action, has the right of first refusal to proceed with the enforcement action. The Secretary must provide copies of all guidance, training, and field instructions provided to Federal officials implementing the provisions of this section to each State.''.

SEC. 806. REPEAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title IV of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note) is repealed.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any Federal law, Executive order, rule, regulation, or delegation of authority, or any document of, or pertaining to, the Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice, or the Social Security Administration, to the employment eligibility confirmation system established under section 404 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note) is deemed to refer to the employment eligibility confirmation system established under section 274A(d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended by section 802 of this title.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on the date that is 30 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections, in section 1(d) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, is amended by striking the items relating to subtitle A of title IV.

SEC. 807. PENALTIES.

Section 274A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (e)(1)—

(A) by striking ''Attorney General'' each place such term appears and inserting ''Secretary of Homeland Security''; and

(B) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''Service'' and inserting ''Department of Homeland Security'';

(2) in subsection (e)(4)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), in the matter before clause (i), by inserting '', subject to paragraph (10),'' after ''in an amount'';

(B) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking ''not less than $250 and not more than $2,000'' and inserting ''not less than $2,500 and not more than $5,000'';

(C) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking ''not less than $2,000 and not more than $5,000'' and inserting ''not less than $5,000 and not more than $10,000'';

(D) in subparagraph (A)(iii), by striking ''not less than $3,000 and not more than $10,000'' and inserting ''not less than $10,000 and not more than $25,000''; and

(E) by moving the margin of the continuation text following subparagraph (B) two

ems to the left and by amending subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

''(B) may require the person or entity to take such other remedial action as is appropriate.'';

(3) in subsection (e)(5)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, strike ''PAPERWORK'';

(B) by inserting '', subject to paragraphs (10) through (12),'' after ''in an amount'';

(C) by striking ''$100'' and inserting ''$1,000'';

(D) by striking ''$1,000'' and inserting ''$25,000''; and

(E) by adding at the end the following: ''Failure by a person or entity to utilize the employment eligibility verification system as required by law, or providing information to the system that the person or entity knows or reasonably believes to be false, shall be treated as a violation of subsection (a)(1)(A).'';

(4) by adding at the end of subsection (e) the following:

''(10) EXEMPTION FROM PENALTY FOR GOOD FAITH VIOLATION.—In the case of imposition of a civil penalty under paragraph (4)(A) with respect to a violation of subsection (a)(1)(A) or (a)(2) for hiring or continuation of employment or recruitment or referral by person or entity and in the case of imposition of a civil penalty under paragraph (5) for a violation of subsection (a)(1)(B) for hiring or recruitment or referral by a person or entity, the penalty otherwise imposed may be waived or reduced if the violator establishes that the violator acted in good faith.

''(11) MITIGATION ELEMENT.—For purposes of paragraph (4), the size of the business shall be taken into account when assessing the level of civil money penalty.

''(12) AUTHORITY TO DEBAR EMPLOYERS FOR CERTAIN VIOLATIONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If a person or entity is determined by the Secretary of Homeland Security to be a repeat violator of paragraph (1)(A) or (2) of subsection (a), or is convicted of a crime under this section, such person or entity may be considered for debarment from the receipt of Federal contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements in accordance with the debarment standards and pursuant to the debarment procedures set forth in the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

''(B) DOES NOT HAVE CONTRACT, GRANT, AGREEMENT.—If the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General wishes to have a person or entity considered for debarment in accordance with this paragraph, and such a person or entity does not hold a Federal contract, grant, or cooperative agreement, the Secretary or Attorney General shall refer the matter to the Administrator of General Services to determine whether to list the person or entity on the List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement, and if so, for what duration and under what scope.

''(C) HAS CONTRACT, GRANT, AGREEMENT.—If the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General wishes to have a person or entity considered for debarment in accordance with this paragraph, and such person or entity holds a Federal contract, grant, or cooperative agreement, the Secretary or Attorney General shall advise all agencies or departments holding a contract, grant, or cooperative agreement with the person or entity of the Government's interest in having the person or entity considered for debarment, and after soliciting and considering the views of all such agencies and departments, the Secretary or Attorney General may refer the matter to any appropriate lead agency to determine whether to list the person or entity on the List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement, and if so, for what duration and under what scope.

''(D) REVIEW.—Any decision to debar a person or entity in accordance with this paragraph shall be reviewable pursuant to part 9.4 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

''(13) OFFICE FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMPLAINTS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall establish an office—

''(A) to which State and local government agencies may submit information indicating potential violations of subsection (a), (b), or (g)(1) that were generated in the normal course of law enforcement or the normal course of other official activities in the State or locality;

''(B) that is required to indicate to the complaining State or local agency within five business days of the filing of such a complaint by identifying whether the Secretary will further investigate the information provided;

''(C) that is required to investigate those complaints filed by State or local government agencies that, on their face, have a substantial probability of validity;

''(D) that is required to notify the complaining State or local agency of the results of any such investigation conducted; and

''(E) that is required to report to the Congress annually the number of complaints received under this paragraph, the States and localities that filed such complaints, and the resolution of the complaints investigated by the Secretary.''; and

(5) by amending paragraph (1) of subsection (f) to read as follows:

''(1) CRIMINAL PENALTY.—Any person or entity which engages in a pattern or practice of violations of subsection (a) (1) or (2) shall be fined not more than $5,000 for each unauthorized alien with respect to which such a violation occurs, imprisoned for not more than 18 months, or both, notwithstanding the provisions of any other Federal law relating to fine levels.''.

SEC. 808. FRAUD AND MISUSE OF DOCUMENTS.

Section 1546(b) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''identification document,'' and inserting ''identification document or document meant to establish work authorization (including the documents described in section 274A(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act),''; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking ''identification document'' and inserting ''identification document or document meant to establish work authorization (including the documents described in section 274A(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act),''.

SEC. 809. PROTECTION OF SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMS.

(a) FUNDING UNDER AGREEMENT.—Effective for fiscal years beginning on or after October 1, 2023, the Commissioner of Social Security and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall enter into and maintain an agreement which shall—

(1) provide funds to the Commissioner for the full costs of the responsibilities of the Commissioner under section 274A(d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(d)), as amended by section 802 of this title, including—

(A) acquiring, installing, and maintaining technological equipment and systems necessary for the fulfillment of the responsibilities of the Commissioner under such section 274A(d), but only that portion of such costs that are attributable exclusively to such responsibilities; and

(B) responding to individuals who contest a tentative nonconfirmation provided by the employment eligibility verification system established under such section;

(2) provide such funds annually in advance of the applicable quarter based on estimating methodology agreed to by the Commissioner and the Secretary (except in such instances where the delayed enactment of an annual appropriation may preclude such quarterly payments); and

(3) require an annual accounting and reconciliation of the actual costs incurred and the funds provided under the agreement, which shall be reviewed by the Inspectors General of the Social Security Administration and the Department of Homeland Security.

(b) CONTINUATION OF EMPLOYMENT VERIFICATION IN ABSENCE OF TIMELY AGREEMENT.—In any case in which the agreement required under subsection (a) for any fiscal year beginning on or after October 1, 2023, has not been reached as of October 1 of such fiscal year, the latest agreement between the Commissioner and the Secretary of Homeland Security providing for funding to cover the costs of the responsibilities of the Commissioner under section 274A(d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(d)) shall be deemed in effect on an interim basis for such fiscal year until such time as an agreement required under subsection (a) is subsequently reached, except that the terms of such interim agreement shall be modified by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to adjust for inflation and any increase or decrease in the volume of requests under the employment eligibility verification system. In any case in which an interim agreement applies for any fiscal year under this subsection, the Commissioner and the Secretary shall, not later than October 1 of such fiscal year, notify the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate of the failure to reach the agreement required under subsection (a) for such fiscal year. Until such time as the agreement required under subsection (a) has been reached for such fiscal year, the Commissioner and the Secretary shall, not later than the end of each 90-day period after October 1 of such fiscal year, notify such Committees of the status of negotiations between the Commissioner and the Secretary in order to reach such an agreement.

SEC. 810. FRAUD PREVENTION.

(a) BLOCKING MISUSED SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NUMBERS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social Security, shall establish a program in which social security account numbers that have been identified to be subject to unusual multiple use in the employment eligibility verification system established under section 274A(d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(d)), as amended by section 802 of this title, or that are otherwise suspected or determined to have been compromised by identity fraud or other misuse, shall be blocked from use for such system purposes unless the individual using such number is able to establish, through secure and fair additional security procedures, that the individual is the legitimate holder of the number.

(b) ALLOWING SUSPENSION OF USE OF CERTAIN SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NUMBERS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social Security, shall establish a program which shall provide a reliable, secure method by which victims of identity fraud and other individuals may suspend or limit the use of their social security account number or other identifying information for purposes of the employment eligibility verification system established under section 274A(d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.

1324a(d)), as amended by section 802 of this title. The Secretary may implement the program on a limited pilot program basis before making it fully available to all individuals.

(c) ALLOWING PARENTS TO PREVENT THEFT OF THEIR CHILD'S IDENTITY.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social Security, shall establish a program which shall provide a reliable, secure method by which parents or legal guardians may suspend or limit the use of the social security account number or other identifying information of a minor under their care for the purposes of the employment eligibility verification system established under 274A(d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(d)), as amended by section 802 of this title. The Secretary may implement the program on a limited pilot program basis before making it fully available to all individuals.

SEC. 811. USE OF EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION PHOTO TOOL.

An employer who uses the photo matching tool used as part of the E-Verify System shall match the photo tool photograph to both the photograph on the identity or employment eligibility document provided by the employee and to the face of the employee submitting the document for employment verification purposes.

SEC. 812. IDENTITY AUTHENTICATION EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION PILOT PROGRAMS.

Not later than 24 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, after consultation with the Commissioner of Social Security and the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, shall establish by regulation not less than 2 Identity Authentication Employment Eligibility Verification pilot programs, each using a separate and distinct technology (the ''Authentication Pilots''). The purpose of the Authentication Pilots shall be to provide for identity authentication and employment eligibility verification with respect to enrolled new employees which shall be available to any employer that elects to participate in either of the Authentication Pilots. Any participating employer may cancel the employer's participation in the Authentication Pilot after one year after electing to participate without prejudice to future participation. The Secretary shall report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate the Secretary's findings on the Authentication Pilots, including the authentication technologies chosen, not later than 12 months after commencement of the Authentication Pilots.

SEC. 813. INSPECTOR GENERAL AUDITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Social Security Administration shall complete audits of the following categories in order to uncover evidence of individuals who are not authorized to work in the United States:

(1) Workers who dispute wages reported on their social security account number when they believe someone else has used such number and name to report wages.

(2) Children's social security account numbers used for work purposes.

(3) Employers whose workers present significant numbers of mismatched social security account numbers or names for wage reporting.

(b) SUBMISSION.—The Inspector General of the Social Security Administration shall submit the audits completed under subsection (a) to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate for review of the evidence of individuals who are not authorized to work in the United States. The Chairmen of those Committees shall then determine information to be shared with the Secretary of Homeland Security so that such Secretary can investigate the unauthorized employment demonstrated by such evidence.

SEC. 814. AGRICULTURE WORKFORCE STUDY.

Not later than 36 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, a report that includes the following:

(1) The number of individuals in the agricultural workforce.

(2) The number of United States citizens in the agricultural workforce.

(3) The number of aliens in the agricultural workforce who are authorized to work in the United States.

(4) The number of aliens in the agricultural workforce who are not authorized to work in the United States.

(5) Wage growth in each of the previous ten years, disaggregated by agricultural sector.

(6) The percentage of total agricultural industry costs represented by agricultural labor during each of the last ten years.

(7) The percentage of agricultural costs invested in mechanization during each of the last ten years.

(8) Recommendations, other than a path to legal status for aliens not authorized to work in the United States, for ensuring United States agricultural employers have a workforce sufficient to cover industry needs, including recommendations to—

(A) increase investments in mechanization;

(B) increase the domestic workforce; and

(C) reform the H–2A program.

SEC. 815. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION.

It is the sense of Congress that in implementing the E-Verify Program, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure any adverse impact on the Nation's agricultural workforce, operations, and food security are considered and addressed.

SEC. 816. REPEALING REGULATIONS.

The rules relating to ''Temporary Agricultural Employment of H–2A Nonimmigrants in the United States'' (87 Fed. Reg. 61660 (Oct. 12, 2022)) and to ''Adverse Effect Wage Rate Methodology for the Temporary Employment of H–2A Nonimmigrants in Non-Range Occupations in the United States'' (88 Fed. Reg. 12760 (Feb. 28, 2023)) shall have no force or effect, may not be reissued in substantially the same form, and any new rules that are substantially the same as such rules may not be issued.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, shall be debatable for 5 hours, with 2 hours equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Homeland Security, or their respective designees, 2 hours equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary, or their respective designees, and 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN), the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN), and the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) each will control 60 minutes. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 2.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act of 2023.

Last year, Republicans made a commitment to America to secure our borders, protect our Nation, and safeguard our communities. Today, House Republicans are delivering on that promise.

No matter where you sit on the political spectrum, it is undeniable that we are in the midst of a severe border crisis. In just over 2 years, President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas have intentionally turned our Nation's border into a place of chaos and devastation, one controlled by the drug cartels.

The administration's refusal to enforce the law or implement effective policies to secure the border has led us to this point, completely dismantling any semblance of law and order. Over the past several months, the members of the Committee on Homeland Security have been hard at work crafting a solution to address the administration's self-inflicted crisis at our borders.

With input from our colleagues across the Republican Conference, as well as Border Patrol agents, victims of illegal alien crime and the drug crisis, small business owners, State and local law enforcement, and farmers and ranchers, the committee has taken the time to fully understand Secretary Mayorkas' record-breaking humanitarian crisis.

These are the everyday Americans bearing the brunt of this crisis who are all too often overlooked by the media and the DC beltway. The numbers that they, and now all Americans, are facing are staggering:

More than 5 million encounters at the southwest border since President Biden took office;

Over 1.4 million known got-aways since February 2021;

193 aliens on the terrorist watch list encountered along the southwest border trying to enter the country between ports of entry from fiscal year 2021 to fiscal year 2023;

Over 14,000 pounds of fentanyl seized in fiscal year 2023, enough to kill the entire U.S. population nine and a half times;

Over 61,000 criminal aliens arrested by CBP attempting to cross the U.S. borders since the beginning of FY 2021.

And just as we think it can't get any worse, tomorrow marks the end of the only tool that Customs and Border Protection has left under this administration, title 42.

As we have approached the end of title 42 the past few days, CBP has been reporting an even greater increase in the number of alien encounters and got-aways, which are already off the charts.

Whether my colleagues on the other side want to admit it or not, Mr. Biden and Mr. Mayorkas' border crisis has turned every State into a border State, and the American people have had enough.

From a record number of fentanyl deaths to rising crime, it is the families and communities across America that are left to pay the price of this administration's open borders and antisecurity policies.

These policies are enriching and emboldening transnational criminal organizations who have increasingly threatened the safety and security of all Americans.

However, we are here with a solution.

Thanks to the hard work of many members across multiple committees, H.R. 2 requires the administration to secure the border, enforce the law, and reduce illegal immigration, once again.

Specifically, division A of the bill addresses the immediate impact of the border crisis by focusing on mitigating and stopping the surge of illegal border crossers and illicit drugs that are flowing across our borders between ports of entry.

Over 30 years ago, the United States Government began building the border barrier system. We have heard from frontline agents on the ground that an effective border barrier system is a proven critical component in deterring and discouraging illegal activity. That is why H.R. 2 directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to immediately resume construction of the border wall.

The bill requires at least 900 miles of wall to be built, using the materials that American taxpayers have already paid for, but that under President Biden are laying unused and left to deteriorate in the desert.

This bill makes targeted investments in border technology that not only supplements the border wall system, but also integrates new, advanced, and improved technologies into Border Patrol operations that will prioritize frontline personnel safety and the detection of illicit activity.

We know that Border Patrol agents are leaving at a faster rate than the CBP Commissioner can hire them. Under the Biden administration, Border Patrol agents are stretched thin, both physically and mentally. They are overwhelmed and overworked.

Customs and Border Protection agents are leaving before reaching their retirement eligibility because of poor working conditions and low morale due to a horrendous lack of support from the Biden administration and the inability to do what they signed up to do—enforce the law.

□ 1830

During the committee's field hearing on March 15, Border Patrol Chief Raul Ortiz testified that he needs approximately 22,000 agents to achieve Border Patrol's mission. H.R. 2 mandates CBP expand their force by over 3,000 agents to reach that total of 22,000 agents.

The bill also aims to return agents back to their law enforcement duties in the field by ensuring they are not responsible for serving as processing coordinators, something that the Biden administration is forcing highly trained law enforcement agents to do.

The bill addresses the retention challenges that Border Patrol is facing by providing qualified agents with a retention bonus. They need to know that all of us in Congress have their back and appreciate their sacrifice.

The Department of Homeland Security has made very blatant attempts to bury the release of its monthly border statistics or withhold certain information from the public. That is why H.R. 2 requires DHS to publicly disclose all monthly data, including known got-aways and known or suspected terrorists, before the seventh day of each month.

Congress will not tolerate this administration's lack of transparency to the American people, who deserve to know who and what is coming into our country.

To further enhance border security measures, this bill increases support for Operation Stonegarden, a grant program that provides funds to State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies that are forced to deal directly with the crisis, given the administration's complete dereliction of duty.

Under H.R. 2, Operation Stonegarden grants will be increased to $110 million per year, and we know this support can't come soon enough for our State and local law enforcement.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
Washington, DC, May 4, 2023.

Hon. JASON SMITH,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SMITH: I write regarding H.R. 2794, the ''Border Reinforcement Act of 2023,'' of which the Committee on Ways and Means received an additional referral. I appreciate your support in bringing this legislation before the House of Representatives, and that the Committee on Ways and Means will forego further consideration of the bill.

The Committee on Homeland Security concurs with the mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of this bill at this time, the Committee on Ways and Means does not waive jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this legislation in the future. In addition, should a conference on this bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on Ways and Means represented on the conference committee.

I will include our letters on H.R. 2794 in the Committee report on this measure and in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of this bill. I look forward to working with you on this legislation and appreciate your cooperation on this matter.

Sincerely,

MARK E. GREEN, MD,
Chairman.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, May 4, 2023.

Hon. MARK GREEN,
Chairman, Committee on House Homeland Security, Ford House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GREEN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 2794, the ''Border Reinforcement Act of 2023.'' As you noted, the Committee on Ways and Means was granted an additional referral on this bill. I agree to forego action on this bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

The Committee takes this action with our mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of H.R. 2794 at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and that our Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in our jurisdiction. Our Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation, and asks that you support any such request.

Finally, I would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H.R. 2794.

Sincerely,

JASON SMITH,
Chairman,
Committee on Ways and Means.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, May 2, 2023.

Hon. MARK GREEN,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GREEN: I write regarding H.R. 2794, the ''Border Reinforcement Act of 2023.'' Provisions of this bill fall within the Judiciary Committee's Rule X jurisdiction, and I appreciate that you consulted with us on those provisions. The Judiciary Committee agrees that it shall be discharged from further consideration of the bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor.

The Committee takes this action with the understanding that forgoing further consideration of this measure does not in any way alter the Committee's jurisdiction or waive any future jurisdictional claim over these provisions or their subject matter. We also reserve the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees in the event of a conference with the Senate involving this measure or similar legislation.

I ask that you please include this letter in your committee's report to accompany this legislation or insert this letter in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 2794 on the House floor. I appreciate the cooperative manner in which our committees have worked on this matter, and I look

forward to working collaboratively in the future on matters of shared jurisdiction. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

JIM JORDAN,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY,
Washington, DC, May 3, 2023.

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

DEAR CHAIRMAN JORDAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 2794, the ''Border Reinforcement Act of 2023.'' I appreciate your support in bringing this legislation before the House of Representatives, and that the Committee on the Judiciary will forego further consideration of the bill.

The Committee on Homeland Security concurs with the mutual understanding that by foregoing consideration of this bill at this time, the Committee on Judiciary does not waive jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this legislation in the future. In addition, should a conference on this bill be necessary, I would support your request to have the Committee on the Judiciary represented on the conference committee.

I will include our letters on H.R. 2794 in the Committee report on this measure and in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of this bill. I look forward to working with you on this legislation and appreciate your cooperation on this matter.

Sincerely,

MARK E. GREEN, MD,
Chairman.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the child deportation act. This cruel, inhumane, and unworkable bill was written in an extreme MAGA Republican echo chamber.

Considering H.R. 2 today under a closed rule is a cynical move on the part of Republicans to exploit the operational challenges associated with the lifting of title 42 public health restrictions.

Republicans have a short memory. Just in February, they voted to lift title 42 when they voted to lift the COVID–19 health emergency. It sets Customs and Border Protection up for failure by shifting all processing to ports of entry without providing any additional resources.

To make matters worse, it would bar CBP from leveraging technology to process migrants in an orderly way. H.R. 2 doesn't fund a single new officer at our ports of entry, where more than 90 percent of fentanyl is interdicted.

In committee, we tried to get an additional 1,700 officers to build greater capacity, but Republicans refused to do it.

Furthermore, this xenophobic bill would strip DHS funding from any community or religious organization that helps migrants. The language is so broad that an organization that places water in a remote area of the desert or provides a pregnant mother with a safe place to sleep would be ineligible for DHS funding. It is so broad that they may be refused homeland security grants to help protect their facilities.

Denying assistance to nonprofits is just plain shameful, particularly after what we saw in Brownsville this past weekend. There is reporting that a man who rammed his SUV into a crowd outside a migrant shelter, killing 8 and injuring at least 10 others, was fueled by invasion and alien rhetoric. My heart goes out to everyone hurt by this senseless act of violence.

The language in this bill is so far-reaching that it would force the American Red Cross to verify every person's immigration status before providing lifesaving services. Can you imagine if they had to say, ''Show your papers,'' before evacuating people? That is just inhumane.

Get this: H.R. 2 is so broadly written that it would actually impede detention and deportation.

Mr. Speaker, FOX News viewers who support deporting migrants should take a look at section 115(c) in division A. If enacted, it would prohibit DHS from contracting with any nongovernmental organization to transport or shelter ''inadmissible aliens.''

This language would prevent ICE from contracting with private companies to facilitate deportation or provide detention space because these companies are nongovernmental organizations. Yes, you heard that right. This bill is so poorly written that it could actually prevent ICE from deporting people.

Over the next 2 hours, Democrats will discuss many other problematic provisions of this extreme MAGA bill that Republicans cobbled together and that we learned yesterday would blow a $6.1 billion hole in the budget.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this child deportation act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS).

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, my, my, my. My colleagues across the aisle say we have a short memory. We don't have a short memory. This has seemed like an eternity over the last 2 years. We had no idea, as a nation, that this much injury could be brought upon our country in this short period of time.

H.R. 2 is the strongest border security package that has ever been brought to the floor in this body. Why has the majority party, the Republicans that were elected to power by the American people last year, drafted this bill over the course of the last year carefully and strategically? Because we are responding to the total collapse of our sovereignty at the southern border brought upon America by my colleagues across the aisle.

If you want more of what you see on the TV today, then by all means America can support my Democratic colleagues and their policies because those are the policies that have brought this disaster upon our Nation. H.R. 2 addresses it aggressively.

Our southern border is no longer a sovereign border wherein America controls the northern portion and Mexico controls the southern. It is now a theater of engagement controlled by the cartels. H.R. 2 corrects it.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand in support of H.R. 2 because it addresses aggressively the injury that our Nation suffers brought upon us by weak, disastrous policies out of the Democratic executive branch, the White House, and Democratic majority control for the last 4 years.

Mr. Speaker, I urge strong support of H.R. 2.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, the extreme MAGA Republican default on America act, which the last speaker voted for, would result in an across-the-board cut of 22 percent for the Department of Homeland Security, which would undermine border security.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, this bears an important, absolute, and imperative necessity of a little walk down memory lane. In actuality, the American people really want to uphold her values, the values that they have come to understand as a core of who we are.

The Homeland Security Committee traditionally, as the chairman and I have seen over the years, worked in a bipartisan manner. A little history is that just more than a decade ago, there was a bipartisan, comprehensive immigration bill led by the late John McCain.

Unfortunately, interestingly enough, the Senate moved, and the House simply imploded that dream, the dream that those who came to this country without anything and did not know they had come wrongly, if you will, young people, could be DACA recipients and ultimately work their way toward citizenship.

It was an effective asylum process, and we argued vigorously for legal immigration. People dutifully got in line, but consistently, as we refused to build on the comprehensive immigration structure, even though Democrats supported heavily enhancing the border—my bill some years ago provided enormous new equipment and technology.

One of our colleagues even explained, by the way, this new border wall that everyone wants to talk about is not a border wall because it is indented onto U.S. soil. Once you get over the wall, you are already eligible to apply for asylum.

Most of the people who come, come through legal points of entry, so why the cruelty of this bill?

I can be for legal immigration, and I can be for securing this Nation, and I don't have to take a sledgehammer and bloody the very fabric of this Nation.

It is interesting that we offered 43 Democratic amendments. None were accepted.

Is there something wrong with body cameras for our officers at the border? Not accepted.

Is there something wrong with refusing to separate 9-month-olds and 5-year-olds from their families, family unification, committing to not separating families? Is that something wrong?

I work with NGOs. I am in Texas. I am in Houston. We are getting some of those migrants in Houston, and there will be an NGO that will be dealing with individuals who are not statused.

What you want to have happen, as is happening in El Paso because of the overwhelming, is that you want no resources, people on the street, and, I am so sad and ashamed to say, the loss of individuals in Brownsville in what seemed to be a murderous rage. We cannot do this.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Republicans who support detaining and deporting more migrants to take a look at section 115(c) in division A.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, if enacted, it would prohibit DHS from contracting with any nongovernmental organization to transport or shelter ''inadmissible aliens.''

What is that? This language would prevent ICE from being able to contract with private companies that facilitate deportation or provide detention space because they are nongovernmental organizations.

Ironically, it seems that this child deportation act may actually undermine our friends on the other side's MAGA deportation agenda.

Why are we not more committed, Mr. Speaker, to coming together around the ideals of the Statue of Liberty? Bring us your forlorn, your worn, your desperate.

Yes, they are coming in droves, but the President has a plan. There will be more interaction with Guatemala. There will be processes in Mexico. There will be more officers at the border for those who are seeking asylum.

Why should we reject that? Why don't we come and find a way to stand up the infrastructure because a border wall that is $45 million per mile is not going to be the only solution.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to take this bill off the floor, go back to the drawing board, work with those of us in the Homeland Security Committee, with all the amendments we offered, and make a reasonable difference in the lives of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, might I put back on the table, because they are all in my office all the time, that the DACA recipients need a response. They are paramedics, doctors, lawyers, teachers. How dare we ignore the talent that is here that wants to be patriotic Americans.

I only ask for mercy. Take the bill back. Help our children. Make a difference. Honor the Statue of Liberty and protect the national border of this United States of America. We can do it, and it is not being done either by Texas or by the United States of America. We want to do it. The people in Houston want to be humanitarian, and they want to be safe.

Mr. Speaker, I am here today to reassert my opposition to H.R. 2—Secure the Border Act of 2023.

I along with my colleagues have attempted to address many of the ills these bills purport by offering common sense amendments that Republicans have continued to refuse any meaningful consideration.

I would like to highlight some of my amendments that were offered in both the Judiciary Committee Markup and the Homeland Security Committee Markup for H.R. 2.

In addressing, H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act of 2023, we need the American people to understand that this is an unfortunate patchwork of extreme anti-immigrant proposals that would only add to more chaos at the border.

It includes a variety of illogical measures that would shut down the U.S. asylum system and target families and children for the cruelest forms of treatment.

One measure would make overstaying a visa a crime—for the first time in our history.

I offered amendments to H.R. 2 along with many of my Democratic Colleagues both during Homeland Security Committee markup and for consideration by the House Rules Committee for inclusion for consideration during the of this bill—but all Democratic amendments were rejected by the Republican majority.

As a senior member of the House Committees on Homeland Security and Judiciary I have a well-established public record for working to address our Nation's most pressing immigration issues through sound government policies.

Immigration is not a criminal matter but categorized as a civil claim because seeking to travel, requesting refugee status, or attempting to make a better life in another country should not result in criminal prosecution.

There are nations who do seek to punish U.S. citizens who are traveling abroad through criminal prosecution with tragic consequences.

I have worked on the issue of unlawfully detained U.S. citizens who are held in other countries for a host of reasons that come down to the politics of a country and not due to a defendable immigration policy.

The conduct of the previous Administration in the forced separation of I offered would have added a mens rea requirement such that to be criminally liable, a person must knowingly and willingly overstay their visa.

It is important to remember that an individual can make an honest mistake about when they need to depart the country, be physically incapable of departing the country, or unable to return because of circumstances beyond their control in their home country.

Yet this bill has no exceptions or flexibility when it comes to overstaying a nonimmigrant visa. It is also important to remember that if a person overstays their visa, they are already subject to removal. The addition of a criminal penalty is both cruel and unnecessary.

Our immigration system needs reforms, and we are absolutely interested in bold new ideas to fix it, but this is not one of them.

My first amendment for H.R. 2, was offered to require U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to provide Congress with a plan for implementing—within one year—the use of body-worn cameras by its agents and officers who are engaged in border security or immigration enforcement activities. Any implementation of a plan for body-worn cameras would require additional congressional action.

Both CBP and ICE have already begun deploying body-worn cameras to their frontline officers and agents to provide greater transparency into interactions with the public.

In the event there are allegations of excessive force or other misconduct by an officer or agent, footage from body-worn cameras can enhance the agencies' ability to investigate.

Several studies on the effectiveness of body-worn cameras have found that police officers wearing cameras generate significantly fewer complaints and ''use of force'' reports relative to officers without cameras.

And savings from reduced complaints against officers, and the reduced time required to resolve such complaints, can result in substantial cost savings.

It is troubling that the underlying bill seems to seek cost savings at the expense of ensuring orderly and fair processing of asylum seekers; It would make more sense to save money by investigating complaints more quickly and preventing misconduct in the first place.

My second amendment for H.R. 2, was offered to clarify that the official policy of the United States as implemented by the agencies of the Department of Homeland Security shall be to keep families together and not remove children from parents or responsible adults unless the safety or welfare of the child is at risk.

The official policy of the Trump Administration was to separate children from their parents. No child—no matter where they are born—should be separated from their family, particularly after surviving the harrowing journey to the U.S. border.

My amendment was offered to stand firm in our principles that should bar CBP from separating children from their families unless there is evidence that the child is being trafficked. It further directs the DHS, in coordination with the State Department and HHS and the Attorney General to provide quarterly reports to Congress on the status of efforts to reunify migrant families and prevent future family separations.

Never again should we allow families to be ripped apart.

These are common-sense amendments that have been repeatedly disregarded by my colleagues across the aisle who have instead chosen to put forward legislative attacks on our most vulnerable populations. Border security can be done in Bipartisan solutions.

It is time we stop the negativity and counterproductive efforts that are ripping apart our country, and to instead focus on coming together to work towards sensible and effective solutions that can work for the betterment and growth of our country and the security at the southern and northern border.

I urge my colleagues to vote no on this wrong minded legislation.

SECTION 115(C)—DEPORTATION & DETENTION

Mr. Speaker, I urge Republicans who support detaining and deporting more migrants to take a look at section 115(c) in Division A.

If enacted, it would prohibit DHS from contracting with any "nongovernmental organization" to transport or shelter QUOTE "inadmissible aliens" UNQUOTE.

This language would prevent ICE from being able to contract with private companies that facilitate deportations or provide detention space because they are nongovernmental organizations.

Ironically, it seems that the "Child Deportation Act" may actually undermine the extreme MAGA deportation agenda.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. GUEST), the vice chair of the Committee on Homeland Security.

□ 1845

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, make no mistake: Our border is broken.

This administration, for over 2 years, has been unwilling or unable to secure our southern border.

Statistics show that in FY21, President Biden set a record with 1.9 million encounters. In FY22, he broke that record with 2.7 million encounters. In FY23, President Biden is on pace to break that record once again.

The numbers to my left paint a grim picture of the dire situation along our southern border, and these numbers will only grow worse as title 42 expires.

Republicans from Homeland Security, from Judiciary, from Foreign Affairs, have worked together to craft legislation that will combat the border crisis, a crisis created by the failures of this administration.

This legislation will hire thousands of new agents, pay retention bonuses to our frontline officers, invest in new technology, construct hundreds of miles of walls and barriers, and support our local and State partners.

Congress must fill the gap of leadership created by the inaction of this administration. We must stop the flow of illegal drugs from pouring into our communities. We must end the flood of immigrants that are coming across each and every day. We must support the hardworking men and women of law enforcement who are on the front lines of this crisis.

We will not back down from this fight, and any veto threat by this President be damned. We will deliver security to the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support on this measure.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, Republicans want it both ways. First, they vote to reduce the number of Border Patrol agents in the field by 1,400 under their default in America act, and now all of a sudden, they want to do something different. So either you are for it or you are against it, but you can't have it both ways.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member, Mr. THOMPSON, for the opportunity to speak here today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2. During the nearly 17 hours that the Committee on Homeland Security met to consider the border bill offered by Mr. GREEN, Democrats offered more than 40 amendments in order to remedy significant shortcomings in the bill.

In an effort to offer new provisions to bolster operations at Customs and Border Protection and build up the fiscal year 2023 Omnibus Appropriations Act, which is what was supposed to be going on, working on the budget that night, under Democratic leadership, they provide over $17 billion to CBP to not only enhance port of entry operations but also increase funding to the U.S. Border Patrol by 17 percent.

All of the amendments were rejected by the committee Republicans. Instead of working with Democrats to provide bipartisan solutions to fix our broken immigration system, H.R. 2 is just a far-right, MAGA-style immigration bill advanced by Republicans that would tear at the fabric of American values and drastically limit asylum opportunities while doing nothing to create an orderly system.

The xenophobia bill filed in this space of religious values that Republicans claim to live by, at best, H.R. 2 is a deeply distrustful effort to exploit irregular migration at the southwest border, which is expected to intensify with the termination of title 42 health restrictions.

To make political points with Donald Trump and his devoted, extreme MAGA base, the hardworking civil servants who work to keep our border secure deserve so much better.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Republicans who support detaining and deporting more migrants to take a look at section 115(c), division A. If enacted, it would prohibit DHS from contracting with any nongovernmental organizations to transport or shelter ''inadmissible aliens.'' This language would prevent ICE from being able to contract with private companies that facilitate deportations or provide detention space, because they want a nongovernmental organization to do it.

Now, for the life of me, here we are again. You can't have it both ways. You want all of this deportation to happen, but now you are limiting the organization from doing it.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, just one last point.

Ironically, it seems that the child deportation act may actually undermine the MAGA extreme deportation agenda.

Listening to my colleague, the ranking member from Mississippi, we have already torn children and babies away from their families. Now, it appears that we won't even help women who might be pregnant in this endeavor. I mean, how far do you want to go?

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GIMENEZ).

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2.

We have a crisis at our southern border. When title 42 expires in just a few hours, that crisis will become a complete catastrophe.

In an effort to play petty politics, the Biden administration and Secretary Mayorkas have traded many effective policies implemented by President Trump for chaotic, unorderly, and inhumane immigration.

I arrived in the United States with my family shortly after the communist takeover of my native homeland. I understand the plight of many of those who are fleeing socialist regimes in Cuba, Venezuela, and Nicaragua, because I, too, am an exile. I, too, am an immigrant.

We have legal processes already in place for people to immigrate to America legally and to solicit political asylum legally.

But what the Biden administration is doing is offensive, cruel, and inhumane. Lethal fentanyl is flooding our border, killing nearly 100,000 Americans every single year. According to The New York Times, there are over 85,000 migrant children unaccounted for, and many are being subjected to forced labor and child sex trafficking. I repeat: 85,000 unaccounted for children here in the United States. I ask you: Is that humane? I think not.

Lack of enforcement of our border is incentivizing illegal immigration and enriching corrupt Mexican drug cartels that extort the most vulnerable.

While the Biden administration endangers the American people, H.R. 2 tackles the crisis head-on. This bill resumes construction of the border wall that is needed, increases the number of border agents to 22,000, increases Federal grants to local law enforcement in border States, protects migrant children from human trafficking, streamlines the asylum process, and enforces background checks to bar repeat criminal offenders from reentering our country.

H.R. 2 provides a solution to the crisis that President Biden has created. Believe me, he has created it. Secretary Mayorkas and the Biden administration have failed to protect America, and our country is more dangerous than ever before.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of the measure.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Budget Office says the child deportation act would ''decrease the population of the United States by about 600,000 people, mostly by reducing the number of unaccompanied children present in the country.''

Republicans claim to be concerned about exploitation and abuse of unaccompanied children, but their answer is

to slam the door shut and deport them from the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GOLDMAN).

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2, which is a cruel and draconian bill that demonizes asylum seekers, harms unaccompanied migrant children, and defunds programs that support nonprofit organizations and local governments that are essential to the humane processing of asylum seekers coming to our shores hoping for a better life.

Just a brief response to the gentleman from Florida. Our law says that anyone crossing the border anywhere can apply for asylum. There is no such thing as lawful asylum and unlawful asylum. In fact, this is an area that we should address in a bipartisan way. We are in desperate need for comprehensive immigration reform. We need thoughtful and effective border security. We need more immigration judges to process asylum applicants. We need more visas for those to enter this country legally, and we need a pathway to citizenship that all of our ancestors have benefited from.

But this bill is the opposite of that. It was unilaterally written by House Republicans as a partisan messaging bill with no chance of becoming law. With this bill, Republicans are putting politics over people.

In our committee, Democrats offered more than 30 amendments to try to amend and improve this bill. Every single Republican voted ''no'' on every single amendment. One even expressed shock that Democrats would dare to try to change their bill.

Sadly, the Republicans rejected one of my amendments that would do more to address border security and fentanyl trafficking than anything else in this bill: An amendment to stop the massive flood of American guns to drug cartels in Mexico, those same cartels that the chairman from Tennessee says are in control of the border. These guns give the cartels their power, it fuels the violence, and facilitates their illegal trade.

Mexico has one gun shop, and it takes months of background checks to purchase a gun. But the latest estimates that we have here are that more than 500,000 American-made guns are exported to Mexico, including assault weapons of war, and many land in the hands of cartels to fuel their human and drug trafficking operation. There isn't a single mention of guns in H.R. 2, not one.

This bill is supposed to be about border security. Our border is broken, as one of my colleagues just said. How can we fix the border when the cartels are ruling it with American guns? Any serious attempt to secure our borders has to address the exportation of more than 500,000 American guns per year to Mexico.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, just like the gun violence epidemic that is ravaging our country, Republicans refuse to address the source of the problem. We need comprehensive immigration reform, meaningful solutions to address our broken immigration system, and to live up to our American values. This bill is nothing of the sort. Instead, it turns a real crisis that needs serious solutions into a political messaging tool.

Mr. Speaker, therefore, I urge my colleagues to vote ''no.''

□ 1900

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DESJARLAIS).

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman, my colleague from Tennessee.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2. If you watch TV and listen to the administration and Secretary Mayorkas, they would tell you that the border is secure and that the border is not open. In other words, they are telling you to believe what they say and not what you see.

Anybody who looks at the border can see the crisis that is there.

They can look in their communities and see the tragedy that is unfolding with fentanyl.

They can look to the sanctuary cities where all the mayors love to say: ''We will take anyone. Send your immigrants to our cities.'' Now, they are screaming: ''No more.'' As soon as they got a taste of what the border States are feeling and dealing with every day, they wanted no part of it.

The toll that this is causing our country is hard to grasp. Look no further than our SNAP program. Everyone wants to expand SNAP and make sure no one goes hungry. I agree that anyone in need should get food, but we cannot get an answer to how many people who are here illegally are on the SNAP program. We have been trying for a year. We have asked Secretary Mayorkas via letter, and we have asked Secretary Vilsack via letter how many people who are here illegally or undocumented are on SNAP.

We know that 45 percent of non-documented households receive SNAP, and only 21 percent of U.S. citizens receive SNAP. When I bring this up in committee, I am told it is very hard to get SNAP benefits if you are in the country illegally, but there are several exceptions—more than 11.

Two of the main exceptions are: One, if you are under 18, you automatically qualify. We all know how many children are coming across the border. They are receiving SNAP benefits. The other is if you are seeking asylum. Well, who is coming here that is not seeking asylum?

I heard the gentleman mention that anyone can claim asylum, but what we are seeing here is not true asylum seeking. It is what they are told to say because they know that is the clearest pathway into the country.

People are just simply being released in record numbers. Mr. Speaker, 5 million to 6 million people have come into our country illegally.

Do you know who hates illegal immigration more than any of us? People who did it right. We have the most generous immigration system in the world. Almost a million per year can come here legally. We are letting millions in illegally, and the people who do it right resent that.

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

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this measure because we are a country of laws, and it is not right to allow your first measure in entering this country to be something illegal. It flies in the face of all the people who did it correctly.

Thank God we have a chairman like Chairman GREEN who is addressing this issue. It should be a bipartisan issue. Everyone is feeling it. It is time that we act.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Republicans for bringing this forward. It is important, and I strongly support it.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, on March 15, Border Patrol Chief Ortiz told the Homeland Security Committee that ''cartels control an awful lot of the southern border south of the United States.''

Last time I checked, south of the United States meant Mexico and not five of the nine U.S. Border Patrol sectors.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ).

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Mississippi for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss H.R. 2, the House Republicans' border bill that fails to fix our broken immigration system.

I have been to our southern border twice since January because I do believe it is important that we experience those challenges firsthand. Despite there being an immense amount of work to do at our border, this legislation fails to meet the moment.

Instead of solutions, Republicans want a wall; a wall that would immediately be obsolete upon completion and would only serve as a painful reminder of the Republicans' failed border policies; a wall that would cost almost $25 million per mile to complete, resulting in a total bill to the American taxpayers of over $11 billion.

For a party that talks about wasteful government spending, how can this possibly be the best use of our taxpayer dollars?

Mr. Speaker, I and my colleagues on the Homeland Security Committee offered numerous amendments to this

bill to address some of its core deficiencies. When I offered an amendment to strike this wasteful spending on an inefficient wall, it was rejected by every single Republican.

Operation Blue Lotus, a Biden administration program, has stopped over 4,000 pounds of fentanyl from being brought into the U.S. and has led to dozens of arrests and the seizure of thousands of pounds of illicit drugs. Yet, when I offered an amendment to provide congressional authorization for this successful program, it was rejected, again, by every single Republican.

Even on the issues that Republicans talk most about, like fentanyl, this bill fails to address those challenges.

Even worse, this bill treats migrants as our enemies instead of our neighbors who are simply looking to give their families the opportunities to be hopeful about their tomorrows, to give them their fair shot at their American Dream, the fair shot that all of our families were given by this country.

This bill also seeks to punish nonprofits and NGOs that, by caring for our most vulnerable neighbors, reflect the best of who we are as a country. Organizations like Catholic Charities that feed, house, and take care of migrants could lose Federal funding by simply fulfilling their spiritual mission of supporting those most in need.

Democrats offered amendments to ensure that NGOs would not be penalized for providing services to pregnant women, children, and families. Each amendment failed because not a single Republican was willing to stand up and vote for it.

This should not be who we are as a country. If this bill becomes law, it will say to the world that this is who we have become.

Mr. Speaker, I am a ''no'' on H.R. 2, and I urge all of my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY), the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives.

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman GREEN for his work.

Mr. Speaker, when we took the majority and Mr. GREEN became chairman, he didn't stay in Washington to figure out what the problem was. He actually took his committee to the border to see firsthand.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, the ranking member on the other side wouldn't attend. He stands up speaker after speaker thinking he knows what is happening on the border from far away in Washington.

I have been to the border four times in the past 3 years. I have seen the fear in the eyes of the ranchers who have had their property broken into. I have heard the frustration in the voice of the Border Patrol agents who are stretched to the limit.

Mr. Speaker, 2½ years ago, when I went to the border, I sat with the agents in El Paso. They told me they saw something different that they hadn't seen before. They were actually catching people on the terrorist watch list. I came down and had a press conference and announced what they told me.

Mr. Speaker, I would have thought that the Members on the other side of the aisle, knowing what has happened with 9/11 and others, that they would rise up in a united front to protect America.

Do you know what I heard from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle? They said that I was lying. They said that they had as much security clearance as I did, that it must not be true. In Washington, they thought they knew all, but they didn't go to the border to actually talk to the people who work right there.

It is interesting, though, that the next day, the administration had to say it was true. Do you know what the administration did then? They withheld the information from Congress so they could no longer find out how many people we would catch on the terrorist watch list. They wanted to deny knowing going forward.

My good friend on the other side of the aisle, the ranking member of the Homeland Security Committee, I am sure he knows that, in the month of February, we caught more people on the terrorist watch list in this 1 month than the entire time of the last administration.

In the last administration, the 4 years of everybody who came across on the terrorist watch list, this February, more came across. I am sure from far away he might probably think that is not true, too.

Mr. Speaker, I felt the sorrow in the words of the mothers and fathers who lost their children to fentanyl. Do you know what? You can stay in Washington if you want, and you will still hear the sorrows of the mothers and the fathers.

Today alone, 300 Americans will be poisoned by fentanyl. It is the equivalent of an airline crashing each and every day in America. I don't hear them rising up. Every day there are 300. They come from all walks of life.

Mr. Speaker, they want to stand and say ''no'' to H.R. 2. I want them to look in the eyes of the parents of the young children. They didn't buy fentanyl when they died. They were at college and bought Xanax. It doesn't just happen to the kids who are maybe into partying or others.

Just last year, on spring break, six kids OD'd in Florida. They didn't belong to a fraternity. They went to West Point. They didn't buy fentanyl. They all didn't take cocaine. Four of them did. The other two simply gave them mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

Do you know what? Vote ''no.'' Go ahead and vote ''no.'' If you won't lead, we will. If you want to take the same approach as the President, that you want to ignore a problem and say it is not happening, we won't sit back. We don't sit back in Washington. We go to the border to actually see what is going on. We listen. We learn. Then, we sit in committee.

Even though your committee went and had a hearing—I am sure they are very proud that they protested and didn't go. Who lost? More Americans lost. More Americans will die by their actions. For their sake and for our Nation's safety, we must secure our border.

This is President Biden's record on the border: record crossings, record carelessness, and record chaos. More than 11,000 people were caught yesterday crossing the border illegally, the highest single-day total ever.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to hearing what the ranking member's quote is coming forward. Maybe he will quote the Secretary that the border is secure and believe him. You sit in Washington.

What is the administration's plan for these 11,000? According to NBC News, the plan—it is brilliant; listen to it—is to release many of them into the United States with no court dates and no way to track them. That worked so well in the past. Just ask the 85,000 children that the Biden administration lost.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to hearing the other side get up and tell me why they are voting ''no.''

They don't want to find these 85,000 kids? Don't take my word for it. This comes from The New York Times.

Tomorrow, as you sit here in debate and fight to make sure the border is still wide open, title 42 expires. Everyone knows we are days away from disaster. The mayor of El Paso, which recently declared a state of emergency, says: ''There is no light at the end of the tunnel. We are preparing for the unknown.''

The Governor of Arizona says that President Biden has been unresponsive. Governor Abbott of Texas rightly pointed out that this is not a Texas problem. This is a problem for the entire United States.

Mr. Speaker, I heard President Biden say yesterday that lifting title 42 means it is going to be chaotic for a little while. With all due respect, Mr. President, it has been chaotic for 2 years because of your actions.

□ 1915

On the very day President Biden took office, he decided against the advice of the border security experts, and he single-handedly removed the successful border policies of the previous administration.

The first thing President Biden did was he stopped construction of the border wall. He spends money now just to house the equipment and materials. He halted deportation. He ended remain in Mexico, and he called for amnesty for millions of people who broke the law.

His actions sent a clear message to the world, including the cartels: the border is open.

I remember on one of my trips down to the border right after the President took office, we had a new facility built. That day they hit a record number at the facility that they thought would never make capacity, but they did. As we walked in, we interviewed those who were standing in line.

We asked them: Why did you come?

They said: President Biden told us to. He told us the border was open.

We asked: How long was the trek?

Weeks, months, but the President invited us.

The world listened, and the cartels acted.

To this day, the southern border is being flooded by illegal aliens from more than 140 countries: Yemen, Russia, China, and others.

Yet, how has this administration responded?

A responsible administration would have told the American people in clear terms that this is a crisis. However, the Biden administration tells the public that there is no crisis. Rather than leveling with the American people, the Biden administration is choosing to mislead them.

I don't know if the ranking leader has ever been to Tucson, Arizona, but I was there recently. In Tucson, Arizona, the cartels control the border. Every single person who comes across that border wears a camouflage outfit. On their feet and on their shoes is a piece of rug. Seventy-one percent who come across that border are single males. They don't run up to the border agents. They run from them. It is one of the highest areas of get-aways.

It is a large terrain. Every day Americans risk their lives to go rescue people on the cliffs who have fallen. We took balloons up so we could actually calculate who was coming across.

When this became such a reported case, do you know what the Biden administration did, Mr. Speaker?

They cut the number of balloons.

Do you know why?

Because they said the numbers would go down. That is how they want to deal with it. They want to lie to the American public.

There is no better example than Secretary Mayorkas' comments that the border is secure.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the ranking member gets up after me, and I would like him to answer one question: Does he believe Secretary Mayorkas that the border is secure?

You have been chairman. You are ranking now. I am sure at some time you went to the border—but not when your committee did and not when we wanted to work on this bill.

You wanted to protest. You wanted to not go because you could learn everything you needed from right here in Washington—maybe from the Secretary.

I would like to know how many of you who stand up and say that you are going to vote against H.R. 2 believe Secretary Mayorkas?

Do you believe the border is secure?

Honestly, tell us. Tell the American public if that is what you believe.

Everyone knows that isn't true.

You can't say the border is secure when more than 4.5 million people have crossed our border illegally in the 24 months since President Biden has taken office.

There is not one piece of legislation that has changed from one administration to the other. The only thing that changed was the President.

And what did President Biden do?

He lifted all the actions of President Trump and President Obama. That is what happened to our border.

You can't say the border is secure when more than 175 individuals on the terrorist watch list have tried to cross our border.

You can't say the border is secure when human trafficking has grown into a multibillion-dollar business for the cartels.

You can't say the border is secure when you don't control the border and when the number one employer in some of these border towns is the cartels.

You can't say the border is secure when I sit there with a mayor, who happens to be from the other party, and he tells me a personal story that his daughter called, and he told her not to go outside because there was a car chase, a car chase because a cartel hired a young American to drive somebody they put across, and the car was going through—it is not an unusual thing. It happens often. Schools there, they would tell me they had to close for 45 days.

This car chase ended like others. It killed an innocent American, an innocent American who was going to a retirement party. She was a 65-year-old grandmother. She was going to have her friends celebrate a life of work and was looking forward to the times, with all the work and investment she had put in, to spend with her grandchildren and travel, but, no, her life was taken from her. And the Secretary said that our border is secure.

If you would travel to these towns, then you would know this too. If you would spend the time, then you would understand.

You see, Mr. Speaker, many of those elected officials aren't Republicans. They are Americans. They are registered as Democrats. They say they are disgusted by what this administration is doing.

While the Biden administration is missing in action, House Republicans are going to take action. We spent 2 years listening to those who have lived through the border crisis: Border Patrol agents, ranchers, families, businesses, and local leaders.

When I was in Tucson, I sat with a rancher. He told me that he has found five dead bodies on his ranch. His grandson, 7 years old, found one just last year. This is human life. Fifty-two died in a tractor trailer.

I sat with one who told me the story that when he looked down the road, he saw three young children, one not even 1, the other 3, and the other 4. Had the rancher not found them, they wouldn't be alive.

What about those who don't make it?

What about those who don't pay the cartels?

I sat with one news-covering agent who told the story of a woman who didn't pay the cartels, so the cartels took her life. They didn't just take her life. They wanted to show it to everybody in the world. So they strung her body up in a tree, cut her legs off, and set her on fire.

You see, if you go to the border, you will learn these stories. You will actually know what is happening there. So I don't think you would take a partisan position. You wouldn't talk in talking points. You would actually believe that 4.5 million people in the last year came across. If 11,000 came across yesterday—title 42 is going to be lifted.

If you don't like our bill, what is your answer?

What is your plan?

What are you going to do?

As I promised, we brought their government to them—visiting the border, gathering facts, and holding hearings.

What we learned directly informed not only our Commitment to America, but also the Secure the Border Act.

Here is what this bill does:

It fully provides for effective border enforcement policies, infrastructure, and advanced technology.

It increases the number of Border Patrol agents and gives them the bonus pay they deserve.

It ends catch and release and strengthens current laws to protect unaccompanied children from exploitation by human traffickers. I hope everybody who votes ''no'' reads The New York Times. I hope you read the stories about these young children.

It reinstates the so-called remain in Mexico provisions.

And it resumes construction of the border wall because the border wall works.

The Secure the Border Act is the strongest border security bill to come through Congress in more than 100 years.

If it passes, I am confident that we will stop the flood of fentanyl into our country, solve the Biden border crisis, and support our Border Patrol agents so they can continue to keep us safe.

Fentanyl is the number one killer of Americans between the ages of 18 and 45.

If anybody thinks about their life between the ages of 18 and 45, those are the years in which you reproduce. Those are your most productive years in business. Those are the years of those who volunteer to serve in the military to defend our freedom.

Right now, the most productive population age in our country is being killed.

However, I listen to the other side, and they are going to say: ''No, continue it.''

By the actions of this President, Mr. Ranking Member, you don't have to go to the border because now every city is a border city.

You see, in my hometown of Bakersfield, in the elementary school, a father registered his son just after Thanksgiving. The public school district did a really good job. They noticed in 2 days this boy had an issue. They didn't sit back, they went to his house, and they met with his father.

They said: We feel your son has a challenge learning and other things. We want to work with you, and we want to help him.

Literally, they went to his house in 2 days. They watched him as he came to school.

Do you know what he did when he came to school?

He walked over to a vape room. He had a backpack, and he came into the class. They looked in the backpack. He had 150 pills. This kid was not even 16 years old. I think he was only 12. The counselor took out a pill to see what it was. They had to call an ambulance because the counselor touched a fentanyl pill.

I am far from the border. Just up the road in my district, they pulled over a car. I believe it had more than 500,000 fentanyl pills. California law says you couldn't ask the individuals if they were citizens—and they weren't.

I can't tell you how much jail time they got because in California they believe in a lot of your policies, and so the individuals didn't even have to have bail. They both got a ticket and were told to show back up. They never did. They probably got back in the car and delivered more of those fentanyl pills coming across the border. Of those 300 Americans who will die today, I am not sure if one of those pills was theirs.

I do know this: Tomorrow when I cast a ''yes'' vote for H.R. 2, we are doing something to stop the fentanyl. We are doing something for those families. We are doing something for the next generation of Americans.

If you believe that the rule of law is one of the greatest strengths of this Nation, you cannot keep it if you have millions of people who break it by entering it.

There is no nation as generous as America. One million people will become citizens this year, and one million more next year. We are different from any other nation, but what we have today is something that we don't even control: our own operation of our borders.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on the Secure the Border Act, vote ''yes'' on security over chaos, and vote ''yes'' to stop fentanyl killing our children.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DESJARLAIS). Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not to each other in the second person.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, at some point you have to correct the RECORD. We had a debt ceiling budget vote several weeks ago. The Republican-approved debt ceiling budget would cut the DHS budget by 22 percent.

So you can't be for something, but you don't invest in what you say you are for.

I will step back a little further and say that if Republicans are really serious about border security, then they would have joined Democrats in passing last year's government funding bill. It provided more than $17 billion to Customs and Border Protection alone and a 17 percent increase in the Border Patrol budget, but unfortunately, Speaker McCarthy voted against that, too.

□ 1930

Democrats have been to the border. In April of this year, I took nine Members to the border. We talked to a lot of people. I have been on the committee quite a while. I have gone to the border a number of times to see, so one visit I didn't go to is not the end of the world. I was on the border before the Speaker was in Congress, so there is history here that we just need to make sure that we all understand.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA).

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I just want to say that most of my life I have lived on both sides of the border, and since taking over my subcommittee this year, in the last 4 months, I have gone to Laredo, Brownsville, Yuma, El Centro, San Ysidro, Otay; and just Monday, Otay, Tijuana, Mexico.

I am doing this because I think it is important that we leave Washington and go and ask the border agents, go ask the port authorities what is going on, tell me what they need.

I saw these men and women in blue uniforms at our ports of entry. They are very proud of their work. They said: Lou, look, this is 99 percent of the trade we have, the integration of the North American markets. We are making it happen thanks to the investments by Congress in personnel, technology, and infrastructure.

Then they said: But we have to keep out that 1 percent, that fentanyl, those narcotics. They proudly said: We here at the ports of entry are responsible for stopping over 90 percent of the fentanyl that comes into this country.

I asked them, of course: What do you need to do your job better?

They said: We are looking to you in Washington for more support. We are 2,400 personnel down, CBP agents. They said the proposals here by my colleagues on the other side do nothing to support the additional hiring of men and women in blue uniforms. Those blue uniforms are responsible for stopping over 90 percent of the fentanyl that is coming across the border.

I proposed amendments to this legislation for better pay, retention, childcare for those workers that have to do forced overtime. All of my amendments were turned down.

If we are serious about stopping fentanyl, we have to invest more in those blue uniforms, and this legislation does absolutely nothing to do that.

Let's be frank here. I have also gone to farmers and small businesses in my district, and they are also very scared. They are scared of becoming criminals. You put in a mandatory E-Verify, and every one of those farmers who employ undocumented farmworkers is going to be criminalized. Every one of those small businesses in my district that are calling me and saying, ''Lou, we need immigration reform,'' will also become criminals because they employ undocumented.

We seem to forget we have a 3.6 percent unemployment rate in this country. Those folks that are coming across the border are disappearing into the fabric of our economic society. They are getting jobs. They are working. They are part of our fabric.

Unless we have immigration reform, unless we have a way to get workers into this country that is teamed up with some of these proposals, it is not going to work. At the end of the day, the private sector that needs workers, folks that need a job will figure out how to make it work.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from California.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, this bill is not enough. This bill is not about creating a solution. It is simply messaging.

This bill is not addressing the fentanyl problem. The best investments are where it will be stopped at the border.

The bill is not addressing the employment issue. In every sector of our economy, in every State of our Union, we need workers. We don't need to criminalize, make employers criminals for trying to hire somebody to harvest this crop.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. D'ESPOSITO).

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act.

Mr. Speaker, I must say that I find it quite comical and a little bit scary that we just heard that this bill is nothing more than, ''messaging.'' When I was sitting in this seat, I was wondering for a moment if we were debating a bill or having some juvenile partisan contest about how many times we could say MAGA and extreme, which have nothing to do with this bill.

What is extreme, however, is the unprecedented levels of illegal migrants, fentanyl, and other deadly drugs that have come across our open border.

Title 42 ends this week, and we still have heard no plan from the White House on how they plan to deal with the levels of illegal migrants that continue daily to travel across our southern border.

House Republicans are delivering where President Biden refuses to. The Secure the Border Act will help us regain operational control of the border, combat illegal immigration, and stop fentanyl smugglers.

This legislation will support the brave men and women serving as members of the Border Patrol by hiring an additional 22,000 Border Patrol agents. This hiring blitz will allow Border Patrol agents to return to their law enforcement mission in the field and not simply act as processing coordinators. We will be providing incentives, solidifying institutional knowledge, and help with the mass exodus caused by the dereliction of duty of Secretary Mayorkas.

Additionally, this bill will end the controversial catch-and-release policy which puts migrants into communities while awaiting their hearings.

The Secure the Border Act will also increase transparency over the Federal Government and strengthen current law to protect unaccompanied children at the border from human trafficking.

We have heard about these amendments. There were amendments about a border that we were told by Democrats were secure.

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

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, instead of focusing on our border, these amendments focused on challenge points, climate change, and about moments in a news cycle.

Well, to my friends on the other side of the aisle, that news cycle is devastating to many, devastating to those who have now been at the hands of the cartel, devastating to those who have lost children and grandchildren to fentanyl.

While the Biden administration is ignoring the safety and security of our country, House Republicans are delivering on our commitment to a nation that is safe.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, the extreme MAGA Republican default on America act, which the last Speaker voted for, would result in CBP not being able to seize nearly 900 pounds of fentanyl because of the draconian cuts to its budget.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROBERT GARCIA).

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to this un-American and cruel bill.

Now, I immigrated to this country as a small child, and I love our country for all it has provided me and my family. Immigrants love this country. They dedicate their lives to working, and they make a community stronger.

This bill does not uphold our values as a nation. A bill that was true to those values would uplift and celebrate the contributions of immigrants. Real patriots know that love of country is actually about helping people.

Let's be crystal clear. We all want a safe and secure border, and the best way to achieve that is through comprehensive immigration reform and creating legal pathways for people who want to come here to work.

Sadly, this bill does not do that. Instead, it doubles down on a failed anti-immigrant agenda. This bill guts the fundamental right to seek asylum. It strips protections for unaccompanied children, and it wastes more money on Donald Trump's pointless border wall, a monument to hate which does nothing to protect us.

Now, in the Homeland Security Committee, I helped lead the fight against harmful provisions of this bill that target nonprofits who partner with our border agencies to care for our asylum seekers, but House Republicans are moving ahead with these disastrous policies that would require charities to check the immigration status of those who need care even in a crisis.

By defunding nonprofits, this cold-hearted bill would ignore what the Gospel teaches us. It ignores our brothers and sisters who are tired, poor, hungry, and sick; those who are most in need of help.

If this bill ever becomes law, it would cause chaos and suffering.

We need real immigration reform, and America is ready for that debate. Let's rise to the occasion and create an America that reflects kindness and centers on helping people. Being anti-immigrant is being anti-American.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. STRONG).

Mr. STRONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act.

This legislation is the culmination of months of hard work and collaboration of three House committees: Homeland Security, on which I serve as a member; Judiciary; and Foreign Affairs. It represents what is possible when we work together for the good of our Nation.

In my very first floor speech as a Member of Congress, I echoed the concerns and fears I have heard from the constituents that I represent and what I have seen firsthand at the southern border.

Americans are not safe, and our country is under attack at the southern border. Illegal immigrants, drug runners, and human smugglers continue to exploit this administration's open southern border policy as this administration looks the other way.

This last weekend, in just 72 hours, Border Patrol apprehended over 26,000 migrants, had approximately 7,500 gotaways, and seized 11 pounds of fentanyl, enough to kill 2.5 million Americans. If this is what operational control looks like to this administration, it is no wonder why Americans are worried.

Title 42 is set to expire tomorrow, bringing not a surge but an invasion of illegal immigrants that our communities, hospitals, schools, and law enforcement officials simply can't handle. This debacle created by this administration has not seen its worst day.

Just this morning, the administration released a statement outlining how they plan to deal with this incoming invasion. The Department of Homeland Security press release says they have finalized a rule to incentivize the use of lawful immigration pathways. They are choosing to incentivize illegal immigrants to follow our laws when we should be punishing those who don't follow our laws. The fact is, President Trump's border policies worked for America.

Now more than ever, we must pass this legislation and move toward a lawful, safe, secure, and orderly border. We don't have time to waste.

Among many important provisions, this legislation would grant DHS authority to suspend entry and gain operational control of the border, similar to title 42. I am pleased to stand here today with my colleagues in support of this legislation that begins to address the massive failure of this administration.

H.R. 2 reflects Republicans' commitment to make America safer. I urge my colleagues to support this bill. It is up to us to stop this invasion of America at the southern border because no one else will.

□ 1945

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, on February 1, the last speaker voted against the public health emergency that served as the legal basis for the use of title 42 at the southwest border.

My colleagues want to have it both ways, which is why, I guess, he supports H.R. 2, the child deportation act.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA), the ranking member of the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Mississippi for yielding.

I happen to represent every border community and every port of entry along the Arizona-Mexico border. It is my home, where I grew up, and that is where I live. That is where I have lived, in those borderlands.

I don't need a photo op tour for me to understand, to feel, and to respect the fact that these communities and this area of our Nation have been left behind not just by policy but by intent.

H.R. 2 is not serious legislation to address our urgent need to fix our broken immigration system, to respond to the pending humanitarian crisis on our border, and to combat the deadly flow of fentanyl and human exploitation by organized crime syndicates. It won't do that.

What H.R. 2 will do?

It will devastate our affordable food supply by eliminating up to half the

workforce in agriculture, farming, and ranching.

It will dramatically increase the economic hardship of border communities and the borderlands.

It will fund the Trump memorial wall, a piece of useless government waste.

It will demonize children and unaccompanied youth.

It will provide Republicans with fundraising tools, and it will also provide them with the means to create division, fear, and chaos in preparation for the 2024 elections.

My Republican colleagues hope that voters will overlook the growing extremism and their failure to deal with real issues in this Congress, one of them being immigration.

The lifting of title 42 challenges Republicans in this House to do more than political posturing. Indeed, it challenges the Biden administration not to allow the pending humanitarian crisis to become desperate and punitive.

I want to also take a little historic look and remind the body of the schizophrenic, anti-immigrant underpinnings of H.R. 2. The echoes of past immigration debates in this Chamber are with us today, and let me quote from the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

In 1884, Congressman Henley of California spoke on the floor of the need to preserve a White man's government from dark and yellow-skinned people.

In 1924, Congressman Wilson of Louisiana said: ''Two things are certain. One is that America cannot exist with a large percentage of mongrel communities with discordant views and aspirations.''

That same year, Representative Robsion of Kentucky said: ''Let us send out the slackers and undesirables. Let us clean up America and keep America clean,'' for the real Americans and for the real country.

I mention those historical realities and facts from previous debates to underline the point that H.R. 2 must not be a means to grow the worst nativist impulses that we might have in this Congress or to accept ethnic and racial prejudices.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. THOMPSON for yielding me time.

All to further hardship and accept ethnic and racial prejudices as criteria in our immigration laws and policies, bringing to life those echoes of the past.

The values and the common ground that must be found in order to effectively deal with the issue of immigration, with the issue of asylum seekers and refuge seekers, requires real solutions. It requires humanitarian relief, but it also requires an enforcement focus that deals with the issues that have been talked about by the other side: fentanyl, drug running, and human exploitation.

It also requires that all of us in Congress, and particularly those who represent the borderlands, be included in those discussions to the point that we can bring the real voices, the real impulses, and the real needs of those communities.

H.R. 2 must be defeated because it is against our values, and it promotes a mythology that everything that happens on that southern border is bad, unhealthy, criminal, and un-American.

That is wrong. Vote ''no'' on H.R. 2.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. GREENE).

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I remind everyone that Republicans believe in legal immigration. As a matter of fact, we are very proud of our former first lady, Melania Trump, who immigrated legally to the United States. There is a clear difference in policies when we talk about border security for the United States of America.

I think it is very important to remind my colleagues across the aisle what our oath of office actually says. We swear an oath that we will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

That is a very important oath to swear, and it is one to uphold, but this was not being upheld in the past 2 years under this administration.

We have seen nearly 5 million people cross our border, and it is unsustainable. As a matter of fact, on Monday, a record was set for border apprehensions.

Just yesterday, that record was defeated because they had even more border apprehensions. Two records, and I don't even know what today is yet. We don't have the numbers, but soon we will know.

The clear difference between Democrats and Republicans, when we talk about border security and about these policies, is that Democrats don't serve Americans. They serve migrants. They serve foreign countries and their borders, but not Americans, American tax dollars, and America's border.

As a matter of fact, according to the Border Patrol Chief, five out of the nine sectors are out of control and in the hands of the cartels.

Yet, the most important thing the Democrats across the aisle are attacking is the Second Amendment and taking away Americans' guns because they are claiming that will keep Americans safe from the cartels. That is insanity.

Democrats serve migrants so much that they are interested in bringing more into the country. When they talk about hiring more Border Patrol agents, it is because they want Border Patrol agents to be the welcoming committee.

H.R. 2, which I strongly support, hires more Border Patrol agents and gives them bonuses so that they can do the job that they were hired to do, which is to protect our southern border and, by the way, the lives of migrants who are dying nearly every single day as they try to cross our border.

It is really interesting. Unfortunately, this administration and the Democrats serve migrants so much more than Americans, and it seems that Biden serves any country that is willing to write him a check as long as they make it payable to the Biden family LLCs. How about that?

Title 42 lifts tomorrow.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, if Republicans were serious about border security, they would have joined Democrats in passing last year's government funding bill, which paid for an increase of 300 Border Patrol agents, the first increase since the Obama administration.

Not only did the last speaker not support it, she voted to have 1,400 Border Patrol agents fewer in the field under the extreme MAGA Republican default on America act.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. THANEDAR).

Mr. THANEDAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member, Mr. THOMPSON, for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today as a symbol of what our immigration system can achieve. In 1979, at the age of 24, I entered this country alone with no friends, no family, but I had my American Dream.

At times, I slept in a car or at a homeless shelter that was funded by a faith-based nonprofit. At times, I got sick and needed to go to the hospital.

H.R. 2 would cut funding for these nonprofit organizations and remove reimbursement systems for immigrants to get healthcare.

When my colleagues on the other side of the aisle ask me why I don't support this bill, my answer is simple. I don't support cutting programs that helped me and help immigrants like me in times of their need and their hardship. I stand with countless immigrants who have contributed greatly to our country and urge opposition to H.R. 2.

When my colleagues and I went down to the southern border, we met with many nonprofit organizations and saw the important and necessary work that they do. We met with the border agents and learned that they are working with a broken immigration system.

Reforming this system is going to be complex, but the Republicans are proposing an enforcement-only strategy. This is not going to work.

I propose that we expand legal pathways, restore asylum systems, and work with nonprofit organizations like the ones that housed me and cared for me when I was just arriving to this country.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, as a quick correction for the record,

the bill doesn't do anything to take away healthcare services provided by NGOs, just to clarify that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES), my friend from my home State.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2. I thank all of those who have worked on this important signature piece of legislation.

I specifically want to point out and thank my friend and colleague from Tennessee, the chairman, Congressman MARK GREEN.

Mr. Speaker, Lennox Lake, 6 years old, was killed by an illegal. Sarah Root, 21, was killed by an illegal. Maris DiGiovanni was killed by an illegal. Jacqueline Vigil, 55, was murdered by a man who had been deported on multiple occasions. Retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel Jerry Wayne Harbour, 75, was killed by an illegal. Joseph ''GT'' Paglia, a retired police officer, 48, was killed by an illegal. Michael White, retired U.S. Army officer, was killed by an illegal.

These are just a few of the individuals and countless Americans who have been murdered at the hands of illegal aliens through a porous border that has long been a problem.

What once was a trickle is now a flood. This administration that has overseen it is responsible for 10 consecutive months of over 200,000 apprehensions.

This crisis is the fault of this President so long as he refuses to enact policies to secure our border.

Our border crisis is literally killing Americans. It is threatening the safety of communities. It is costing at least $151 billion every single year in de facto subsidies for those who break our laws.

As we approach the end of title 42, it is imperative that we take action to secure our border and stop the flood of illegal aliens.

The House Republican bill, the Secure the Border Act of 2023, will force Biden to restart the construction of the wall. It increases Border Patrol agents, requires transparency from the DHS, ends the practice of catch and release, and strengthens the asylum process.

Again, I thank the Homeland Security Committee chairman and my fellow friend and Tennessean, Congressman MARK GREEN.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2 squeezes Customs and Border Patrol officers working at ports of entry by failing to provide resources to cover the increased workload that will result from the bill.

If Republicans were serious about border security, they would have joined Democrats in passing last year's government funding bill, which appropriated $60 million to hire an additional 125 CBP officers.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE).

□ 2000

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member THOMPSON for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the GOP's extreme and punitive immigration legislation, H.R. 2, also known as the child deportation act.

This cruel legislation would force draconian restrictions and punishments on migrants and asylum seekers and set America's immigration priorities back years.

At the cost of $6.1 billion, this bill would eliminate the right to asylum in America, a process millions upon millions have enjoyed over the generations. Vulnerable, desperate people and families have long depended on these laws for their safety and future.

Moreover, it would affect the legal status of over 4 million people who would otherwise be granted parole or asylum.

Instead of fostering immigration that strengthens our economy and empowers its growth, Republicans would rather throw our economy into a tailspin.

So let's be clear: Any bill that would allow vulnerable migrant children to be inhumanely detained by Border Patrol for up to a month, to be ripped from their families and locked up from the world, is unacceptable. It is fundamentally un-American. ''Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free. . . . '' I need not remind you, Mr. Speaker, what those words adorn nor what they represent.

To treat vulnerable people fleeing violence, famine, and persecution, who are looking for a better life in our Nation with such contempt, such vitriol, such callousness, is not leadership; it is cowardice.

Though I am the daughter of Jamaican immigrants and know the struggles and challenges immigrant communities confront every day, my unique perspective on this issue should be irrelevant.

Every American, no matter how long their families have called this country their own, should be outraged at a GOP that would codify migrant child abuse.

Make no mistake: Regardless of H.R. 2's fate, America's immigration system is massively broken.

The glaring inequities, blatant racism, vicious xenophobia, and civil rights violations immigrants face, particularly in immigrant communities of color, will persist beyond any one bill.

As the Federal Government ends its use of title 42 and Democrats work to increase investments in border safety and personnel, open more lawful pathways and begin to address root causes of migration—

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from New York.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. It is beyond time for Congress to pass immigration policy that reflects humane, equitable, and a 21st century immigration system.

We are a Nation of immigrants, founded by immigrants, so we must do better for immigrants. I will always stand against the limitless cruelty that has become synonymous with the MAGA movement and the cruelty they espouse.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, again, I am compelled to correct the RECORD. The bill very specifically states that family units will be kept together. There will be no separation of children. It very clearly is stated in the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER), my very good friend.

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of all Texans and all Americans whose lives have been put at risk by the untenable crisis at our southern border.

Let's just look at the numbers. In the 2 years that this President has been in office, there have been over 5 million encounters at the southern border, 1.4 million got-aways, and countless numbers of people who matched not only the terrorist watch list, but also criminal organizations. That totals nearly 6½ million people.

To put that in perspective, that is bigger than over 33 States in the United States. Among those 5 million, our Border Patrol have caught nearly 200 known and suspected terrorists trying to cross into our country illegally. This should not only concern every American, but it also outrages Americans who want law and order and safety to be considered.

What I am even more concerned about is: How many among the 1.4 million got-aways would match that list that we don't know about?

This is something that I have been sounding the alarm bells for my entire time in Congress. It is something that, unfortunately, my Democrat colleagues have buried their heads in the sand and refused to address for the last 2 years.

I could continue talking about the terrible numbers all day, about the 15,000 criminals arrested, the 14,000 pounds of fentanyl that have been seized, which, by the way, is enough to kill 3 billion people, and that is just in the last 6 months.

Instead, I will turn the focus of today's discussion about border security back to the tragedies, the human tragedies, which are affecting every district, including mine.

Americans like Elisa Tambunga whose 7-year-old daughter and 71-year-old grandmother were tragically killed by human traffickers doing 105 miles an hour with 11 illegal immigrants in the back seat who hit their car and instantly killed them. They are the victims.

Let's talk about the 700 unaccompanied migrant children who have been

displaced and separated. These 700 unaccompanied migrants were dropped off in Midland, Texas, trafficked by traffickers away from their parents, and dropped off in the middle of the night. They are the victims.

What about fathers like Joe Warnick of Odessa, Texas, who found his 17-year-old son dead after taking a pill laced with fentanyl. He is a victim, along with 110,000 Americans last year who lost their lives to fentanyl.

The 53 migrants who died in the sweltering heat in the back of a tractor trailer south of San Antonio, Texas, last year, they are the victims. These are real people.

This is not just a border crisis. This is a national security emergency. Texans demand a solution.

Today, I am proud to join my colleagues in supporting H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act.

The timing of this legislation could not be more precise with the ending of title 42. Our bill will force the administration to restart construction of the border wall. It will deploy much-needed technology to the border. It will increase the number of border agents and give them the well-deserved bonuses that they need to maintain their services.

Several of my original provisions have been included in this package to require the administration to own up to the total number of known gotaways or known and suspected terrorists crossing the border each month, as well as outlining the costs that are incurred by States like Texas.

Mr. President, how many more lives will be lost?

How many will it take to take action?

That is why Republicans are not ignoring this crisis. We are taking action. We are restoring the security of our border.

I am extremely proud to stand here with Chairman MARK GREEN and his efforts, and Speaker MCCARTHY, to pass a bill that will finally secure the border and do what Americans put us here to do.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2 does nothing to combat illicit narcotics like fentanyl. If Republicans were serious about border security, they would have joined Democrats in passing last year's government funding bill, which provided $70 million for intrusive inspection technology at ports of entry where most dangerous drugs are interdicted.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. SALINAS).

Ms. SALINAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2.

My dad immigrated to the United States from Mexico when he was just a child. He picked cotton and tomatoes in the Rio Grande Valley before eventually earning his U.S. citizenship. Today, his daughter is a Member of the United States Congress and serves on the Agriculture Committee, a true testament to the unique power and promise of the American Dream.

Migrant workers like my dad are the work engine of our agriculture industry today. That is a fact—maybe an inconvenient one for some of my colleagues—but a fact, nonetheless.

By some estimates, immigrant farmworkers make up more than 70 percent of agricultural workers in the U.S. Nearly 175,000 immigrant farmworkers reside in Oregon alone. Their work is backbreaking, exhausting, and at times life-threatening. Yet, they show up, rain or shine, heat dome or ice storm, to do the work, to feed America—not red States or blue States, but every State.

That is why I am completely stunned by the arrogance and shortsightedness of the majority.

Are you so blinded by xenophobia that you are willing to endanger not only our food security but our national security with E-Verify requirements that even Members of your own party call a mistake?

Democrats did offer an amendment to strike the E-Verify provision, but the majority defeated that amendment. Oh, my goodness.

I am hoping that you can think beyond spinning your way out of the reality that this bill will decimate our agriculture industry. The American people are smarter than that and they will see through these political games.

Turning employers into enforcers will result in nothing less than the collapse of our agricultural system and, with it, our ability to feed our great Nation. It would be a willful error of the highest magnitude, something the American people will never forgive or forget.

Empty fields, empty tables, empty bellies; that is what H.R. 2 would do. That is why we must all be a ''no'' vote.

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

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time remains on each side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Tennessee has 28¼ minutes. The gentleman from Mississippi has 17½ minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LUTTRELL), the American hero.

Mr. LUTTRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act of 2023.

America is facing a crisis on our northern, southern, and maritime borders. Our Nation has witnessed a devastating effect of disastrous open border policies to date. For the past 2 years, over 5 million people have come into this country. That is more than the population of Louisiana and Mississippi combined.

In my district, every day I have to face the families that have lost their babies from fentanyl. A few weeks ago, in San Jacinto County, a known cartel member who was taken out of the country, ended up murdering five innocent people in one of my counties.

Now, thankfully, local law enforcement, FBI, State troopers, and BORTAC caught that bastard. These are the problems that we should not have.

Mr. Speaker, we are criticized on this side of the aisle for our immigration policies, about DACA, where the funding is going.

Well, I ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle: You had 2 years to fix DACA, where were you at?

You had 2 years to fund our ports of entry, where were you at?

You spent the money elsewhere.

We are criticized and criticized about this bill, which is a step in the right direction, which starts to move and solve the problem.

My colleagues on the other side, I ask you: Where have you been?

We showed up. We came here to Congress in order to fix this problem. We pushed this legislation across, and all you can do is criticize. That is unacceptable.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, while the imposition of a nationwide E-Verify on all businesses found in this bill is not part of the Homeland Security division, it still affects me as a Member of Congress from a rural part of the country.

I cannot overstate how damaging this language is to the agriculture labor in my district. Many of my rural Republican colleagues know this, too. To put it bluntly, if enacted, this bill will force American farmers to go out of business.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters of opposition against the child deportation act from the AFL–CIO; SEIU, Service Employees International Union; and the Agriculture Workforce Coalition.

AFL–CIO,
Washington, DC, May 8, 2023.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE, I am writing on behalf of the AFL–CIO to urge you to oppose H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act of 2023. This bill advances a divisive agenda that would increase risks to the lives and livelihoods of workers, children, and families. Rather than punitive, enforcement-only approaches, we urge Members to pursue meaningful reforms that expand rights and protections for all.

Successive waves of immigrants and refugees have always helped to build, serve and feed our nation. Today is no different. Far from posing a threat, newly arriving migrants can make valuable contributions to our society when afforded the proper supports to allow them to effectively integrate into our communities. The labor movement is committed to welcoming more refugees, asylum seekers and other forced migrants and helping them to integrate into the workforce with good union jobs.

H.R. 2 fails to provide the effective and humane policy solutions needed to address the flaws and injustices in our immigration system. This bill would implement unbalanced

policies focused on deterrence, detention, and removal that violate key principles of human and worker rights. Among many concerns, the bill seeks to severely restrict asylum, reduce protections for children, limit relief options for the administration, erode due process, expend taxpayer resources on a border wall, strip funding for humanitarian programs, and promote detention and deportation of immigrants and families.

Any serious attempt to use immigration policy to lift wages and standards must start with a broad and inclusive pathway to citizenship, not the costly expansion of a flawed mechanisms that fail to ensure basic worker protections. Unfortunately, the workforce provisions in H.R. 2 move us further in the wrong direction. The bill would mandate the use of E-Verify, which has often been used by employers as a tool to bust unions and chill the exercise of workplace rights. It would also cause significant harm to the workforce by limiting the ability of asylum seekers to obtain work authorization and stripping rules that were designed to lift standards and wages for agricultural workers in the H–2A program.

As a nation, we must uphold our humanitarian obligations and insist on strong protections and rights for all workers, children and families, regardless of immigration status. Amidst escalating displacement and exploitation, we urge you to vote NO on the Secure the Border Act.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM SAMUEL,
Director, Government Affairs.

SEIU,
Washington, DC, May 10, 2023.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the 2 million members of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), I urge you to vote no on H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act of 2023.

SEIU opposes this bill in its entirety because it is built on a false and small-minded premise that immigrants are a menace to be feared, fought against, and punished. If we let unfounded fear guide our immigration policies, we will squander the powerful social and economic benefits that immigrants provide. Immigrants today, like those of the past, are a source of tremendous pride, productivity, and promise, who make our nation stronger.

Our laws should therefore be designed to promote their orderly integration and thus to maximize the benefits they provide. H.R. 2 takes the opposite approach. It offers no solution to the real global challenges that are uprooting an unprecedented number of persons worldwide, and it ranks among the most extreme and unworkable immigration bills that have ever received a vote in Congress.

Among its many harmful provisions, H.R. 2 would endanger children by mandating their incarceration with family members and eliminating legal protections for unaccompanied children. It would eliminate meaningful access to the asylum system for many persons fleeing persecution, and deny work authorization to individuals seeking asylum. It would criminalize visa overstays of as little as 10 days, no matter how innocent the explanation. It would expedite construction of Trump's worthless and expensive wall at any cost. It would make E-Verify mandatory for all businesses after a short phase-in, despite evidence that doing so would merely encourage the growth of the black-market underground economy and that it would impose a burden on small businesses. And it would limit federal partnerships with nonprofit and faith-based groups, and punish them financially for fulfilling their humanitarian mission. Instead of proposing solutions, H.R. 2 would actually encourage lawlessness by blocking lawful paths for migrants fleeing nations in crisis, and denying work authorization while applications are pending.

Like most Americans, SEIU is frustrated by the lack of progress towards the immigration reform that our nation desperately needs. Such reform would legalize undocumented immigrants, reform legal immigration pathways, and put balanced procedures in place at the border that ensure order and security as well as humane treatment. The toxic, divisive, and mean-spirited measures that make up H.R. 2 would not do any of that, and SEIU urges you to vote no on the bill. SEIU may include votes on this bill in our congressional scorecard.

Sincerely,

REBECCA WASSERMAN,
Government Relations Director.

AGRICULTURE WORKFORCE COALITION,
April 19, 2023.

Hon. JIM JORDAN, Chairman
Hon. JERROLD NADLER, Ranking Member,
House Committee on the Judiciary,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN JORDAN AND RANKING MEMBER NADLER: We, the Agriculture Workforce Coalition (AWC), are writing in opposition to the consideration of the Border Security and Enforcement Act of 2023 (H.R. 2640) without concurrent, meaningful legislation to address the labor crisis faced by America's farmers, ranchers and growers. As organizations serving as the unified voice of agriculture in the effort to ensure that America's farmers, ranchers and growers have access to a stable and secure workforce now and in the future, we believe that the reforms envisioned in H.R. 2640 relative to mandatory E-Verify, on their own, would cause agricultural production to fall by $60 billion dollars, and food prices to increase by 5–6 percent. This would be crushing to an already struggling and vulnerable industry.

Mandatory E-Verify without workable solutions for both the domestic workforce and our H–2A employers puts these American jobs, and the economies of communities across the country, in jeopardy. As we have repeatedly stated, agriculture faces unprecedented challenges from rapidly rising costs, many of which are imposed by the federal government, as well as competition from imported agricultural products typically produced at a lower cost. American agriculture relies heavily on foreign-born workers due to the extremely limited supply of domestic farm labor. Continued inaction by Congress in light of these realities will mean more fields lying fallow, more farmers losing their livelihoods and fewer of the foods we eat being grown in America.

The economic impacts of this will spread far beyond the farm gate as Americans working in industry sectors both upstream and downstream of the farm will see their jobs threatened. Studies have shown that each hired farm employee supports 2 to 3 full-time American jobs in the food processing, transportation, farm equipment, marketing, retail and other sectors.

The path forward is clear—Congress should pass a solution that addresses both our current agricultural workforce and modernizes our guest worker program to meet future needs. Only then can we support the implementation of a mandatory E-Verify policy. The AWC remains committed to working with the House Judiciary Committee members and others to develop legislation that addresses agriculture's labor needs.

Sincerely,

American Farm Bureau Federation, AmericanHort, Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association, International Fresh Produce Association, National Council of Agricultural Employers, National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, National Farmers Union, National Milk Producers Federation, National Pork Producers Council, National Potato Council, USA Farmers, U.S. Apple Association, Western Growers Association.

□ 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SORENSEN).

Mr. SORENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2.

For years and years, politicians have kicked immigration reform down the road over and over and over again for future generations, they will have to address it. Unfortunately, the bill that we have today that we are considering just continues the trend.

Our border must be secure. Make no mistake, we have to do everything that we can to prevent harmful drugs like fentanyl from destroying the lives of our kids and our families.

We need real solutions. Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle want to solve our border crisis, but the bill in front of us today would only make our border less secure.

The bill in front of us today does nothing to address the root causes of our system's backlog and only serves to gut our asylum ability, denying the protections to the people who need it the most.

Gutting the few remaining pathways to claim asylum and kicking Dreamers out of the only country that they have ever known, it just accelerates the chaos and extremism and, in the end, all it does is harm our neighbors and our communities.

Like many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I support smart, targeted investments in border security and providing law enforcement the resources that they need to end the flow of weapons and fentanyl into our country.

Speaker MCCARTHY just spoke about the dangerous people that were just caught this year, but I proposed an amendment that would have hired an additional 500 Customs and Border Protection officers at ports of entry to screen more people at the border.

Another amendment that I provided would allow $50 million to expand a task force to go after fentanyl distributors.

You know what? Speaker MCCARTHY and every Republican refused to consider these amendments in committee, ideas that have bipartisan support.

Listen, the story of America, it is a story of immigrants, opportunity, and hard work. We have to push back against legislation that sows division and chaos. Let's come together to create an immigration system that works, that protects our Dreamers, and treats migrants humanely, ensuring that our hometowns are safe from drugs and crime.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I hear from my colleagues across

the aisle the accusations that the legislation that is before us today is somehow xenophobic. I will remind my colleagues that the number of countries of people who are appearing at our southern border, breaking our laws are from over 140 countries, every single race, every single religion, almost all the nationalities of the world. This bill is about law and order. It is not xenophobic.

I recall when I was there on the border, maybe it was three trips ago, some folks from Russia and Ukraine. This isn't xenophobic. This is about law and order.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. MILLER).

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, treating migrants humanely, humanely as to where a young child will have to make a 300-mile journey, in which they have no idea what is ahead of them; they have to go with coyotes and drug traffickers, who, when they drop children across the border wall that does work, that is the nice things that they do to those children, and everyone here knows it, which is very upsetting.

So treating them humanely would be responsible, and that is what this piece of legislation, H.R. 2, is.

The southern border is in crisis. About 5 million people have illegally crossed into our country under President Biden's watch.

The cartels have smuggled in 14,000 pounds of fentanyl.

Border agents arrested 98 people, 98 people on the terror watch list in FY22.

This crisis is the direct result of the Biden administration's failed policies, and every American knows it.

Under President Trump, we had a secure border. All President Biden had to do was nothing. All he had to do was sit there and do nothing, but he couldn't even do that.

Instead, he took 94 executive actions to reverse the progress made under Republican leadership. Unbelievable.

Republicans are once again acting to protect our Nation from the gangs, drug cartels, and terrorists that exploit this crisis to hurt the American people.

H.R. 2 resumes construction of the border wall. It pays our border agents what they need and what they deserve and hires them the help that they desperately need in terms of assets.

Biden's border crisis has raged far too long. Enough is enough. I urge my colleagues to vote for this bill and to secure our southern border.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that the child deportation act provision requiring DHS to negotiate with El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to return unaccompanied children will result in 550,000 children being deported back to the violence they fled from over a 10-year period.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2 is an anti-immigrant and un-Christian bill, just as legislation previously introduced by Representative ROY was. That is why nearly 150 community and religious groups oppose it.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters in opposition from 136 community and religious groups, including Bethany Christian Services, Catholic Charities, and Union for Reform Judaism, Sojourners, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and the Jesuit Conference.

MAY 8, 2023.

House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

VOTE RECOMMENDATION OPPOSING H.R. 2 SECURE THE BORDER ACT OF 2023

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: The undersigned state, local, and national immigration, civil rights, public health, education, religious, labor, climate justice, and other organizations write to respectfully request that you VOTE NO on H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act of 2023, set to receive a vote on the House floor on May 11. The bill would dismantle the asylum system and cause immeasurable harm to immigrant communities. The newly elected majority is driving an intentionally divisive agenda to amplify anti-immigrant animus without moral and effective policy solutions. We ask you to oppose this anti-immigrant bill that would:

1. Deport Unaccompanied Children. The bill would end Health & Human Services funding for legal representation of unaccompanied children in immigration proceedings, depriving children of the attorneys their safety depends upon. It would also provide only a cursory screening process for children at the border, risking children's summary return to human trafficking and other dangers. The bill subjects all unaccompanied children to an accelerated removal process worse than what currently exists, and allows for detention of unaccompanied children in jail-like border facilities for up to 30 days—ten times longer than permitted under current law.

2. End Asylum. The bill would effectively shut down our current asylum system by adding dozens of new restrictions on asylum, including eliminating the right to seek asylum for those who cross the border between ports of entry and barring asylum for those who transit through a third country. It would make it nearly impossible for migrants to seek asylum in the U.S. and significantly easier to deport asylum seekers, including families and children, into harm's way. This will only sow chaos at the border, rather than ameliorating it.

3. Restart 'Remain in Mexico'. The bill would restart the failed and dangerous Remain in Mexico program for all migrants, including unaccompanied children who were previously exempted under the Trump administration. Seeking to unilaterally return asylum seekers to other countries without consulting the receiving country nor the migrant results in refoulement of the migrant to danger and problematic foreign policy implications.

4. Jail Immigrant Families. The bill would require family detention for any families attempting to enter the U.S. to seek asylum, as well as any families who previously entered the U.S. without visas. Like all immigration detention, family detention centers have a well-documented history of abusive conditions, including inadequate medical care and mental health deterioration for asylum seekers, survivors of trauma, and children.

5. Mandate E-Verify. The bill would require E-Verify for all employers in the U.S., severely damaging our economy, harming American workers, and resulting in billions of dollars in lost government revenue. National implementation of E-Verify raises concerns about efficiency, due process, and racial profiling and decreased employment among Latinos.

6. Gut Programs that Work: The bill would strip funding for the Alternative To Detention Case Management Pilot Program, Office of Immigration Detention Ombudsman, and the vital Shelter and Services Program, which has helped communities around the country receive reimbursement for costs related to humanitarian responses to migration. These programs have been effective at providing services crucial to preventing more deaths under CBP custody and immigrant detention and have reduced impacts on receiving communities.

7. Burden our Local Communities by Making it Impossible for Employers to Hire Asylum Seekers with Work Authorization. This bill eliminates work authorization for asylum seekers who cross between ports of entry and requires six month renewal periods for asylum-based employment authorization. Combined with USCIS processing time, this would effectively make it impossible for businesses, even in the face oflabor shortages, to employ asylum seekers. These provisions will exponentially increase the backlogs at users and make it even more difficult for USCIS to timely process applications. This runs counter to bipartisan efforts to improve the employment authorization process for asylum seekers and will create an unnecessary burden on local communities.

8. Undermine Essential Partnerships with Humanitarian Organizations. The bill would bar any and all DHS funding for NGOs, including faith-based NGOs, that provide shelter, transportation, food or legal assistance to vulnerable immigrants, including those who arrive on a visa and later become ''inadmissible.'' Congress should be investing more in non-profit organizations providing respite care, legal service providers, trauma-informed care and community-based service providers, not subjecting them to the punitive measures in this legislation. This measure would impact NGOs across the country that receive DHS funding, including organizations working with FEMA during an emergency-it's ''show me your papers'' for the Red Cross.

9. Resume Building Trump's Border Wall. The bill would restart the construction of the border wall, a harmful waste of taxpayer resources. It would allow DHS to exempt all border infrastructure construction, development, operation, and maintenance from any law except the Constitution, thereby reducing the rule of law at our borders. The bill would also restrict the ability for landowners, local communities and tribes to assert legal challenges opposing the construction of the wall, and thus pave the way for irreparable and unchecked harms to the borderlands. We have already seen the negative consequences from the Trump Administration era resulting in: bulldozed Native American burial sites; dynamited pristine mountain wilderness; segments of the wall being constructed in flood plains; and the unjust seizing of private ranches and farmlands.

10. Eliminate Parole Authority. The bill would decimate the parole power that presidents historically have used to parole individuals in response to humanitarian emergencies or in furtherance of foreign policy objectives. It also precludes the President's recent parole programs for Ukrainians, Afghans, Cubans, Haitians, Nicaragruans, and Venezuelans, and cuts work authorization for parolees.

11. Jail Any Person who Overstays a Visa. The bill would jail and penalize immigrants who have violated any condition of their visa or overstayed by 10 days or more, even for violations that occur due to circumstances beyond the individuals' control such as a medical emergency. This provision would even make it a crime for anyone on a visa to apply for asylum, given they would not have

left once their visa expired. Congress should focus on solutions that regularize the status of long-term residents and fix our broken immigration system.

12. Balloon Border Agents. The bill would require Border Patrol to hire enough agents to reach 22,000 on board (currently there are roughly 19,500) and restrict Border Patrol agents from performing ''duties of processing coordinators.'' Processing coordinators currently perform duties such as transporting and processing migrants and carrying out mandatory welfare checks. With only around 1,000 processing coordinators currently in the field, this restriction would seriously hinder Border Patrol's efforts to fairly and efficiently process asylum seekers and carry out their law enforcement mission. CBP is overfunded with funding streams that push resources towards enforcement and wasteful surveillance, while humanitarian needs go underfunded.

We urge you to vote in ways that protect immigrants and VOTE NO against H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act of 2023 in the upcoming floor vote. We must oppose racist, xenophobic, unconstructive proposals that add fuel to hate and present no constructive and moral solutions. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

National Organizations:

#WelcomeWithDignity Campaign, African Communities Together, Alianza Americas, America's Voice, American Civil Liberties Union, American Federation of Teachers, American Immigration Council, American Immigration Lawyers Association, American Psychological Association, American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC, Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence, ASISTA.

Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (ASAP), Bend the Arc: Jewish Action, Bethany Christian Services, Bridges Faith Initiative, Center for Gender & Refugee Studies, Center for Law and Social Policy, Center for Popular Democracy (CPD), Center for Victims of Torture, Children's Defense Fund, Chispa LCV, Church World Service, Coalition on Human Needs, Communities United for Status & Protection (CUSP), Community Change Action, Detention Watch Network.

Esperanza United (formerly Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network), Freedom for Immigrants, Freedom Network USA, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Futures Without Violence, Human Rights Campaign, Human Rights First, Human Rights Watch, ILRC, Immigration Equality Action Fund, Immigration Hub, Immigration Law & Justice Network, Indivisible, Jesuit Refugee Service/USA, Kino Border Initiative.

Latin America Working Group, Lawyers for Good Government, League of Conservation Voters, Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, MoveOn, MPower Change Action Fund, National Council of Jewish Women, National Education Association, National Employment Law Project, National Immigrant Justice Center, National Immigration Law Center, National Immigration Project (NIPNLG), National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC), National Lawyers Guild San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC).

National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (NNIRR), National Partnership for New Americans, NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, Nextgen America, Oxfam America, People's Action, Prevention Institute, RAICES, Reconstructing Judaism, Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association, Restaurant Opportunities Centers United, Save the Children, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team, Sojourners, Southern Border Communities Coalition, T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights.

UnidosUS, Union for Reform Judaism, Unitarian Universalist Association, Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice, United Church of Christ Justice and Local Church Ministries, United We Dream, Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), WE ACT for Environmental Justice, Witness at the Border, Women's Refugee Commission, Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights.

State and Local Organizations:

ACLU People Power Fairfax, Adhikaar, Al Otro Lado, Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE), Alliance San Diego, Americans for Immigrant Justice, Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Atlanta, AVAN Immigrant Services, Border Compassion Nonprofit, Border Patrol Victims Network, California Immigrant Policy Center, California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation (CRLA Foundation), Carolina Jews for Justice, Central American Resource Center of Northern CA—CARECEN SF, Chispa Arizona, CLUE-Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice.

Coalición de Derechos Humanos, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA), Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Svcs inc, Dorothy Day Catholic Worker, Washington DC, Fellowship Southwest, Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project, Florida Immigrant Coalition, Fresh Start Refugee Assistance Center, Houston Immigration Legal Services Collaborative, Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project, Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity, Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action, Journey to Asylum, Just Neighbors Ministry, Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center, Louisiana Organization for Refugees and Immigrants.

Make the Road CT, Make the Road NV, Make the Road Pennsylvania, Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, Michigan Immigrant Rights Center, Oasis Legal Services, Samaritans, SEIU CA, SEiU United Service Workers West, St. Mark's Presbyterian Church, St. Michael's University Church, Tennessee Justice for Our Neighbors, Texas Civil Rights Project, The Advocates for Human Rights, The Green Valley/Sahuarita Samaritans, The Resurrection Project, Tucson Samaritans, Wind of the Spirit Immigrant Resource Center.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES USA,
May 8, 2023.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.
Hon. HAKEEM JEFFRIES,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER MCCARTHY AND MINORITY LEADER JEFFRIES: As President of Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA), I wish to express our strong opposition to the Secure the Border Act of 2023 (H.R. 2). If adopted, this legislation would severely restrict vulnerable people's access to asylum, detain more families including children, undermine U.S. efforts to effectively manage immigration, and dismantle the public-private infrastructure currently in place to manage the humanitarian crisis at the southern border and its impact throughout the country.

The gospel calls us to provide shelter for those who are homeless, feed the hungry, and ''welcome the stranger.'' The work of Catholic Charities is humanitarian not political. While we do not oppose all the provisions in H.R. 2, several of them, if enacted, would severely hinder the government and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) from aiding migrants who need services, care, and assistance.

The proposed legislation would reverse many protections for migrants and restrict asylum access, including long-standing protections that promote the best interest and safety of unaccompanied children who arrive in the United States. H.R. 2 would defund Alternatives to Detention (ATD) programs that provide participants access to basic services such as housing, medical care, and legal representation. Additionally, H.R. 2 would prohibit funding to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for disbursement to faith-based organizations and other NGOs, effectively cancelling the cooperation of these organizations with federal, state, and local governments in receiving newcomers, combatting human trafficking, addressing homelessness, and responding to natural disasters and other emergencies. The end result would be the dismantling of a system to help migrants and local communities rather than its improvement to meet the challenges of the moment.

No one can deny our immigration system is broken. Moreover, the situation at the southern border is dire and needs a compassionate, humane, and orderly response. However, many of the provisions in H.R. 2 are contrary to these values and will threaten the lives of vulnerable persons seeking refuge, burden state and local communities, and disrupt our nation's ability to respond to disasters.

While we strongly oppose this legislation, we continue to call on Congress and the administration to work together to reform our immigration system and to support policies that are just, humane and well-coordinated. We look forward to continuing to work with you to find solutions that uphold human dignity and promote the common good.

Sincerely,

Sister DONNA MARKHAM, OP, PhD,
President & CEO,
Catholic Charities USA.

[From Sojourners, May 8, 2023]

SAFETY AND COMPASSION CAN EXIST WITHOUT EXTREME MEASURES. SOJOURNERS URGES REPRESENTATIVES TO VOTE NO ON H.R. 2., THE SECURE THE BORDER ACT OF 2023

Washington, D.C.—In response to H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act of 2023, Sojourners released the following statement:

On May 11, 2023, the U.S. House of Representatives is set to vote on H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act of 2023. If passed, the bill will harm millions of migrants fleeing violence from their home countries by effectively dismantling the asylum system. The bill would also have a negative economic impact on local communities by denying work authorization to asylum seekers who traveled through a third country or who cross between ports of entry. Unaccompanied minors will be at risk of further danger as the bill seeks to end the Department of Health and Human Services' funding for legal representation.

At Sojourners we have long embraced a consistent ethic of life, seeking to protect the dignity and sanctity of life; our migrant family around the globe must be included in this commitment. Ending asylum will mean certain death for many of our most vulnerable siblings seeking protection; including women and children who have already faced a traumatic journey as they seek safety in the U.S. We urge representatives to oppose H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act of 2023, as it is an assault on the inherent dignity and worth of human beings seeking refuge and it violates current U.S. immigration law and international treaties.

''We take the word of God seriously, so when Jesus' words in Matthew 25 tell us to 'welcome the stranger,' we cannot sit idly by

as Christians and allow injustice in our nation by ending asylum and denying welcome to our migrant family,'' said Rev. Adam Russell Taylor, President of Sojourners.

''As someone who has accompanied and become legal guardian of unaccompanied minors fleeing for their lives, the negative impact this bill will have would not only endanger the physical lives of migrants but also risk the soul of our nation—it is up to us as followers of Jesus to embody his teachings and speak up and take action against this inhumane bill,'' said Vanessa Martinez Soltero, Immigration Narrative and Power-Building Organizer at Sojourners.

''To seek asylum is a human right guaranteed by U.S. immigration laws and enshrined in the U.N. declaration of Human Rights and the Refugee Convention of 1951. Decades of humanitarian migration give witness to the horrors that people seeking asylum experience. The U.S. inspection protocols, thorough background checks, and rigorous screenings have consistently proven that safety and compassion can go hand in hand. Instead, leaders of the Republican Party are instilling fear and capitalizing on the end of Title 42, the health policy that prevented asylum seekers from presenting themselves at the border, to wield an anti-immigrant agenda through the introduction of H.R. 2.'' said Sandra Ovalle, Director of Campaigns and Mobilizing, Sojourners.

UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS, COMMITTEE ON MIGRATION,

Washington DC, May 5, 2023.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: I write on behalf of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Migration to express our strong opposition to H.R. 2, the ''Secure the Border Act of 2023.'' If enacted, this measure would fundamentally weaken our nation's decades-long commitment to humanitarian protection. Provisions of this bill would endanger unaccompanied children and inflict harm on other vulnerable persons, decimate access to asylum, mandate damaging detention and removal practices, restrict access to legal employment, limit—and potentially eliminate—federal partnerships with faith-based and other nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), undermine the rule of law, and more.

We do not question the good intentions of lawmakers who seek to enact legislation that would secure our nation's borders. Indeed, we join in the call to enact effective and humane border management as part of a framework of comprehensive immigration reforms. As stated previously, we also do not discount the challenges at our border with Mexico, nor the right of nations to maintain their borders. We have continuously acknowledged the right of sovereign states to impose certain juridical conditions on immigration for the sake of the common good, consistent with Catholic teaching. However, our faith also compels us to be ''vigilant advocate[s], defending against any unjust restriction [on] the natural right of individual persons to move freely within their own nation and from one nation to another'' and to call attention ''to the rights of migrants and their families and to respect for their human dignity, even in cases of non-legal immigration.''

Pope Francis has stated that ''safe, orderly, regular and sustainable migration is in the interest of all countries.'' Undoubtedly, effective border management is necessary to achieve that. However, H.R. 2 would not humanely secure our border with Mexico or help to alleviate increased migration throughout the Western Hemisphere.

We understand that there may well be a number of provisions in this bill that you support. However, this legislation contains such a combination of harmful measures that we believe its passage, on the whole, is beyond justification. Such provisions include those that would:

ENDANGER UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN

We are deeply concerned about the impact this bill would have on unaccompanied children (UC). The measure would override many of the fundamental protections put in place by the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 and the Flores Settlement Agreement. For example, it would eliminate protections for young children and children with intellectual disabilities by removing the requirement that Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officials ascertain whether a child is able to make an independent decision to withdraw his or her application for admission to the United States prior to possible removal. It would also subject every UC to expedited screening and, for those deemed eligible at that time, appearance before an immigration judge within 14 days, without any meaningful access to legal counsel or a child advocate. This is coupled with a provision that would abolish all existing government-funded legal representation programs for UC. Furthermore, the bill would eliminate the current requirement that UC be transferred to the custody of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) within 72 hours of being encountered by DHS, and those deemed ineligible for relief by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) could be detained indefinitely by DHS. Detention facilities operated by DHS are notoriously inadequate places for children to spend any length of time. Collectively, these and other changes made by the bill would intolerably alter how our country responds to these vulnerable children, many of whom suffer severe trauma before even reaching our border.

DECIMATE ACCESS TO ASYLUM

As conveyed earlier in the 118th Congress, we oppose efforts to inhibit meaningful access to our nation's asylum process, which this bill would do in several ways. For instance, it would eliminate asylum as an option for anyone who enters the United States in between ports of entry with no exceptions for highly vulnerable individuals, including unaccompanied children. However, under this bill, even the ability to seek asylum at a port of entry could effectively be blocked in favor of ''operational control'' for any person without a visa, as well as those who transited a third country before seeking asylum in the United States. This is coupled with provisions that, among other things, bar asylum for anyone who makes a claim based on resistance to recruitment or coercion by criminal or terrorist organizations, effectively requiring that persecution be carried out by the state, even in situations where the state is unwilling or unable to intervene in persecution committed by non-state actors. Such limitations are inconsistent with international agreements acceded to by the United States and long-standing precedent. They also demonstrate a concerning disregard for the prominence and impunity enjoyed by criminal and terrorist organizations in many countries. Furthermore, the bill would require a fee of ''not less than $50'' for each asylum application filed without the possibility of a waiver. The right to seek asylum should never hinge entirely on one's ability to pay for it. It is already difficult to qualify for asylum under existing law, and further limiting asylum eligibility in these ways will merely increase obstacles to potential relief for those with bona fide claims.

MANDATE DAMAGING DETENTION AND REMOVAL PRACTICES

As mentioned, the bill would subject unaccompanied children to indefinite detention by DHS. This would also be extended to families with children on a mandatory basis and seems to apply retroactively, meaning families already awaiting the completion of their immigration proceedings for any length of time before enactment of the bill would be required to be remanded to immigration detention. Moreover, suggesting a disregard for accountability and the wellbeing of persons placed in immigration detention, the bill would defund the Office of the Immigration Detention Ombudsman, curtailing oversight at the same time it maximizes detention for all individuals, families, and unaccompanied children. Likewise, the bill would eliminate funding for the Case Management Pilot Program, a more humane and cost-effective alternative to detention specifically designed to facilitate compliance with immigration proceedings, even for those ultimately deemed ineligible for relief in the United States. For asylum seekers who enter the United States from Canada or Mexico (whether at or between ports of entry) who cannot be detained or removed, the bill requires that they be returned to the contiguous country from which they arrived and remain there for the duration of their immigration proceedings. In seeking to revive an expanded version of the immoral and unlawful Migrant Protection Protocols, the bill dismisses the need for diplomatic negotiations and creates significant constitutional questions.

RESTRICT LEGAL EMPLOYMENT ACCESS

Eligibility for employment authorization is already limited under existing law for those seeking asylum. However, this bill would go even further by requiring that eligible asylum seekers (those whose cases have been pending for at least 180 days) reapply for employment authorization every six months. These applications to renew work authorization will compound the existing backlog for immigration benefits adjudicated by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), further delaying all manner of benefits under the agency's purview. Because USCIS processing times already exceed six months for many seeking employment authorization, it could be impossible for an asylum seeker to attain lawful employment at all under the terms of this bill, regardless of how long his or her case is pending. The measure would also prevent most people granted humanitarian parole from seeking employment authorization. These changes would only encourage asylum seekers and parolees to pursue employment without authorization or else leave them with no choice but to rely on social services, charity, and emergency care to meet their basic needs.

LIMIT FEDERAL PARTNERSHIPS WITH NGOS

Multiple provisions of this bill target NGOs that partner with DHS to provide a myriad of services to citizens and noncitizens alike. Ostensibly, these provisions would prevent the disbursement of DHS funding to NGOs that ''facilitate or encourage unlawful activity, including unlawful entry,'' as well as those that ''provide, or facilitate the provision of, transportation, lodging, or immigration legal services to inadmissible aliens.'' In both cases, this language is overly broad, ambiguous, and unworkable. Given their vast expertise and the trust they've earned from American communities, many Catholic and other faith-based organizations have long partnered with DHS to provide a range of services, including disaster relief, assistance for lawful immigrants

seeking to naturalize as U.S. citizens, humanitarian relief, services for victims of trafficking, and more. The phrase ''inadmissible aliens'' would be difficult, if not impossible, for NGOs to apply, since admissibility of noncitizens is not always readily apparent and, indeed, is often a matter to be adjudicated by the government. Contrary to the same subsection's heading, ''inadmissibility'' is also not an indicator of unlawful entry into, or unlawful presence in, the United States. As drafted, these provisions could even be interpreted to prevent schools, houses of worship, and other organizations from qualifying for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program amid a rise in violent attacks on those places. Equally concerning is that the same section of the bill would prevent any funds from being appropriated to DHS for the purpose of processing into the United States any persons arriving between ports of entry, calling into question DHS' ability to rescue persons encountered in the desert in life-threatening circumstances and process unaccompanied children, victims of trafficking, victims of torture, and others who-even under the bill's own terms-would warrant such processing.

DIMINISH THE HUMANITARIAN PAROLE AUTHORITY

Humanitarian parole has been used by every administration, whether Republican or Democrat, since President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who directed the Attorney General to parole into the United States 15,000 Hungarian refugees fleeing the Hungarian Revolution of 1956. The use of parole has often been necessitated by emergencies emanating from war and other conflicts—situations in which such a streamlined mechanism proved vital to save lives. Even when Congress enacted the Refugee Act of 1980, largely due to dissatisfaction with the executive branch's use of parole, it chose to preserve this discretionary authority, acknowledging the need to ''avoid crippling the [United States'] ability to respond to [such] emergencies.'' This bill, however, would abandon that realistic understanding by severely limiting the use of parole in such situations. It would also restrict the use of parole for those seeking asylum, such that it would effectively be unavailable, furthering the unnecessary and inhumane use of detention.

EXPEDITE BORDER WALL CONSTRUCTION AT ANY COST

We have long opposed the construction of a wall spanning the entire U.S.-Mexico border, especially with the dangers it poses to human life and the environment. However, this bill would establish unprecedented authorities to advance border wall construction, which include the ability of the Secretary of Homeland Security to waive ''all legal requirements necessary'' to ensure the wall's expeditious design, testing, construction, and maintenance. This is combined with a prohibition on consultation with local leaders and property owners, among others, that exceeds seven days, with the purpose of such consultation being to ''minimize the impact on natural resources, commerce, and sites of historical or cultural significance for the communities and residents'' (removing existing references to ''quality of life'') located near the border. The bill would effectively undermine constitutional property rights and further abrogate the rights of those living near the border by prioritizing federal land acquisition above such rights.

This is by no means an exhaustive explanation of the objectionable provisions contained within H.R. 2, given, for example, its criminalization of visa overstays for the first time in our country's history (even if inadvertent or based on a pending adjustment of status) and its E-Verify mandate for all employers, among other issues. Nevertheless, the provisions discussed underscore the extreme nature of this bill, its incompatibility with Catholic social teaching, and its inconsistency with our nation's broadly bipartisan commitment to humanitarian protection.

We take this opportunity to reiterate that ''[n]o combination of legal pathways or harsh enforcement measures will suffice to meet the complex challenge of forced migration facing our country and hemisphere. Only through a long-term commitment to addressing root causes and promoting integral human development throughout the Americas, combined with an overhaul of our immigration system, will we be able to achieve the conditions necessary to sustainably reduce irregular migration.''

For these reasons, we urge you to oppose the passage of H.R. 2 and to support the drafting of bipartisan legislation that is more in keeping with our nation's rich tradition of welcome. We remain committed to working with you and the Administration to address the complex issue of migration, including the need for humane border management that respects the God-given dignity of migrants. Thank you for considering our views and for your work in service of the common good.

Sincerely,

MOST REVEREND MARK J. SEITZ,
Bishop of El Paso,
Chairman, USCCB Committee on Migration.

JESUIT CONFERENCE,
OFFICE OF JUSTICE AND ECOLOGY,
Washington, DC, May 9, 2023.

House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the Jesuit Conference Office of Justice and Ecology, I write to express our strong opposition to HR 2, the Secure the Border Act, which would drastically limit the ability to seek asylum in the U.S. The bill fails to treat our migrant brothers and sisters with the dignity we all share as beloved children of God.

Every day, our neighbors arrive at the border asking for help, many fleeing violence and persecution. Yet since the beginning of the pandemic, most of those arriving at our southern border have been expelled without even an opportunity to present their case for asylum.

HR 2 would drastically limit the ability to seek asylum in this country, require the detention of families, and make it much more likely that migrants seeking safety are deported into dangerous situations. Furthermore, it would cause chaos at the border and significantly undermine the ability of humanitarian organizations to provide essential services.

While the United States has a responsibility to protect its borders, it also has an obligation to provide protection to those fleeing violence and persecution in their own countries. This legislation falls well short of that obligation, violating central tenets of the Christian faith that call us to welcome the stranger and love our neighbors as ourselves.

As people of the Gospel, we ask you to oppose these efforts and help keep our country a place where those fleeing persecution can find safe haven.

Sincerely,

REV. TED PENTON, SJ,
Secretary of Justice and Ecology.

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

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CLOUD).

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, Ronald Reagan once said that it isn't that our liberal friends are ignorant; it is just that there is so much they know that isn't so.

As you hear the talking points coming from the left concerning this bill, with all the Chicken Little arguments that they are presenting about how the world is going to collapse, farmers won't be able to grow things, and our economy will crumble if we secure our border, it is just plain ridiculous.

I live in south Texas in what they call the ''fatal funnel,'' in between two highways that lead from the border into Houston, which has become known as the human trafficking capital of the United States.

I visited facilities where 50 percent of the young women there, of hundreds of young women, will admit to being assaulted along the journey. I have visited the border and seen the families that have had their lives destroyed by what is going on at the border. Of course we know about the fentanyl deaths, hundreds of thousands of them.

To hear the talking points coming from the left that securing our border is un-Christian is absolutely ridiculous. I am both a Christian and the husband of an immigrant. I can tell you; I was there when my wife put her hand on her heart and said the Pledge of Allegiance for the first time as an American, and it really meant something. That is the right way to do it.

We have a legal process, and we have an illegal process that the left continues to fund and continues to partner with the cartels and continues to allow them to profit to the tune of billions and billions of dollars, to advance an illegal process when we need to enforce the legal process. We have a right way to do it, and we can do it.

This bill secures our border. The fact of the matter is that the Democrats just don't seem to really care. They don't care about the lives that are being destroyed. They don't care about the people that are dying. They don't care about the young girls being sold into the sex trade.

This administration has lost tens of thousands of kids and so for all the tears that were happening under the Trump administration as he worked to secure the border, where is the outcry for the tens of thousands of kids this administration cannot track?

They are willing to fund the border in other countries. They just funded a bill in December. We passed an omnibus bill where they were willing to fund border security in Libya, Lebanon, Pakistan, Nepal, and Turkey. But here in the United States of America, securing our border is not something the Democrats want to do.

Of course, yeah, we will get around to it. We just won't vote for anything that will do it. They had the chance to do it. They did not do it.

This bill will help secure our border. We need to pass it. I encourage a ''yes'' vote.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that the bill would ''affect the legal status of about 4.4 million people who would be granted parole or asylum under current law.''

Parolees fleeing war in Ukraine and the Taliban in Afghanistan, as well as those from Haiti and other failed countries in this hemisphere would be required to leave the United States, and CBO anticipates that ''half would reside unlawfully in the United States.''

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

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN).

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I am up here in my capacity as not only a United States Congressman, but also one of the co-chairs of the House Border Security Caucus.

On a monthly basis, we have had dozens of speakers come to speak to our Caucus. Normally, there are probably 30 who are present, but we have an enrollment in our Caucus of about 60 to 70, quite frankly.

It is amazing to me to hear our colleagues and friends on the other side of the aisle talk about humanity and humane treatment because I remember in the previous administration, when we had these so-called kids in cages.

I took a congressional delegation down to the Rio Grande Valley, we went to Donna, Texas, to see one of the detention facilities. After that, we went out to Carrizo Springs to the HHS facility there. Then we went, at a later time, to Fort Bliss out in El Paso. At each one of those, we saw these so-called kids in cages.

Then we went back after the change of administration and dramatically, there was nothing really different, except the enormous numbers of detainees in pods that were equipped to hold maybe 25 or 30, and they had a couple hundred people packed in these little pods.

I remember being told by the facilities there that the administration, the Biden administration, at the time that these unaccompanied children were coming in—and we are talking about 13,000 per month of unaccompanied children coming in now—that they were being so well cared for, and they were being reunited with their families and their loved ones.

I remember asking the folks who were in charge of these facilities, okay, if they are being taken care of, let me ask you a question because I have 17 grandkids. Kids mean a lot to me. My wife and I have been married 50 years. We have 5 children and now 17 grandkids. Kids need to be cared for, without question.

I said, are you doing any vetting of these so-called families?

Are you doing background checks?

Are you doing criminal history checks on them?

Oh, well, we don't have the resources to do that.

Are you doing DNA testing?

Well, we don't have DNA. We don't have the resources to do DNA testing, as well. Although during the Trump administration they were doing some DNA testing.

So now we come to the point where there are 85,000 unaccounted for children, UACs, under this administration's watch.

Where are these kids?

They are supposed to be followed up on by the authorities and the administration where these children are being sent. There are 85,000 that are unaccounted for.

We have seen a skyrocketing of violations of child labor laws. We know that there are some real shady deals going on in this country and that human trafficking, sex slavery, et cetera, is rampant.

□ 2030

Is this part of that deal? I am not up here pointing fingers in an accusatory way. But if you can't keep up with 85,000 UACs, we have got some real problems in this administration.

We have also had conversations with Alejandro Mayorkas, who is the DHS Secretary. I actually led that meeting. Of course, he is not under oath talking to our caucus.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOLINARO). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, we are being told that Mr. Mayorkas says that he has operational control over the border. We are being told that his policies are actually being successful. We are told that we have a secure border.

Let me tell you something: We have anything but a secure border when you have 5 million people who come across our border, all of them getting a free education.

I am 300 miles away from the border. My district is Houston over to Louisiana. We have a school district there that is growing faster than just about any district in the country, and it is because of the influx of illegal aliens. We are mandated to not only provide them with healthcare but also with an education.

This is an enormous burden on our people, the local governments, and the school districts that we have. This bill needs to be passed. I urge my colleagues very strongly to vote ''yes'' on this.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans claim that the Biden administration's policies have led to open borders, but nothing could be further from the truth.

President Biden has, with little help from Congress, worked to dissuade migrants from taking the dangerous journey northward. The Biden administration is surging resources to the border. Even as it ramps down title 42 removals, it is using title 8 authorities to promptly remove and bar reentry from certain crossers.

At the same time, the Biden administration is working to make the asylum process more orderly through the CBP One app.

It has also stood up a parole process for certain Venezuelan, Nicaraguan, Cuban, and Haitian migrants that in March were credited with a drop of 72 percent in the 7-day average from a high of 1,231 in January.

H.R. 2 would take those tools away from DHS.

Mr. Speaker, in the unlikely event that this cruel, extreme, and unworkable bill makes it to the President's desk, he has promised to veto it.

To quote the Statement of Administration Policy: ''H.R. 2 does nothing to address the root causes of migration, reduces humanitarian protections, and restricts unlawful pathways, which are critical alternatives to unlawful entry.'' It goes on to say: ''This bill would make things worse, not better.''

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the administration's statement.

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

H.R. 2—SECURE THE BORDER ACT OF 2023—REP. DIAZ-BALART, R–FL, AND 15 COSPONSORS

The Administration strongly supports productive efforts to reform the Nation's immigration system but opposes H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act of 2023, which makes elements of our immigration system worse. A successful border management strategy must include robust enforcement at the border of illegal crossings, deterrence to discourage illegal immigration, and legal pathways to ensure that those in need of protection are not turned away to face death or serious harm.

The Biden-Harris Administration's approach to border management is grounded in this strategy—expanding legal pathways while increasing consequences for illegal pathways, which helps maintain safe, orderly, and humane border processing. However, the Administration is limited in what it can achieve by an outdated statutory framework and inadequate resources, particularly in this time of unprecedented global movement. H.R. 2 does nothing to address the root causes of migration, reduces humanitarian protections, and restricts lawful pathways, which are critical alternatives to unlawful entry.

The bill would cut off nearly all access to humanitarian protections in ways that are inconsistent with our Nation's values and international obligations. In addition, the bill would make processing less efficient by prohibiting the use of the CBP One mobile application to process noncitizens and restricting DHS's parole authority, such that successful programs, like ''Uniting for Ukraine,'' would be prohibited. The bill would also reduce authorized funding for essential programs including the Shelter and Services Program that provides a critical source of funds for state and local governments and reduces pressure at the border.

While we welcome Congress' engagement on meaningful steps to address immigration and the challenges at the border, this bill would make things worse, not better. Because this bill does very little to actually increase border security while doing a great deal to trample on the Nation's core values and international obligations, it should be rejected.

If the President were presented with H.R. 2, he would veto it.

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

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take an opportunity to correct the record on a couple of things.

We often hear from our colleagues across the aisle that 90 percent of the fentanyl is seized at the ports of entry. Well, if you make the statement that 90 percent of the fentanyl that is seized is seized at the ports of entry, that is correct. But oftentimes, what we hear from the left, is that 90 percent of fentanyl coming into the country is seized. We know for a fact that that math is absolutely wrong.

If you put the amount seized at the ports of entry as the numerator and the total amount seized as the denominator, yes, that is 90 percent of what is seized. On the denominator would be 90 percent plus 10 percent, right? But what is missing in that denominator is all of the fentanyl that gets into our country that we have no idea is seized, so you can't technically say we are seizing 90 percent of the fentanyl that is coming into the country. That is factually incorrect. It makes no mathematical sense.

In fact, the Border Patrol itself is saying that we are actually catching about 5 to 10 percent of the fentanyl. So if it is 90 percent of what is seized at the ports of entry, which I agree that statement is correct, it is 90 percent of 5 to 10 percent of the total. That is an important point of distinction.

I would also like to talk a little bit about this CBP One app that my colleague from Mississippi mentioned and all of the other efforts that have been elaborated on by this administration, their efforts to maintain control of our border.

When they came into office, the budget didn't increase suddenly. The number of border patrol agents didn't decrease suddenly. There was no new legislation that was written.

What happened was 89 effective policies of two administrations were completely undone by executive orders, and it resulted in an immediate incentive to come to the United States. They did away with all of the disincentives, the pull factors, of people coming into our country.

What happened is, people came, they tested the system, and they were immediately released into the country. Deportations were ordered to be halted. Over a million people with deportation orders that a legal process had determined they were supposed to be returned, we are just not going to deport. Phone calls went home, and people poured across our southern border.

This incentive then was seized on by the drug cartels. They saw a huge opportunity, and so they flooded the crossing sites with people, interestingly enough, paying coyotes to bring them there.

That is sort of at the strategic level. They neutralized the Border Patrol at the border crossing sites, and then the fentanyl and other things come around between the ports of entry. That is the fentanyl we are seizing. By the way, that is the fentanyl that has resulted in the street price of fentanyl in Tennessee going from $95 in January of 2021 to $28 just recently, according to the sheriffs of Tennessee. That supply-demand means more fentanyl is pouring into this country.

If you talk about 90 percent of it being seized; that is a false statement. If you talk about the policies that supposedly are attempting to gain or are getting border control, that is incorrect. The incentives have allowed and empowered the drug cartels to take advantage, neutralizing the Border Patrol at the crossing sites.

Back to the tactical level, on one of my visits in Arizona, we actually saw a scout from the cartels. And the Border Patrol agents and the law enforcement in that area informed us that those scouts have military-grade encrypted radios. They have military-grade optics that they are using and from their vantage point are observing Border Patrol. They then notify someone else with this encrypted radio. They send 20 to 30 people to basically overwhelm that Border Patrol agent on the border. While that individual is tied up, they send the fentanyl. That is when the carpet-shoe-wearing, backpack fentanyl carriers result in drop sites just inside the border where I saw hundreds of empty backpacks and carpet shoes, where the drugs are then placed into the hands of the courier in the back of a truck and transported to cities all across America, resulting in that supply.

Make no mistake about it: The actions of this administration to remove those policies have resulted in this crisis. One of the other policies that they so effectively have taken care of—title 42, that will end tomorrow and will result in a catastrophe of epic proportions—is already breaking records, and we see them massing throughout Central America to come into the United States.

You can have good intentions of wanting to help every person on the planet. That is great. But by making that something that taxpayers have to do, you are basically determining what someone else should be doing with their charity.

Maybe somebody in Tennessee, our taxpayers, wants to do something for Gold Star families. Maybe they want to give to a different charity. Maybe they want to give to one of the NGOs that want to do something. But they should be the ones getting to decide, not the Federal Government telling them how their charity should be given. That is not freedom.

I will tell you, the policies that have been canceled that have resulted in this crisis, that have resulted in the cartels taking over five of our sectors of our southwest border, all on Joe Biden and Alejandro Mayorkas. Title 42 being canceled and what is about to happen, states of emergency in cities all across the southern border, coming across and making every State a border State, is on Joe Biden and Alejandro Mayorkas. I think it is really important we correct the record on some of this stuff.

I will make one other point, and I want to warn my colleagues across the aisle. President Biden promised to veto the D.C. crime bill. Remember that? He said: We are going to veto that bill. The Senate said: We are not going to vote for that. You know what our Democrat colleagues did here in the House? They all voted ''no.''

Then the furor happened in America, and the President realized, boy, that would be a mistake. The Senate said: Oh, my gosh, we are not going to do that either. So the Senate voted for the D.C. crime bill.

Now, the Democrat colleagues here in the House are going to have to go back and explain why they voted ''no'' when their party on the other side of the aisle voted ''yes,'' and their President changed his mind and signed that bill into law.

Now, you watch the next couple of days as the border gets worse and worse and Americans become more and more and more aware. We are going to pass this bill. You can vote ''no'' on it, but as those Senators get more and more aware of this crisis and the President has to look at what is happening to El Paso and Brownsville, he just might change his mind again. Guess who is going to be left holding the bag?

You don't want to vote ''no'' on this bill. This bill will secure our southern border. This isn't an immigration bill. We never set out to handle immigration with this. That is coming. This bill secures the border so that we can deal with the immigration issues.

What we can't do is create even more incentive with an open border. That just does what Mr. Mayorkas and Mr. Biden have done, create more incentive that brings more people in and overwhelms our social services, overwhelms our schools and hospitals.

As this thing unfolds over the next few days, don't be surprised if the President changes his mind again and you are left holding the bag.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, it is remarkable that Republicans are getting behind the child deportation act, a bill that would blow a $6.1 billion hole in our Federal budget at the same time that they are feigning concern about the Federal deficit.

Today, the other side has said a lot about how the Biden administration is

handling the ending of title 42, but remarkably, not one of them acknowledged that they voted to lift it in February.

Enactment of H.R. 2 would do nothing to keep fentanyl out of our communities or protect unaccompanied children.

□ 2045

Just for the record, in our section of the bill, fentanyl is not even mentioned. I would hope at some point the other two discussions tomorrow might talk a little more directly about fentanyl if it is in there. It is not in our section at this point.

For the record, the information that we have about 90 percent of the fentanyl coming into the country comes from the Chief of the Border Patrol. It is his information. We can only take him at his word.

Those five ports of entry that the chair talked about, that was not what he said. He said it was in Mexico, not in the U.S., in terms of being controlled by the cartels. I think we all will admit the cartels do not control the border within the boundaries of the United States. It is a play on words, but at least we can be accurate with that.

In terms of how we determine who comes, who is captured, and how the fentanyl is collected, I suggest that you talk to the FBI, Homeland Security Investigations, or DEA. They are the persons who interview the people who are caught at our ports of entry.

More importantly, most of the people who we catch at our ports of entry are American citizens. They are not, for the most part, immigrants or aliens, or whatever you want to call them, trying to come into this country illegally. They are American citizens.

In terms of guns, the cartels are a violent operation. There is no question about it. We need to do everything that we can to stop them. We can't keep American guns from going to Mexico unless we come up with an enhanced policy to do that.

We have to acknowledge that the majority of the guns that the cartels are using are coming from the United States. As the record will reflect, there is only one gun store in the entire country of Mexico. It takes months for an individual to even get cleared to buy a gun. We just want the record to reflect the truth.

Enactment of H.R. 2, as I said, would do nothing to keep fentanyl out of our communities or protect unaccompanied children. What it will do is penalize communities and religious organizations that care for vulnerable people.

Section 115(b) is so broad that a nonprofit hospital that admits an undocumented migrant would be deemed as facilitating unlawful activities. Cartels and smugglers are champing at the bit to see this bill enacted into law.

H.R. 2 would create conditions where desperate people will be left with few options but to try to enter the U.S. illegally between ports of entry. It would be a boon for smugglers' illicit business.

We should be coming together to enact sensible border and immigration policies that support our communities and economy. We can do better than the child deportation act.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a ''no'' vote on this extreme MAGA bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, the American people cannot wait any longer for secure borders and safe communities. Securing the border should not be a partisan issue. It is an American issue. It is the Federal Government's responsibility to do so. When they fail, Congress, a coequal branch of government, should step in and hold them accountable. That is what we are doing here today.

The Biden administration produced the catastrophic humanitarian tragedy we are seeing today, dismantling all semblance of law and order and sending a clear message to the cartels that our border is open.

We have all seen what has been happening in the past few days as title 42 comes to an end. It is a fact that the border is in shambles.

Frontline law enforcement personnel are overwhelmed and overworked as they are stretched physically and mentally amid this crisis. State and local resources are quickly depleting as they attempt to do the job that this administration has not done since its first day in charge: secure the borders and enforce the law.

The current situation at the border is unsustainable. Yet, over the past 2-plus years, my colleagues across the aisle have refused to hold the Biden administration accountable for its ineffective policies, have watched the border fall into the hands of violent cartels, and have completely ignored the disaster that has only gotten worse by the day.

That must end today. The American people are fed up with inaction.

The Biden-Mayorkas border crisis is a national security threat that must be addressed immediately. I encourage my colleagues to join House Republicans in passing this very important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I will close by addressing the patriots serving on the front lines of this crisis with no support or appreciation from this administration. Many of us have visited the border on several occasions, across multiple sectors, and have seen firsthand the work our Customs and Border Protection officers and agents do every single day to risk their lives for this great country.

To the officers and agents on the ground dealing with this crisis, on behalf of the American people, we appreciate you. We support you, and we have your back.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2, and I yield back the balance of my time.

SECURE THE BORDER ACT OF 2023

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2) to secure the borders of the United States, and for other purposes, is postponed.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow for morning-hour debate and 11 a.m. for legislative business.

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

There was no objection.

CELEBRATING THE SERVICE OF DOUGLAS J. ERICKSON

(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 celebrate the retirement and longtime service of Patton Township Manager Douglas J. Erickson, who has served the Centre County community for over 25 years.

Douglas Erickson began as township engineer and director of public works in 1998 before becoming township manager in 2006. While 18 township supervisors have come and gone since his first day as a township employee, Erickson has remained committed to public service.

In his time, Doug oversaw the rapid expansion and development of the State College suburb and left a long legacy of accomplishments.

Under his leadership, Patton Township has seen unprecedented growth, including adding thousands of new residents and the construction of nearly 3,000 new homes.

The township government has grown to include more than 15 employees in police, public works, administration and finance and engineering, and planning and zoning departments. Doug has secured an incredible $30 million in grants for township projects, helping to improve the quality of life for all the township's residents.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Douglas J. Erickson for his commitment to serving his community of Patton Township, and I wish him a very happy retirement.

REPUBLICANS' CALLOUS ATTITUDE TOWARD DEBT CEILING

(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 the unnecessary debt ceiling crisis.

The MAGA Republicans want to hold the American economy hostage to

their political agenda. They want to force cruel cuts to the budget to hurt working-class Americans—all for cheap political points.

If enacted, their budget would deny healthcare to millions of Americans and lay off thousands of teachers and emergency medical personnel. It would take away food from children and seniors.

MAGA Republicans do not think the lives of children and seniors are important. They would rather give tax dollars to billionaires and help them take tax write-offs on private jets, et cetera.

Thankfully, House Democrats are putting people over politics to solve real problems.

President Biden's budget supports children, seniors, and American workers. It will create new jobs and lower costs to help families. It is the budget America needs right now.

RECOGNIZING AIR FORCE TECHNICAL SERGEANT WILLIAM H. GONZALEZ

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise during Military Appreciation Month to highlight an eastern North Carolina native and a true American hero.

United States Air Force Technical Sergeant William H. Gonzalez of my hometown, Snow Hill, North Carolina, was on the way home after picking up his mother from the airport when he saw a woman lose control of her vehicle and veer into a pond off Interstate 587.

Mr. Speaker, as a fearless airman with 9 years of service, Gonzalez didn't hesitate and leaped into action. He dove into the pond, brought the woman back to consciousness, and helped her safely escape from her submerged vehicle.

This Military Appreciation Month, we salute all of our brave men and women in uniform. Today, I ask for people across America to join me in saluting Technical Sergeant William Gonzalez.

BACK THE BLUE: NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CAMMACK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, as National Police Week gets underway and we prepare for the coming days of solemn tributes and remembrances of our brave men and women in blue and green here in our Nation's Capital and across the country, it is more important than ever that we stand here united as House Republicans and share our appreciation for all that our heroes do every single day to keep us safe.

National Police Week is a time to remember and honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our safety and security and to express our gratitude and support to those who continue to serve and protect our communities across the country.

□ 2100

As the proud Representative of Florida's Third Congressional District and the wife of a first responder, I have witnessed firsthand the courage and dedication of our local law enforcement officers.

They are the ones who respond to emergencies, prevent crimes, and uphold the laws in our communities. They are the ones who face danger and uncertainty every time they put on their uniform. They are the ones who leave their families behind not knowing if they will return home safely.

Like so many spouses, when my husband puts on his SWAT medic vest for a callout, I feel that twinge of uncertainty, and I hug him just a little tighter.

It is a unique feeling to us—the people who love those who serve—and, of course, we all pray that our loved ones return home safely.

Before my colleagues take the floor and share their appreciation for our men and women in blue and green, I briefly want to share with you, Mr. Speaker, some of the stories of the fallen heroes from my district in Florida who have touched our lives and our hearts with their service.

In Alachua County, we remember Deputy Sheriff Kenterrous Taylor who was killed in a single-vehicle crash while responding to a domestic violence call on March 12, 2020. He was only 27 years old and had served with the Alachua County Sheriff's Office for less than 1 year. He is survived by his fiancee, his son, his parents, and his siblings.

In Gilchrist County we remember Sergeant Noel Ramirez and Deputy Taylor Lindsey of the Gilchrist County Sheriff's Department who were brazenly attacked and killed while on a lunch break in Trenton, Florida, on April 19, 2018. Sergeant Ramirez had served with Gilchrist County for 7 years and is survived by his wife and two children. Deputy Lindsey, who was only 25, is survived by his parents and his grandparents.

In Bradford County, we remember Sergeant David Lashon Goodson who died from complications of COVID–19 on August 18, 2020. He was 48 years old and had served with the Bradford County Sheriff's Office for 22 years. He is survived by his wife, his daughter, his son, his mother, and his brother.

In Marion County, we remember Deputy Sheriff Craig Heeder Riley II who died from complications of COVID–19 on December 16, 2020. He was 53 and had served with the Marion County Sheriff's Office for 25 years. He is survived by his wife, his two daughters, his son-in-law, his grandson, his parents, and his sister.

Finally, just this year, we lost Deputy Nick Tilliman. He was 30 years old and had served our Nation in both the Army and the Navy. He was a friend to all and known as a goofball who could keep a smile on your face. Tragically, the smile that he so frequently donned couldn't hide the pain that he felt, and on February 15 of this year, he took his own life.

It is not popular nor is it very easy to talk about the mental strain on our first responders, but it must be said both here on the floor of the United States House of Representatives and in the departments around this country that mental health matters.

Our men and women in blue and green are responding to the most violent, disturbing, and tragic scenes that not only stay with them for the rest of their lives but force them to compartmentalize their work for the rest of their time on the force and beyond.

No man or woman should have to bear that burden alone or in silence. It is well past time we prioritize mental health training and treatment for our LEOs and all of our first responders.

Again, I am proud not just as a wife to a SWAT medic but as a Representative of some of Florida's finest.

We are here to honor those who have served our communities with distinction as well as those who continue to do so. Today, Mr. Speaker, you will hear the stories of many who have served.

I am especially honored to lead this Special Order along with my good friend, Sheriff JOHN RUTHERFORD, and giving thanks for recognizing their service. These are just some of the names of the fallen heroes from our districts. There are many more who have given their lives in other counties and cities across our State and Nation.

Each one of them has a story to tell. Each one of them has a family to mourn. Each one of them has a legacy it is our duty to honor. We owe them a debt of gratitude that we can never repay, but we can do our best to support their families and colleagues who are left behind. We can do our best to ensure that they have the resources and equipment they need to do their job safely and effectively. We can do our best and will do our best to respect and appreciate their work and sacrifice.

We can and we will stand up for our men and women in uniform in the face of attacks from those who wish to vilify our hard working LEOs.

As we mark National Police Week 2023 and welcome the thousands of law enforcement officers to our Nation's Capital—their Nation's Capital—for days of ceremonies, tributes, and important conversations, let us remember and honor the fallen heroes of law enforcement. Let us pray for their families and friends who miss them dearly and let us thank our brothers and sisters in blue and green who carry on the mission today.

We will never forget that they gave their lives for us, and we will never forget their names—all 246 who were lost in the line of duty last year.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the great State of Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD).

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

Mr. Speaker, throughout my life, I have answered a call to public service. For 40 years I dedicated my career to serving in law enforcement—12 of which I led as sheriff.

I know from firsthand experience that every day law enforcement officers put their lives on the line when they put on their uniform and step out into their communities to keep us safe.

That kind of sacrifice is part of the commitment these officers make to protect citizens across the country and is essential to making our communities and neighborhoods safe.

Over the past few years, we have seen calls to defund the police sweep across this Nation, and we have heard Members of this very Chamber support efforts to demoralize and delegitimize the brave men and women who enforce our laws to keep us safe.

This has made it incredibly difficult for law enforcement officers to do their jobs—not to mention the liberal prosecutors and district attorneys who are failing to do their job to keep criminals off the street.

The results?

A spike in violent crime that has left cities less safe than they were 3 years ago.

I am proud that our House Republicans, led by Speaker MCCARTHY, are focusing on upholding law and order across America. House Republicans are committed to supporting our law enforcement.

That means helping agencies hire more police officers, opposing all efforts to defund the police, and cracking down on those prosecutors and district attorneys who have refused to do their jobs and prosecute crimes.

We recently voted to overturn D.C.'s soft-on-crime criminal justice reforms that reduced penalties for people who are committing crimes like carjacking and robbery.

Throughout my career in law enforcement, I have seen how failure to prosecute minor crimes leads to more serious violent crimes. We need to work with our leaders in law enforcement—work with them—not against them.

That is why I was proud to reintroduce the ' this week. This bill would provide small police departments, with fewer than 200 officers, the resources that they need to hire and retain the best officers, provide necessary training, and improve officer well-being.

Small law enforcement departments make up more than 96 percent of our local U.S. police departments. The Invest to Protect Act would simplify the grant process and give departments the flexibility to make meaningful investments in their officers and communities.

Part of making grants more accessible to law enforcement agencies is by removing strings to Federal money. I have been fighting against President Biden's efforts to empower the U.S. Attorney General to make training and policy decisions, moving local policing decisions from local sheriffs and local police chiefs to the Federal Government.

That is a very scary idea for someone who understands the importance of keeping policing local. The strength of America's domestic security lies in the diversity of our State and local law enforcement.

We can start by defunding sections 19 and 20 of the President's executive order on policing which require law enforcement agencies who receive Federal money to be accredited to standards that are set by the AG and to meet a list of policies, also decided by the Attorney General, before they are eligible for Federal grant money.

Any move to nationalize local law enforcement must be resisted at every turn.

Most importantly, we must do all we can to keep law enforcement officers safe while they are on duty. That is why I reintroduced the Protect and Serve Act again this year to strengthen penalties on criminals who violently target our law enforcement officers. We must hold these criminals accountable and show our officers that we have their backs.

As we mark National Police Week and remember those who gave their lives in service to their communities, we must come together to support policies that make our law enforcement officers' lives safer and more effective.

Together we can support law enforcement through sound policy and oversight and send the message that House Republicans are committed to passing critical legislation through the House, Senate, and the White House.

□ 2110

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN), another great colleague and friend.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CAMMACK), my good friend, for having this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, for years our men and women in blue have endured relentless attacks by leftists who wish to see them defunded and abolished completely, incredible as it may seem, a sentiment so out of touch with reality that it is incomprehensible.

What rational person would abolish the very force, that thin blue line that prevents mayhem and murder in our society?

This incessant demonization has pushed police officers all across this great land to resign in record-breaking numbers. Why stay in a role where you are hated, you are targeted, and without the resources necessary to do your job? Especially when the past 3 years have proven that the Democratic Party actually celebrates lawlessness.

Since actions have consequences, we are watching a tsunami of crime wash over our entire Nation. Yes, the radical Democrats have sown the wind, and now we are going to reap the whirlwind and are doing so now. Between their defund the police agenda and soft-on-crime policies, the left has created a system where criminals thrive and prosper instead of law-abiding citizens.

Twenty-seven of the top thirty crime-ridden cities in the Nation are run by the Democratic Party. The crime rate in Washington, D.C., alone is up 24 percent.

America is a nation of laws, not anarchy. We need our police officers who run toward the danger and the chaos. They put their lives on the line daily and deserve our full support and utmost respect and admiration.

Today and every day, we must thank law enforcement for the courageous work that they do to keep us and our families safe. We must always back the blue.

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague from the great State of Texas for his unwavering support for our men and women in blue and green.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS), my friend. Go Gators; I had to throw that in there.

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representatives CAMMACK and RUTHERFORD for leading this Special Order hour to honor America's law enforcement in advance of National Police Week.

The brave men and women of law enforcement put their lives on the line for our safety each and every day. They do an extremely difficult job at great personal risk and do it well. Even as Monday-morning quarterbacks in politics and the media lob accusations and insults at police officers, they continue to serve and protect with integrity and professionalism.

Let's talk about what law enforcement does. They run toward danger when everyone else is running away. They confront the violent criminals who threaten our communities. They answer the midnight calls for help, and they don't ask you your politics, your gender, your race, or anything else before doing so. In short, they serve as a thin blue line between anarchy and chaos, between good and evil.

Do you know what else they do? They do hug their families. They hug their

families in the morning before they go to work, and they pray that they make it home. Too often, they don't. Sometimes they make the ultimate sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, Locust Grove, Georgia, Patrolman Chase Lee Maddox exemplified what it means to be a selfless servant of their community. Patrolman Maddox's end of watch was February 9, 2018, when he was shot and killed in the line of duty assisting the Henry County Sheriff's Office serving a warrant.

He is survived by his wife and two sons, and his second son was born just days after his death.

Patrolman Maddox exemplified the risk associated with putting on the uniform and wearing a badge. It is an honor to commemorate him today on the floor of the people's House.

I think about stories like this when police officers are smeared in the press and accused of evil intent when tragedy strikes. I also think about these stories when I see leftwing politicians in cities across America implementing criminal-first policies that put our citizens and police officers in harm's way.

The way to fix this crime crisis is to let cops do their jobs and make criminals do the time.

Unlike my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who have chosen not to speak in support of police tonight, we will always remember, honor, and support our heroes in blue.

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague from the great State of Georgia for his comments.

I now yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS).

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 47 courageous law enforcement officers who have fallen since 1906 in North Carolina's 11th District. It saddens me to say that in the past 3 years, we have lost Ryan Phillip Hendrix from the Henderson County Sheriff's Office, Donald William Ramey from the Transylvania County Sheriff's Office, and John Horton from the North Carolina Highway Patrol.

In towns and cities across our Nation, citizens are traveling to Washington, D.C., this week to participate in National Police Week to honor and to remember our law enforcement officers past and present.

President John F. Kennedy, from the other side of the aisle, announced the first Police Week in 1962 to honor police officers for their faithful and loyal devotion to their responsibilities, and for their courage and dedication to their communities.

It is a distinct honor to represent the numerous brave men and women in law enforcement in western North Carolina, and I rise today to thank all of our law enforcement officers in cities and towns across the Blue Ridge, across the entire State of North Carolina, and across our Nation.

We need them now more than ever, and we must never stop backing the men and women in blue who protect us, our loved ones, and our communities. May God continue to bless our Nation's law enforcement officers.

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF).

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor law enforcement during this upcoming National Police Week.

In 1962, as my colleague from North Carolina suggested, President John F. Kennedy formally proclaimed the recognition of Peace Officers Memorial Day beginning in May of 1963. Kennedy acknowledged that ''from the beginning of this Nation, law enforcement officers have played an important role.''

In 1821, Stephen F. Austin, known as the father of Texas, established a group of roughly 50 men to provide for the safety of the first Texas settlements. He recognized this group as The Rangers in 1823, for their duties compelled them to range over the entire countryside, thus giving rise to the service known today as the Texas Rangers.

Today I pay special homage to the first responders who ran to the gunfire when shots rang out last Saturday, just 4 days ago, at the Allen Premium Outlets in Allen, Texas.

□ 2120

The first responders include: the Allen Police Department, the Plano Police Department, the McKinney Police Department, the Frisco Police Department, the Prosper Police Department, the Wylie Police Department, the Fairview Police Department, the Collin County Sheriff's Office, the Collin County Constable Precinct 1, the Collin County Constable Precinct 3, the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, the Texas Department of Public Safety Highway Patrol, and the Texas Department of Public Safety Texas Rangers.

I offer special recognition to the Allen police officer who, by the grace of God, was on the scene when the first shot was fired and responded swiftly.

He is a hero among a cast of heroes who continue piecing together the details of this horrible occurrence. That Allen police officer's actions epitomize the words of the legendary Texas Ranger, Captain W.J. McDonald, who said: ''No man in the wrong can stand up against a fellow that is in the right and keeps on a-comin'.''

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD).

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman CAMMACK for hosting this Special Order tonight and honoring the brave men and women who put their lives in harm's way to keep our communities safe.

Every day, some 800,000 law enforcement officers put on the badge and leave their families behind not knowing what the day will hold.

They serve silently on the front lines, faithfully upholding the law and fighting to reduce crime and to save lives.

Our party truly backs the blue. It stands proudly with these valiant men and women, including those serving this Capitol complex even tonight.

Sadly, however, those on the other side want to defund the police and restrict their ability to enforce the law, but we want them to have all the support and resources they need most to effectively execute their duties.

In fact, I have a former State trooper on my own staff, and I am grateful for his service to our Commonwealth.

Unfortunately, these last few years have seen mass retirements and decreasing morale in police departments, so I stand with my colleagues to express deep gratitude to all law enforcement officers who stand in the gap to serve and protect.

Thanks to them, families in our communities can sleep better knowing you stand watching, ready to respond when needed. I thank them on behalf of a grateful Nation.

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD), who will join me in reading the names of our fallen from last year.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, 246 officers from the State of Florida: Officer Christopher Gibson, Detective Joseph Anthony Tripoli, Deportation Officer William Hayes, Trooper John Sumter Horton, Deputy Sheriff Bryan Vannatta, Officer Bart Lane Arnold, Officer Jesus Delaluz ''Chuy'' Lara III, Officer David Leroy Ingle, Officer Franklin Joe, Officer Bruce Eckhoff, Officer Richard Lynn Tostenson, Captain Reginald Kamal Smith, Sergeant Gerardo Morales, Deputy Sheriff Michael Queeney, Detention Sergeant Janell L. Visser, Officer Fernando Uriel Arroyos, Officer Diane Gonzalez, Corrections Officer V Mark A. Loecken, Officer Brian R. Shields, Deputy Sheriff Brian Dennis Moore, Chief Michael E. German, Deputy Sheriff Joseph Robert Tinoco, Captain Jeffrey Allen Pierce, Investigator Steven Ray Finley, Deputy Sheriff Terrance Nicholas Bateman, Sergeant Malek Z. Majzoub, Corrections Officer Melissa M. France, Detective James M. Ward, Corporal Ernest M. Robinson, Officer Ramiro ''Ray'' Perez, Sergeant Kenneth J. Thurman Sr., Officer Daniel J. Sanchez, Chief Don Riffe, Officer Corille Cortez Jones, Officer Tyler Lenehan, School Resource Officer Johnny Patterson, Detective Jason Rivera, Special Agent Anthony Salas, Lieutenant Kevin Pounders, Deputy Jailer Gregory L. Means, Corporal Charles Galloway, Sergeant Ramon Gutierrez, Detective Wilbert D. Mora, Officer Christopher Wayne Berry, Deputy Sheriff John L. Grampovnik, School Resource Officer Travis Hurley, Master Trooper Vince Arnold Mullins, Deputy Sheriff Noah Rainey, Deputy Sheriff Lorin Marie Readmond, Officer Donald Sahota, Senior Correctional Officer Robert F. McCormack, Master Patrolman William Daniel Kelley, Sergeant William Shibley, Sergeant Burke N. Hannibal,

Officer Chris Bardwell, Deputy Sheriff Laquintin J. Wilson, Officer John Painter, Master Police Officer David J. Nieves, Sergeant Arthur Duron, Deputy Sheriff Steve Bobbitt, Correctional Officer Helen Mae Smith, Sergeant Chris Jenkins, Captain Collin Birnie, Chief Richard Leslie Stephens, Deputy Sheriff Brian J. Norton, Sergeant Robert M. Miller, Officer Leonard Swanson, Special Deputy Marshal Jose Elizondo Gomez, Patrolman David Glen Evans, Detective Michael W. Godwin, Sergeant Joshua Caudell, Lieutenant Scott Brandon Owens, Correctional Officer Jose Ruiz, Deputy First Class Kenny Olander, Senior Officer Robert Eric Duran, Trooper Tamar Anoush Bucci, Officer David A. Mathura, Correctional Officer Lonnie D. Johnson Jr., Corporal Benjamin Lee Cooper, Officer Jake Alexander Reed, Officer Freddie Wilson, Officer Caleb D. Ogilvie, Deputy Sheriff Dominique Calata, Officer Lane Anthony Burns, Sergeant Barbara Majors Fenley, Trooper Martin Francis Mack III, Trooper Branden Tyler Sisca, Officer Dan Rocha, Officer Jeffrey Herndon Carson, Deputy Sheriff Douglas Warren Sanford, Investigator Donald Richard Crooms, Agent John Dale Stayrook, Corrections Employee Darrell Avery, Correctional Officer Braxton Hofman, Officer John Mestas, Correctional Officer John Baron Broadaway, Corporal Sheli Godbold, Corporal Michael R. Springer, Deputy Sheriff Aubrey Phillips, Corporal James Michael McWhorter, Correctional Officer Kay W. Zeger Jr., Officer Lonnie Sneed, Corporal Michael Keith Morgan, Sheriff Robert P. Craft, Captain Frank Keith Rezac Jr., Deputy Sheriff Jarett Oroszi, Corrections Deputy Bridgette Lachelle Hunter, Police Officer Nicholas Vella, Lieutenant Jason T. Dumlao, Sergeant Matthew Horton, Deputy Constable Neil Adams, Sergeant John Joseph Donohue, Correctional Lieutenant Steve Taylor, Officer Jorge David Alvarado Jr., Major Rodrick C. Covington, Officer Dominic M. Francis, Lieutenant William David Lebo, Deputy Sheriff Darren Almendarez, Police Officer Trey Marshall Sutton, Sergeant Christopher Michael Vaughn, Deputy Constable Jennifer Lauren Chavis, Patrol Officer Brian Lee Sember, Officer Darryl Wayne Fortner, Sergeant Pedro ''Tony'' Candia, Deputy Sheriff James ''Jerry'' Critchelow, Police Officer Roy Andrew Barr, Corporal David P. Jones, Deputy Sheriff Nicholas D. Weist, Sergeant Nicholas W. Tullier, Deputy Sheriff Walter Donald Jenkins Jr., Deputy Sheriff Robert Adam Howard, Border Patrol Agent Daniel Humberto Salazar, Chief Deputy Sheriff Jody Wayne Cash, Police Officer Stephen Charles Plum Jr., Supervisory Police Officer Yiu Tak ''Louis'' Tao, Senior Correctional Officer Daniel Sincavage, Correctional Officer IV Jade Drennan.

□ 2130

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague for helping name the first 120 of those that we lost in the line of duty last year.

At this time, I would like to continue reading the list of names:

Officer Trainee Cody Alan Olafson, Lieutenant Mark Allen Pike, Supervising Fire Marshal John Joseph ''Jack'' McCauley, Police Officer Houston Ryan Tipping, Deportation Officer Brian Wayne Turner, Special Agent Peter Christopher Egan, Officer Adrian Lopez Sr., Deputy Sheriff Thomas E. Baker III, Police Officer Christopher Nicholas Fariello, Senior Investigator Kyle Lee Patterson, Officer Kennis Winston Croom, Detective Justin Michael Terry, Deputy First Class Glenn R. Hilliard, Sergeant Michael Domingo Paredes, Officer Joseph Anthony Santana, Sergeant Sean Free, Deputy Sheriff Austin W. ''Melvin'' Richardson, Deputy Sheriff J'Mar Colin Abel, Deputy Sheriff Austin Derek Aldridge, Detention Officer Jeremiah James Story, Deputy Sheriff Jeff L. Hermanson, Sergeant Richard Lopez, Reserve Officer Jeffrey Michael David Richardson, Deputy Sheriff Bradley Steven Henry Johnson, Captain Ralph Harlow Frasure, Deputy Sheriff William Edward Petry, Police Officer Jacob Russell Chaffins, Sergeant John K. Williams, Police Officer Loren Michael Courts, Parole Supervisor Ronald D. Spangler Jr., Officer Brian D. Olliff, Undersheriff Lawrence George Koren, Lieutenant Fred Douglas Beers III, Deputy Sheriff Michael Adam Levison, Patrolman Vincent Anthony Parks, Police Officer Frederick G. Maley, Police Officer Daniel Francisco Vasquez, Sergeant Christopher James Nelson, Police Officer Anthony Patrick Mazurkiewicz, Supervisory Deportation Officer Rachel Elizabeth Vielmas, Deputy Sheriff Matthew Eugene Yates, Sergeant Jean-Harold Louis Astree, Mounted Deputy Nichole Shuff-Balint, Deputy Sheriff Lorenzo Bustos, Deputy Sheriff II Jamie Lynn Reynolds, Police Officer Noah Jacob Shahnavaz, Deputy Sheriff Dallas Ryan Edeburn, Sergeant Matthew Ryan Fishman, Special Police Officer Maurica Manyan, Conservation Officer Lawrence E. Cabana, Deputy Sheriff Andrew Peery, Corporal Chad M. Beattie, Deputy Sheriff Ned P. Byrd, Police Officer Cesar Echaverry, Captain William Riley Hargraves, Special Agent Jose Antonio Perez, Police Officer Ivan Mauricio Lopez, Sergeant Robert Blaine Swartz, Sergeant F. Brent Chomyszak, Sergeant Harold Lee Russell II, Detective Matthew Walker Blansett, Constable Deborah Martinez-Garibay, Correctional Officer III Kaitlyn Breanne Ritnour, Deputy Sheriff Jonathan Randall Koleski, Deputy Sheriff Marshall Samuel Ervin Jr., Trooper Cadet Patrick Donelle Dupree, Police Officer Dillon Micheal Vakoff, Captain Janelle Sanders, Police Officer Lloyd ''Mike'' Todd, Police Officer Seara Burton, Deputy Sheriff Michael Hartwick, Senior Patrol Officer Anthony Martin, Master Police Officer Tyrell Owens-Riley, Detention Corporal Gregory Thomas Horne Sr., Sergeant Meagan Burke, Major Terry Randall Arnold, Deputy Sheriff Blane Lane, Deputy Sheriff Sidnee Carter, Investigator Myiesha Breanna Stewart, Lieutenant Dustin Demonte, Sergeant Alex Hamzy, Police Officer Truong Thai, Police Officer Steven R. Nothem II, Officer Jorge Arias, Sergeant Ivan M. Morales, Police Officer Logan K. Medlock, Sergeant Daniel Alan Kammerzell, Lieutenant Kristina Zell, Criminal Investigator Steven A. Carnes, Police Officer Brandon Tsai, Marine Interdiction Agent Michel O. Maceda, Police Officer Jordan Jackson, Deputy Sheriff Christopher Taylor, Detective Sergeant Frank Gualdino, Deputy Sheriff Jose Angel DeLeon, Border Patrol Agent Raul Humberto Gonzalez Jr., Reserve Deputy Brad Miller, Court Services Officer Curtis Matthew Worland, Senior Corrections Officer Scott Ozburn Riner, Police Officer Branden Paul Estorffe, Sergeant Steven Robin, Sergeant Donald Scoby, Deputy Sheriff Daniel J. Kin, Deputy Sheriff Oscar Yovani Bolanos-Anavisca Jr., Chief of Police Joe Carey, Detective Paul Daniel Newell, Deputy Sheriff Corey D. McElroy, Corporal Ray Charles Hamilton, Deputy Sheriff Isaiah Cordero.

K9 Beni, K9 Jedi, K9 Nitro II, K9 Maya, K9 Ciro, K9 Dash, K9 Major, K9 Jinx, K9 Mina, K9 Bluz, K9 Drago, K9 Exo, K9 Odin, K9 Cannon, K9 Drago, K9 Frankie, K9 Max, K9 Blue, K9 Hannes, K9 Axel, K9 Lux, K9 Rocket, K9 Figo, K9 Pepper, K9 Jack.

□ 2140

Mr. Speaker, that is 246 officers that gave their lives in the line of duty.

I thank my colleagues for joining me for tonight's Special Order. You know, it is pretty hard to read those names.

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

OUR DEBT CEILING CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) until 10 p.m.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, as we get ourselves sort of set up here—the hazard when you use boards—I actually want to walk through a couple of things. If I don't make some folks mad, particularly on the other side tonight, I am not doing my job.

How many of you have been basically hearing, even the President today talking about this debt ceiling and how outrageous it is that Republicans are trying to actually use it for some policy.

If there are any of the scribes that we call reporters, please listen for one moment. When we talk about the debt ceiling, how many of you remember 2017, how Democrats rolled Trump on the deficit ceiling?

The Democrats and the press were giddy that when we were up against the debt ceiling in 2017, that Schumer and

the gang basically required another $15 billion in spending, and that was the cost of their participation in the debt ceiling. Oh, but that would be outrageous to try to do policy as part of the debt ceiling, but you did it.

Then how about this? 2019, does anyone remember someone called Speaker PELOSI? In that case, the extortion was additional spending of $324 billion.

Now, the difference for Republicans is we are trying to save the country from the debt crisis, where the left was trying to spend more money. But this is in the last couple of years.

You basically have the press, a whole bunch of the Washington, D.C., chattering class, obviously, our Democratic colleagues, oh, we can't believe the Republicans are actually asking for some fiscal constraints. Okay.

But it was just 2019 that PELOSI—no debt increase until spending limits are raised. That is policy. So how come it was wonderful just a couple of years ago, a few years ago when we were up against the debt ceiling when Democrats asked for policy changes, and now they are enraged that we are asking for it.

Does anyone understand how absolutely duplicitous this place is and the short memories around here?

It took us a good, oh, 20, 30 seconds on a search engine to find this.

If you are going to hold us to a standard, hold us to the very ones you on the left live by. In 2017 you demanded changes. In 2019 you demanded $324 billion of additional spending, and that was your price of playing with the debt ceiling.

What we, as conservatives and Republicans are basically asking is help us save the country. You have got to understand some of the things going on.

But this is a real point, and I know this makes some folks uncomfortable. The only way this place seems to work is when we are up against what is called a stressor. It is a budget; it is a deadline; it is a debt ceiling.

Yet, if you look at the last couple of decades, actually, going back to the 1980s, almost any time we have actually accomplished any fiscal constraint, we were up against a debt ceiling.

Look, go back to Gramm-Rudman, all the way through, policy agreement after policy agreement. There is what, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 in functionally the last 40 years. Every single one of these came from a debt ceiling.

Yet, if you read particularly the Washington, D.C., press—and these are supposed to be people that know what the hell is going on. Oh, we can't believe Speaker MCCARTHY and those Republicans are actually asking for some fiscal constraint tied to the debt ceiling. Huh?

Now, when the left had it, they demanded more spending, but all these are ones that actually gave us some policy. It is just the duplicity around here.

Does anyone pay attention to the numbers coming out of Treasury, the numbers coming out of CBO, the numbers coming out of Joint Tax? Are you following what is actually going on?

I am sorry. I am trying not to get too angry. If I have any of my Members here, or your staff, I know literacy sometimes isn't our greatest accomplishment around here. This is this week's Economist magazine. Please, someone, just read the cover, '' . . . fiscal fantasyland.'' When will politicians wake up.

When The Economist magazine is warning us how much danger we are in, and that the numbers are coming off the rails, you need to understand what the hell is going on.

''Governments are living in a fiscal fantasyland.'' And this is from The Economist magazine talking about the green tax credit that we were all promised—remember, the left got up in front of these microphones and said, they will not be more than $391 billion over the 10 years.

Then all of a sudden, we come back and find out the actual scoring is turning into $1.2 trillion. Yes, CBO rescored it and they basically doubled it. But the outside world is calculating it, Goldman and others are basically saying, no, it is $1.2 trillion.

Remember how proud the left was: We are going to cut the deficit because we raised these taxes and then we are going to do these green credits. Have you noticed they don't talk about that any longer because the new scoring it spends money, it doesn't save a dime.

Yet, at the same time, do you understand what is happening in the first 7 months of this year? Entitlement spending is already up 11 percent in the first 7 months of this year. That is stunning amounts of money.

But receipts—we put revenues on here because most people know it, but for Ways and Means, tax revenues are the receipts. We are down 10 percent.

Do you understand what I am saying? Spending on entitlements is up 11 percent but revenues are down 10. Do you understand what the hell is going on?

There is a reason—you remember a few days ago, or 2 weeks ago, all of a sudden, the Treasury Secretary goes, oh God. The cutoff date when they have used up all the extraordinary measures is moving up. What was it a month, 6 weeks? That was because the tax revenues weren't coming in nearly as high as we expected.

When you start to understand some of what is going on, just this year we will spend 40 percent more on interest. We are going to spend over $100 billion—so far, I think the first 7 months, over $100 billion more just on interest because we were living in this artificial fantasyland for the last decade with suppressed interest rates.

Now, remember, it is not just the $2 trillion we are going to borrow this year. Yes, it is approaching $2 trillion. It is the fact that we have what is called the weighted daily average—I think we are about what, 60, 70 months—and that basically means within that time you have to refinance half of all U.S. sovereign debt.

□ 2150

That new sovereign debt, when it is refinanced, or the new $2 trillion that has to be refinanced, is at today's interest rates, not the artificially low interest rates we had 2 years ago before the Biden inflation took off. Actually, that is not fair. Democrat inflation took off.

We are going to spend dramatically more on interest. Be aware, if those people who are getting today's inflation number didn't pay enough attention to what the core calculation was. That core calculation was sitting at about 4.9. If you read the notes, it was so sticky. We may have higher interest rates in this country for years, not this magic thing where we are going to fall back down to 2 percent inflation at the end of the year and everything is going to be hunky-dory again. That is not what the data is saying.

You have got to understand. Federal spending soars; revenues fall. This is from The Wall Street Journal just this last week. Budget surpluses, including adjustments for timing effects. The outlays already—this was just this last month. April is supposed to be our big month where we take in all of these tax revenues. We were functionally $274 billion upside down. That is a 74 percent change from last year. Do you understand what is going on?

I am sorry that I am going through these pretty fast, because I have a cutoff time in 10 minutes.

Federal spending. This is also from The Wall Street Journal. April, we fell by $135 billion from what we expected.

Year-to-date spending is up $400 billion, 12 percent. Do this with me. Federal spending is up 12 percent from last year.

Year-to-date deficits. Now, this one you are going to love. Year-to-date deficits, we are doing the calculation, it is not done yet, and we don't know yet. We are 7 months in, so we are doing some guessing. Maybe there will be some late tax receipts. Maybe all of a sudden, bunches of people will start working and start paying additional taxes. We may have $2 trillion this year. Right now, year-to-date deficits, we are functionally, for last month, $928 billion, up 236 percent from this time last year.

If you want to know why many of us are so emphatic on actually getting some fiscal constraints, this is the punch line here. Please hear this. Why do we need some fiscal constraints as part of this debt ceiling? If we do not communicate to the world debt markets that we are going to start to take our debt seriously, we will be punished as a Nation.

Now, that punishment may mean our bonds are just at a little bit higher interest rate. You already saw one of the previous boards, just this year, interest

is costing us 40 percent more. Just a couple ticks on interest rates when you are floating a publicly held debt—I am actually not even sure where we are at. Are we at maybe $24 trillion, $25 trillion of publicly held debt? This stuff here should scare you to death if you own a calculator.

Yeah, we really are heading toward borrowing $2 trillion this year. We weren't supposed to be anywhere near this. This is where we are heading. This is just assuming that the numbers are going to come in as they have.

The problem is, if you have been following what CBO has been publishing, they keep ticking down the gross domestic product calculation, the GDP calculation, for the rest of the year. I think the calculation for 2024 is we expect a year of 1.2. They are basically telegraphing. If we hit recession the second half of this year, I guarantee you we are going to blow through $2 trillion of borrowing just this year.

I know this chart is almost impossible read. We printed it too small.

Individual income taxes. Here is our big hit. Individual income taxes look like they have fallen about 18 percent. Payroll taxes are up about 9 percent. Corporate income tax is up about 4 percent. The total receipts are down 10 percent.

Here are our spending charts. Social Security has gone up. The spend on Social Security is up about 11 percent so far this year.

Medicare, remember, the vast majority of the borrowing in this country, the vast majority, is just Medicare. It is healthcare costs. Medicare this year, the spend in it is already up 15 percent in a single year.

Medicaid is up maybe 7, 8 percent just this year.

Anyone see the math problem?

This is from the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, our Federal budget. They are actually almost predicting we are going to cross over 7½ percent of the entire economy being in borrowed money.

So we are being told the long-run GDP, according to CBO's calculation, is basically going to be sitting at about one-eighth. Yet, borrowing is going to be 7 to 7½ percent of the economy, but the growth of the economy will be 1.8.

Does anyone see the math problem?

The Federal Reserve now has lowered the outlook down to 1.2 for just this year.

Even The Economist magazine here, their math has us now starting this year and running out, now starting to run deficits that are 7 percent or more.

Mr. Speaker, this math should scare us all half to death. There is a reason. If we do not get some fiscal constraints, whether it be part of this debt ceiling or something else, the markets will punish us.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 57 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, May 11, 2023, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC–893. A letter from the Section Chief, Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Designation of 4-Piperidone as a List I Chemical [Docket No.: DEA-951] received May 9, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–894. A letter from the Section Chief, Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Specific Listing for Eutylone, a Currently Controlled Schedule I Substance [Docket No.: DEA-1003] received May 9, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–895. A letter from the Section Chief, Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final order — Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of Brorphine in Schedule I [Docket No.: DEA-716] received May 9, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–896. A letter from the Section Chief, Diversion Control Division, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Schedules of Controlled Substances: Placement of Methiopropamine in Schedule I [Docket No.: DEA-737] received May 9, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–897. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Domestic Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for South Llano Springs Moss [Docket No.: FWS-R2-ES-2020-0015; FF09E21000 FXES1111090FEDR 234] (RIN: 1018-BD20) received May 8, 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–898. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Domestic Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status With Section 4(d) Rule for Big Creek Crayfish and St. Francis River Crayfish and Designation of Critical Habitat [Docket No.: FWS-R3-ES-2019-0020; FF09E21000 FXES1111090FEDR 234] (RIN: 1018-BD98) received May 8, 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–899. A letter from the Chief, Branch of Domestic Listing, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Determination of Threatened Status for Wright's Marsh Thistle With a Section 4(d) Rule and Designation of Critical Habitat [Docket No.: FWS-R2-ES-2018-0071; FF09E21000 FXES1111090FEDR234] (RIN: 1018-BC34) received May 8, 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–900. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, CG-LRA, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zones; Recurring Marine Events and Fireworks Displays Within the Fifth Coast Guard District [Docket Number: USCG-2022-0131] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 9, 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–901. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Caruso Affiliated Holdings Fireworks Event, Newport Beach, California [Docket Number: USCG-2022-0496] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 9, 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–902. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Redwood City Fourth of July Fireworks; Redwood Creek, Redwood City, CA [Docket Number: USCG-2022-0532] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 9, 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–903. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Ohio River, Cincinnati, OH [Docket Number: USCG-2022-0277] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 9, 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–904. A letter from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Sabine River, Orange, TX [Docket Number: USCG-2022-0190] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 9, 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–905. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Seaway Regulations and Rules: Periodic Update, Various Categories (RIN: 2135-AA53) received May 9, 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–906. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Tariff of Tolls (RIN: 2135-AA54) received May 9, 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–907. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Regulatory Affairs Division, Office of Chief Counsel, Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Pipeline Safety: Safety of Gas Transmission Pipelines: Repair Criteria, Integrity Management Improvements, Cathodic Protection, Management of Change, and Other Related Amendments: Technical Corrections; Response to

Petitions for Reconsideration [Docket No.: PHMSA-2011-0023; Amdt. No.: 192-133] (RIN: 2137-AF39) received May 4, 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. ROY: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 383. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2) to secure the borders of the United States, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1163) to provide incentives for States to recover fraudulently paid Federal and State unemployment compensation, and for other purposes (Rept. 118–51). 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. GIMENEZ (for himself and Mr. GARAMENDI):

H.R. 3169. A bill to require the inspection of certain foreign cranes before use at a United States port, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. RUTHERFORD (for himself and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 3170. A bill to amend the National Housing Act to establish a mortgage insurance program for first responders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CURTIS (for himself and Mr. PAPPAS):

H.R. 3171. A bill to direct the Secretary of State to seek to enter into negotiations with the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office to rename its office the ''Taiwan Representative Office'', and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Ms. LOFGREN, Mrs. STEEL, and Mr. CORREA):

H.R. 3172. A bill to advance United States national interests by prioritizing the protection of internationally recognized human rights and development of the rule of law in relations between the United States and Vietnam, 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. AMODEI:

H.R. 3173. A bill to provide for transfer of ownership of certain Federal lands in northern Nevada, to authorize the disposal of certain Federal lands in northern Nevada for economic development, to promote conservation in northern Nevada, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. BALINT (for herself, Mr. CASE, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. ROSS, Ms. SALINAS, and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H.R. 3174. A bill to amend the Plant Protection Act for purposes of mitigating the threat of invasive species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mrs. BICE (for herself, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. SELF, Mr. AMODEI, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. FRY, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. BUCK, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Ms. MACE, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. LOUDERMILK, and Mrs. CAMMACK):

H.R. 3175. A bill to require agencies to repeal existing regulations before issuing a new regulation, 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 Mr. BIGGS (for himself, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. GIMENEZ, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. ROY, Mr. CRANE, Mrs. BOEBERT, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. TIFFANY, Mrs. LUNA, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. OGLES, and Mr. BRECHEEN):

H.R. 3176. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to improve the ability of veterans to access medical care in medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs and in the community by providing the veterans the ability to choose health care providers; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK (for herself, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. SOTO, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Mr. FROST):

H.R. 3177. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1900 West Oakland Park Boulevard in Oakland Park, Florida, as the ''Alcee Lamar Hastings Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. CLEAVER (for himself and Ms. SALAZAR):

H.R. 3178. A bill to amend the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to authorize grants to assist in redeveloping abandoned shopping centers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. CRAIG (for herself and Mr. STAUBER):

H.R. 3179. A bill to authorize funding to expand and support enrollment at institutions of higher education that sponsor construction and manufacturing-oriented registered apprenticeship programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CROW (for himself and Ms. KUSTER):

H.R. 3180. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to encourage deployment of electric school buses and vehicle-to-grid technologies and applications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. EVANS (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. COHEN, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H.R. 3181. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow rehabilitation expenditures for public school buildings to qualify for rehabilitation credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. FLETCHER:

H.R. 3182. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require the Secretary of Energy to create a plan for research, development, and commercialization projects capable of making significant reductions in the greenhouse gas emissions or carbon intensity of qualified fuel production facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOMEZ (for himself, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. COSTA, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Ms. BALINT, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CASAR, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. CHU, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CORREA, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. FROST, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. KEATING, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEU, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MULLIN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NEAL, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PORTER, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. ROSS, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. SCHRIER, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SOTO, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. TRONE, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Mr. MRVAN):

H.R. 3183. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to remove certain eligibility disqualifications that restrict otherwise eligible students enrolled in institutions of higher education from participating in the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER (for himself, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, Mr. TRONE, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. RYAN, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. SORENSEN, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mr. BACON, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. SPANBERGER, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. COSTA, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Ms.

SHERRILL, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. CASE, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. NICKEL, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Ms. PEREZ, Ms. WILD, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. VASQUEZ):

H.R. 3184. A bill to establish a grant program to provide assistance to local law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself and Mr. OWENS):

H.R. 3185. A bill to enhance flight options for consumers flying to and from Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. LALOTA (for himself, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. CROW):

H.R. 3186. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make permanent the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide financial assistance for supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MAGAZINER (for himself and Mr. CICILLINE):

H.R. 3187. A bill to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to add Rhode Island to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. MENG (for herself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. BUSH, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CASE, Ms. CHU, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KILMER, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PORTER, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TOKUDA, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. TRONE, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. OMAR, and Ms. LOFGREN):

H.R. 3188. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to eligible entities to carry out educational programs that include the history of peoples of Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander descent in the settling and founding of America, the social, economic, and political environments that led to the development of discriminatory laws targeting Asians, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders and their relation to current events, and the impact and contributions of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders to the development and enhancement of American life, United States history, literature, the economy, politics, body of laws, and culture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. MENG (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Ms. CLARKE of New York):

H.R. 3189. A bill to increase language access to behavioral health services at eligible health centers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MOONEY:

H.R. 3190. A bill to limit the availability of certain funds for Mexico until the President makes a certification to Congress regarding cooperation by Mexico with respect to fentanyl, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. OGLES (for himself, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. PERRY, Mrs. BOEBERT, and Mr. GOSAR):

H.R. 3191. A bill to prohibit the availability of Federal funds for the Open Technology Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. PAPPAS (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. LAWLER, and Ms. KUSTER):

H.R. 3192. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish and maintain a registry for certain individuals who may have been exposed to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances due to the environmental release of aqueous film-forming foam on military installations; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SABLAN (for himself and Mrs. RADEWAGEN):

H.R. 3193. A bill to amend the Wagner-Peyser Act to include the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. SÁNCHEZ (for herself, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. CHU, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. NORTON, Mr. POCAN, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. ROSS, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. SHERMAN, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. CORREA, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. PORTER, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. MENG, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. COSTA, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. EVANS, Mr. CARSON, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. LIEU, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. SOTO, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. NADLER, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. KILMER, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. TRONE, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. BEYER, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. MORELLE, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. STRICKLAND, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. CÁRDENAS):

H.R. 3194. A bill to provide an earned path to citizenship, to address the root causes of migration and responsibly manage the southern border, and to reform the immigrant visa system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Armed Services, Education and the Workforce, House Administration, Financial Services, Natural Resources, Oversight and Accountability, Foreign Affairs, Homeland Security, Intelligence (Permanent Select), 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. STAUBER (for himself, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. LAWLER, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. EMMER, Mr. DUARTE, Ms. HAGEMAN, and Mrs. FISCHBACH):

H.R. 3195. A bill To rescind Public Land Order 7917, to reinstate mineral leases and permits in the Superior National Forest, to ensure timely review of Mine Plans of Operations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. STEIL (for himself and Mr. MORELLE):

H.R. 3196. A bill to provide for the appointment of the Architect of the Capitol, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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. TITUS:

H.R. 3197. A bill to make demonstration grants to eligible local educational agencies or consortia of eligible local educational agencies for the purpose of increasing the numbers of school nurses in public elementary schools and secondary schools; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. TOKUDA (for herself, Mrs. PELTOLA, and Mr. CASE):

H.R. 3198. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make adjustments to payment rates for skilled nursing facilities under the Medicare program to account for certain unique circumstances; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WEBER of Texas (for himself, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. BACON, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. TRONE, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. STAUBER, and Mr. BOST):

H.R. 3199. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide increased locality pay rates to certain Bureau of Prisons employees whose duty stations are located in the pay locality designated as ''Rest of U.S.'', and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. ZINKE (for himself, Mrs. PELTOLA, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. STAUBER, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. LAWLER, and Mr. OWENS):

H.R. 3200. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to carry out certain activities to enhance recreational opportunities for gateway communities, to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to provide for the establishment of a digital National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H. Con. Res. 41. Concurrent resolution expressing support for the work of open water lifeguards as first responders and emergency response providers; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BURGESS (for himself, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. BACON, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. BANKS, Mr. BOST, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. LAMBORN, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. WALTZ, Ms. STEVENS, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H. Res. 384. A resolution expressing support for the designation of May 2023 as Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. CHU (for herself, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. STRICKLAND, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. BERA, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. CASE, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Ms. MENG, Mr. MULLIN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PETERS, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. TRONE, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H. Res. 385. A resolution supporting the designation of May 10, 2023, as ''National Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Mental Health Day''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. DINGELL (for herself and Mr. VALADAO):

H. Res. 386. A resolution expressing support for the designation of May as ''National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month''; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana (for himself and Mr. MOULTON):

H. Res. 387. A resolution expressing support for the designation of June 10, 2023, as ''Veterans Get Outside Day''; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. TLAIB (for herself, Ms. OMAR, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, and Ms. BUSH):

H. Res. 388. A resolution recognizing the ongoing Nakba and Palestine refugees rights; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Ms. SEWELL introduced a bill (H.R. 3201) for the relief of Cristina Martin; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. GIMENEZ:

H.R. 3169.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Port Crane Security and Inspection Act of 2023—To require the inspection of certain foreign cranes before use at a United States Port, and for other purposes

By Mr. RUTHERFORD:

H.R. 3170.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

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

The single subject of this legislation is:

To create a Federal Housing Administration program for first responders and teachers.

By Mr. CURTIS:

H.R. 3171.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To rename the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO) to the Taiwan Representative Office (TRO)

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 3172.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Human Rights

By Mr. AMODEI:

H.R. 3173.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to make rules for the government and regulation of land and naval forces, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 14 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill conveys federal lands to several counties and cities in northern Nevada for public purposes and economic development, and designates lands for wilderness and other conservatior purposes.

By Ms. BALINT:

H.R. 3174.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Invasive Species Prevention and Forest Restoration

By Mrs. BICE:

H.R. 3175.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article1, Section 8, Clause 14: To make Rules for the Government and Regulation of the land and naval Forces

The single subject of this legislation is:

Oversiqht and Reform

By Mr. BIGGS:

H.R. 3176.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Articl 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Veterans Healthcare

By Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK:

H.R. 3177.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Consitution, Article 1, Section 8.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Designating Post Office

By Mr. CLEAVER:

H.R. 3178.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to authorize grants to assist in redeveloping abandoned shopping centers, and for other purposes.

By Ms. CRAIG:

H.R. 3179.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The single subject of this legislation is:

workforce development.

By Mr. CROW:

H.R. 3180.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, U.S. Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to encourage deployment of electric school buses and vehicle-to-grid technologies and applications, and for other purposes.

By Mr. EVANS:

H.R. 3181.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution, to ''provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States.''

The single subject of this legislation is:

Taxation

By Mrs. FLETCHER:

H.R. 3182.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Energy

By Mr. GOMEZ:

H.R. 3183.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Agriculture/Food

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER:

H.R. 3184.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all laws that shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all 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:

Law Enforcement

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:

H.R. 3185.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
U.S. Constitution, Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Aviation
By Mr. LALOTA:
H.R. 3186.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution
The single subject of this legislation is:
To make permanent the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide financial assistance for supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing.
By Mr. MAGAZINER:
H.R. 3187.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
To amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to add Rhode Island to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council
By Ms. MENG:
H.R. 3188.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the US Constitution [page H10170]
The single subject of this legislation is:
Education
By Ms. MENG:
H.R. 3189.
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:
Mental Health
By Mr. MOONEY:
H.R. 3190.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Foreign Aid
By Mr. OGLES:
H.R. 3191.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section VIII of the United States Constitution
The single subject of this legislation is:
To prohibit the availability of federal funds for the Open Technology Fund
By Mr. PAPPAS:
H.R. 3192.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution states that ''Congress shall have the authority to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''
The single subject of this legislation is:
veterans
By Mr. SABLAN:
H.R. 3193.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, 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 include for the purposes of the Wagner-Peyser Federal Employment Service, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa.
By Ms. SÁNCHEZ:
H.R. 3194.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Immigration
By Mr. STAUBER:
H.R. 3195.
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:
The purpose of this bill is restore the Superior National Forest.
By Mr. STEIL:
H.R. 3196.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: [The Congress shall have Power . . .] To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.
The single subject of this legislation is:
Streamlines the appointment process for the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) to a majority vote of a congressional commission consisting of select members of the House of Representatives and Senate.
By Ms. TITUS:
H.R. 3197.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause I
The single subject of this legislation is:
Education
By Ms. TOKUDA:
H.R. 3198.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.
The single subject of this legislation is:
To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make adjustments to payment rates for skilled nursing facilities under the Medicare program to account for certain unique circumstances.
By Mr. WEBER of Texas:
H.R. 3199.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
To increase staffing retention at the Bureau of Prisons
By Mr. ZINKE:
H.R. 3200.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article IV, Section 3, clause 2
The single subject of this legislation is:
The single subject of this bill is to improve collaboration between federal land managers and local communities regarding National Parks and Forests,
By Ms. SEWELL:
H.R. 3201.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, section 8, clause 4 of the Constitution provides that Congress shall have power to establish an uniform Ruleof Naturalization.
The single subject of this legislation is:
The subject of this bill is limited to immigration and citizenship.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 12: Mr. SABLAN.
H.R. 38: Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida and Mr. FULCHER.
H.R. 79: Mr. CRAWFORD.
H.R. 82: Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Ms. HAGEMAN.
H.R. 133: Mr. FERGUSON.
H.R. 176: Mr. MULLIN.
H.R. 190: Mr. YAKYM.
H.R. 211: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 309: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 310: Mr. BRECHEEN.
H.R. 329: Mr. GIMENEZ.
H.R. 331: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 339: Mr. LALOTA.
H.R. 354: Mr. OGLES.
H.R. 374: Mr. MOORE of Alabama.
H.R. 396: Mr. CÁRDENAS.
H.R. 401: Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 427: Mr. FULCHER.
H.R. 428: Mr. JACKSON of Texas.
H.R. 452: Mr. FULCHER.
H.R. 471: Mr. LATURNER.
H.R. 472: Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 541: Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.
H.R. 542: Mr. DELUZIO, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. TITUS, Ms. ROSS, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.
H.R. 544: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 547: Ms. SALINAS and Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 549: Mr. SWALWELL,, Mr. SOTO, Ms. PLASKETT, and Mr. LANGWORTHY.
H.R. 561: Ms. CARAVEO.
H.R. 594: Ms. STANSBURY.
H.R. 595: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 603: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 620: Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. POCAN, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 646: Mr. CLINE.
H.R. 660: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania and Mr. VASQUEZ.
H.R. 669: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 764: Mr. FULCHER.
H.R. 808: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 828: Mr. LALOTA.
H.R. 834: Mr. NICKEL.
H.R. 902: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 907: Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 932: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. PHILLIPS, and Mr. BRECHEEN.
H.R. 936: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
H.R. 955: Mr. CARBAJAL and Mr. NICKEL.
H.R. 979: Mr. LALOTA.
H.R. 1005: Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. PHILLIPS, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 1097: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 1134: Ms. BARRAGÁN and Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 1147: Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 1171: Mr. LALOTA.
H.R. 1200: Mr. CLOUD.
H.R. 1218: Mr. FINSTAD.
H.R. 1230: Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mrs. RAMIREZ, and Mr. KIM of New Jersey.
H.R. 1235: Mr. NICKEL and Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 1244: Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. CORREA, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. MCCLELLAN, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. SABLAN, and Ms. CHU.
H.R. 1256: Mr. MURPHY.
H.R. 1277: Mr. LOUDERMILK, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, and Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 1282: Mr. MULLIN and Ms. JAYAPAL.
H.R. 1359: Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania and Mr. CORREA.
H.R. 1369: Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. SARBANES.
H.R. 1379: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 1388: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CARSON, Mr. RYAN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. PANETTA.

H.R. 1413: Mr. LALOTA.
H.R. 1450: Mr. VASQUEZ.
H.R. 1458: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 1468: Mrs. SYKES.
H.R. 1478: Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 1480: Ms. PINGREE and Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 1484: Mr. JACKSON of Texas.
H.R. 1499: Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Ms. PRESSLEY, and Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 1514: Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 1572: Mr. NICKEL and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 1591: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 1613: Mr. MANN.
H.R. 1624: Ms. BROWN, Ms. PEREZ, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mrs. BEATTY, and Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 1638: Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 1640: Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. LAWLER, and Mr. MOOLENAAR.
H.R. 1645: Mr. COSTA, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, and Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
H.R. 1666: Mr. MORELLE and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H.R. 1691: Mr. CAREY and Mr. SIMPSON.
H.R. 1699: Mr. NICKEL.
H.R. 1703: Ms. VAN DUYNE.
H.R. 1708: Mr. LIEU.
H.R. 1728: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 1730: Mr. MAGAZINER.
H.R. 1761: Mr. GUTHRIE and Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
H.R. 1763: Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 1767: Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 1770: Mr. BURLISON, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. CAREY, and Ms. LEE of Florida.
H.R. 1777: Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. VAN DREW, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 1788: Ms. BUDZINSKI and Mr. D'ESPOSITO.
H.R. 1794: Ms. TITUS, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. TRONE, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Ms. PETTERSEN.
H.R. 1806: Mrs. KIM of California.
H.R. 1815: Mrs. PELTOLA and Ms. SÁNCHEZ.
H.R. 1818: Mr. BURCHETT, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. MOYLAN, and Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 1822: Mr. CORREA.
H.R. 1833: Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. CARSON, Ms. PETTERSEN, and Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 1841: Mr. LOUDERMILK.
H.R. 2365: Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. TITUS, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. CAREY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.
H.R. 2372: Mr. LALOTA.
H.R. 2388: Mr. CARSON and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
H.R. 2403: Mr. CORREA.
H.R. 2410: Mrs. LUNA.
H.R. 2434: Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 2447: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 2454: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 2493: Mr. VAN ORDEN.
H.R. 2539: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia and Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 2547: Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. PASCRELL, and Mr. VASQUEZ.
H.R. 2548: Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 2550: Ms. CASTOR of Florida and Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 2601: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania and Mr. ISSA.
H.R. 2620: Mr. CRENSHAW.
H.R. 2662: Mr. ADERHOLT.
H.R. 2665: Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. COLE, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, and Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas.
H.R. 2672: Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, and Mr. GUEST.
H.R. 2693: Mr. CARBAJAL and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 2708: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. CORREA, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. LAMBORN, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. PRESSLEY, and Ms. SEWELL.
H.R. 2715: Ms. PETTERSEN.
H.R. 2718: Ms. BARRAGÁN.
H.R. 2776: Mr. MCCLINTOCK.
H.R. 2801: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 2806: Ms. PEREZ and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 2808: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, and Mr. NEWHOUSE.
H.R. 2814: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 2818: Mr. SWALWELL.
H.R. 2827: Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 2853: Ms. SEWELL.
H.R. 2876: Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, and Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
H.R. 2911: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 2923: Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. CAREY, Ms. SHERRILL, and Mr. MANN.
H.R. 2940: Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. BACON, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. ROSS, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 2942: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 2973: Mr. MOSKOWITZ and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 2974: Mr. GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 2991: Mrs. LESKO.
H.R. 3011: Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. PETERS, Mr. CASE, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 3016: Mr. MCCAUL.
H.R. 3024: Ms. CROCKETT.
H.R. 3027: Mr. LEVIN and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 3039: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.
H.R. 3045: Mrs. LUNA.
H.R. 3057: Mr. CARL and Mr. FALLON.
H.R. 3065: Mr. NORCROSS and Mr. ALLRED.
H.R. 3068: Mr. BOWMAN.
H.R. 3081: Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 3090: Ms. PEREZ.
H.R. 3091: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 3092: Ms. MATSUI and Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 3099: Ms. TENNEY, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WALTZ, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
H.R. 3101: Mr. STEUBE.
H.R. 3102: Mr. STEUBE.
H.R. 3115: Mr. BRECHEEN.
H.R. 3124: Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 3127: Mr. DUARTE, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, and Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 3141: Mr. JACKSON of Texas.
H.R. 3145: Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. MULLIN, and Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 3152: Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Ms. SALAZAR, and Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
H.R. 3165: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.
H.J. Res. 31: Mr. FALLON.
H.J. Res. 45: Mr. ESTES, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Ms. VAN DUYNE, and Mrs. HINSON.
H.J. Res. 50: Mr. MOORE of Alabama.
H.J. Res. 59: Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. WALBERG, and Ms. FOXX.
H. Con. Res. 33: Ms. BUSH and Mr. MOSKOWITZ.
H. Res. 114: Mr. MFUME, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, and Mr. KEATING.
H. Res. 259: Ms. OMAR.
H. Res. 272: Mr. PFLUGER and Mr. HILL.
H. Res. 277: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H. Res. 285: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
H. Res. 288: Mr. GUEST, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. VAN DREW, and Ms. STEFANIK.
H. Res. 309: Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, and Ms. SHERRILL.
H. Res. 318: Mr. LIEU, Ms. CHU, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. IVEY, and Mr. CASE.
H. Res. 336: Mr. LOUDERMILK.
H. Res. 346: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. SORENSEN, and Ms. MANNING.
H. Res. 357: Mr. ALLRED and Mr. NORCROSS.
H. Res. 363: Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. BENTZ, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. ZINKE, Mr. COLE, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr.
Steube, and Mr. HARRIS.
H. Res. 372: Mr. NICKEL.
H. Res. 375: Mr. STEIL.
H. Res. 380: Mr. RASKIN and Ms. SHERRILL.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 169 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2023 No. 79

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray. Eternal God, known to us in countless ways and times without number, we turn to You, that in Your light we might see light. Lord, illuminate the minds of our lawmakers regarding how to solve the difficult problems of our Nation and world.

As our Senators become aware of Your presence, may their lives experience the splendor and strength that You alone can give. Help them to remember that You are still their best help in the time of trouble. Send them forth to face this day armed with a faith that will not shrink though pressed by many a foe.

We pray in Your powerful 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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 10, 2023.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, a Senator from the State of Connecticut, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL 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. 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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of L. Felice Gorordo, of Florida, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of two years.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SENATOR DIANNE FEINSTEIN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first thing this morning, on a happy note, I join my fellow Senators in welcoming back our dear friend and esteemed colleague DIANNE FEINSTEIN. It is so good to see her back here at the Senate, ready to get back to work.

I have been in touch with Senator FEINSTEIN over the past few weeks, and I can report she is exactly where she wants to be, ready to do the thing she loves most: serving the people of California.

So, Senator FEINSTEIN, we are so happy to see you. Welcome back.

DEBT CEILING

Mr. President, now, on default, yesterday afternoon, I met with President Biden, Speaker MCCARTHY, Leader MCCONNELL, and Leader JEFFRIES at the White House to discuss how we can take default off the table while making separate progress on an annual budget.

There was bad news and good news coming out of yesterday's White House meeting. The bad news: Speaker MCCARTHY refused—absolutely refused—to take default off the table. He was the only holdout during yesterday's meeting.

President Biden said that, no matter what, default should be taken off the table. Leader JEFFRIES said default is off the table. I committed to taking default off the table. Even Leader MCCONNELL said unequivocally that, no matter what, the United States will not default.

But Speaker MCCARTHY—Speaker MCCARTHY alone—refused to take the threat of catastrophic default off the table. I asked him pointedly if he would join us, but, during yesterday's meeting, he was the sole holdout.

Instead of taking default off the table, Speaker MCCARTHY is taking default hostage. If anyone wonders what the biggest problem for avoiding default right now is, it is Speaker MCCARTHY insisting he will exploit default to push a hard-right agenda. Speaker MCCARTHY realizes his hard-right agenda would never become law on its own because the American people are so opposed. So, instead, he is holding the country hostage to default. It is dangerous. It is reckless.

Avoiding default should not be contingent on passing the GOP's hard-

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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right, partisan agenda, and the American people overwhelmingly agree. A recent Washington Post-ABC poll found that when Americans were asked if debt limit and Federal spending should be handled separately or together, 58 percent of Americans believe they should be handled separately, just as we are saying, just as President Biden is saying. Only 26 percent of Americans say they should be linked, as Speaker MCCARTHY is proposing to do.

Even 46 percent of Republicans said it should be handled separately. A plurality of Republicans, 46 to 40, is against what MCCARTHY is doing by tying the two together. They realize—Americans realize—how dangerous this is.

So, again, avoiding default should not be contingent on passing the GOP's hard-right agenda—certainly, not one that will make drastic cuts to veterans, to healthcare services, run a buzz saw through Federal law enforcement, and abandon our seniors and working families.

What is more, the GOP's extremist bill is riddled with unrelated hard-right policies. It would gut rules for corporations, hollow out environmental law, and cut healthcare for millions of our Nation's most vulnerable.

The cherry on top—not much of a cherry, a sour cherry—MAGA Republicans want to undo Democrats' marquee legislation to invest in America, advance energy security, and reduce the deficit. That is the agenda Speaker MCCARTHY believes is worth threatening default.

Now the good news: The good news is that President Biden has asked the four leaders and our teams to sit down and begin talking about where we can agree on budget and appropriations. Our staffs will be having conversations beginning today that are part of the regular appropriations process.

Now, Speaker MCCARTHY will have plenty of say over the budget in the appropriations process. That is the proper place to have these debates, not during conversations about the full faith and credit of the United States.

When President Trump was in office and I was minority leader, I hated the Trump tax cuts on the rich and what it did to my State and my country. I could have easily said: I am holding default hostage unless we repeal the Trump tax cuts, unless we undo the Republicans' signature issue.

But, of course, I didn't do that because I knew the consequences of default would be too severe.

But Speaker MCCARTHY is doing the same thing. He is taking our signature issue—one of the leading ones, the IRA—and holding it hostage, saying he is tying it to default.

So, again, Speaker MCCARTHY must commit to taking default off the table, and we will continue to have a separate conversation with Republicans about the budget. And, as I said and as everyone knows, the Speaker has plenty of say over the appropriations process. He won't be left out.

And if the Speaker wants to be honest, by the way, about the drivers of debt, he should take a cold, hard look at the damage caused by Republican tax cuts.

Next week, the Senate Budget Committee, led by Chairman WHITEHOUSE, will hold a hearing focused precisely on how GOP cuts have been primarily responsible for increasing the debt-to-GDP ratio. I thank Chairman WHITEHOUSE and members of the committee for their continued work on exposing the GOP's destructive policies. The committee will make it clear that much of the debt came at the insistence of a Republican President, the Republican Senators, the Republican House Members, but only now, with a Democratic President, does MCCARTHY do this awful, awful, dangerous gambit of holding default hostage.

I urge the Speaker and my Republican colleagues to come to their senses about avoiding default.

Mr. Speaker, you are standing alone in that meeting. Take the needless, reckless threat of default off the table. Time is of the essence, and there is nothing stopping us from coming together in a bipartisan way, as we regularly have, to ensure that America can continue to pay its bills.

MILITARY PROMOTIONS

Mr. President, on military holds, the senior Senator from Alabama, Senator TUBERVILLE, is continuing his dangerous and reckless hold of hundreds of routine, nonpolitical promotions of senior military officers.

This morning, Senator WARREN, Senator REED, and I released a new letter from Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin detailing how the Senator from Alabama's blanket holds pose a clear risk to our military readiness and directly impact and hurt military families. And since these are general officers, they have spent decades—they and their families—serving our country.

Secretary Austin's letter confirms what Democrats have been saying for weeks: Senator TUBERVILLE's indefinite hold on the confirmation of our general and flag officers is reckless, unprecedented, and harmful to our military's readiness and sends the wrong message to our partners and allies.

In the letter, Secretary Austin warned that a prolonged blanket hold is creating unnecessary uncertainty in the chain of command that ''diminishes our global standing as the strongest military in the world.''

Let me say that again; it is so striking. The Senator from Alabama's blanket hold is creating unnecessary uncertainty that ''diminishes our global standing as the strongest military in the world.''

Secretary Austin's letter also laid out how the Senator from Alabama's hold is also harming our military families, preventing children from starting new schools, and spouses from starting new jobs. That is shameful—hurting these generals' and admirals' families in this unique attempt to try and get his way, which will not happen.

Finally, Secretary Austin's letter highlighted that, over the next several months, there will be hundreds more promotions requiring Senate confirmation, including the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Chief of Staff of the Army, Chief of Staff of Naval Operations, Commandant of the Marine Corps, Commander of U.S. Cyber Command, Director of the National Security Agency, and so much more. These are just some of the positions at risk of delay if the Senator from Alabama keeps his reckless holds.

Secretary Austin's letter follows a letter, last week, from seven—seven—former Secretaries of Defense, Democrat and Republican, who served under Democrat and Republican Presidents, stating that blanket holds are both ''harming military readiness and risks damaging U.S. national security.''

And let's be clear-eyed about why the Senator from Alabama is carrying out this reckless act. He is doing it to advance the extreme MAGA Republican agenda. He is doing it because he fundamentally doesn't believe women have the right to make their own choice.

I hope Senate Republicans read Secretary Austin's letter, as well as the letter from the seven former Secretaries of Defense, and prevail on the Senator from Alabama to end this dangerous blockade and get our military operating to its full capacity. Destroying a Senate process that has been apolitical and pro forma throughout history should not fall victim to MAGA Republican politics.

I thank Senators WARREN and REED for continuing to bring attention to this issue.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

DEBT CEILING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I was glad to attend yesterday's White House meeting in solidarity with Speaker MCCARTHY. Unlike the White House, the Speaker has been handling the debt limit in a responsible fashion.

Speaker MCCARTHY and House Republicans have passed the only legislation currently in existence that prevents default. He spent months waiting for President Biden to come to the table. But the White House has wasted 3 months—3 months wasted. The President of the United States has been MIA.

So let's hope yesterday was the start of the administration accepting the reality of our situation. Everybody knows there is only one way to defuse the looming crisis, the normal and routine thing—spending negotiations between the President and the Speaker.

The American people voted for divided government. President Biden refusing to compromise is really not an

option when you have a divided government. Unconstitutionally acting without Congress is also not an option. There is exactly one way—just one way—to prevent a pointless, avoidable crisis: the bipartisan negotiation that Speaker MCCARTHY has been calling for since way back in February.

Seven of the last 10 debt limit hikes came with a bipartisan deal on spending levels. Let me just say that again. Seven of the last 10 debt limit hikes came with a bipartisan deal on spending levels.

Just 4 years ago, we had today's situation in reverse. What happened? Secretary Mnuchin was sent to negotiate with Speaker PELOSI. They struck a caps deal, and the debt limit was addressed. It was exactly the situation we have now, in reverse.

Yesterday's meeting was an overdue first step. I hope President Biden has begun to wake up. Even rank-and-file Democrats in the House and Senate say the President's refusal to negotiate has been untenable.

The Democrats can't waste any more time. The White House has to stop sleepwalking towards default and reach a spending deal with the Speaker.

CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW ACT VOTES

Mr. President, now on another matter, tomorrow, Senate Republicans will create two more opportunities to hit the brakes on runaway regulation. Thanks to the efforts of the junior Senator for Wyoming and the junior Senator for Oklahoma, we will consider two more resolutions under the Congressional Review Act.

Senator MULLIN's resolution targets a decision by the Fish and Wildlife Service to ''uplist''—''uplist''—a creature called the northern long-eared bat as an endangered species. This designation would have massive repercussions for landowners, businesses, and infrastructure projects across as many as 37 of our 50 States. More than 3,000 infrastructure and development projects are currently in limbo—3,000 infrastructure and development projects currently in limbo—waiting for the extra environmental consultations that the Endangered Species Act will require if this case of uplisting is allowed to stand.

And get this: The Biden administration itself admits that the recent declines in the population of this particular bat are due mostly to fungal disease, not human development.

I don't care how long this bat's ears are—it can't get veto power over 37 State economies. Senator MULLIN's resolution will prevent this absurdity.

The second resolution, sponsored by Senator LUMMIS, targets the Biden administration's attempt to make a sweeping change to the very definition of the word ''habitat'' in Federal law. The last Republican administration adopted a clear and explicit legal definition which gave builders, landowners, and small businesses some certainty and peace of mind, but President Biden has let the far-left throw all of that into chaos. Now American families and businesses could be facing decreased property values and predatory legal challenges if they wind up on the wrong side of Democrats' moving the goalpost. Senator LUMMIS's resolution will reintroduce certainty and common sense.

I would urge every Senator to support both measures later this week.

REMEMBERING DENNY CRUM

Now, Mr. President, on one entirely different matter, yesterday the University of Louisville's legendary men's basketball coach, Denny Crum, passed away at his home.

For 30 years, Coach Crum helmed my alma mater's basketball squad and led the Cardinals to unprecedented success. Denny revolutionized the program and transformed the team into a spectacle all Kentuckians were eager to tune in to. He was a true legend.

Unique among coaches at the time, Denny sought to play the toughest teams in the country early in the season, knowing that those hard-fought matchups would prepare the Cards better than anything else for post-season success. That bold playbook earned the coach nicknames like ''Cool Hand Luke'' and, for always keeping his eye on the big dance, ''Mr. March.''

Thanks largely to his smart strategizing, Coach Crum led the Cardinals to two national championships and six NCAA Final Four appearances, earning Denny an induction into the College Basketball Hall of Fame. He brought national recognition to our school and city and forged a deep connection with the UofL community through his calm leadership both on and off the court.

Even after retiring, Coach Crum continued to serve as an ambassador for the university, raising money to support scholarships, athletics, and academics.

Denny was a great coach, a great friend, and more than anything, a great man. Elaine and I send our deepest condolences to Denny's wife Susan and to his family, friends, and fans as they mourn the loss of Denny Crum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Illinois.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, they say that baseball is the great American sport, and I am a fan. I love watching baseball games, especially the Cubs and the Cards and the White Sox in the region where I grew up. But possibly one of the greatest moments remembered in baseball actually didn't occur during a game; it occurred in 1939 when a baseball player by the name of Lou Gehrig of the New York Yankees gave a famous farewell speech at Yankee Stadium.

Gehrig was an amazing baseball player. Naturally, he is in the Baseball Hall of Fame. He was indestructible. His nickname was the ''Iron Horse''—so durable, so dependable. He was always there.

In April of that year, 1939, he had removed himself from the game, saying he couldn't play any longer. Then, just a few weeks later, he made his famous farewell speech at Yankee Stadium. He was sick and suffering from a rare disease, known as ALS, but he stood up there in front of that microphone. We can still remember it in our mind's eye—that black and white film—when he announced he was the luckiest man on Earth. He died 2 years later from ALS.

The disease, because of his prominence and the public sentiment and profile, became known forever as Lou Gehrig's disease. It is still with us. It still is as virulent and deadly as it was in his time.

I have come to know a number of people who have suffered from that disease.

Recently, just a few months ago, my dear friend Gary LaPaille, who was the State chairman of the Illinois Democratic Party when I ran for the U.S. Senate and who was a strong supporter, passed away from ALS.

A great friend of mine, Bill Brandt, who lives in the suburbs of Chicago, is now battling it.

This morning, I had a visit in my office from Brian Wallach. Brian Wallach and his wife Sandra have been dealing with the diagnosis of more than 6 years ago, of ALS. Brian is still with us, thank goodness, because of his determination and the determination of his family.

Brian is an unusual and extraordinary person. He was working in the Obama White House with Sandra when they decided to marry. He is an exceptional, talented individual, as is his wife Sandra, who served as my communications director for many years.

When the diagnosis was handed down, it was a few days before they brought home their baby from the hospital—a little girl—6 years ago, but they were determined that Brian was going to see as much of her life as possible even though he had been diagnosed with ALS. So they created an organization known as I AM ALS and set out with an agenda to beat the disease.

Brian has been an amazing fighter in dealing with that disease and in trying to find ways to cure himself but, basically, to cure others who might be diagnosed in the years to come. Their focus is on many different areas, but primarily it is on medical research. What they have achieved when it comes to medical research—just the two of them with their organization and many supporters across the United States—is nothing short of remarkable. For example, after a 5-year period in which no new ALS drugs were approved, the FDA approved two new drugs over the past year, and there is another one that I understand was announced just a few days ago. They were pushing for research to find ways to treat ALS successfully.

The reason I tell that story—and the fact that Brian was just in my office is fresh in my mind—is I hear the debate on the floor of the U.S. Senate about

our Federal budget. Part of our Federal budget—an important part of our Federal budget—is the budget for the National Institutes of Health. This is the premier medical research Agency in the world—in the world. I am proud of the fact that it is in the United States and that every day it is responsible for dramatic breakthroughs against diseases and illnesses all across the spectrum and all across the United States and benefits to the world. Their discovery of new drugs for ALS is just one indication of the good work that they do.

For instance, Collins was the head of the NIH for many years under Presidents of both political parties. He is so good—and I am glad he is still working with the Biden administration—he is so good that Presidents—conservative, moderate, liberal; all of them—wanted Francis Collins to head up the National Institutes of Health, which he did remarkably. He was part of the team that discovered the human genome, which literally changed overnight the way we approach medicine in the United States and around the world.

I met with Dr. Collins a few years back and said: I would like to help you at the NIH. I think your work is one of the most important assignments in the Federal Government. What can I do?

He said: Senator, if you could give me 5 percent real growth in NIH budgeting each year, my researchers will continue their inspiring work to find cures and find new drugs that will make a difference in the lives of millions of people.

I set out to do that with the cooperation and help of Roy Blunt, a Republican; with Lamar Alexander, a Republican; and with PATTY MURRAY, who has just been our North Star when it comes to medical research.

We said: Let's try to achieve the goal of 5 percent real growth each year with the National Institutes of Health. We were lucky in the last 10 years to do it six or seven times. The question is, Will we be able to do it in next year's budget?

Sadly, the budget proposed by the Republicans in the House of Representatives devastates the National Institutes of Health's budget—at least a 20- to 25-percent cut in the amount of money on medical research. What impact does that have? Well, I can tell you it has a direct impact on lessening the number of grants that are awarded each year for medical research, but, secondarily, it sends a message to the researchers who are working so hard across the United States that they can't depend on us in Congress to fund their needed research in the years to come. That will discourage some, and some will walk away from a lot of research that could be very promising. And to do that in the name of helping America is just plain foolish. In fact, it is offensive.

I would like to say to Speaker MCCARTHY and those who are endorsing his budget: Stop for a minute and consider the impact of what you are doing. There are people and families all across America who are counting on medical research for someone they love, and that research is coming through in remarkable ways, unprecedented around the world.

To think that we would cut the medical research budget of the United States by 25 percent and to argue that that is in the best interest of our country is madness, and it is political selfishness.

I would just plead with my friends on the other side of the aisle: At the end of this debate on the budget, don't let medical research be one of the casualties.

There are so many important areas I can add to that list of things that are critical for the future of America, but I wanted to speak to medical research this morning because Brian Wallach was a visitor in my office, and he reminded me that the determination of Brian and his wife Sandra and many people just like them to push for medical research is literally making a difference so that Lou Gehrig's disease will one day be a disease of the past that we will have conquered.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. President, for more than 35 years, Congress has failed to fix the immigration laws of America, and this week that failure is going to be on full display on the news every night. That is because tomorrow the COVID–19 emergency measure known as title 42 comes to an end.

This program was first created by President Trump during the earliest days of the coronavirus epidemic, and for the past 3 years, title 42 has done nothing to address the challenges at our border. It has simply shut the border down and turned away families seeking refuge in America.

Title 42 is not only inhumane, it is ineffective. By turning our back on asylum seekers and leaving Federal and local officials unequipped to address this crisis, we have only created more chaos and misery at our border. At this moment, there are thousands of families who have fled unimaginable horror and have nowhere else to go. And title 42 certainly hasn't made our border more secure; it has only postponed the inevitable.

Truthfully, there is only one group of people who has benefited from title 42. I am sorry to say they are the transnational criminal organizations. How can that be? It is because for the past 3 years, title 42 has shut down nearly any ability for one to seek asylum in America. That means asylum seekers have had no other option than to seek illegal pathways into the country. So they turn to smugglers, human traffickers, who charge them thousands of dollars to take them on dangerous journeys across the border. And what happens when these asylum seekers are caught and sent back to Mexico instead of being processed under our Nation's immigration laws? The cycle repeats itself again and again and again. These smugglers can multiply their profits by taking asylum seekers across the border over and over again.

According to the Department of Homeland Security, the illicit smuggling enterprise has become a multibillion-dollar operation. One reason this enterprise is raking in the profits is that lawmakers in Congress, right here in the Senate, have refused to reform our immigration laws and instead have relied on Executive actions like title 42.

Now, it is worth noting that the Biden administration is at this moment doing everything it can to create an orderly process at our southern border, with the limited tools of our current immigration law. With the lifting of title 42 in just a matter of hours, we will likely see a significant increase in migrants seeking asylum. It goes to show that title 42 has failed to reduce the demand for those seeking entry into America. Really, that demand has been piling up for 3 years. So to help to manage this expected increase in border crossings, the Biden administration is deploying every resource at its disposal. They have increased the capacity to process asylum seekers, expanded access to lawful pathways into the United States, and partnered with other countries, like Colombia and Guatemala, to create new processing centers away from the southern border.

While all of these steps are important, there is no action by the President alone that can address the fundamental problem we face. Our outdated immigration system is collapsing under the weight of modern-day challenges, and the only way to change it is by enacting comprehensive immigration reform. If it seems like it is impossible, it is not.

Last week, the MAGA majority in the House introduced a proposal they claim is a solution, but really it just codifies the failures of title 42. Their bill provides no new legal pathways for entering into this country, erases nearly all humanitarian protection for families seeking asylum, and makes the situation at the border even worse.

The fact is, the Republicans can try and build a border wall as high as they like, but it will not change the reality on the ground. And here is the reality: We in this world are in the midst of the worst refugee crisis in history. From Ukraine to Venezuela, 100 million people around the world have been displaced from their homes by war, by hunger, by political persecution, by climate change; and one in five of these refugees reside in the Western Hemisphere.

Simply ignoring this global humanitarian crisis solves nothing, and shutting down our border won't deter these families from still trying to find refuge in America. It will force them to extremely dangerous alternatives, like smugglers and cartel members who are raking in billions because of our public policy failures.

Let's stop pretending the American people can't handle an honest debate on immigration. They can. Talk to small business owners and family-run farms in States like mine. They are the first to tell you our Nation needs more immigrant workers. We have two times as many jobs in this country as unemployed people to fill them.

I had the CEO of a major international corporation in my office yesterday. We talked about opportunities in the future, and he said the one thing that is holding him back is the lack of skilled employees. He begged me to find ways.

I gave a few suggestions to him, but I told him as well: Don't ignore the reality. America is a nation of immigrants, and with so many jobs unfilled in this country, we need help. There are thousands of immigrants who are ready, capable, and willing to meet our workforce needs. What are we waiting for?

Communities across America are struggling with worker shortages. It seems many in the other party are willing to entertain any solution except immigration in the land of immigrants.

Just look at States like Arkansas and Iowa, which recently passed laws rolling back child labor protections—kids they want to work in dangerous settings. When I hear the suggestion that a 15- or 16-year-old can work in a slaughterhouse, I remember those jobs that I held when I was going through college.

I spent 12 months working in a slaughterhouse in East St. Louis, IL. It was dangerous, deadly work. And to think that you would put a young person on that job without the training and protection that they need is just not American. It is mindless.

If you have any doubt that asylum seekers at our border are ready to fill the jobs that are available, let me tell you the story of Carlos from Venezuela, a country with one of the most ruthless dictators in the world.

Back in Venezuela, Carlos had a full-time job. But the political and economic crisis was so bad in this country, he couldn't put food on the table. His family was on the brink of starvation, and he feared for their safety from political violence. So last May, Carlos and his wife did what any parent would do: They picked up their 4-year-old daughter and their nursing infant and they took off for the border. It was an incredible journey, 5 months—much of it on foot—to the Texas-Mexico border from Venezuela. It was a nightmare of violence, theft, and exploitation.

I sat down with Carlos and his family when they got off the bus in Chicago, and he told me what they went through. He told me that at one point he thought they would die as they spent 9 consecutive nights in the Panamanian jungle. They were rescued by a local military force. All of their money, all of their cell phones had been stolen, but they pressed on to try to get to America.

After filing a claim for asylum once they arrived, Carlos and his family were relocated to my city of Chicago. That is where I met them last September. When I spoke with Carlos, I asked him: What can I do for you? What can I do for your family? What do you need? He said one word: ''job.'' I need a job. I will go to work anywhere. I will do anything.

There are many employers across this country who would take Carlos up on his offer in a minute, but they can't because he is not legally allowed to work. Though he is legally in this country waiting for his asylum hearing, he is not legally allowed to work for at least 6 months or maybe longer. How does that make any sense?

Last week, the House Republicans finally introduced their response to our immigration hearings. The bill is more than 200 pages long. Not one word of it offers anything to employers in my State who need workers like Carlos. That is not a serious proposal.

Yesterday, the mayor of Chicago, noting that some 8,000 immigrants who have been sent to our city by the Governor of Texas and the Governor of Florida, begged for help and issued an Executive order saying do something to help me deal with these very serious problems. At the current moment, immigrants are sleeping on the floors of police stations in the city of Chicago.

Do you want to know what a serious immigration proposal looks like? Well, 10 years ago, the Senate actually passed one. We had a group of eight of us who worked for months to put together a bipartisan proposal. We brought it to the floor of the U.S. Senate, and it passed with an overwhelming majority. What happened to it in the Republican House? They refused to even consider it or debate it. Even Donald Trump's Secretary of Homeland Security admitted that that bipartisan bill would have made our border more secure, but the House Republicans refused to take it up and still refuse to face the reality of what comprehensive immigration reform looks like.

We still need that package today, one that addresses the needs of our economy, provides a path of citizenship for Dreamers and immigrant farm workers, and lives up to our Nation's legacy of providing safe harbor to refugees fleeing for their lives.

I have been told repeatedly by my Senate Republican colleagues that they will not negotiate until the House sends us a bill. We have waited long enough. This week, I am introducing a proposal that I hope we can all support and will start the debate.

My bill would provide immediate assistance to border officials and authorities to help secure the border and officially process asylum seekers. It would provide support to the communities that welcome migrants in our country.

This bill is by no means a comprehensive package, but it is an opportunity to show the American people that we are not ignoring the reality and we can support our frontline officials and the communities that need help.

The American people are tired of partisan bickering and excuses over immigration. They want us to work together to secure our border, support our economy, and stand by the fundamental principles and values that have started this Nation.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

(Mr. DURBIN assumed the Chair.)

Mr. THUNE. 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.

DEBT CEILING

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, it is May 10—May 10. If the President's Treasury Secretary is correct, in 3 weeks, the United States could reach the limit of its borrowing capacity, and—and, absent an agreement between the President and Congress to raise the debt ceiling, begin to default on its debts. But if you think that means the President has gotten serious about reaching a debt ceiling agreement, you would be wrong.

The President did invite the Democratic and Republican leaders of the House and Senate to the White House yesterday, presumably, one would think, to finally begin negotiating. But as it turned out, the meeting was apparently a little more than an occasion for the President to reiterate his position that he won't negotiate.

Here is the political reality: The President can't raise the debt ceiling by himself. He has to work with Congress, and, more specifically, he has to work with Speaker MCCARTHY and the Republican-controlled House of Representatives. That is just the reality.

The American people sent divided government to Washington last November, and divided government requires compromise. It requires negotiation. Frankly, it is the height of arrogance for the President and the Senate Democratic leader to think that they are somehow the exception to that, to think that they should be able to simply decree what they want—in this case, an increase in the debt ceiling with no spending reforms—and have everyone else just fall in line.

That is not the way our system of government works. I get that the President would like things to work that way, but they don't, and the sooner he accepts that fact the better because the fiscal stability of our country is hanging in the balance here. Unless the President comes to the negotiating table for real, he is going to be responsible for the United States defaulting on its debts.

Let's talk for a minute about why the President doesn't want to negotiate, why he is insisting on a clean

debt limit bill. Well, it is really quite simple. House Republicans want to pair any increase in the debt ceiling with spending reforms, and the President doesn't want anything that will restrain his ability to spend. He is intent on expanding the size and reach of the Federal Government, and spending reforms would get in the way.

What President Biden does not seem to realize, however, is that our Nation is on an unsustainable spending trajectory. Spending under the Biden administration has reached staggering levels. The total Federal budget for fiscal year 2023 is up approximately 40 percent from 2019, the last budget before the pandemic—40 percent. And under the President's budget, over the next decade, the Federal budget would reach a staggering $10 trillion, a 125-percent increase from its prepandemic level. Think about it—a 125-percent increase in the cost of government from the prepandemic level. Our country and our economy cannot take that level of spending.

Between October and March, the Federal Government borrowed $6 billion a day—a day. That is more than the entire 2023 budget for my State of South Dakota. The amount of money that the Federal Government borrows in a single day is more than the entire budget for the State of South Dakota for the entire year. Debt at that level threatens economic growth. It jeopardizes our national security and leaves us excessively dependent on other countries who hold our Nation's debt, and it sucks money away from essential government spending on things like Social Security and Medicare and our national defense.

Just paying the interest on our debt is taking a toll on our Nation's budget. According to the nonpartisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, 50 cents of every dollar our country borrows in the next 10 years will go just toward paying interest on our national debt. By 2028, we will be spending more on interest than on national defense. By 2044, we will be spending more on interest than on Medicare. And by 2050, we will be spending more on interest than on Social Security.

How in the world are we going to be able to pay for these programs and other essential government functions if we are spending that much money just meeting the interest—the interest alone—on that massive, going-on-$32-trillion debt?

Negotiating over the debt ceiling is hardly new. Seven of the last ten debt limit increases have included some mix of policy or budgetary changes rather than a simple, clean increase. And the Democrat leader of the Senate, the same Democrat leader who is now insisting on a clean debt limit increase, is on the record during the last administration talking about using the debt ceiling as leverage to achieve Democrat priorities.

So the President and the Democrat leader's outrage that they might have to yield to the realities of divided government and actually have to negotiate over the debt ceiling is a little hard to swallow. And it is profoundly disturbing that, with a national debt in excess of $31 trillion and growing every day, the President and the Democrat leader can't be brought to consider even the mildest spending reforms.

House Republicans have proposed reasonable spending reforms. The nonpartisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget—where the President's own Treasury Secretary used to sit on the Board, I might add—called the Republican bill ''a serious package'' and a ''realistic and extremely welcome first step.'' But if the President doesn't like the House's proposed spending reforms, he should put forward his own spending reforms.

What he should not do, however, and cannot responsibly do is continue to refuse to engage in negotiations. If he continues to reject compromise, if he continues to insist that it is his way and no other, then, come June, he will be responsible for our Nation defaulting on its debts.

The President has already spent us into an inflation crisis. Let's hope he can see his way to negotiating before he plunges us into a default crisis as well.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON GORORDO NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Gorordo nomination?

Mr. REED. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 117 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Cardin	Duckworth
Bennet	Carper	Durbin
Blumenthal	Casey	Fetterman
Booker	Collins	Hassan
Brown	Coons	Heinrich
Cantwell	Cortez Masto	Hickenlooper
Hirono	Ossoff	Stabenow
Kaine	Padilla	Tester
Kelly	Peters	Van Hollen
King	Reed	Warner
Klobuchar	Romney	Warnock
Luján	Rosen	Warren
Manchin	Sanders	Welch
Markey	Schatz	Whitehouse
Menendez	Schumer	Wyden
Merkley	Shaheen	Young
Murphy	Sinema	
Murray	Smith	

NAYS—45

Barrasso	Fischer	Mullin
Blackburn	Graham	Murkowski
Boozman	Grassley	Paul
Braun	Hagerty	Ricketts
Britt	Hawley	Risch
Budd	Hoeven	Rounds
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Daines	McConnell	Vance
Ernst	Moran	Wicker

NOT VOTING—3

Feinstein	Gillibrand	Tuberville

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). 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.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 55, Glenna Laureen Wright-Gallo, of Nevada, to be Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education.

Charles E. Schumer, Ben Ray Luján, Peter Welch, Tina Smith, Tammy Duckworth, Tim Kaine, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Raphael G. Warnock, Christopher Murphy, John W. Hickenlooper, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tammy Baldwin, Edward J. Markey, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jack Reed, Mazie K. Hirono.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Glenna Laureen Wright-Gallo, of Nevada, to be Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

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) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 118 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Hirono	Rosen
Bennet	Kaine	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schatz
Booker	King	Schumer
Brown	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cantwell	Luján	Sinema
Cardin	Manchin	Smith
Carper	Markey	Stabenow
Casey	Menendez	Tester
Collins	Merkley	Van Hollen
Coons	Murkowski	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warnock
Duckworth	Murray	Warren
Durbin	Ossoff	Welch
Fetterman	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden
Heinrich	Reed	
Hickenlooper	Romney	

NAYS—45

Barrasso	Fischer	Mullin
Blackburn	Graham	Paul
Boozman	Grassley	Ricketts
Braun	Hagerty	Risch
Britt	Hawley	Rounds
Budd	Hoeven	Rubio
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Lummis	Tillis
Cruz	Marshall	Vance
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	Young

NOT VOTING—3

Feinstein	Gillibrand	Tuberville

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The yeas are 52; the nays are 45.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Glenna Laureen Wright-Gallo, of Nevada, to be Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m. today.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:21 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. Rosen).

EXECUTIVE SESSION—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

NOMINATION OF COLLEEN JOY SHOGAN

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, I appreciate the opportunity to come to the floor. This is like what they call in Delaware a ''threefer''—three for one. And I appreciate the cooperation of the floor staff and from you to enable me to do this.

One of the things I always look for when I am hiring somebody is I ask for recommendations and references of people they have worked for in the past. As it turns out, in the nomination of Dr. Colleen Shogan to be the Archivist of the United States, one of the people she used to work for was Senator Joe Lieberman, a good friend to all of us, Democrats and Republicans.

He was good enough to reach out to me several weeks ago, and we had just had a hearing on Dr. Shogan before us in the Homeland Security Committee. I was really impressed. He called and said: She used to work for me. And I said: No kidding? Well, I wouldn't disqualify her for that.

I am just kidding. But he went on to tell me what a remarkable human being she was, even at a younger age in her life. But as the Chief Administrator of the National Archives and Records Administration, the Archivist of the United States plays a vital role in a couple of different ways: one, especially with the preservation of the history of this country that we are all sworn to protect.

This person who has been nominated, this nominee, would serve as our Nation's recordkeeper for executive agencies and for Presidential records while also being responsible for the National Archives and Records Administration.

This role has been critical in leading the Federal Government's ongoing transition from paper to electronic records for a long time. Dr. Shogan is extremely well qualified to take on what is not a small responsibility; it is a great responsibility and important, too.

As Senior Vice President and Director of the David M. Rubenstein Center for White House History at the White House Historical Association, Dr. Shogan has already demonstrated her extensive skill set as an archivist.

She is a dedicated public servant, pulling a decade's worth of senior roles at the Library of Congress. She has developed a career in academia, Federal Government service, and nonprofit management. And one of those folks she worked with—worked for—was our former colleague, Senator Joe Lieberman.

At our hearing to consider her nomination before the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee earlier this year, Dr. Shogan reaffirmed her commitment to nonpartisanship, which is very important for this role. She highlighted her service as the Vice Chair of the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission.

Dr. Shogan also shared how she will work to address the backlog of veterans' record requests at the National Archives and Records Administration. As the last Vietnam veteran serving here in the United States Senate, that means a lot to me.

She also has vowed to make sure that the oftentimes long and arduous process that can prevent our veterans from receiving their critical services and benefits that they are entitled to, that they are addressed.

I strongly urge my colleagues to confirm Dr. Shogan as the Archivist of the United States, and I know she will serve our country well.

My talking points now say to yield the floor, but I am not, because I have been asked by the folks who help us manage the floor if I would like to go ahead and speak on two CRAs, which is the Congressional Review Act resolutions. And I would like to do that, if I may. I appreciate the tolerance and consideration of the chairman of our committee.

CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW ACT VOTES

Madam President, on the first one, this is an unlikely one. Let me just say, Delaware has a very strong ag industry. If you look at the key industries in Delaware, our No. 1 slot, people think it is banking and chemicals and stuff like that. The No. 1 is agriculture. It has been agriculture for as long as I have lived in the First State. We raise a lot of chickens, we raise a lot of other things as well.

One of the creatures that helps us best in managing the battle against pests in our State—and, as it turns out, in over 35 other States—is an unlikely creature called the long-eared bat. What I want to do today is to talk about the resolution being offered by our friends on the other side to reverse a critical habitat designation under the Endangered Species Act with respect to this listing of the northern long-eared bat as an endangered species.

Madam President, last week, I came to the floor, you may recall, to this chamber to defend science-based protections for the lesser prairie-chicken. As I said then, that species has long been considered an important indicator of the health of American grasslands and prairie.

Today, I rise in opposition to two new congressional review act resolutions which would revoke science-based rules under the Endangered Species Act. Simply put, the Endangered Species Act is our best tool to address biodiversity loss in the United States. We know biodiversity is worth preserving for many reasons, whether it be to protect human health or whether it is a moral imperative or to be good stewards of our one and only planet.

The first resolution that we are going to consider would reinstate a rule from the Trump administration which limited the ability of the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to designate critical habitat based on the best available science.

What is critical habitat, some may ask? They are areas that our Federal Agencies identify as key to the recovery of threatened and endangered species. The agencies subsequently propose these areas for protection, and the habitat becomes the focus of conservation efforts.

The Trump-era rule that the CRA resolution would reinstate was especially damaging for species that are imperiled due to climate change. The

rule prevented the relevant Federal Agencies from designating critical habitat in areas that are not currently suitable habitat but could be in the future.

For example, when a species' habitat range shifts as a result of climate change, our Federal wildlife protection agencies may need to account for this shift when they decide what potential habitat we should protect to support their long-term recovery.

The number of imperiled species is growing, not diminishing, and more and more species are harmed by climate change, which, as we know, is getting more and more serious as the days go by. That is why our Federal Agencies need more, not less, flexibility to designate and protect habitat. That is our first resolution, S.J. Res. 23.

The second resolution we are considering today would overturn another science-based rule, reclassifying the northern long-eared bat from threatened to endangered species status.

Most people have never heard of the northern long-eared bat. They don't even think they exist, but they do in 37 States. And they are really good at one thing—eating pests, eating insects. There is actually a dollar value that has been put on what they can do and the contributions they make to agriculture in my State and 30-some other States, and the amount of money is over $3 to $4 billion a year.

These bats are found in 37 states from as far east as Maine, down the eastern seaboard, from Delaware all the way down to Louisiana.

Unfortunately, there is a disease called white-nose syndrome. Some people may have never heard of this bat, but they have heard of white-nose syndrome. But it is responsible for nearly 80 percent of the bat's habitat range in recent years. Data shows that white-nose syndrome has killed between 97 to 100 percent of northern long-eared bats in infected colonies. That, in addition to other factors, like habitat loss and climate change, has contributed to this important species' decline.

Bats, including the northern long-eared bat, contribute to an estimated $3 to $4 billion annually—I have actually heard it is as high as tens of billions of dollars to our Nation's agricultural economy. In any event, it is a lot. And the value impacts us and farmers all over the country. These bats basically provide service primarily through pest control and through pollination. The Biden rule not only helps the northern long-eared bats but also supports other bat species that are in decline due to white-nose syndrome. By protecting this species, we are protecting our farmers, our agricultural communities, and the revenues that they depend on.

To that end, CRA resolutions that undermine the endangered species and more generally, science, are in my view a dangerous diversion from the real work of protecting our environment and, for that matter, our economy.

As a recovering Governor with a little State with a big agricultural economy and as the current chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, I believe we can protect our environment, including the species with which we share our planet while supporting economic development and job creation.

It is my hope that we can work together in ways to support these goals in a truly bipartisan fashion. With that in mind, I oppose the two resolutions I talked about, S.J. Res. 23 and S.J. Res. 24. I invite all my colleagues, Democratic and Republican, to join me in voting no.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to complete my remarks prior to the scheduled vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF COLLEEN JOY SHOGAN

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I rise in support of Colleen Shogan's nomination to be the Archivist of the United States.

The Archivist of the United States leads the National Archives and Records Administration, an important role that is responsible for maintaining and for preserving Presidential and Federal records.

In addition to preserving documents that tell the story of our Nation's history, the National Archives also provides access to critical records for the public to use, including providing veterans and servicemembers with military personnel records needed to access the benefits they have earned through their service.

As an accomplished political scientist who has held nonpartisan leadership roles throughout her career, Dr. Shogan is well qualified to lead the National Archives. She would also be the first woman to hold this job.

She is currently the Senior Vice President and Director of the David M. Rubenstein Center for White House History and the White House Historical Association and previously served as Deputy Director of the Congressional Research Service at the Library of Congress and Vice Chair of the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission.

Throughout multiple Congresses and Presidential administrations of both parties, Dr. Shogan has demonstrated a strong commitment to serving the American people with nonpartisan integrity.

During the nomination process, Dr. Shogan showed a deep understanding of the Archives' critical role and that she is prepared to lead the Agency as it tackles challenges such as the veterans' records backlog and the digitization of records all across the Federal Government.

Her nomination is supported by numerous individuals and groups representing the National Archives stakeholders, including the American Political Science Association; the Council of State Archivists; the American Historical Association; and other national, nonpartisan, and nonpolitical organizations who have enthusiastically endorsed Dr. Shogan's nomination.

Madam President, I urge my colleagues to join me in confirming Dr. Shogan to this important role today.

NOMINATION OF GLENNA LAUREN WRIGHT-GALLO

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I support the nomination of Glenna Wright-Gallo to be Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services at the Department of Education. Ms. Wright-Gallo has more than 25 years of public education experience supporting students with disabilities and 16 years of experience as a policy leader in State special education programs. She is currently a guest instructor at the Clark County School District in Las Vegas, NV. Before that, she served as the Assistant Superintendent of Special Education Services for the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction—OSPI—in Washington State. During her tenure, she successfully secured an additional $155 million for state special education programs, $37 million for improvement of statewide inclusionary practices, $12 million for paraeducator training, and $60,000 to reduce the use of restraint and seclusion.

Prior to her position at OSPI, Ms. Gallo spent 7 years as the State director of special education for the Utah State Board of Education. She has also twice served as the president of the National Association of State Directors of Education.

Earlier this year, the Committee on Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, which I chair, reported her out of committee by a bipartisan vote. Ms. Wright-Gallo is a strong, dedicated advocate for special education services and supports and understands the unique challenges that children and youth with disabilities face. She will make an excellent Assistant Secretary, and I urge my colleagues to support her nomination.

VOTE ON WRIGHT-GALLO NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Wright-Gallo nomination?

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, 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 New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) would have voted ''nay.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 119 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Romney
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Schatz
Booker	Kelly	Schumer
Brown	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cardin	Luján	Smith
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Collins	Menendez	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warnock
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Welch
Feinstein	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Padilla	Wyden
Hassan	Peters	
Heinrich	Reed	

NAYS—44

Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blackburn	Grassley	Ricketts
Boozman	Hagerty	Risch
Braun	Hawley	Rounds
Britt	Hoeven	Rubio
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Lummis	Tillis
Cruz	Marshall	Vance
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	Young
Fischer	Mullin	

NOT VOTING—4

Budd	Sanders
Gillibrand	Tuberville

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.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Colleen Joy Shogan, of Pennsylvania, to be Archivist of the United States.

Ms. SINEMA. We yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back.

VOTE ON SHOGAN NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Shogan nomination?

Ms. SINEMA. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 120 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Booker	Kaine	Schumer
Brown	Kelly	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Sinema
Capito	Klobuchar	Smith
Cardin	Luján	Stabenow
Carper	Manchin	Tester
Casey	Markey	Van Hollen
Collins	Menendez	Warner
Coons	Merkley	Warnock
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warren
Duckworth	Murphy	Welch
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Ossoff	Wyden
Fetterman	Padilla	
Hassan	Peters	

NAYS—45

Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blackburn	Grassley	Ricketts
Boozman	Hagerty	Risch
Braun	Hawley	Romney
Britt	Hoeven	Rounds
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Daines	McConnell	Vance
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Mullin	Young

NOT VOTING—3

Gillibrand	Sanders	Tuberville

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). 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.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Geeta Rao Gupta, of Virginia, to be Ambassador at Large for Global Women's Issues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1192

Mr. HAGERTY. Mr. President, title 42 will terminate tomorrow with the expiration of the COVID–19 public health emergency. Title 42 is one of the last tools available to Border Patrol agents, and the President is surrendering it during a record-shattering border crisis. It is unconscionable for Congress to stand aside and do nothing to preserve this critical authority.

Title 42 authority was initially based on the pandemic. While I agree that the pandemic is over, the border crisis is worse than ever. Whether to keep effective border security policies in place should not depend on the pandemic.

There is a new epidemic that is plaguing our Nation, one that demands immediate action. Deadly fentanyl—produced with the help of the Chinese Communist Party and smuggled across our southern border by drug cartels—has flooded into our communities. More than 100,000 Americans died of drug overdoses in the last 12 months alone—most from synthetic opioids like fentanyl. It is the No. 1 cause of death for Americans between the ages of 18 and 45.

The rise of fentanyl overdose deaths affects every State and every congressional district. It kills the young, the old, the rich, the poor. It affects cities and small towns alike. It is not a partisan issue, and finding a solution shouldn't be partisan either.

With the end of title 42, even the Biden administration is openly preparing for an already-recordbreaking crisis to get far worse by sending 1,500 Active-Duty troops to the southern border. It is an admission of the impending invasion.

To allow title 42 to end without creating a permanent new authority to replace it only empowers drug cartels. It enables them to illegally send migrants across the border at strategic points, bogging down Border Patrol agents with paperwork and processing that takes five times longer than under title 42. This dramatic increase in processing times will significantly decrease scarce resources available to actually patrol our southern border. Cartels will use the longer and more frequent enforcement gaps to move fentanyl across our border. We cannot allow this to happen.

Title 42 is an effective and important tool for controlling the flow of illegal migration at the southern border, but it is also an effective and important tool for dissuading migrants from making the dangerous journey to the southern border, to ultimately be exploited by drug cartels. But the current administration has no interest in dissuading migrants from coming to the United States. Instead, through Biden's border policies, they entice thousands more migrants per day to illegally cross into the United States, risking their lives as they magnify the humanitarian crisis at our border.

That is why I introduced legislation to add drug smuggling as an additional basis for invoking title 42 authority. It is called the Stop Fentanyl Border Crossings Act. Overdoses have become an epidemic in America, and no one can deny that. My legislation would allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services to use title 42 to combat substantial, dangerous drug trafficking across our southern border. This bill would give Border Patrol a necessary tool to focus on stopping drug traffickers.

It seems like an obvious step to take. Everyone agrees fentanyl trafficking is a dire problem. Yet, in the last Congress, Democrats blocked this legislation three times. Now that title 42 is

actually coming to an end, it is time to get past the political posturing, and I hope my colleagues will join me. We cannot sit idly by. Without this authority, the recordbreaking border crisis and deadly drug overdose crisis that will follow will become unimaginably worse.

Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration of S. 1192 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; 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?

Mr. SANDERS. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Senator HAGERTY's bill aims to expand the use of title 42 to restrict the entry of people and goods from countries where ''substantial'' drug smuggling exists.

I am very concerned about the increased use of fentanyl in this country. Everybody is. As you just heard, we have seen over 100,000 Americans die from drug overdoses in the last year alone. Unfortunately, this isn't the way to address this problem. Title 42 is a public health authority, and the use of it should be dictated by public health experts.

Instead of proposing real solutions to address drug trafficking based on what will keep people safe, some of my Republican colleagues want to use title 42 as a political stunt to keep out people seeking asylum. I welcome the opportunity to work with my Republican colleagues on serious solutions to address drug trafficking. Unfortunately, this is not one of them.

I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. HAGERTY. Mr. President, my Democratic colleague is objecting to legislation that simply gives the Secretary of Health and Human Services the authority to limit border crossings when necessary to combat substantial, dangerous, illicit drug smuggling. It doesn't provide authority to stop all asylum claims. It only applies where substantial illicit drug smuggling is endangering health. More than 100,000 Americans are dying annually of drug overdoses, many of which result from drug smuggling at the southern border.

This legislation isn't a mandate; it is a tool to help save American lives whenever that is possible. Everyone acknowledges that an already recordbreaking crisis will get worse without title 42. American lives and American communities hang in the balance. Yet my colleagues across the aisle are categorically opposed to any commonsense policy that will help us address this problem.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

COMPREHENSIVE AND PROGRESSIVE AGREEMENT FOR TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to have the opportunity to give some thoughts today on what is going on in the United States and around the globe.

Here in these early months of this new Congress, there clearly is broad bipartisan agreement on the importance of the Indo-Pacific region for our country's future. We are strengthening our military posture in that region, and last Congress, we passed legislation to strengthen our strategic industries.

What is being ignored, however, is a third component essential to our success in the region: expanding trade. At a State and Foreign Ops hearing in March, I noted the importance of our economic relationships around the world and asked Secretary of State Blinken about our approach to trade agreements, particularly America's absence from the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership—the CPTPP.

He told me the original pact in 2015 had real benefits, economically and strategically, but since then the world has moved on. I agree with him, our allies and our partners have moved on. They have moved on without us.

A year ago this month, President Biden made his first trip to Asia and unveiled the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, the administration's initiative to reengage the region on standards involving digital trade, supply chains, climate change, and corruption.

This is a small start, but it falls far short of what is needed today to advance American prosperity and security—also, the well-being of our Asian partners. In particular, the President's proposal fails to include greater U.S. market access.

The United States is belatedly offering a tepid leadership to a region that remains committed to open trade.

We can and must correct this or fall further behind in the most economically dynamic region in the world. I call on President Biden to enter into—and Congress to ratify—the CPTPP. It would be difficult to overstate how important the Indo-Pacific is to American prosperity. The region comprises 40 percent of the global economic output, and that is expected to grow to 50 percent by the end of the decade.

The largest economy in the region belongs to China, which is the largest trading partner for the region's countries. This provides Beijing with leverage to bully our allies and partners into making concessions in exchange for access to the Chinese market. It allows Beijing, not the United States, the same opportunity to have that relationship, so necessary.

China, for example, used coercion to retaliate against Australia after our allies in Canberra called for an investigation into the origins of COVID–19. Beijing regularly forces American businesses to refrain from criticism of China or conform to communist policies.

China's leaders can coerce and intimidate because they have economic strength. It is clear China will exert that tremendous leverage over other nations to achieve its global ambitions. Its attempts to bully countries into its sphere of influence are on full display through the Belt and Road Initiative, which has left trails of debt traps and human rights abuses. Unfortunately, the United States is ceding our economic leadership that we established and maintained for the last 80 years.

Having quit the Trans-Pacific Partnership under bipartisan, Republican and Democrat, criticism for that departure, the countries we worked with—treaty allies and partners—moved ahead. They moved ahead without us and in 2018 brought into force a successor agreement, the CPTPP. These countries represent more than 13 percent of global GDP, and in the last few weeks, Great Britain has gained membership.

So important is the CPTPP to the Pacific economies that China has applied for membership. They did so last September. It would be a grave mistake for us to assume that in America's absence China would be denied membership indefinitely.

China wants in, despite already being the largest member of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Agreement, which also includes our treaty allies, Japan and South Korea, Australia and New Zealand. This trade bloc accounts for nearly one-third of global GDP.

These two agreements, comprised of nations with diverse ideologies, underscore the importance of the economics of the Indo-Pacific region. In Asia especially, economics and security are one and the same, and for Washington to ignore that is a miscalculation.

Our allies and partners in this region are noticing. They notice our absence. Australia's Foreign Minister said at the end of last year:

> America's decision not to proceed with the CPTPP is still being felt in the region. . . . We have reached a stage in the evolution of our alliances where they will increasingly require a fully developed economic dimension, as well.

In other words, we can't have the same relationship with countries that we don't deal with in trade in economic relationships.

At the end of 2022, Singapore's Defense Minister had this to say:

> The U.S. increasing their military presence in Asia as a stabilizing force is virtuous, it is good and we will support that.

But then he made this key point:

> We think that the U.S. should do more to engage as it did previously, to build an economic framework, which as a tide can lift all boats.

Despite our own National Security Strategy which declares that ''we need to win the competition for the 21st century'' and that we will ''shape the rules

of the road for . . . trade and economics,'' the document makes clear President Biden believes ''we have to move beyond traditional Free Trade Agreements.''

But given the words of our Pacific friends, it is equally clear they have not moved beyond such agreements. In fact, they are doubling down on them without us. The President and his administration are either oblivious to this fact or indifferent.

Given the stakes, whichever one it is, it is a serious mistake. Dating back to the 1980s, the National Security Strategy is a congressionally mandated report issued by the President to convey the administration's national security goals and how to achieve them. In recent decades, one document is published each Presidential term rather than yearly.

The 2022 document, President Biden stresses upholding the ''rules-based international order'' but then refuses to engage in shaping one of the significant pillars of that order: trade.

The National Security Strategy invokes four principles, two of which are openness and inclusiveness. And as one scholar observed, the President's approach to trade is neither open nor inclusive.

This hurts our goals in this region, and it hurts Americans at home, our very national security. Our engagement really is about our own well-being. Our own well-being is often dependent upon the well-being of our friends and allies or those we want to be our friends or allies.

Economic partnerships can promote U.S. national security interests by protecting critical access to technology, minerals, and food supplies. We know what happens when we are so dependent upon one particular country for meeting our country's needs in strategic items. It is a mistake for us to have all eggs in a basket. Robust trade agreements safeguard the intellectual property and manufacturing capabilities that underpin our American military dominance.

Southeast Asia presents a situation in which our agricultural producers can score significant market access wins, while U.S. soft power can bolster our influence with these critical partners with these countries that are or can be our friends.

America's economy is the foundation of our power. Without the creation of wealth, we cannot afford to sustain the world's greatest military, which in turn defends the peace that enables the flow of goods. As a column in the Wall Street Journal just within the last week argued, ''The U.S. must embrace the politics of growth. Our world must be, and must be seen to be, the surest, fastest path to raising living standards all over the world. That's what we did after World War II. We must find a way to do it again today.''

What that is saying is we can't allow China to be seen as the path to economic well-being for people and nations around the world and specifically in the South Pacific.

Southeast Asia presents a situation in which our agriculture producers can score significant market access wins while we are making a difference in our own capabilities to influence the world.

America's economy is the foundation of our power, and we must utilize it. In competing with China in the coming decades, it is essential that the United States provide a positive vision for the region that attracts countries to what America offers beyond security support. Leadership is more than making clear what we are against. We must offer a compelling case of what we are for and how it will benefit those we wish to lead, those we wish to be partners with.

Little in geopolitics is a win-win, but trade is a rare area that advances our interests and those of our partners. According to the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, the American people understand this. Three in four Americans think that trade is good for the U.S. economy, but Congress and the President are making a mistake ignoring the old idea of open trade.

To best compete with China in Asia and to help Americans at home, joining the CPTPP and providing greater market access is an obvious place to begin. Jobs, economic opportunity for us, and most importantly, the well-being of our Nation, our national security, depend upon trade and that relationship it creates.

(Ms. CORTEZ MASTO assumed the Chair.)

REMEMBERING GARY R. DOANE

Madam President, I rise today to honor the life and mourn the loss, the passing of a Kansan whom I was privileged to know well, Gary Doane. Gary touched the lives of all who knew him, and he left the world and our State a better place.

I know I speak for many, many others when I say we will all miss his wisdom and his kindness. In Kansas, we know the value of community, and we rely upon our neighbors in times of need. And Gary took these traits to heart, and his friends and neighbors always knew he would be there to lend a helping hand.

He was raised on a farm not far from my hometown, northwest of Downs. Gary knew the value of faith, of hard work, and service, and he practiced every day what he believed. He and his wife Glennys enjoyed 45 years of marriage, and they raised their three children on the farm just miles from his own childhood home. Gary was an active member in his community and a dedicated advocate for causes he believed in. He served at the county and State levels of the Kansas Farm Bureau, including 8 years on the State board of directors. He also served as chair of the board of directors of the Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership Program—what we know in Kansas as KARL.

Gary instilled a passion for service to his life in every circumstance. In 2001, we had the pleasure of having his daughter Amy work on our staff when I was a Congressman representing ''The Big First'' in the House of Representatives.

Gary, what we all hoped to do, he did. He lived a life with purpose, and he loved to invest in the next generation of Kansans. He often spoke of how he wanted to help raise new leaders to preserve the same opportunities he enjoyed living and raising his family in North Central Kansas.

We all look for examples, and Gary's life is an example of the difference one person can make. And I know his legacy will live on in the community and in the State he loved. Rob's and my prayers are with his wife Glennys and his three children, Amy, Vic, and Edie, and the entire Downs community.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

DEMANDING THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CHINA IMMEDIATELY RELEASE MARK SWIDAN

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, a few months ago, I spoke on this floor about Mark Swidan, who has been unjustly imprisoned by the Chinese Communist Party for over a decade. Mark is from Luling, a small city in my home State of Texas. His mother, Miss Katherine Swidan, still lives in Luling. And for the last 11 years, Mark has endured a living hell, trapped in a Chinese prison. He is exposed to extreme heat and extreme cold. He is deprived of sleep. He is subjected to physical abuse. Mark has also been denied access to his family and to American diplomats.

And in 2019, a Chinese court sentenced Mark to death. Mark is being unjustly held by the Chinese Communist Party as a hostage. The CCP tells us that China is a great power, but this is how Third World thugs and dictators act.

I called for Mark's immediate release and called on the Biden administration to use any and every available means to secure Mark's freedom.

I am deeply distressed that since my speech on the floor a few months ago, Mark's plight has deepened. Recently, a Chinese court reaffirmed the death sentence imposed on him with a suspension for 2 years.

That is wrong, and it is outrageous. We need Mark to come home.

It is worth revealing how breathtakingly, infuriatingly unjust all of this is. How did it happen? On November 13, 2012, Mark was abducted by China's Public Security Bureau while he was in China on a business trip. A witness to the abduction said that Mark was detained because Chinese officials wanted to view the contents of his cell phone.

The Chinese officials accused Mark of being part of a criminal conspiracy to

manufacture and traffic drugs with 11 other individuals—charges that Mark has denied and which have been debunked over and over again.

Chinese officials tried to coerce Mark into confessing. Mark refused and pleaded not guilty in a trial in November 2013. During the trial, the prosecution didn't produce any forensic evidence to back up their allegations, and no drugs—zero—were ever found on Mark or in his hotel room. Mark's passport and other records show that he wasn't even in China at the time of the alleged offenses, and the 11 other individuals indicted in relation to this alleged drug conspiracy—none of them could identify Mark. The charges against Mark were completely bogus and false.

Meanwhile, Mark's mom Katherine is aching to see her son again. Her heart is breaking. This is a mom who wants to hold and hug and care for the son she loves.

I have been working with the Biden administration, and I have been pushing Chinese officials at a senior level to release Mark, but more needs to be done, and it needs to be done much more quickly.

Now, Secretary of State Blinken was planning to travel to China in February, and we had been pressing the State Department to make Mark's case a major priority for the Biden administration on the trip. Then what happened? A Chinese spy balloon came over the United States, and Secretary Blinken canceled his trip.

It is time to apply more pressure on the Chinese Communist Party to let Mark go and let him come home to Texas.

Madam President, the Chinese Communist Government is a tyrannical government. They don't like it when you turn up the heat. They don't like it when you shine a light on their atrocities. There is power in shining a light, and there is power in unity.

We need to bring Mark home. In a moment, I am going to propound a live UC request on a resolution I have introduced with my colleague from Texas, Senator JOHN CORNYN. When it passes, the Senate will, with one unanimous bipartisan voice, reiterate these declarations.

The resolution calls on the CCP to immediately release Mark. It condemns China from withholding from Mark access to his family, to diplomats, and to proper and independent medical care. And it calls on the Biden administration to prioritize efforts to secure Mark's release, both in their conversations with Chinese diplomats and in international forums.

No opportunity should be lost in urging Chinese officials, at every level of engagement, to release Mark. The Biden administration must use the voice and the vote of American diplomats to highlight his case.

This resolution has already passed the House. It will now pass the Senate. The United States Congress is with a united and unanimous voice condemning and calling to end the unjust imprisonment of Mark Swidan by the Chinese Communist Party. Enough is enough.

Madam President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 53, S. Res. 23.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 23) demanding that the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Communist Party of China immediately release Mark Swidan.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 23) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of February 1, 2023, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

Mr. CRUZ. I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

VOTE ON GUPTA NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled vote occur immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Rao Gupta nomination?

Mr. MORAN. 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 legislative clerk called roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER).

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 121 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Baldwin	Durbin	Menendez
Bennet	Fetterman	Merkley
Blumenthal	Gillibrand	Murkowski
Booker	Hassan	Murphy
Brown	Heinrich	Murray
Cantwell	Hickenlooper	Ossoff
Cardin	Hirono	Padilla
Carper	Kaine	Peters
Casey	Kelly	Reed
Collins	King	Rosen
Coons	Klobuchar	Sanders
Cortez Masto	Luján	Schatz
Duckworth	Markey	Schumer
Shaheen	Tester	Warren
Sinema	Van Hollen	Welch
Smith	Warner	Whitehouse
Stabenow	Warnock	Wyden

NAYS—47

Barrasso	Grassley	Ricketts
Blackburn	Hagerty	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Hoeven	Rounds
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Budd	Johnson	Schmitt
Capito	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Manchin	Tillis
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Vance
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Mullin	Young
Graham	Paul	

NOT VOTING—2

Cramer	Feinstein

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from Maryland.

DEBT CEILING

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I think everybody in this body now knows that, yesterday, President Biden convened a meeting at the White House to discuss how the United States would avoid a default—a default on the country, a default on our debt, a default which would be something that has never happened before in the history of the country.

The 14th Amendment, section 4 says:

The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services . . . shall not be questioned.

''Shall not be questioned.''

Throughout our history, in good times and bad times, we have always met our obligations as a country, and that is why President Biden wanted to bring together the congressional leaders to discuss making sure that we don't do that for the first time.

He was joined, of course, by Speaker MCCARTHY. He was joined by the minority leader from the House, Congressman JEFFRIES. From the Senate, he was joined by Majority Leader SCHUMER and Republican Leader MCCONNELL.

I was asked earlier today whether I felt better in the aftermath of this meeting having taken place. And I said: I am glad that the leaders planned to meet again on Friday, but, no, I don't feel more comfortable or confident today than I did before the meeting, and the reason is this: because Speaker MCCARTHY continues to threaten to default on America's debts unless he and the MAGA Republicans in the House can impose big parts of their agenda on the country, impose their agenda on the American people.

I just want to unpack for a moment what exactly that means. What exactly is Speaker MCCARTHY saying to the country? And he is saying this: that if

the Senate doesn't go along with the very extreme proposals passed by the House Republicans and if the President doesn't agree to sign on to those extreme proposals, he will allow the United States, for the first time in our history, to default on our obligations.

And what does that mean? It means he is threatening economic catastrophe, because there is no dispute among Republicans—I don't care if you are a Democratic economist or a Republican economist—economists across the board will tell you that a default would be catastrophic for our economy—massive job losses. We saw an estimate the other day of 8 million jobs lost in the country—retirement nest eggs that people have been working a lifetime to build up imploding, interest rates rising, the credibility of America around the world shattered, the dollar as the world's reserve currency being called into question.

I can tell you who will be celebrating if this happens, and that is the folks in Beijing, the PRC. They will be very happy if the United States undermines its credibility on the world stage, and they will be very happy if we lose our position of having the dollar being the world's reserve currency.

So what was President Biden's response? So what the President is saying—and I want to be clear about what he is saying. He is saying: Hold on, Mr. Speaker. Hold on, Speaker MCCARTHY. Paying our bills on time is not just a Democratic obligation. It is not a Republican obligation. It is not an Independent's obligation. It is an obligation of Uncle Sam. These are obligations the United States has built up during Democratic Presidencies and Republican Presidencies.

In fact, if you look at the record during the 4 years of the Trump administration, we accumulated one-quarter of the total debt owed by the United States today. Yet, during those 4 years, the House and the Senate, without drama, said: Yes, the United States is committed to paying its debts, and we will do so, and we will address the debt ceiling in that manner.

Just to emphasize once again, what we are talking about is obligations the United States has already incurred, that we have already said as a country: We will do this. We will pay your Social Security. We will pay your Medicare. We will pay our veterans. We will pay our obligations as a country, including those who have purchased U.S. Treasury bonds.

That is what we said when we passed those things, and it is important that we keep our word.

So what President Biden says is, look, these are Uncle Sam's obligations. Mr. Speaker, you don't get to come in here and threaten the health of the American economy if you and House Republicans don't get to enact your policies, don't get to enact your agenda. So take your finger, Mr. Speaker, off the default detonator, and then we should talk about issues of common concern. We can talk about the budget. We can talk about the deficit and debt. We can talk about spending. We can talk about revenue.

In fact, President Biden has submitted to the House and Senate his budget proposal. I serve on the Senate Budget Committee. We as a Senate have received that. President Biden has proposed a budget that achieves $3 trillion in deficit reduction over the next 10 years. The proposal passed by Speaker MCCARTHY and Republicans in the House achieves about $4.5 trillion in deficit reduction over 10 years.

So what the President is saying to Speaker MCCARTHY and House Republicans is: We are happy to sit down as part of the normal budget process. We are happy to talk as part of the normal appropriations process about how we can address the deficit and the debt. I put forward my proposal. You put forward a proposal. Let's sit down.

But President Biden is not saying this to Speaker MCCARTHY: You have to reduce the deficit by $3 trillion the way I, President Biden, have done it, and if you don't agree to my proposal for reducing the deficit by $3 trillion, then I am not going to sign a bill to raise the debt ceiling.

If President Biden said that, people would say he is crazy, and it would be very irrational. But that is exactly what Speaker MCCARTHY and House Republicans are doing. They are saying: Mr. President, if you don't reduce the deficit our way, we are going to blow up the American economy.

So let's step back from the brink here. Speaker MCCARTHY, take your finger off the default detonator, and let's have a discussion about how to reduce the deficit and debt, because when you do that, you understand that many of our Republican colleagues really don't care that much about the deficit and debt. Why do I say that? Because if you say ''Let's reduce the deficit and debt by increasing revenue by asking some of the wealthiest people in the country—billionaires, people who make hundreds of millions of dollars every year—if you say ''Let's reduce the deficit by asking them to pay more in terms of taxes,'' you won't get any support from our Republican colleagues, the same folks who say it is absolutely urgent that we reduce our deficit and debt.

But we know there are two sides of the equation. There is spending, and there is revenue. In fact, if you go back to the last time the United States balanced our budget, which was around the year 2000, you will find that revenues as a share of our GDP, revenues as a share of our economy, were about 20 percent. Today, if you look forward to the next couple of years, the projections are that total revenues will be about 18 percent of our economy. The difference between 18 percent revenues as a share of our economy and 20 percent may not sound like a big number, but 2 percent of a very big American economy is a lot of revenue.

So what President Biden is saying is: You know, the last time we actually balanced our budget, revenue as a share of GDP was 20 percent, so at least let's look at that as a contribution. Let's look at raising the top rate on corporations to a level that would still be lower than it was just 10 years ago but higher than it is today.

All this talk about the IRS agents—you know, Republicans say: Let's get rid of the additional funds to support IRS agents.

These are IRS agents who are going to go after very rich tax deadbeats. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office projects that if you invest in that effort to go after very rich tax deadbeats, you actually raise revenue. So the action the House took in this regard actually increased the deficit and is just protecting folks who make a boatload of money from paying the taxes that are already due and owed.

What President Biden has said is: OK, sit back. Let's talk through the normal budget appropriations process, but don't threaten to blow up the American economy.

President Biden's budget also has cuts in it. In fact, what the President has proposed is that the Medicare Program pay Big Pharma—pay the pharmaceutical industry a little less for the drugs that the Medicare Program purchases. After all, all of us in this room and every American citizen contribute billions and billions of dollars every year to really important work done at the National Institutes of Health, which is headquartered in my State of Maryland. It is an American treasure. It is an amazing place, and it is a great engine of invention. We spend billions and billions of dollars in taxpayer money every year for them to do research that has uncovered really important cures and really important treatments and helped the pharmaceutical industry develop a lot of the drugs. Yet, Big Pharma uses the research developed with taxpayer dollars and then often turns around and sells those drugs at prices that American taxpayers can't afford. So what President Biden has proposed is that they take a little less. We give the Medicare Program even more negotiating authority so we can reduce those costs to Medicare and to the taxpayer. So he has proposed those kinds of cuts.

I know a lot of our Republican colleagues don't like those ideas, but that is why you come to the table. That is why Speaker MCCARTHY should accept President Biden's invitation to come to the table to discuss, in the normal course—in the budget and the appropriations process—how we can address issues of the deficit. What are our priorities? What should we do on the revenue side? What should we do on the spending side? But don't, Mr. Speaker, continue to threaten to blow up the American economy if you don't get your way.

I am just going to end with a story from 2011 because that is the last time

we really faced this kind of crisis. I am especially worried this time. It was very bad in 2011. We came very close to going over the waterfall. The markets got very jittery. Interest rates did begin to creep up. It cost the U.S. Government more to meet our obligations. I am more worried this time because we apparently have a lot more folks in the House of Representatives who don't seem to fully appreciate and understand the disastrous consequences of default for American families, for our economy.

So I remember back in 2011. It was right after the 2010 elections. Republicans had won a big majority in the House of Representatives. President Obama was in the White House. And they were threatening early on to hold the issue of default and threatened to use it for budget purposes. It is true and we have heard it said that Vice President Biden at the time came down to the Hill, and they formed what was called the Biden group. They met in an office right around the corner here on this floor of the U.S. Senate. I was one of the House Members who participated in that. There was a total of about 10 from the House and Senate, Republicans and Democrats. We had at least 10 meetings.

Vice President Biden would begin each meeting this way—he would say: I know today we are going to talk about the cuts that are being proposed by House Republicans, and we will do that. But I want you to know two things. One is, nothing is agreed to until everything is agreed to, and after we go through these proposed cuts, we are going to go through proposed revenue increases. We are going to close tax loopholes for very wealthy people. We are going to attack the deficit from both sides of the equation. We will do some cuts, but you also have to be prepared to talk about revenue.

Everybody at the table nodded their head—Senate Republicans, House Republicans, Democrats.

Well, after 10 meetings of discussing cuts, a lot of us were getting concerned that we hadn't really begun to dig into revenues.

Vice President Biden said: You know, I said at the beginning of every meeting that we have to get to revenues. We are going to do that.

At that moment, the talks broke down. Eric Cantor, who was the majority leader in the House at the time; Speaker Boehner was Speaker; KEVIN MCCARTHY walked out of the talks, largely because he was afraid he was going to be fingered by his House Republican colleagues for having agreed to talk about revenues. Imagine that. You care about the deficit, but you won't talk about any ways to raise even a penny of revenue from very wealthy people. That sort of exposed the whole charade at the time.

Now Joe Biden is President of the United States. I am sure he is thinking about those days when he served as the head of that budget group, and I am sure he is thinking back to the fact that our Republican colleagues came to the table and said they cared about deficit reduction and all nodded their heads and said ''Yes, after we talk about cuts, we are going to talk about revenues'' and then walked out of the room when that moment came.

That just shows that what we are dealing with here is not a commitment to deal with the deficit and debt. What we are talking about is a power play to threaten the health of the American economy in order to impose the MAGA House agenda.

President Biden is absolutely right to say: I am more than willing to talk about the budget and deficits and fiscal policy, but first, Mr. Speaker, take your finger off the default detonator.

That is what Mr. MCCARTHY needs to do, and then we can deal with this in a way that the country deserves.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HASSAN). The Senator from Colorado.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. BENNET. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 46 through No. 52, No. 82 through No. 107, No. 110 through No. 113, No. 130 through No. 139; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, reserving the right.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, I want to thank my friends from the House for their support today. But the question today is, What kind of Nation do we want to be? This debate speaks to the moral fabric of our society.

We boast the most powerful military in the history of the world. The purpose of that military is for the strongest among us to protect the weak.

In America, those with the broadest shoulders guard those with the narrowest. Yet the Biden administration wants to mobilize our military against the weakest and the most defenseless—the unborn. I believe that is wrong. It is immoral.

My colleague has described an abortion as just another medical procedure. He mentioned Lasik. He also talked about bunions.

The children of our Nation are not just another routine medical procedure. That is why I am standing here to object.

For 40 years, we have had a bipartisan agreement—40 years. Americans may have different views about abortion, but the majority of this country believes that taxpayers should not have to fund abortions. Secretary Austin blew up 40 years of tradition, an agreement, by just one memo—one memo. There was no debate in the Senate. There was no vote in the House. And here is why. They didn't have the votes. This administration couldn't change abortion laws here in the Senate or the House, so they wrote a memo.

Our Cabinet Secretaries aren't supposed to be politicians. They are there to uphold and enforce the laws made in this building. Yet Secretary Austin is the most political Secretary of Defense we have ever seen.

I am glad to hear Senator WARREN got her prompt reply from Secretary Austin this week. As I recall, she made her request on April 6. She got a response a month later. That is certainly not the kind of treatment I have received from the Pentagon. Maybe it has got something to do with my political party.

Nearly a year ago I joined 12 other Republicans in a letter to Secretary Austin, this past July. We asked the Secretary to substantiate the comment he made about abortions being necessary for military readiness. We are still waiting for a reply.

In November, we sent the Department another letter. This time it was just asking for a short and small briefing—just a briefing. That is all we were asking for. We heard they were going to move forward with an abortion policy that was illegal. Secretary Austin did not reply.

In December, I informed Secretary Austin in writing that I would hold his highest nominees if he went forward with this unlawful abortion policy. Well, in February, Secretary Austin implemented that policy, so I kept my word. The very next day, we put a hold on his nominees.

You know, I didn't get a phone call from Secretary Austin until 1 month after I put the hold into effect—1 month. During the call, he offered me absolutely no compromise. He didn't offer to meet or discuss. Unlike Senator WARREN, since then, I have heard nothing from Secretary Austin except what he has said about me—the things that are pretty negative—in Armed Services Committee hearings.

Ten months into this dispute, the Pentagon and I are still waiting for one single fact to support this argument—one single fact.

I read Secretary Austin's letter to Senator WARREN. It is long on opinions, short on facts. I also read the boilerplate letter signed by the former Secretaries of Defense that were put out this week. It reads like a Democrat press release. The letter simply repeats the same unsubstantiated claims made by Senator WARREN, Senator BENNET, and Senator SCHUMER. Frankly, I think these letters vindicate my opinion. These letters were part of a coordinated effort by the Democrats to use

the authority and the prestige of the Secretary of Defense to distract from the facts. Frankly, I don't think that will work either.

The Biden administration has done everything possible to turn our military into just one more institution for leftwing social engineering. Well, for all of history, Secretary Austin will be the Defense Secretary who oversaw America's worst military defeat since Vietnam.

The Senator from Colorado has twice now accused me of mischaracterizing what he did just a few months ago. My goal is to end an illegal abuse of taxpayer funds. That is what we are trying to do here today.

Senator BENNET's hold was so he could get a meeting with Secretary Austin. So how did Senator BENNET's threatened hold end? Senator BENNET got what he wanted. Senator BENNET got his meeting with the Secretary of Defense. Again, this is more than I received.

So let's remember what I am asking for. I am asking for the Pentagon to drop a policy that is illegal. I am asking Secretary Austin to do his job and follow the law. I understand that Senator BENNET is a strong supporter of abortion. That is all understood. But if he wants this abortion policy, then let's pass a bill.

But it hasn't been done that way. Democrats know that they can't get that done. They know they don't have the votes. The burden is not on me to pass legislation to stop this illegal policy. That is not my job. The burden is on the administration to stop breaking the law.

I am glad that Senator WARREN is concerned about our military readiness. Maybe she will actually vote for this year's Defense bill. She hasn't voted for it since 2017. Senator WARREN has a long history of holding military leadership nominations—a long history. In fact, she held the nomination of one of our witnesses at the most recent Armed Services Committee hearing, Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall. This was the same witness she asked about my hold, was it a big problem? Senator WARREN has held his nomination several times. And guess what. She got what she wanted from the Pentagon, just like Senator BENNET with his hold on military nominations.

So I am glad Senator WARREN is concerned about military readiness. It excites me that she is excited about the military. Maybe now Senator WARREN and Senator SCHUMER will support funding our military at a level necessary to actually win a war. That is something else that they have resisted doing throughout their long careers in Washington.

If Democrats were actually concerned about readiness, then we would be voting. The U.S. Senate has had more than 30 days off already this year. If we want to pass this, let's vote. But we have had 30 days off. That is not including the weekends. The rhetoric just doesn't match the reality of how this is being handled.

This is more than enough time for us to have confirmed literally all the nominations we have been talking about. We could have already done this, taking them one at a time. This could have been done. Yet that is not what we are doing.

This week, we are having another 3-day workweek. We are getting ready to go on recess 8 days from now. If my Democratic colleagues actually were concerned, then we would be voting on these nominations.

And if Secretary Austin is so worried he can't live without these nominees, he can suspend his memo. That is all he has to do. Drop your memo, and these nominees will proceed by unanimous consent. I am a man of my word. I will stand down. Until then, I am standing up for the Constitution and the unborn, and that is why I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, I am proud to stand with my friend, the senior Senator from the great State of Alabama, as he continues to fight against the Department of Defense's attempt to circumvent Congress and ignore existing Federal law which prevents the Department of Defense facilities from being used to provide or facilitate abortions for servicemembers.

The policy is immoral, taking the Department of Defense abortions from less than 20 per year to over 4,000 abortions annually.

It is beyond me why the White House wants to pick this fight. The policy is illegal. It forces taxpayers to subsidize abortion in violation of Federal law. The policy is outside the Department of Defense's mission to uphold and fight for life, not destroy it.

The Biden administration and Senate Democrats claim this is harming our military readiness. With policies like this, they continue to destroy recruiting. If readiness was truly a concern of theirs, they wouldn't have discharged 8,000 troops for choosing not to take the COVID vaccine, a vaccine with minimal benefits to an otherwise healthy, young population.

Look, this policy is wrong, and until the military gets back to providing for our common defense and out of the business of abortion, I will proudly stand with Senator TUBERVILLE.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. Madam President, I want to say thank you to my colleagues from Alabama and Kansas for being out here on the floor today. I regret that we are here with this conflict and this confrontation, but I think that it reflects the deep divisions that exist in this country when it comes to abortion. That is something that I have always said that I understand deeply; that I respect people's different points of view when it comes to abortion in the United States. I do.

It has led me to conclude—and I know that not everybody agrees with this, although the majority of Americans certainly agree with this. The majority of Coloradans agree with this. It has led me to conclude that this is a decision that should be made between a woman and her doctor. That is who should make the decision. It shouldn't be made by the government.

But at the same time I realize there are differences of opinion. I hope that people on the other side realize that there are differences of opinion here too.

But unlike the position that my colleague from Alabama espouses on the Senate floor, he is not with the majority of Americans on this issue. That might be a point of pride for him.

But I want to first call attention to the reason we are here tonight, which is that I just asked for unanimous consent to move forward the promotions of the flag officers at the Department of Defense. This is the fourth time that I have been on this floor asking us to do what Senates have done for 230 years. Never in the history of the United States of America, literally, never in the history of the United States of America has there been a Senator who put a blanket hold on every single flag officer at the Department of Defense. Talk about playing politics.

By the way, I will correct the record for a third time, if not the fourth time. My hold had nothing to do with flag officers. Mine had to do with a political appointee. You can look it up. I will find that article, and I will put it in the record again.

In contrast to my hold, what the Senator from Alabama is doing and now the Senator from Kansas and the rest of the people who are supporting this, including Members of the House of Representatives who were here tonight, is a blanket hold on 200 military flag officers—a blanket hold on 200 military flag officers. That has never happened in the history of the United States.

These are really important command positions. They are really important. I am not going to go through all of them. The leader of the Fifth Fleet in Bahrain is on this list. The leader of the Seventh Fleet in the Pacific is on this list. These are positions that are critical to checking Iran and to checking China as well.

I was just in Bahrain. We visited with people with the Fifth Fleet, including people from Colorado who are stationed there. We know how important the mission is. I assume they know how important the mission is.

I have heard them say out here—the Senator from Louisiana before—that it is not the generals who are important; it is the enlisted people who are important. Both are important. Both are important. You can't tell me that it is a good idea to have the Fifth Fleet not have the commander that it is supposed to have, not to mention the fact

that people who have spent their entire lives—their entire lives—learning what is needed to get promoted into a position with that kind of trust, that kind of duty and patriotic responsibility, and when it comes time for them to fulfill their mission, that some politician on the floor of the Senate says: No, I am putting a blanket hold on you and 200 other people because of my politics.

I will come back to that in a second.

Our military representative to NATO is on this list. The future Director of Intelligence at U.S. Cyber Command is on this list. So it is not surprising that, while the Senator from Alabama may have his own particular view about military readiness, other observers of what is going on here, including veterans of the DOD, are saying it is the Senator from Alabama who is affecting our readiness.

Just last week, seven former Pentagon Chiefs from Republican and Democratic administrations—both Republicans and Democrats—sent a letter saying that the Senator from Alabama's block is ''harming military readiness and risks damaging U.S. national security.'' That is not me. That is them.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that this letter be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

LETTER FROM SEVEN FORMER UNITED STATES SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE

MAY 4, 2023.

Hon. CHUCK SCHUMER,
Senate Majority Leader,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.
Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Senate Minority Leader,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR LEADER SCHUMER AND LEADER MCCONNELL: As former Secretaries of Defense, we strongly urge the Senate to act expeditiously on the nearly 200 nominees for general and flag officer who are being blocked from Senate confirmation.

The blanket hold on the promotion or reassignment of these senior uniformed leaders is harming military readiness and risks damaging U.S. national security. Because the Senate is required to confirm every general and flag officer for promotion or for reassignment, this practice has traditionally been a pro-forma exercise, except where there have been specific concerns about individual nominees, which were then handled separately.

The current hold that has been in place now for several weeks is preventing key leaders from assuming important, senior command and staff positions around the world. Some are unable to take important command positions, such as leading the 5th Fleet in Bahrain and the 7th Fleet in the Pacific, which are critical to checking Iranian and Chinese aggression, respectively. Others include the next military representative to NATO, a post essential to coordinating allied efforts in support of Ukraine, as well as the future Director of Intelligence at U.S. Cyber Command. Leaving these and many other senior positions in doubt at a time of enormous geopolitical uncertainty sends the wrong message to our adversaries and could weaken our deterrence.

Moreover, if this blanket hold is not lifted, nearly 80 three- and four-star commanders who are ending their terms in the coming months will not be able to be replaced. Worse, this will impact certain members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, including the Chairman of the JCS.

There are also real-world impacts on the families of these senior officers. Most cannot move and resettle their families; their children cannot enroll at their next schools on time; and spouses cannot start new jobs at the next duty station. We can think of few things as irresponsible and uncaring as harming the families of those who serve our nation in uniform.

We appreciate that Senators can have sincere and legitimate concerns about a Pentagon policy, including as it may relate to broader domestic or social issues. These lawmakers also deserve timely and thorough responses to their questions. However, we believe placing a hold on all uniformed nominees risks turning military officers into political pawns, holding them responsible for a policy decision made by their civilian leaders.

Rather, senators should leverage the numerous means available to them to challenge and change DOD policy, such as introducing legislation, conducting oversight hearings, or amending the annual National Defense Authorization Act.

We, therefore, strongly urge the Senate to ensure the continued readiness of the U.S. armed forces by lifting the blanket hold and promptly voting to confirm these uniformed nominees.

Sincerely,

HON. WILLIAM J. PERRY,
Former U.S. Secretary of Defense.
HON. WILLIAM S. COHEN,
Former U.S. Secretary of Defense.
HON. ROBERT M. GATES,
Former U.S. Secretary of Defense.
HON. LEON E. PANETTA,
Former U.S. Secretary of Defense.
HON. CHUCK HAGEL,
Former U.S. Secretary of Defense.
HON. JAMES N. MATTIS,
Former U.S. Secretary of Defense.
HON. MARK T. ESPER,
Former U.S. Secretary of Defense.

Mr. BENNET. Quote:

Leaving these and many other senior positions in doubt at a time of enormous geopolitical uncertainty sends the wrong message to our adversaries and could weaken our deterrence.

Today—today—the Secretary of Defense, Secretary Austin, wrote:

The longer that this hold persists, the greater the risk the U.S. military runs in every theater, in every domain, in every Service.

He said that this uncertainty ''diminishes our global standing as the strongest military in the world.''

I don't think it is surprising that he would say that or that it is political that he would say that. It is stating the obvious when you can't do something that we have done for 230 years because of politics that has infected the floor of the Senate.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have Secretary Austin's letter printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MAY 5, 2023.

Hon. ELIZABETH WARREN,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR WARREN: Thank you for your letter requesting a full accounting of the impact on our national security and the risks to our military readiness resulting from Senator Tuberville's indefinite hold on the confirmation of our general and flag officers.

I appreciate and share your deep concern over this hold, which is unprecedented in its scale and scope. Delays in confirming our general and flag officers pose a clear risk to U.S. military readiness, especially at this critical time.

The Department of Defense has 64 three- and four-star nominations pending for positions due to rotate within the next 120 days. These include the Chief of Staff of the Army; the Chief of Naval Operations; the Commandant and Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps; the Director of the National Security Agency and Commander of United States Cyber Command; and the Commander of United States Northern Command.

Additionally, several one- and two-star nominations are now on indefinite hold for general officers and flag officers slated to take command or support critical positions across the Joint Force. Within the next nine months, approximately 80 three- and four-star rotations are projected across the Department. Those positions include the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, and the Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force. In total, between now and the end of the year, the Department projects that approximately 650 general and flag officers will require Senate confirmation.

This indefinite hold harms America's national security and hinders the Pentagon's normal operations. The United States military relies on the deep experience and strategic expertise of our senior military leaders. The longer that this hold persists, the greater the risk the U.S. military runs in every theater, every domain, and every Service.

MISSION VACANCIES

The tenure of Service Chiefs is limited by law, and thus, incumbents must vacate their positions at the appointed time and may only be extended under extraordinary circumstances. Collectively, these positions oversee more than 1.2 million active and reserve component Service members and provide Service personnel and resources to the commanders of the unified combatant commands. By law, Service Chiefs preside over the capabilities, requirements, policies, and plans of their Services and serve as the principal military advisors to the Secretaries of the Military Departments. Put simply, our Service Chiefs train and equip the Joint Force. Without these leaders in place, the U.S. military will incur an unnecessary and unprecedented degree of risk at a moment when our adversaries may seek to test our resolve.

The hold causes especially acute, self-inflicted problems in new domains of potential conflict. The Director of the National Security Agency and Commander of United States Cyber Command, is responsible for supporting every combatant commander and Service member around the globe—including troops in hostile or hazardous areas—with actionable signals intelligence and cybersecurity support. The Director also ensures

that military communications and data remain secure and out of the hands of our adversaries, safeguarding our advanced command, control, communications, computer intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities against the People's Republic of China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, ISIS, and more. Failing to fill this position weakens the cybersecurity of the United States.

Furthermore, delays in confirming a large number of one- and two-star general and flag officers jeopardizes our current and future readiness. The Department relies on these experienced leaders to execute tactical actions every day and extend our strategic advantages for the long term. General and flag officers at this level are responsible for executing strategy, acquiring new technologies, enhancing tactical effectiveness, conducting joint training, and strengthening global alliances. These general and flag officers also provide direct leadership and mentorship to thousands of enlisted Service members and junior and field grade officers across the Department. Their importance cannot be overstated.

POWER PROJECTION ABROAD

General and flag officers provide oversight of the Department's military and civilian staffs, help decide how we employ our forces, and take care of the Service members, civilians, and families in their organizations. Delays in confirmation will soon foist vacancies on the most senior military positions across each of the Services, imposing new and unnecessary risks on U.S. warfighters across multiple theaters of operations.

The hold also makes it harder for the United States to fulfil its global leadership responsibilities, including to our treaty allies and our valued partners around the world. Our smoothly running normal processes and predictable military transitions have long set helpful expectations among allies and partners. Now, however, this hold has created unnecessary uncertainty. That diminishes our global standing as the strongest military in the world, which is in large part based on our stable processes and orderly transitions.

General and flag officers have the authority to make decisions and commit resources, develop key policies, work with our allies and partners, and confront our rivals and foes. The full impact of this hold may not be immediately noticeable because of the resilience built into our military organizations, but over time, the hold will cause cascading impacts to our readiness and needlessly hinder our ability to meet our strategic objectives in the Indo-Pacific, Europe, the Middle East, and beyond.

The absence of experienced and Senate-confirmed senior leadership limits our ability to deepen our cooperation with our allies and partners through multilateral training and cooperative engagements. Recent exercises, such as Balikatan 2023 with the Armed Forces of the Philippines or joint U.S.-Israeli naval activity in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, may become even more difficult if delays in confirmation force other leaders to take on the responsibilities of officers held up by the Senate. This hold could force senior leaders to become dual-hatted, which would force them to juggle competing priorities and sap their ability to excel.

KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE

Our general and flag officers cultivate their expertise and experience over decades of service. Military units need leaders, and our Service members deserve to be led by fully confirmed general and flag officers. The failure to confirm leaders in key roles transfers strategic risk down the chain of command and forces our units to operate with less experienced decision makers in charge. By destabilizing the senior military promotion and rotation process, we put our short- and long-term readiness at significant risk.

Failure to fill these positions in a timely manner is simply irresponsible. We owe it to our Service members to provide them with the best leadership possible, and the current hold jeopardizes the continuity and effective transition of leadership.

SERVICE MEMBERS AND FAMILIES

This hold disrupts not only our most senior military leaders but their families as well. Service members and military families are resilient, but the current hold adds another layer of stress and unnecessary uncertainty.

The damage here includes not just the disruption to our most senior officers, but also profound confusion and disturbance to our rising one- and two-star general and flag officers and their families. Extended holds increase the time from selection to promotion, which could further delay promotion timelines by 12 to 24 months. This impedes not only the current cadre of officers but those in the groups behind them as well.

General officer and flag officer end strength is tightly controlled by statute. Promotion of one cadre of officers is possible only with the retirement of others. Long-term holds have a corrosive and cascading effect: they prevent our rising officers and their families from being able to predict promotion and rotation windows, which can increase the pressure to leave the military in favor of greater stability. The more our normal promotion processes are jolted, the more we risk the loss of the diverse warfighting and technical expertise that America needs to confront its 21st-century security challenges.

The current hold also means delaying or canceling permanent change of station moves—not only for those now nominated and on hold but also for numerous officers and their families who must be extended on station to prevent critical gaps. Military children will be unable to move to new schools when the next school year begins, which imposes needless additional stress on those students and their families. Military families enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program may endure serious delays or be unable to access the services and support that they need and deserve when they transition to their new duty stations. And outstanding military spouses may not be able to accept or start new jobs because they cannot predict when they could start. The families of our general and flag officers serve right alongside their Service members.

The current hold imposes additional burdens upon our military families that are both unnecessary and unconscionable.

A PERILOUS PRECEDENT

As such, the Department urges the Senate to resolve the current situation as swiftly as possible to limit these serious consequences. Never before has one Senator prevented the Department of Defense from managing its officer corps in this manner, and letting this hold continue would set a perilous precedent for our military, our security, and our country.

The ripple effects of this unprecedented and unnecessary hold are increasingly troubling. Ultimately, the breakdown of the normal flow of leadership across the Department's carefully cultivated promotion and transition system will breed uncertainty and confusion across the U.S. military. This protracted hold means uncertainty for our Service members and their families and rising disquiet from our allies and partners, at a moment when our competitors and adversaries are watching.

As public servants and officials sworn to protect and defend our Constitution, I hope that we can all acknowledge the national security risks posed by these needless delays and come together to safeguard the lethality and readiness of the most powerful fighting force in human history.

Thank you for your continued strong support for our Service members and our national security. I again urge swift action to confirm all U.S. general and flag officers.

Sincerely,

LLOYD J. AUSTIN, III.

Mr. BENNET. Today, any American who wants to read this stuff can actually read all of it and see all of it.

The Senator from Alabama—and he said it again tonight—has said that he will continue to hold these promotions for ''as long as it takes''—''for as long as it takes''—to which, I think, the obvious question is, As long as it takes to what? What is the political principle for which he is on the floor, using the unprecedented tactic of holding up every single flag promotion in the DOD and our U.S. military? What is it that he is trying to do? What principle is he trying to enshrine?

The rule that he is objecting to and the rule that my colleague from Kansas is also objecting to is a rule that does three things.

One thing it does is to say, if you are in need of reproductive healthcare and you are a woman who is in our military, that you can take paid leave to be able to do that. You don't have to take unpaid leave to travel to a place if you are stationed in, for example, a place like Alabama where abortion is illegal—I think only with the exception for the life of the mother.

There is no exception for rape or incest if you are serving in a State like Alabama—where a doctor could go to prison for 99 years for performing an abortion, where they are having debates down there about whether or not they can use laws that are written for fentanyl and apply them to the use of chemicals during an abortion. It is a State in which, by the way, a majority of Alabamians says there should be some access to abortion.

But if you are somebody who is stationed there through no fault of your own, you don't get to decide where you are going to be if you sign up and you get sent to, for example, Alabama. What the Secretary of Defense said was, OK. We are going to pass a rule that says that if you have to take leave, you can take paid leave.

We are going to say that if you need to take a minute to think about whether you want to talk to your superior officer about the condition that you are in and the procedure that you have to take, then you can take a little bit longer to do that, to tell your commanding officer.

We are saying, also, that we can pay for your travel just like we do for other care—to leave your duty station and go someplace else. Those are the three things.

So when he says ''as long as it takes''—I gather what he means when

he says ''withdraw the memo''—it is as long as it takes to make sure that a woman cannot travel from her duty station to someplace else and have that paid for like other procedures; that a woman has to take unpaid leave—she can't get paid leave even though she can for other procedures; and that a woman has to tell her commanding officer the minute that she learns of this.

Those are the three things. Those are the three things. That is why he is objecting to every single flag officer's promotion. I don't know what to do about that because I will bet you—I can't prove it, but in standing here tonight, I will bet you that 80 percent of the American people, no matter what their positions are on the underlying issue here, would agree with those three policies.

By the way, I didn't compare abortion to bunions or abortion to LASIK. What I said was those other procedures are things to which the same rules apply. That is what I said. The reason that is important to this debate and to the discussion that we are having right now is that my colleague from Alabama is saying that if it doesn't say ''reproductive services'' or ''reproductive healthcare'' or ''abortion'' in the statute books, that means that there is no ability for the Secretary of Defense to write rules to protect the rights of our enlisted—in this case, enlisted women. That is what he is saying.

What I have pointed out is that there is no place in the statute that says that you can go get your foot work done or LASIK surgery. That is not in the statute because this body and the House of Representatives confers judgment for this on the leaders of the Defense Department. And, unlike the Senator from Alabama, I actually have a lot of sympathy for the minefield that they are having to navigate.

By the way, one other thing I just want to point out for the record so that it is absolutely clear is that nothing in this rule says that the U.S. Government is paying for an abortion. There is nothing in this. There is nothing in these three things. So to anybody on that side who says that is what this is about, that is a debate for another day. That is not the debate for this.

But why would I say I have sympathy? Why do I have sympathy? I have sympathy because something has happened in America that I could never have imagined 30 years ago. I don't remember now when it was 30 years ago—1997? I can't do the math. I hope the pages can do the math—1993? I don't even have the date right. It was when I was in law school. Something has happened that I never would have imagined, and that is that the Supreme Court of the United States, for the first time in our history—for the first time since Reconstruction—has ripped away from the American people a fundamental right, a fundamental freedom. When I was the pages' age here, I never would have imagined that would have happened. When I was in law school, I never imagined that would have happened.

That is because, from our founding until today, in general, this country's history has always been about expanding freedoms and expanding rights and making our country more democratic, more fair, and more free. But, after a 50-year campaign—none of this was accidental. After a 50-year campaign led by some people on the other side of the aisle here, they finally got what they wanted, which is Roe v. Wade's being overturned, and we are having to deal with the consequences of that as a society, as a country. The Secretary of Defense is having to deal with that.

When they say there has been a 40-year consensus, that consensus was ripped violently from the American people by the Supreme Court. It stripped us of a 50-year consensus when it came to a woman's right to choose, when it came to that fundamental freedom. Then there were some people on the other side of the aisle who said: Don't be so hysterical. This is just returning it to the States. You don't need to worry about it.

I don't think that was ever a genuine thing to say, but let's look at the facts here. Eighteen States have banned abortion since this happened. Nine of those States have no exceptions for rape or incest. In Texas, they are paying $10,000 bounties if your friend or your neighbor or the person down the street reports on you and reports that you are going to pursue something that has been a fundamental right in the United States of America for 50 years—something that has been a fundamental right in the State of Colorado, the State that I represent.

My colleague says that I am pro-abortion. That is not why I am out here. That is not why I am out here. I am sure he didn't mean to say that. I am out here because I believe that my judgment isn't better than the judgment of a woman and her doctor and that the government shouldn't be making the decision. I am proud to live in a State that was one of the first States—probably, I think, the first State in America—to enact a woman's right to choose even before Roe v. Wade was passed, and it was the first State to codify Roe v. Wade after—after—the Supreme Court overturned that precedent.

Think about what is happening in Florida. It is one of the biggest States in America. It is one of the largest States. I can't remember. Is it the third largest State or the fourth largest State? It is huge. It is huge. They have just banned abortion in Florida at 6 weeks—banned it at 6 weeks. When I was the age of these pages and when I was in law school, that would have been unimaginable.

There might be a reason the Governor down there signed that law at 11 o'clock at night. There might be a reason—because 65 percent of Floridians think it is a terrible idea. They think that this should be a decision that is made between a woman and her doctor. They don't need their Governor telling them. They don't need a Senator telling them. They don't need the Federal Government telling them or weighing in on this incredibly difficult decision.

And we are here tonight because, as a result of that—I would say—balancing act, that commonsense approach that the Secretary of Defense has tried to take here when it comes to the people who are serving in our military, we now face real harm to our national security.

Part of the challenge is the recruitment challenge that my colleagues talk about on the Republican side. And I can tell you the studies that have been done that have asked the question about what the reversal of Dobbs is going to mean for recruitment in the Department of Defense. The Presiding Officer won't be surprised to know it is not good. It is not going to make matters better if you think that you can be assigned to a State where they have outlawed abortion or they are saying that doctors can get a 99-year prison sentence or there are no exceptions for rape or incest or the life of the mother; or you are in Florida, and now you have a 6-week ban. That may affect the recruiting that goes on in the U.S. military, not to mention the 700,000 civilians who serve in the Department of Defense.

Servicemembers don't decide where they are going to serve; DOD decides. Before Dobbs, our troops at least had some assurance. Today, they don't have any assurance. That is why we are here.

So any talk of this 40-year consensus ignores completely what has happened, and what has happened is the Supreme Court overturning Roe v. Wade.

I just want to say to my colleagues, tonight, that I think it is important for the American people to understand, it is important for the next generation of Americans to understand, that this did not happen by accident. For 50 years, there has been a campaign in America to strip us of this fundamental right, to strip us of this fundamental freedom.

When I was in law school, in the early 1990s, it was just after this new legal doctrine had been invented in America called originalism. I have said here on the floor that I think whoever came up with that name should get the Pulitzer Prize for political names. It is genius. It is genius because the idea is that, somehow, by putting on your originalist view of the world, you are going to be able to divine what the Founding Fathers were writing when they wrote the Constitution; that, if you are a judge, you are restricted to what they refer to as the plain meaning of the Constitution; and that, if you can't get to the plain meaning, you should be able to divine their intention as close to the text as possible, as if it is possible to divine the original intent of the Founders, because, if you are somebody who believes that you can do

that, you are channeling George Washington or Thomas Jefferson or Ben Franklin or John Adams; that you have a leg up on anybody else who is trying to interpret what the Constitution says because, if you know what they were originally saying, if you have that secret decoder ring to tell you what they were originally saying, then that gives you an elevated position over anybody else who might disagree with you. In fact, there isn't really room for disagreement since you have divined what the Founders believed.

I have no idea where the pages are in their history lessons on the American Constitution. I hope they do. I am sure they do. But anybody who has read anything about the Constitution of the United States knows that almost every word is a product of compromise. Almost every word is a product of compromise.

There are some things in there where it is not confusing about what they said. I owe my friend ANGUS KING for this. I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an article that he wrote, my colleague from Maine.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

AMY CONEY BARRETT'S JUDICIAL PHILOSOPHY DOESN'T HOLD UP TO SCRUTINY

(By Angus King Jr., Heather Cox Richardson)

The Constitution should be the sturdy vessel of our ideals and aspirations, not a derelict sailing ship locked in the ice of a world far from our own.

During her confirmation hearings, Amy Coney Barrett argued that the judicial philosophy known as ''originalism'' should guide judges in their interpretation and application of constitutional principles. Most famously associated with the late Justice Antonin Scalia (for whom Judge Barrett clerked), this idea sounds simple and sensible: in determining what the Constitution permits, a judge must first look to the plain meaning of the text, and if that isn't clear, then apply what was in the minds of the 55 men who wrote it in 1787. Period. Anything else is ''judicial lawmaking.''

In some cases, interpreting the Constitution with an originalist lens is pretty easy; for example, the Constitution says that the president must be at least 35 years old (''35'' means, well, 35), that each state has two senators (not three and not one), and that Congress is authorized to establish and support an Army and a Navy. But wait a minute. What about the Air Force? Is it mentioned in the text? Nope. Is there any ambiguity in the text? Again, no. It doesn't say ''armed forces''; it explicitly says ''Army'' and ''Navy.'' Did the Framers have in mind the Air Force 115 years before the Wright brothers? Not likely.

So is the Air Force unconstitutional, even though it clearly fails both prongs of the ''originalist'' test? No, a more reasonable and obvious interpretation is that the Framers intended that the country be protected and that the Air Force is a logical extension of that concept, even though it wasn't contemplated in 1787. This isn't judicial lawmaking; it's judges doing what they're hired to do.

Mr. BENNET. There are supposed to be—not supposed to be; there are—there are two Senators from every State. That is in the Constitution. I don't think we are going to disagree about what that means.

I know that people on the floor staff tonight are thinking: I wish there was one Senator from Colorado who would stop talking.

And I will stop talking. But that is what it says, and I can read the plain meaning of that—''two Senators.'' But it becomes less clear when the words are things like—again, credit to ANGUS KING—''due process,'' or when the words don't even show up in the Constitution of the United States—''Air Force''—because they didn't have a single plane when they wrote the Constitution of the United States.

I think that Thomas Jefferson's view of this was certainly closer to mine than some others, which was that they expected the government to evolve. They expected the interpretation of these documents, over time, to evolve. That is a good reminder, by the way, of the disagreements that the Founders had, originally.

As to their original intent, some of them were slaveholders, in the case of Thomas Jefferson, in the case of George Washington, in the case of Madison. Some of them were abolitionists, in the case of John Adams. But that was a fundamental thing that ended up being wrestled to a horrendous compromise that allowed slavery to continue in the United States of America, and the results of that horrible compromise are going to be with us for the rest of our days.

But if you had told me when I was in law school that a majority of the Supreme Court of the United States would subscribe to originalism, I wouldn't have believed it. I would not have believed it—maybe one Justice. There had never been a Justice on the Court who ever signed up to that thing called originalism because it hadn't been invented yet. You know, it had just been invented.

But I read Justice Alito's majority opinion for the Supreme Court in the Dobbs case, and, man, he believes it because the fundamental conviction is: If it wasn't a freedom in 1868, it is not a freedom today; it is not a right today. That is what the originalist's view would be.

The dissent points out that the men—the men, the men—who ratified the 14th Amendment in 1868 ''did not perceive women as equals, and did not recognize women's rights. When the majority says that we must read our foundational charter as viewed at the time of ratification . . . it consigns women to second-class citizenship.''

By definition, how can that not be true? Women were second-class citizens when the Constitution was written. They were second-class citizens when the 14th Amendment was passed in 1868. It took women in this country another 50 years—almost, almost—after a hundred years of fighting for it, to get the right to vote in America, the self-evident right to vote.

And because the Supreme Court majority didn't have to wrestle with the realities of this freedom, the realities of this right, because for them the only pertinent question was: Was it around in 1868? That is not completely unfair to them; they were asking a question like was it around 300 years, 400 years ago but ignoring the 50 years that it had been a right, that it had been a freedom in the United States of America. They didn't have to contend, nor did they want to contend, with the effects their decision was going to have on everyday people in the United States of America, including people who served in our military.

One of the very first calls I got after Dobbs was decided was from a woman whom I know who was an officer in the Air Force, who called me and said me: Michael, let me tell you a story about my life and decisions I had to make. And, now, what are people going to do?

We talked about the privacy issues that were at stake. Those aren't even touched on here.

If I were in charge, I would hope that we would have something in there about privacy. We don't have anything. There is not even anything about privacy. Everybody in the unit is going to know everything that there is to know.

She wanted to talk about that, but what she really wanted to talk about is readiness; this is going to affect our readiness.

In response to that concern, the Pentagon drew up these three policies: travel allowances for servicemembers, as I mentioned; being able to take your absence without unpaid leave; and more time for servicemembers to be able to tell their commanding officers. That is all it is.

Now the Senator from Alabama is out here saying that, you know, it is making the DOD into an abortion factory, or—he didn't say it tonight, but he said it before—into an abortion travel agency, and that is why he is holding up these 200 flag officers.

I am really worried—I am really worried—about what the implications of this are because I don't know what is going to make him stop, and I don't know what damage is going to be done to our national defense in the meantime.

I will say I believe very strongly that this country should codify women's rights to choose at the national level. I believe that. I believe that. Most Americans agree with that position. Most Americans disagree with the Supreme Court. Most Americans disagree with the 50-year campaign that has reversed Roe v. Wade.

We have to adjust to this new reality. It is not about evading laws or evading statutes. It is about supporting the men and women in our military, in our armed services. That is what this is about. That is what this is about.

To hold hostage the promotions of flag officers at DOD because of your particular view of a woman's right to choose or whether Dobbs was rightly

decided by the originalist majority that now sits on the Supreme Court—that is pretty tough, man. That is pretty tough. It is tough enough that this right has been stripped and this freedom has been stripped.

I think there are people who thought it wasn't really going to happen in America. I said I thought it wasn't going to happen. I didn't. I didn't. When I was the age of the pages here, when I was in law school and college, the last thing from my mind is that this would happen. I think it is surprising to the American people, and I think it would be very surprising to the American people if they knew that there was a Member of the U.S. Senate using a procedure that has never been used in the history of our country to try to impose their view of social policy.

And I don't think the American people should accept this. I will tell you, I know that Colorado doesn't accept this. In Colorado, as I said earlier, we protect reproductive care for servicemembers. We protect it for everybody in my State, and we do everything we can to protect our readiness as well.

We are home, in Colorado, to the U.S. Air Force Academy; to Fort Carson, to Schriever, to Peterson, to Buckley; and to Space Command. In the case of Space Command, we have a live example of how the Supreme Court's decision could hurt our national security. This is one of the saddest stories that I know. I am sorry to be here tonight telling this story because I think decisions about where to locate our military installations should be made in the national security interest of the United States of America. That is what I believe. It is devastating to think that we could have had a situation where elected leaders—politicians, a President—could play politics instead of making a decision in our national security, but in the case of Space Command, that is exactly what happened.

Every top general in the Air Force who was asked recommended Peterson in Colorado Springs as the home for Space Command, and there were three reasons. One was, it could get stood up faster than if it were moved anywhere else; it was going to be cheaper to repurpose buildings that were there; and because they were also concerned that if they moved it from Colorado, there would be massive attrition, both in the DOD workforce and the civilian workforce. That was their conclusion. That was their conclusion: Leave it in Colorado. And President Trump overruled them. Every general said: Leave it in Colorado. They went into the White House. The President made a different decision and said: Move it to Alabama. Let's send Space Command to Alabama.

How do I know he made the decision on politics, not on national security? How do we know that? Well, he went first on a radio program called—this is President Trump. He went on a radio program called the ''Rick & Bubba Show,'' and they asked him, and he said: I singlehandedly moved it to Alabama. They wanted it to be somewhere else, but I singlehandedly moved it to Alabama.

The GAO and DOD's own inspector general confirmed these facts—confirmed these facts—about the generals saying it should be in Colorado and President Trump saying: I singlehandedly made the decision.

Mayor John Suthers, who is the mayor of Colorado Springs, confirmed these facts. In fact, in a letter to Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall, here is what Mayor Suthers wrote: In the spring of 2019, President Trump told him that ''despite any process the Air Force was pursuing, he''—President Trump—''would make the decision 'personally', and the only question is whether it would be before or after the 2020 election.''

In February 2020 when Mayor Suthers—not that it matters, but just for the record, Mayor Suthers is a Republican mayor. This is not a Democratic mayor who is recalling these statements by President Trump; it is a Republican mayor.

In February 2020 when Mayor Suthers again made his case to President Trump to keep Space Command in Colorado, Trump asked him if he was a Republican.

He is a Republican. I don't know why that mattered, but he is a Republican.

When Mayor Suthers replied that he was, President Trump asked what President Trump's chances were of carrying Colorado in the 2020 election. After Mayor Suthers responded that his chances were ''uncertain,'' he noticed that made the President seem ''perturbed.'' President Trump said again he would make the decision after the 2020 election and he wanted ''to see how it [turned] out''—to see how the election turned out.

The generals all recommended Colorado. They went into the White House. Donald Trump, President Trump, overturned what they said, and, in his own language, we know the reason why.

I ask unanimous consent that this letter be printed in the RECORD, Madam President.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MARCH 7, 2023.

DEAR SECRETARY KENDALL: I am the Mayor of Colorado Springs, Colorado, and have been since June 2015. I have also served as the Attorney General of Colorado and U.S. Attorney for Colorado. During my role as Mayor, I have been involved in the effort to retain US Space Command headquarters in the city.

While I am hardly an unbiased observer of the process, I do want to relate two conversations I had with former President Donald Trump that led me to conclude the President's decision to move Space Command headquarters to Huntsville, Alabama was a wholly political one. Both conversations took place on the tarmac at Peterson Space Force Base and both were witnessed by high-ranking officers in the US Space Force. The first was in the spring of 2019 when President Trump came to Colorado Springs to speak at the Air Force Academy graduation, and the second came in February 2020 when he came to the city for a political rally. In both instances, I was the first to greet him when he got off Air Force One and I mentioned Colorado Springs had been the home of all previous iterations of Space Command, and we hoped to remain the permanent home of Space Command headquarters. In the spring 2019 meeting, I was surprised to hear the President assert that, despite any process the Air Force was pursuing, he would make the decision ''personally'', and the only question is whether it would be before or after the 2020 election. The February 2020 meeting was more extensive and enlightening. My wife Janet and I were both standing next to high-ranking Space Force officers. When I once again made my pitch to President Trump, he asked me if I was a Republican mayor. When I replied that I was, he asked what his chances were of carrying Colorado in the November election. When I said they were ''uncertain'' he seemed perturbed. He then turned to the high-ranking officer in the Space Force and asked him, ''Is this where it should be?'' The high-ranking officer replied, ''Absolutely, Mr. President.'' The President then reiterated that he would make the decision and said it would be after the 2020 election. ''I want to see how it turns out,'' he said.

Because of these conversations with the President, and the role played by Alabama Congressman Mo Brooks in the rally before the storming of the US Capitol on January 6, 2021, I was disappointed, but not surprised, that the President, after the decision to move to Huntsville was made a week before he left office, fully admitted to Alabama Audiences that he ''single-handedly'' made the decision to move the command to Huntsville.

I understand there are some in the Biden Administration who contend the Trump Administration's decision to move Space Command headquarters was not wholly political, despite the former President's public assertions to the contrary. I hope my conversations with President Trump, which were witnessed by others, as related herein, will shed further light on the matter.

I would be glad to answer any questions you or anyone else might have about the matter, or provide an affidavit, if requested.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

JOHN W. SUTHERS,
Mayor of Colorado Spring.

Mr. BENNET. Madam President, and instead of removing this stain of politics from this decision, DOD, I am sad to say, has proceeded as if nothing were wrong, as if there were just a garden-variety bureaucratic process that they are going through, an inevitable outcome that preserves that political judgment, which would be a horrendous precedent for our country—horrendous. It would ratify a political decision that should have been a decision made in the interests of our national security. It would be a green light for future Presidents to do that kind of thing.

There are estimates that the attrition could be as much as 80 percent if you move this from Colorado to Alabama. The reason this comes up in the context of this debate is that, in Colorado, we have preserved a woman's right to choose. In Alabama, they have banned it—no exceptions for rape or incest. And now the Representatives, the

Senators from Alabama don't want anybody to be able to pursue their interests and their judgments about their own healthcare.

President Trump's decision would be a self-inflicted wound as we face a major land war in Ukraine and the saber-rattling that we are hearing in the Pacific. Every day that goes by, there is another article about how critically important our space assets are in this fight for freedom all around the world.

I am really, really pleased that President Biden is coming to Colorado Springs next month to speak to the graduating class of the Air Force Academy, and I hope that is going to give us the opportunity to learn about this decision and how harmful it was and give us the chance to restore integrity to the process—to ensure that national security, not politics, drives our basing decision—and at the same time give us the chance once again to stand on the side of expanding rights and expanding opportunity in America, not restricting it.

The Supreme Court had no interest—had no interest—in grappling with the consequences of their ruling on our country, on our society, on the men and women in uniform, on our national security. They didn't have to because if it wasn't a right in 1868, it is not a right today; if it wasn't a freedom in 1868, it is not a freedom today.

The men and women in our 21st-century Department of Defense deserve better than that. The men and women who have signed up to serve this country selflessly deserve better than that.

I heard my colleague from across the aisle say that this was a country about the stronger defending the weaker. I don't think that is what this is about. The responsibility each one of us has—each one of us has—whether we are born strong or weak or rich or poor or in Colorado or in Alabama, to uphold our national security, to uphold our democracy, to make sure that we land on the side of our highest ideals.

I think most people feel like there has been too much politics in America lately. I think people would see that they have fundamental disagreements with each other about a woman's right to choose or an endless number of things, but I also think people could understand what would happen if, instead of continuing to debate, continuing to have a conversation, that our attitude was ''I am just taking my ball and going home'' or, in the case of the Senator from Alabama, ''I am going to hold up 200 flag officers who have been duly promoted in our Department of Defense.''

So I don't know how this is going to end, Madam President. This is not a great day in the history of the U.S. Senate. There is a reason why all of our colleagues going back for 230 years haven't put the kind of hold that we have seen put on today.

It is staggering to me that, at a moment when the majority of Americans are saying that they think the decision in Dobbs was wrongly decided, that they think this decision should be made between a woman and her doctor, that we would be out here on the floor of the Senate using tactics that nobody has ever used before to impose one's personal view on the rest of the country.

I would ask that the Senator from Alabama reconsider the position he has taken, and I would ask the Biden administration to undo the terrible political decision President Trump himself said he was making singlehandedly, over the objection of the generals in the Air Force.

Now, in the wake of the decision in Dobbs and seeing what the intention is among some folks on the other side of the aisle, there is no excuse to picking up this military installation and moving it all the way across the country, the United States of America, just to ensure that women don't have the free exercise of their freedom and to ensure that it would be delayed as a result of going there and that we will be less safe as a result of it going there.

I know the temptation is strong to not overturn the previous decision because people, I think, are worried about looking political. It would be political to keep this political decision in place. They need to listen to the words of the Republican mayor, John Suthers; listen to Donald Trump's own words; listen to what the generals said.

But this is the fourth time I have been out here, Madam President, on this issue, and I am going to keep coming back as long as it takes. I appreciate your patience and your indulgence this evening.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BENNET. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BENNET. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ABORTION

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following article in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

NOT ENOUGH ABORTIONS?

(By Marjorie Dannenfelser, Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith)

When Americans think about supporting U.S. troops, they usually think about servicemembers with difficult deployments far from their families. Or wounded veterans in need of health care, jobs, or homes. You know what doesn't top the list? Abortion. ''Not enough abortions'' probably never crosses their minds as a problem that needs solving, much less at taxpayer expense.

AT this very moment, unbeknownst to many Americans, the Biden administration is using our tax dollars to pay travel expenses for elective abortions—and not only for servicemembers, but for their kids, spouses, and other dependents. This isn't just a brazen moral affront to hardworking Americans, it is also illegal. At this pace, it is estimated to lead to an increase of more than 4,000 unborn children killed in abortions each year.

Senator Tommy Tuberville of Alabama is doing all Americans who value life a great service by exposing this scheme and vowing to put a hold on promotions at the Pentagon until it stops. Senator Tuberville is not alone. A majority Americans and many colleagues in the Senate and House support his effort to hold the Biden administration accountable to the law and the people.

Americans have made it clear repeatedly that they abhor their tax dollars going to fund abortions. The latest annual Marist poll shows 60% of Americans—millions of Independents and rank-and-file Democrats included—oppose using tax dollars to fund abortion domestically, and 78% oppose using tax dollars to fund abortion abroad.

The people's will is expressed in our federal laws and in bills that Congress votes on year after year. The most familiar is the longstanding Hyde Amendment, which saves millions of lives by keeping taxpayer-funded abortion out of programs like Medicaid and has been reapproved annually in larger bills supported by Democrats. In addition, the Defense Department specifically has been prohibited in permanent law from paying for elective abortions for nearly 40 years.

Pro-abortion Democrats have failed to get rid of these critical protections through legislation, so the Biden administration is resorting to violating federal law to bypass them and impose agenda that would never fly at the ballot box.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and the pro-abortion media accuse Senator Tuberville of impairing military readiness. But the truth is that Senate Democrats don't need Senator Tuberville's help to move personnel appointments forward—they simply complain that he is not helping fast-track them. The issue he raises is not frivolous, it is one of life or death.

Democrats also complain that service members don't have enough access to abortion on demand. With a handful of exceptions like North Korea and China, virtually the entire world—including most of Europe—has stronger national protections for unborn children than the United States. Clearly, this has never ground our military to a halt.

Only when the U.S. Supreme Court returned the right to protect unborn children and their mothers to the people and their elected representatives, and more than a dozen states moved swiftly to let the people's consensus become law, did this become a political maneuver for Democrats to appease its radical, angry base.

We are grateful for all those who are already making their voices heard, and we hope others o have not yet joined in will soon add theirs. The GOP's long tradition of standing for life is a great strength and there

is growing support in Congress to block this administration's lawless abortion policies for our military, including Iowa Senator Joni Ernst's bill to do just that. Sadly, Senate Democrats have insisted on promoting abortion on demand until birth, paid for by the taxpayers, and stonewalled Senator Ernst's legislation, rather than allow any debate.

What is more important: that Majority Leader Schumer and Senate Democrats spend less 1e on the Senate floor approving military promotions and nominations, or that the most vulnerable and defenseless of American lives are protected from President Biden's lawlessness?

The time is now to hold the Biden administration accountable for its illegal policies that have conscripted our military into facilitating the violence of abortion. We are proud to stand with Senator Tuberville, Senator Ernst, and others in fighting back. Together we will not back down.

MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE TO MICHIGAN'S VETERANS

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I rise today to honor the Michigan veterans throughout history who have given their lives for our Nation.

During some of the toughest times for our country, Michiganders have been there. We have been willing to put our lives on the line for the cause of freedom. That certainly was the case during the Civil War. More than 3 million Americans fought in the Civil War. Around 90,000 of them were Michiganders, and more than 85,000 of them were volunteers. It is said that President Lincoln exclaimed, ''Thank God for Michigan!'' when 75,000 volunteers from our State arrived in Washington, DC, in May of 1861.

The 24th Michigan Infantry fought at Gettysburg, where a monument stands to this day commemorating their service in the ''Iron Brigade.'' And the 24th was selected to provide military escort during President Lincoln's funeral procession. Few trials have so tested a nation—or a President—as did the Civil War. As historian Jon Meacham explores in his new book ''And There was Light: Abraham Lincoln and the American Struggle,'' President Lincoln and the Nation he led faced multiple existential threats: the fracturing of our country, threats against our democracy, and an institution that treated 4 million Americans not as people, but as property.

The echoes of these challenges remain in our Nation to this day. And in Lincoln, we see a path forward. We see that by keeping our moral center as our North Star, a nation can, in the words of Lincoln, ''long endure.'' We have long endured as a nation in part thanks to those brave, selfless Michiganders who were willing to put their lives on the line in order to preserve our Union. More than 13,400 of them never made it home. They have been followed by so many others.

This Memorial Day, we honor all Michigan veterans throughout history who gave their lives in service to our country. And we honor their families. It is only because of their sacrifice that our democracy lives on.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE YOUNG AT HEART CENTER

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Young at Heart Senior Citizens and Community Center in Rock Springs, WY. On May 19, 2023, a gala will be held at the Young at Heart Center to celebrate its 50th anniversary.

The Young at Heart Center has served the Sweetwater County community since its founding in May, 1973. Founding board members were J. Garrett Smith, Louis M Groh, Ruth Lucas, T.H. Smith, Dwight J Jones, Lyda Hium, Elmer Halseth, Willie Heikes, and Ernest J Mecca. The center was originally designed to serve the senior population. With the construction of their new facility in 2009, their services expanded to address the needs of the entire community.

The Young at Heart Center exemplifies their mission of ''a community place for the young and the young at heart.'' The center offers 14 different programs with amenities, activities, and services for residents of all ages. Young at Heart is a safe place for Sweetwater County residents to gather, receive educational and nutritional services, pursue interests, and participate in social and recreational activities. The center is also a public-use space for meetings and events. The center serves as a cornerstone for the senior population by providing meals and care. Seniors participate in numerous daily activities that include games, hobbies, exercise, and opportunities for friendship.

Young at Heart added several home health and caregiver services for patients 18 and older. These include skilled nursing services, personal care services, assistance to at-home caregivers with support and education, home-delivered meals, and the Senior Companion Program. Each of these foster wonderful relationships within the community. Many young people in Sweetwater County have been impacted by the Young at Heart's Early Learning Center. The Early Learning Center focuses on building children's self-esteem and self-worth through strong partnerships with parents. The center provides positive guidance, indoor and outdoor gross motor space, and technology to enhance learning. The importance of nutrition is highlighted by the dedicated kitchen staff who prepare breakfasts, lunches, and afternoon snacks.

The Young at Heart Center receives funding through various government grants and private programs. They also rely on the generosity of Sweetwater County organizations and individuals. The Young at Heart Center would not be able to provide a safe and engaging space without the dedication of staff and volunteers. Volunteers use their skills and interests to help lead support groups, serve meals, assist special events, offer companionship, and maintain the grounds.

Jamie Loredo began her career with the center as the activities coordinator and facilities secretary. In the fall of 2022, she took over as executive director. Her resolute dedication to the center is notable. She has focused on gaining community involvement, helping to advance the center's success. Jamie has made a significant difference in the lives of Sweetwater County residents.

The wonderful staff and board members who keep the center running are:

Jamie Loredo, Executive Director
Louise Webb, Receptionist
Brianna Romero, Early Learning Center Director
Billie Seneshale, Director of Nursing
Brandy Sellers-Mertin, In-Home Services Supervisor
Gina Randolph, Access Care Coordinator
Misty Wilson, Center Bookkeeper
Cindy Stensgard, Home Services Bookkeeper
Daphne Palmer, Kitchen Manager/Home Delivered Meals Coordinator
Kandi Lewis, Facility Secretary/Activities Coordinator/Outreach Coordinator
Meagan Rogers, Aging Division Coordinator/ Outreach Coordinator

Board of Directors

Diana Jessop
Suzette Williams
Kent Porenta
Richard Vandersloot
Michelle Quiroz
Kathy Gilbert
Wanda Bobo-Ferber
Kevin Maloney
Sue Riggs

Mary Thoman, County Liaison

It is an honor for me to recognize this significant milestone for the Young at Heart Center. The center serves as a gathering place where the Sweetwater County community can enjoy friendship and fellowship. Bobbi joins me in extending our congratulations to the Young at Heart Center on their 50th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ALAN S. RUDOLPH

Mr. BENNET. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary public service career of Dr. Alan S. Rudolph as he concludes his tenure as vice president for research at Colorado State University—CSU—one of the Nation's top research universities.

Dr. Rudolph received his undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan, an MBA at George Washington University, and a doctorate in zoology from the University of California, Davis. As a National Research Council postdoctoral fellow, his work at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory NRL showed how we can learn from organisms that survive extreme environments to protect biosensors and blood products for use in the field.

Following his time at the NRL, he was recruited to join the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency—DARPA—as chief of biological

sciences and technology, where he led new strategic efforts for investments in biosciences and biotechnology. He led seminal programs in biorobotics, including starting the design and prototype of Spot, the Boston Dynamics robotic dog, and brain machine interfaces, where he led new programs in brain-controlled prosthetics.

In 2003, he left civil service for the private sector to start new corporate biotechnology efforts with Adlyfe, an Alzheimer's diagnostics company, and Cellphire, Inc., which freeze dries blood products. In 2010, Dr. Rudolph was recruited by the Obama administration and inducted into the Senior Executive Service to lead the Department of Defense Biodefense Program as Director of the Joint Science and Technology Office for Chemical and Biological Defense. At the Pentagon, Dr. Rudolph invested in broad programs to protect the Nation, including new antibody treatments that saved the lives of three Americans in the U.S. during the Ebola outbreak in 2014. Dr. Rudolph concluded his 17-year civil service career leading the Department of Homeland Security's Chemical and Biological Science and Technology Office.

In 2012, through an international research foundation started by Dr. Rudolph, he led a project across over 30 countries to demonstrate the application of brain technology to help injured patients relearn their ability to walk in the Walk Again Project. The trial culminated at the opening of the World Cup in Sao Paulo, Brazil, where a paraplegic opened the world games by kicking a ball onto the pitch with a new prosthetic under brain control.

Dr. Rudolph's outstanding public service continued when he became vice president for research at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO, in 2013. At Colorado State, he oversaw record-breaking annual research expenditures approaching $500 million annually and representing 38 percent of the university's overall budget. During his service, he doubled the number of specialized centers and institutes, including the Center for Healthy Aging, One Health Institute, and Data Science Research Institute, and catalyzed other partnerships in mental wellness, climate adaptation, and agricultural sustainability. Today, CSU ranks among the top tier of research universities in the United States.

Dr. Rudolph has served on numerous executive-level committees and advisory boards. He was a member of the executive board for the Colorado BioScience Association, board member at Innosphere Ventures, and chairman of the board of CO-Labs, which represents 30 Federal research laboratories in the front range. He was on the board of the Colorado Energy Research Collaboratory and the Colorado Department of Education's Higher Research Alliance.

Dr. Rudolph has been recognized for his public service, including a meritorious civil service citation from the Office of the Secretary of Defense for his contributions to life sciences and national security investments. He also won numerous research awards for his scholarly publications in blood research and tissue engineering.

Dr. Rudolph has performed outstanding Federal service, showing an unwavering commitment to promoting science in service of the public, and has earned the trust and utmost respect of his colleagues and the citizens of Colorado.

I am pleased to honor Alan S. Rudolph's distinguished service and want to express a deep appreciation for his dedication, sacrifice, and outstanding service to his country in the name of science and education.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONNECTICUT AUDUBON SOCIETY

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the Connecticut Audubon Society as it celebrates 125 years of dedication to the protection and preservation of Connecticut's birds, other wildlife, and their habitats.

The Connecticut Audubon Society was founded in 1898 in Fairfield, CT, by a group including the noted author and conservationist Mabel Osgood Wright. In its first year, the group rapidly expanded into a statewide organization, with members in towns and cities across Connecticut, including Bristol, Ivoryton, Bridgeport, Brooklyn, New Haven, Hartford, Roxbury, Farmington, and Greenwich. On June 4, 1898, the organization ratified its first bylaws and outlined its purpose: ''to discourage the destruction of birds and their eggs, and to promote the study of nature.'' Connecticut Audubon Society remains true to this purpose today, while also having expanded the scope of their work to conservation efforts more broadly.

For more than a century, the Connecticut Audubon Society has provided refuges for birds and other wildlife and important opportunities for people to enjoy nature at its sanctuaries and preserves. Today, the organization manages 22 sanctuaries totaling more than 3,400 acres, including the oldest private songbird sanctuary in the United States, Birdcraft, established in 1914. The organization now has regional centers in Fairfield, Milford, Old Lyme, Pomfret, Hampton, and Sherman, an educational program in Hartford, and an EcoTravel office in Essex—a truly statewide presence, bringing their important work to all corners of Connecticut.

One hundred and twenty-five years after its founding, the Connecticut Audubon Society continues its vital mission through conservation, education, and advocacy. The organization boasts 5,600 member-families in every town in the State, and its outdoor conservation, science, and education programs reach more than 100,000 students and adults each year.

Dedicated to preserving our natural heritage and advocating for a more sustainable future, the Connecticut Audubon Society is a positive model for environmental education and wildlife conservation. I applaud its many accomplishments and hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating the Connecticut Audubon Society on 125 years of unceasing commitment to ecological and environmental excellence.•

TRIBUTE TO JOLENE MOLITORIS

• Mr. BROWN. Madam President, it is a privilege to extend my congratulations to Jolene Molitoris as APTA honors Jolene for her extraordinary career and achievements for the public with APTA's Lifetime Achievement Award.

My partnership with Jolene goes back decades, to our early work together in State government in Ohio when Jolene served on the staff of the Ohio Rail Transportation Authority. I introduced Jolene at her Senate confirmation hearing in 1993 for Federal Railroad Administrator, the first woman ever to head that Agency. Jolene went on to become the longest serving FRA Administrator. Jolene blazed more firsts when in 2009 Ohio Governor Ted Strickland appointed her as the first woman to lead the Ohio Department of Transportation, and in that role, she also chaired the Ohio Rail Development Commission.

Recognized by WTS as Woman of the Year in 1995, Jolene has helped boost the women transportation stars who shine today, in addition to her own achievements. While at FRA, she served on the Amtrak board of directors when Amtrak launched the Acela in the Northeast Corridor, promoted rail revitalization with innovative new investment programs, and expanded the number of contracts her agency awarded to women-owned businesses to new Federal highs. At ODOT, Jolene oversaw ODOT's largest construction budget ever to that time and secured $400 million to bring robust rail service back to Ohio.

Jolene's absolute passion for safety has meant the most. As recent tragic events in Ohio have again unfortunately demonstrated, safety demands unwavering commitment. At FRA and ODOT, Jolene urged Vision Zero, that we must passionately pursue zero incidents and zero casualties. She focused her agencies on safety root cause, expanding focus beyond mere blind compliance by the regulated community. During her FRA tenure, the railroad industry achieved 7 of the safest years to that time.

Nearly 30 ago in 1996, Jolene brought together rail labor, rail management, and other stakeholders to form the FRA Railroad Safety Advisory Committee to develop new regulatory standards through a consensus process.

RSAC continues to operate to this day as one of the few standing negotiated rule-making committees in the Federal Government, offering an elevated voice for rail labor and other advocates in our unceasing pursuit of safety.

Jolene's promotion of Transportation safety excellence, rail passenger, and freight investment, of equity and inclusion—her vivid passion to do the right things for the people of Ohio and for our Nation—drive this APTA honor. I am proud to count Jolene as my partner and my friend, and I salute APTA for presenting this Lifetime Achievement Award to a most distinguished leader: Jolene Molitoris.●

TRIBUTE TO MIKE ROCK

● Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I would like to take this occasion to congratulate Mike Rock on his retirement last month from the American Hospital Association—AHA. For 39 years, Mike was a valued member of the AHA's Federal Relations team and proved to be one of the most knowledgeable, effective, and indefatigable healthcare lobbyists on Capitol Hill.

Mike came to Washington in 1975 from Nebraska. He started working in the mail room of Senator Roman Hruska and then joined the staff of Representative Charles Thone of Nebraska. From there, he went to work for Representative Virginia Dodd Smith as a legislative assistant, handling tax, education, and defense issues.

After 9 years on the Hill, Mike joined the AHA in December 1984. Shortly after Mike started at the AHA, his mother Marilyn paid a visit, where his colleagues informed her that their nickname for him was ''Cool Breeze.'' For nearly four decades, Cool Breeze Mike played an integral role in the AHA's advocacy activities and so many of its successes, including expanding access to healthcare for millions of Americans. I have been on the receiving end of Mike's advocacy work for my entire time in Congress. During my tenure on the House Ways and Means Committee and now as a member of the Senate Finance Committee, I relied on Mike's subject matter mastery of healthcare and tax policy, his political astuteness, and his intuitive grasp of what Congress might be able to achieve to improve the Nation's healthcare system. It was always a joy to welcome him into my office.

At the AHA, Mike met his future wife Renee Blankenau, and they have two grown children: Clare and Paul. I am glad Mike will have more time to spend with his family and his avocations: cycling and swimming. I am truly grateful for our friendship and wish him many more happy miles and adventures in his retirement.●

RECOGNIZING THE GREATER PRINCE GEORGE'S BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

● Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I would like to take this occasion to congratulate the Greater Prince George's Business Roundtable, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary tomorrow at MGM National Harbor. Since 2003, the roundtable—a nonprofit, nonpartisan business alliance of chief executives whose companies employ nearly 60,000 people—has worked to improve the county's political and economic landscape and enhance the county residents' quality of life.

Nearly 200 years ago, in ''Democracy in America,'' Alexis de Tocqueville wrote, ''In America I encountered sorts of associations of which, I confess, I had no idea, and I often admired the infinite art with which the inhabitants of the United States managed to fix a common goal to the efforts of many men and to get them to advance to it freely.'' Voluntary associations, de Tocqueville observed, were one of the building blocks upon which our democratic self-governance rests.

The roundtable is a perfect example of such an association. Its members participate voluntarily, hosting community forums on crime and education, creating a VisionFramework to help residents imagine a bright future for the county, and producing a Quality of Life Index to gauge the county's progress toward that future. The roundtable established and runs the Andrews Business and Community Alliance, which promotes Joint Base Andrews, the home of Air Force One, the 459th Air Refueling Wing, and one of the county's two largest employers. All these activities and efforts are done collaboratively, with input from residents and in a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect. As the roundtable's home page states so eloquently, ''We believe that business is more than just adjusting overhead or the bottom line. We believe that by giving of our time, our expertise and our inherent sense of altruism, we will help to bring about a better home for all Prince Georgians.''

I want to thank Jim Estepp, the roundtable's president and chief executive officer; Doyle Mitchell, Jr., the roundtable's board secretary and treasurer; Michael Chiaramonte, the board chair; the other board members; and all roundtable members for their indefatigable efforts to make Prince George's County a better place to live and work in. I have been privileged and please to work with the roundtable on so many initiatives these last 20 years. I congratulate the roundtable, confident in my expectation that the next 20 years will bring even more success.●

350TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHBURY, CONNECTICUT

● Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I rise today to congratulate the town of Southbury on its 350th anniversary. In 1673, 15 families seeking free religious expression traveled up the Housatonic River and settled on land that is known today as Southbury. Those humble beginnings have grown into a vibrant community of almost 20,000 people. As the only town in the Nation to bear its name, Southbury is truly one of a kind. I was grateful to be invited this past November to participate in the town's 85th anniversary of Southbury's residents coming together to stop the Neo-Nazi organization, the German-American Bund, from establishing a presence in the town. Their determination reminds us of the importance of standing with our neighbors and calling out hate and bigotry in all its forms.

During my 6 years as Southbury's Congressman and the past 10 years as its U.S. Senator, I have come to know many of the town's past and current citizens. Dr. Mark Taylor, a friend and mentor, became nationally known for his knowledge and passion about critical water sources from the Pomperaug River. Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin Hinman was a Revolutionary War hero who also took part in the Constitutional Convention. Gladys Taber was a prolific writer, best known for her series about life at Stillmeadow, her farm in Southbury.

Congratulations to the Town of Southbury on this impressive milestone of 350 years and counting. It is a privilege to represent a community with such a storied past and bright future, and I look forward to continuing to work together to strengthen Southbury for many years to come.●

RECOGNIZING NORTH CAROLINA BAPTIST HOSPITAL

● Mr. TILLIS. Madam President, North Carolina Baptist Hospital opened on May 28, 1923, as an 88-bed hospital in Winston-Salem, with a simple commitment: to be a place of healing and teaching.

Since 1923, North Carolina Baptist Hospital has served the community and the region through educational programs. The School of Nursing educated nurses from 1923 to 1974, and the Bowman Gray School of Medicine graduated its first class in 1943.

Today, the hospital plays a pivotal role in research and education for Wake Forest University School of Medicine, a nationally known leader in groundbreaking research and experiential medical education, and the academic core of Advocate Health. North Carolina Baptist Hospital has grown over the years. Now known as Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, the hospital continues to grow to meet the needs of those it serves.

Today, Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, has grown to become an 885-bed tertiary care hospital that includes Brenner Children's Hospital, and the health system includes five community hospitals, more

than 300 primary and specialty care locations, and more than 2,700 physicians. It has over 20,000 employees and is Winston-Salem and Forsyth County's largest employer. In 2022, construction began for a new critical care tower at the medical center. The investment in this world-class facility will transform emergency and critical care throughout the region.

The hospital and the health system continues to expand services, make research discoveries to bring medical innovations to patients more quickly, and educate the next generation of healthcare professionals—to meet the growing needs of the communities it serves and to improve health, elevate hope, and advance healing—for all.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Kelly, one of his secretaries.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES

REPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13873 OF MAY 15, 2019, WITH RESPECT TO SECURING THE INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY AND SERVICES SUPPLY TO CHINA—PM 10

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13873 of May 15, 2019, with respect to securing the information and communications technology and services supply chain, is to continue in effect beyond May 15, 2023.

The unrestricted acquisition or use in the United States of information and communications technology or services designed, developed, manufactured, or supplied by persons owned by, controlled by, or subject to the jurisdiction or direction of foreign adversaries augments the ability of these foreign adversaries to create and exploit vulnerabilities in information and communications technology or services, with potentially catastrophic effects. This threat continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13873 with respect to securing the information and communications technology and services supply chain.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, *May 10, 2023.*

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13667 OF MAY 12, 2014, WITH RESPECT TO THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC—PM 11

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the Central African Republic declared in Executive Order 13667 of May 12, 2014, is to continue in effect beyond May 12, 2023.

The situation in and in relation to the Central African Republic has been marked by a breakdown of law and order; intersectarian tension; the pervasive, often forced recruitment and use of child soldiers; and widespread violence and atrocities, including those committed by Kremlin-linked and Yevgeniy Prigozhin-affiliated entities such as the Wagner Group. These dynamics threaten the peace, security, or stability of the Central African Republic and neighboring states, and continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13667 with respect to the Central African Republic.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, *May 10, 2023.*

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:23 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 676. An act to amend the Federal Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of 2009 to require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to collaborate with State and local governments and Indian Tribes on vulnerability assessments related to ocean acidification, research planning, and similar activities, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1715. An act to direct the Department of Energy and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to conduct collaborative research in order to advance numerical weather and climate prediction in the United States, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 676. An act to amend the Federal Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of 2009 to require the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to collaborate with State and local governments and Indian Tribes on vulnerability assessments related to ocean acidification, research planning, and similar activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 1715. An act to direct the Department of Energy and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to conduct collaborative research in order to advance numerical weather and climate prediction in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

MEASURES DISCHARGED PETITIONS

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works be discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 23, a joint resolution 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'', and, further, that the joint resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Cynthia M. Lummis, Ron Johnson, John Cornyn, Marsha Blackburn, Mike Lee, Tommy Tuberville, Rick Scott, J.D. Vance, Eric Schmitt, Mike Rounds, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Dan Sullivan, Ted Budd, Shelley Moore Capito, Bill Hagerty, Joni Ernst, Lindsey Graham, Roger Marshall, James E. Risch, James Lankford, Mike Crapo, John Barrasso, Chuck Grassley, Katie Boyd Britt, Marco Rubio, Mitt Romney, John Thune, Kevin Cramer, Thom Tillis, Ted Cruz.

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works be discharged from further consideration of S.J.

Res. 24, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Northern Long-Eared Bat'', and, further, that the joint resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Markwayne Mullin, John Cornyn, Bill Hagerty, Joni Ernst, Lindsey Graham, Roger Marshall, Shelley Moore Capito, James E. Risch, Kevin Cramer, James Lankford, Mike Crapo, John Barrasso, Chuck Grassley, Katie Boyd Britt, Thom Tillis, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Marco Rubio, Mitt Romney, John Thune, Steve Daines, Cynthia M. Lummis, Ron Johnson, John Kennedy, Mike Brown, Dan Sullivan, Mitch McConnell, Joe Manchin, III, John Boozman, Roger F. Wicker.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following joint resolutions were discharged from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, by petition, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 802(c), and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 23. Joint resolution 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''.

S.J. Res. 24. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Northern Long-Eared Bat''.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. CANTWELL, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

Special Report entitled ''Legislative Activities Report of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the United States Senate during the 117th Congress'' (Rept. No. 118–21).

By Ms. CANTWELL, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment:

S. 467. A bill to modify the age requirement for the Student Incentive Payment Program of the State maritime academies.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation I report favorably the following nomination list which was printed in the RECORD on the date indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that this nomination lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

*Coast Guard nominations beginning with Alaina M. Accumanno and ending with Kristen E. Zelman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 14, 2023. (minus 1 nominee: Andrew D. Ray)

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 1508. A bill to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to add Rhode Island to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 1509. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to extend and reform the conservation reserve program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 1510. A bill to amend provisions relating to the Office of the Inspector General of the Government Accountability Office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. DAINES, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. BUDD, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 1511. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to ensure that public institutions of higher education eschew policies that improperly constrain the expressive rights of students, and to ensure that private institutions of higher education are transparent about, and responsible for, their chosen speech policies; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself and Mr. WELCH):

S. 1512. A bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act to allow for the interstate internet sales of certain State-inspected meat and poultry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 1513. A bill to direct the Secretary of State to seek to enter into negotiations with the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office to rename its office the ''Taiwan Representative Office'', and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1514. A bill to amend the National Housing Act to establish a mortgage insurance program for first responders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 1515. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service of Combat-Related Special Compensation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. SMITH:

S. 1516. A bill to authorize funding to expand and support enrollment at institutions of higher education that sponsor construction and manufacturing-oriented registered apprenticeship programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH:

S. 1517. A bill to extend and modify a pilot program to improve cyber cooperation with foreign military partners in Southeast Asia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 1518. A bill to improve the classification and declassification of national security information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 1519. A bill to require a United States security strategy for the Western Hemisphere, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 1520. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds to purchase, procure, or distribute pipes or cylindrical objects intended to be used to smoke or inhale illegal scheduled substances; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 1521. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to modernize and improve the licensing of non-Federal hydropower projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MARSHALL:

S. 1522. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a study on the designation of biosimilar biological products as interchangeable; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 1523. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow rehabilitation expenditures for public school buildings to qualify for rehabilitation credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 1524. A bill to ensure that whistleblowers, including contractors, are protected from retaliation when a Federal employee orders a reprisal, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCHMITT:

S. 1525. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to address governmental interference in content moderation decisions by providers of interactive computer services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 1526. A bill to amend the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act to establish the Office of Policy Development and Cybersecurity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. WARREN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BENNET, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. KELLY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1527. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to ensure that members of the Armed Forces and their families have access to the contraception they need in order to promote the health and readiness of all members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 1528. A bill to streamline the sharing of information among Federal disaster assistance agencies, to expedite the delivery of life-saving assistance to disaster survivors, to speed the recovery of communities from disasters, to protect the security and privacy of information provided by disaster survivors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 1529. A bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to provide for greater protection of roosters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 1530. A bill to permit COPS grants to be used for the purpose of increasing the compensation and hiring of law enforcement officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. STABENOW, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 1531. A bill to designate certain National Forest System land and certain public land under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture in the States of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming as wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, wildland recovery areas, and biological connecting corridors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HAGERTY, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 1532. A bill to suspend the entry of covered aliens in response to the fentanyl public health crisis; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 1533. A bill to amend the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to authorize grants to assist in redeveloping abandoned shopping centers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 1534. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make adjustments to payment rates for skilled nursing facilities under the Medicare program to account for certain unique circumstances; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KELLY (for himself and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 1535. A bill to require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to promulgate regulations to allow the transport of firefighters on board a covered aircraft operated on a mission to suppress a wildfire, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 1536. A bill to ensure that all federally recognized Indian 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 Indian Affairs.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 1537. A bill to require the imposition of additional duties with respect to articles imported from the People's Republic of China until trade between the United States and the People's Republic of China comes into balance; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HEINRICH:

S. 1538. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants for outdoor learning spaces and to develop living schoolyards; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 1539. A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act and the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 to make the native sod provisions applicable to the United States and to modify those provisions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 1540. A bill to amend the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to provide for circumstances under which reinitiation of consultation is not required under a land and resource management plan or land use plan under those Acts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MORAN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. KING, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 1541. A bill to provide for a system to classify information in the interests of national security and a system to declassify such information, and for other purposes; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. KAINE, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 1542. A bill to improve services provided by pharmacy benefit managers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARSHALL:

S. 1543. A bill to require regulations concerning the disclosure of direct and indirect compensation from entities providing pharmacy benefit management services or third party administration services; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 1544. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure equitable payment for, and preserve Medicare beneficiary access to, diagnostic radiopharmaceuticals under the Medicare hospital outpatient prospective payment system; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. TUBERVILLE):

S. 1545. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to improve the ability of veterans to access medical care in medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs and in the community by providing veterans the ability to choose health care providers; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 1546. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to eligible entities to carry out educational programs that include the history of peoples of Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander descent in the settling and founding of America, the social, economic, and political environments that led to the development of discriminatory laws targeting Asians, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders and their relation to current events, and the impact and contributions of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders to the development and enhancement of American life, United States history, literature, the economy, politics, body of laws, and culture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. COONS, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 1547. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to implement policies to end preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths globally; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself, Mr. BENNET, Ms. SMITH, Mr. KING, Mr. HEINRICH, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 1548. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to encourage deployment of electric school buses and vehicle-to-grid technologies and applications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 1549. A bill to provide the Congressional Budget Office with necessary authorities to expedite the sharing of data from executive branch agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 205. A resolution supporting the designation of May 10, 2023, as ''National Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Mental Health Day''; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. KING, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. Res. 206. A resolution designating June 10, 2023, as ''Veterans Get Outside Day''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 22

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island

(Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 22, a bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently prohibit the conduct of offshore drilling on the outer Continental Shelf off the coast of California, Oregon, and Washington.

S. 106

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 106, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to award grants to States to improve outreach to veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 178

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 178, a bill to establish protections for passengers in air transportation, and for other purposes.

S. 265

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 265, a bill to reauthorize the rural emergency medical service training and equipment assistance program, and for other purposes.

S. 566

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) 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. 576

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 576, a bill to enhance safety requirements for trains transporting hazardous materials, and for other purposes.

S. 656

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 656, a bill 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, and for other purposes.

S. 668

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) were added as cosponsors of S. 668, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins to honor and memorialize the tragedy of the Sultana steamboat explosion of 1865.

S. 789

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 789, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint a coin in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the United States Foreign Service and its contribution to United States diplomacy.

S. 791

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 791, a bill to increase access to agency guidance documents.

S. 821

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 821, a bill to establish an Ambassador-at-Large for the Arctic Region.

S. 866

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 866, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance tax benefits for research activities.

S. 977

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 977, a bill to provide grants for fire station construction through the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and for other purposes.

S. 985

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 985, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to ensure campus access at public institutions of higher education for religious groups.

S. 1111

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1111, a bill to enhance United States civil nuclear leadership, support the licensing of advanced nuclear technologies, strengthen the domestic nuclear energy fuel cycle and supply chain, and improve the regulation of nuclear energy, and for other purposes.

S. 1146

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1146, a bill to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to identify obstacles to identifying and responding to reports of children missing from foster care and other vulnerable foster youth, to provide technical assistance relating to the removal of such obstacles, and for other purposes.

S. 1170

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1170, a bill to reauthorize and update the Project Safe Childhood program, and for other purposes.

S. 1176

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1176, a bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to issue an occupational safety and health standard that requires covered employers within the health care and social service industries to develop and implement a comprehensive workplace violence prevention plan, and for other purposes.

S. 1181

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1181, a bill to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to improve financial stability, and for other purposes.

S. 1192

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1192, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide the Secretary of Health and Human Services with the authority to suspend the right to introduce certain persons or property into the United States in the interest of the public health.

S. 1207

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1207, a bill to establish a National Commission on Online Child Sexual Exploitation Prevention, and for other purposes.

S. 1264

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1264, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to strengthen the drug pricing reforms in the Inflation Reduction Act.

S. 1271

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) 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. 1273

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from New York

(Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1273, a bill to require a study on Holocaust education efforts of States, local educational agencies, and public elementary and secondary schools, and for other purposes.

S. 1274

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1274, a bill to permanently exempt payments made from the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Account from sequestration under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

S. 1284

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1284, a bill to improve forecasting and understanding of tornadoes and other hazardous weather, and for other purposes.

S. 1310

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 1334

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1334, a bill to require the Secretary of Defense to develop, in cooperation with allies and partners in the Middle East, an integrated maritime domain awareness and interdiction capability, and for other purposes.

S. 1351

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) and the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1351, a bill to study and prevent child abuse in youth residential programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1371

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1371, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to require that consumer reporting agencies and other credit reporting companies provide certain protections to small businesses, and for other purposes.

S. 1372

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1372, a bill to prohibit certain business concerns from receiving assistance from the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

S. 1384

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1384, a bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors.

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) were added as cosponsors of S. 1384, supra.

S. 1435

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1435, a bill to require the Director of the Bureau of Land Management to withdraw a rule of the Bureau of Land Management relating to conservation and landscape health.

S. 1446

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1446, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain Nurse Corps payments from gross income.

S. 1473

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1473, a bill to authorize the immediate expulsion of inadmissible aliens attempting to enter the United States by fraud or without a necessary entry document, and for other purposes.

S. 1483

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1483, a bill to prohibit the purchase of certain telecommunications or aerospace goods or service from entities affiliated with the People's Republic of China or the Russian Federation and to require reporting relating to investment by foreign persons in the aerospace industry in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 91

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 91, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on the value of a tax agreement with Taiwan.

S. RES. 134

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 134, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the Rise Up for LGBTQI+ Youth in Schools Initiative, a call to action to communities across the country to demand equal educational opportunity, basic civil rights protections, and freedom from erasure for all students, particularly LGBTQI+ young people, in K–12 schools.

S. RES. 201

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 201, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Nurses Week, to be observed from May 6 through May 12, 2023.

S. RES. 203

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 203, a resolution recognizing the significance of Jewish American Heritage Month as a time to celebrate the contributions of Jewish Americans to the society and culture of the United States.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 1508. A bill to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to add Rhode Island to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. REED. Madam President, today I am introducing the Rhode Island Fishermen's Fairness Act along with my colleague Senator WHITEHOUSE. I am also pleased that my colleague Representative MAGAZINER will be introducing a companion measure in the House of Representatives.

Our legislation will give Rhode Island a voice and voting representation on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, MAFMC, which manages some of the most important fish stocks for our State's commercial fishing industry—chief among them squid. Indeed, the National Marine Fisheries Service reported that Rhode Island led Atlantic States in the harvest of squid in 2022, bringing in 31.5 million pounds and helping make Point Judith, RI, one of the most productive and valuable commercial fishing ports in the United States. For years now, Rhode Island's landings of stocks managed by the MAFMC have outpaced the landings of those managed by the New England Fishery Management Council, where Rhode Island is represented. Moreover, Rhode Island has a larger stake in the Mid-Atlantic fishery than many of the States that currently hold seats on the MAFMC.

Because so much is at stake for our State in every decision the MAFMC makes, our bill would expand the MAFMC by two seats in order to ensure that Rhode Island will have the minimum number of seats guaranteed to other States on the council. It will allow Rhode Island to continue to have representation on the New England Fishery Management Council, where it still has significant interests.

This proposal is not unprecedented. In fact, it is modeled on a provision of the 1996 Sustainable Fisheries Act that added North Carolina to the MAFMC in 1996 while allowing it to retain its membership on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Moreover, it will join States like Florida

and Washington which all have representation on more than one fisheries management council.

This is a commonsense proposal and one that my colleagues and I will be working to advance either on its own or as part of the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 1523. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow rehabilitation expenditures for public school buildings to qualify for rehabilitation credit; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, today I want to discuss legislation I am introducing, the School Infrastructure Modernization Act, with my colleague Senator WARNER.

To claim the Federal tax credit for historic preservation, a building renovation must be for a different purpose than that for which the building was previously used, a requirement known as the prior use rule. This bill waives that requirement for renovations of K–12 public school buildings. This will make it easier to restore historic-but-dilapidated school buildings across the country so our children have safe, modern spaces in which to learn.

As a Richmond City Council member and later mayor, I faced challenges familiar to many municipalities—overcrowded schools, aging buildings, and limited dollars in the budget. But in one particular case, I and a group of local stakeholders identified a creative solution. On one hand, we had an overcrowded Thomas Jefferson High School with in-zone and magnet students. On the other hand, we had a closed Maggie Walker High School that needed renovations. We put together a financing package that made use of Federal and State historic tax credits to renovate Maggie Walker High School and satisfied the prior use rule by consolidating the magnet program from Thomas Jefferson into a new Maggie Walker Governor's School for Government and International Studies. Today, some 30 years later, this is one of America's highest performing public high schools. Without the Federal historic tax credit, this would have been too expensive to make happen.

This bill will make it easier to do similar projects around the country. More modern school buildings will bolster the quality of public education, and carrying out these projects will generate private sector infrastructure investment and jobs. In Virginia alone, according to a 2021 study, more than 1,000 K–12 schools are at least 50 years old, representing more than half of all the K–12 schools in the Commonwealth.

I encourage my colleagues to support this commonsense incentive that is good for education, good for infrastructure, and good for jobs.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 1539. A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act and the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 to make the native sod provisions applicable to the United States and to modify those provisions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

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. 1539

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 ''American Prairie Conservation Act''.

SEC. 2. CROP PRODUCTION ON NATIVE SOD.

(a) FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE.—Section 508(o) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(o)) is amended by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

''(3) NATIVE SOD CONVERSION CERTIFICATION.—

''(A) CERTIFICATION.—As a condition on the receipt of benefits under this subtitle, a producer that has tilled native sod acreage for the production of an insurable crop as described in paragraph (2)(A) shall certify to the Secretary that acreage using—

''(i) an acreage report form of the Farm Service Agency (FSA–578 or any successor form); and

''(ii) 1 or more maps.

''(B) CORRECTIONS.—Beginning on the date on which a producer submits a certification under subparagraph (A), as soon as practicable after the producer discovers a change in tilled native sod acreage described in that subparagraph, the producer shall submit to the Secretary any appropriate corrections to a form or map described in clause (i) or (ii) of that subparagraph.

''(C) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than January 1, 2024, and each January 1 thereafter through January 1, 2028, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that describes the tilled native sod acreage that has been certified under subparagraph (A) in each county and State as of the date of submission of the report.''.

(b) NONINSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE.—Section 196(a)(4) of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7333(a)(4)) is amended by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

''(C) NATIVE SOD CONVERSION CERTIFICATION.—

''(i) CERTIFICATION.—As a condition on the receipt of benefits under this section, a producer that has tilled native sod acreage for the production of an insurable crop as described in subparagraph (B)(i) shall certify to the Secretary that acreage using—

''(I) an acreage report form of the Farm Service Agency (FSA–578 or any successor form); and

''(II) 1 or more maps.

''(ii) CORRECTIONS.—Beginning on the date on which a producer submits a certification under clause (i), as soon as practicable after the producer discovers a change in tilled native sod acreage described in that clause, the producer shall submit to the Secretary any appropriate corrections to a form or map described in subclause (I) or (II) of that clause.

''(iii) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than January 1, 2024, and each January 1 thereafter through January 1, 2028, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report that describes the tilled native sod acreage that has been certified under clause (i) in each county and State as of the date of submission of the report.''.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. COONS, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 1547. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to implement policies to end preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths globally; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I rise today to introduce the Reach Every Mother and Child Act of 2023, known as the Reach Act. This bipartisan legislation would strengthen the United States' efforts to end preventable deaths of mothers, newborns, and young children in developing countries by 2030. I want to thank Senator COONS for his partnership on this important bill, and I also appreciate the cosponsorship of Senator DURBIN and Senator WICKER.

Senator COONS and I have led efforts to ensure robust funding for the U.S. Agency for International Development's maternal and child health programming. These programs have been the backbone of the United States'' commitment to helping to end preventable child and maternal deaths globally.

Due in part to American leadership and generosity, many lives have already been saved. While progress has been made in reducing maternal mortality rates, recent data suggest that these improvements are slowing. Far too many mothers, newborns, and young children under the age 5 continue to succumb to disease and malnutrition that could easily be prevented.

Nearly 300,000 women die annually from causes related to pregnancy and childbirth, with 99 percent of maternal deaths occurring in developing nations. In addition, a significant proportion of the deaths of children under the age of 5 occur in the first 28 days after birth, with newborns accounting for nearly 50 percent of all under 5 deaths. In 2021, 5 million children under the age of 5 died from mainly preventable and treatable diseases.

The Reach Act aims to help these mothers and children with simple, proven, costeffective interventions that we know will help them survive. A concentrated effort could end preventable maternal and child deaths worldwide by the year 2030, but continued U.S. leadership and support from the international community are critical to achieve this goal.

To advance this cause, our bill would require the implementation of a strategy focused on bringing to scale the highest impact, evidence-based interventions, with a focus on country and

community ownership. These interventions would be specific to each country's needs and include support for the most vulnerable populations. We do not have to guess what interventions will work—the reality is that thousands of children die each day of conditions we know how to treat.

These lifesaving interventions include clean birthing practices, vaccines, nutritional supplements, handwashing with soap, and other basic needs that remain elusive for far too many women and children in developing countries. This must change.

Our bill would require the establishment of a Maternal and Child Survival Coordinator at 1USAID who would focus on implementing the 5-year strategy and verifying that the most effective interventions are being scaled up in key countries. The Coordinator would identify and promote the most effective interventions to end preventable maternal and child deaths globally, which would improve the efficiency of the programs operating across several Agencies.

To promote transparency and greater accountability, our bill would also require detailed public reporting on progress toward implementing the strategy.

The Appropriations Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations recently heard testimony from USAID Administrator Samantha Power. During that hearing, asked Administrator Power about the Reach Act and emphasized the critical reforms needed to increase the success and impact of USAID's maternal and child survival programs.

Administrator Power testified to sharing the goals that motivate this important legislation.

She agreed about the importance of resourcing key U.S. investments, scaling them up, and getting them to mothers and children living in remote areas.

Other bipartisan initiatives, such as the successful President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, or PEPFAR, which was started by President George W. Bush, demonstrate that results-driven interventions can turn the tide for global health challenges. Applying lessons learned from past initiatives, our bill would provide the focus and tools necessary to accelerate progress toward ending preventable maternal and child deaths.

I urge my colleagues to join Senator COONS, Senator DURBIN, Senator WICKER, and me in supporting this legislation that will save the lives of mothers and children around the world.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 205—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 10, 2023, AS ''NATIONAL ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, AND PACIFIC ISLANDER MENTAL HEALTH DAY''

Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 205

Whereas the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (referred to in this preamble as ''AANHPI'') community is among the fastest growing population groups in the United States and has made significant economic, cultural, and social contributions;

Whereas the AANHPI community is extremely diverse in terms of socioeconomic levels, education, employment, languages, cultures of origin, acculturation, migrant status, and colonization status;

Whereas, in 2021, 77 percent of the estimated 2,600,000 AANHPI individuals who meet criteria for a mental health problem did not receive treatment;

Whereas, in 2021, only 24.5 percent of Asian adults with a mental health problem received mental health services in the past year, and Asian adults have the lowest rates of utilization of mental health services out of any racial population;

Whereas, from 2018 to 2020, AANHPI youth 10 to 24 years of age were the only racial or ethnic population in this age category whose leading cause of death was suicide;

Whereas it is imperative to disaggregate AANHPI population data to get an accurate representation of the depth and breadth of the mental health issues for each subpopulation so that specific culturally and linguistically appropriate solutions can be developed;

Whereas language access continues to be a critical issue for AANHPI individuals seeking mental health services, whether due to the limited number of providers with the necessary language skills to provide in-language services or the significant language loss faced by Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities due to colonization;

Whereas there is a need to significantly increase the number of providers, including paraprofessionals, representing AANHPI communities and providing them with the necessary training and ongoing support;

Whereas historical discrimination and current racial violence toward AANHPI individuals increases trauma and stress, underlying precursors to mental health problems;

Whereas there is a critical need to raise awareness about and improve mental health literacy among the AANHPI community to reduce the stigma associated with mental health issues; and

Whereas May is both National Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, an opportunity to celebrate the vast contributions of this population to the United States, and National Mental Health Awareness Month, recognizing the importance of mental health to the well-being and health of AANHPI families and communities and connecting the importance of one's cultural heritage to good mental health: Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of May 10, 2023, as ''National Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Mental Health Day'';

(2) recognizes the importance of mental health to the well-being and health of families and communities;

(3) acknowledges the importance of raising awareness about mental health and improving the quality of care for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities;

(4) recognizes that celebrating cultural and linguistic heritage is beneficial to mental health; and

(5) encourages Federal, State, and local health agencies to adopt laws, policies, and guidance to improve help-seeking rates for mental health services for the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander community and other communities of color.

SENATE RESOLUTION 206—DESIGNATING JUNE 10, 2023, AS ''VETERANS GET OUTSIDE DAY''

Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. KING, and Mr. CRAMER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 206

Whereas, between 2000 and 2022, the Department of Defense found that more than 460,000 members of the Armed Forces were diagnosed with traumatic brain injuries;

Whereas studies have found that, after decades of combat in Afghanistan and Iraq, 20 percent of veterans of the Armed Forces are suffering from post-traumatic stress and depression;

Whereas the Department of Veterans Affairs found that veterans suffer a disproportionately higher rate of suicide compared to nonveterans, and post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury, depression, and anxiety are root causes of the suicide epidemic in the veteran community, with an estimated 16.8 suicides per day in 2020;

Whereas the Department of Veterans Affairs has been successful in reducing the number of veterans' suicides, but there are still gaps in mental health care for veterans, and the United States needs to use every treatment available to support the veteran community;

Whereas studies have shown that exposure to nature and the outdoors have a positive therapeutic impact on mental health, including by resulting in lower risks of depression and improved focus and attention, and even a single day outside can improve an individual's overall mood and lessen feelings of isolation;

Whereas studies have found that individuals with increased access to green space have a lower suicide risk;

Whereas the Forest Service sponsors a National Get Outdoors Day to promote the health benefits of outdoor recreational activities;

Whereas the United States has recognized the need to connect veterans with nature by providing free admission to national parks and forests; and

Whereas a targeted outreach effort, such as Veterans Get Outside Day, to veterans living with post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury, depression, and anxiety may lead to further participation in outside events and improved mental health outcomes: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 10, 2023, as ''Veterans Get Outside Day''; and

(2) encourages the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Forest Service, and the Department of the Interior to coordinate and cooperate in promoting ''Veterans Get Outside Day'' along with National Get Outdoors Day.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, I have 10 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 AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet in closed session during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.

COMMITIEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet in executive session during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 10 a.m.

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, May 10, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 9:45 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 during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 1 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

The Committee on Rules and Administration is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 2:45 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, May 10, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS

The Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

The Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet in closed session during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 8:30 a.m.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 107–12, the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Review Board: Sheriff Errol Toulon of New York vice Joseph Fox of New York.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF COUNTERING INTERNATIONAL PARENTAL CHILD ABDUCTION MONTH

Mr. BENNET. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 56, S. Res. 115.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 115) supporting the goals and ideals of ''Countering International Parental Child Abduction Month'' and expressing the sense of the Senate that Congress should raise awareness of the harm caused by international parental child abduction.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BENNET. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 115) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of March 16, 2023, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023

Mr. BENNET. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Thursday, May 11; 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 proceed to the en bloc consideration of Calendar No. 61, S.J. Res. 23, Calendar No. 62, S.J. Res. 24; that notwithstanding Rule XXII at 11 a.m., the joint resolutions be considered read a third time en bloc and the Senate vote on passage of the joint resolutions in the order listed; further, upon disposition of the joint resolutions, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Garcia nomination and then immediately recess subject to the call of the Chair; that when the Senate reconvenes, there will be 2 minutes for debate, equally divided, prior to a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BENNET. Madam President, for the information of the Senate, there will be two rollcall votes at 11 a.m. and one vote at approximately 1:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. BENNET. 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 8:03 p.m., stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate May 10, 2023:

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

GLENNA LAUREEN WRIGHT-GALLO, OF NEVADA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

GEETA RAO GUPTA, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR AT LARGE FOR GLOBAL WOMEN'S ISSUES.

INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

L. FELICE GORORDO, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES ALTERNATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

COLLEEN JOY SHOGAN, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE ARCHIVIST OF THE UNITED STATES.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING A'DAVION D. BUSH

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a hard-working and impactful leader, Mr. A'Davion D. Bush. Mr. Bush has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication and a desire to achieve success.

Mr. Bush is a 17-year-old resident of Indianola, Mississippi, and a senior at Gentry High School. Originally, from Kalamazoo, Michigan, he moved to the state of Mississippi in 2016 at the age of 11. Moving to Mississippi, he found it to be one of the best decisions he's made in his life and is the most important decision he's made. Living in rural Mississippi, he found that his calling was to serve people, stand up for people, speak for those who can't speak up for themselves, and stand in the gap for people.

Today, in his community, he's a community advocate, public servant, and companion. Continuing, he's the founder of the Sunflower County NAACP youth chapter along with a friend, he serves as a legislative assistant to a Mississippi State Representative, and most importantly, he's a teen influencer for Teen Health Mississippi, which is an organization that allows him to advocate for high-quality sex education for all schools across Mississippi right in the Mississippi Capitol. He serves on the Mississippi State Superintendent of School Student Council, which allows him to represent Gentry High school to the fullest and it's something he cherishes all the time.

To conclude some of the work he does, he's the founder of Project Chance, which is a project that helps improve the quality of justice-involved youth mental health by finding ways they can combat them. Project Chance's mission is dedicated to an initiative that will give attention and proper treatment to juveniles facing mental health challenges. Project Chance will promote and assist individuals in developing skills that will greatly enhance their mindset, behavior, character, and vision of themselves and others. Project Chance will promote productivity, professionalism, and so much more that will greatly benefit today's communities.

After high-school, he plans to attend The University of Mississippi, in Oxford, Mississippi. With confidence, he will further his education in the studies of political science or public policy, which will allow him to enter an accredited program that will allow him to get his juris doctorate in 6 years. Upon graduating college, he plans to move back to the Mississippi Delta or the metropolitan area of Mississippi to serve impoverished communities and provide equal access to legal representation and do so much other work to better all the lives around him. While practicing law, he wants to run for political offices starting at the municipal or county level, moving to the state level, whether that be in the state legislature or state executive office, such as being governor of Mississippi, then potentially U.S. Congress, and concluding with the Presidency of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. A'Davion D. Bush for his passion, dedication, and tenacity to serving his community and desire to be an example for all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, on May 9, 2023, I was unable to cast my vote on H.R. 1715—Advanced Weather Model Computing Development Act. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 204.

HONORING KIDS IN DANGER

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the lifesaving work of Kids In Danger on the occasion of their 25th Anniversary. Headquartered in my home state of Illinois, Kids In Danger is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting children by fighting for product safety.

It was founded in 1998 by Linda Ginzel and Boaz Keysar, the parents of sixteen-month-old Danny who died when a poorly designed and recalled portable crib collapsed around his neck in his childcare home. Kids In Danger's mission is to save lives by enhancing transparency and accountability through safer product development, better education, and stronger advocacy for children.

Kids In Danger is celebrating 25 years of impact by educating parents and caregivers about recalled and dangerous children's products through research, and community outreach and engagement at the local and national levels.

Shortly after its founding, Chicagoan Nancy Cowles became Kids in Danger's Executive Director, enabling the organization to take on bigger and bigger challenges. She sought out and worked tirelessly with parents who had lost their children in preventable accidents such as furniture that had toppled on them. A skilled organizer, advocate and spokesperson, Nancy always puts the parents first. I am proud to call her my dear friend.

Kids In Danger's advocacy has brought about many hard-fought victories for children such as the 2008 Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act including Danny's Law requiring strong standards for cribs and other nursery products, and most recently, the Safe Sleep for Babies Act banning infant inclined sleep products and padded crib bumpers, Reese's Law which will help prevent button and coin cell battery ingestion, and the STURDY Act, requiring a strong standard to prevent furniture tip-overs.

Kids In Danger also partners with university engineering programs to incorporate design safety into the engineering curriculum, and launched a free online course to help children's product designers and companies integrate safety into their design and development process.

Congratulations to Kids In Danger for protecting all our children and grandchildren from hazardous products.

HONORING THE CHICAGO CHAPTER NATIONAL BLACK NURSES ASSOCIATION

HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, from the 1st Congressional District of the great state of Illinois, to recognize the outstanding contributions and dedication of the Chicago Chapter National Black Nurses Association with the following Proclamation:

Whereas, the nursing profession is a critical component of our healthcare system, ensuring the delivery of compassionate and quality care to patients in need, and;

Whereas, the Chicago Chapter National Black Nurses Association serves as a powerful voice for Black Nurses, fostering collective action to investigate, define, and advocate for the healthcare needs of African Americans while striving to ensure access to healthcare that meets or exceeds the standards of the larger society, and;

Whereas, the National Black Nurses Association and their state affiliate, the Chicago Chapter National Black Nurses Association, are committed to improving the quality of life of persons who share the African American heritage and other ethnic groups by:

Building consumer knowledge and understanding of health care issues.

Educating and mentoring registered nurses, licensed vocational/practical nurses, nursing students, and retired nurses.

Facilitating the professional development, political advocacy, and career advancement of nurses in shaping emerging healthcare systems.

Promoting economic development of nurses through entrepreneurial and other business initiatives, and;

Whereas, the Chicago Chapter National Black Nurses Association has tirelessly worked to reduce health disparities in the African American community and promote diversity within the nursing profession, striving to

create a healthcare system that is more equitable and accessible to all, and;

Whereas we recognize the extraordinary contributions of the Chicago Chapter National Black Nurses Association, who have demonstrated unwavering dedication to the health and well-being of our citizens, particularly in historically underserved communities, and;

Therefore, in honor of their work, dedication, and voice, I acknowledge the crucial role played by the Chicago Chapter National Black Nurses Association as a driving force for positive change in our community. In alignment with the National Nurses Week from May 6 through May 12, 2023, let us celebrate and appreciate the invaluable impact of all nurses in the Chicago Chapter and across the Nation during this celebratory Nurses Week.

HONORING DR. HICKMAN MORGAN JOHNSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Hickman Morgan Johnson. Dr. Johnson has shown what can be done through hard work, dedication, and the desire to help people in need.

Dr. Johnson is a Tennessee native and a graduate of Tennessee State University, where he received his bachelor's degree in chemistry in 1964; and, in 1967 graduated from the Morehouse School of Religion-ITC with a Master of Divinity. He was the first African American to graduate from Mississippi College, receiving the Master of Arts in Religion in 1970, and Doctor of Ministry from Emory University in 1989.

Dr. Johnson accepted the pastorate at Farish Street in August 1968 and has faithfully served there for 54 years. Dr. Johnson has been deeply involved in the housing arena, providing safe and affordable housing for those in need. Last October, a ribbon cutting ceremony happened for Hickman Heights in Jackson, which is named after Dr. Johnson. Hickman Heights is a four story building with 100 rental units, developed with tax-exempt bonds using public and private financing.

Dr. Johnson has been the executive director of Mississippi Regional Housing Authority VI, since 2004. He continues to deliver the needs of constituents around the state of Mississippi. Over the years, he has worn many titles: Chaplain, Director, Dean, Executive Director, Chairman, Moderator, Corresponding Secretary, and Commissioner, but the one he reveres most is Pastor. Dr. Johnson is married to Mrs. Gladys Marie Thomas Johnson, and they have 5 beautiful daughters. Dr. Johnson has been a great asset to his community, and his work never goes unnoticed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Hickman Morgan Johnson for his hard work in caring for the constituents in the State of Mississippi.

HONORING ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN, AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH 2023

HON. LUCY McBATH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Mrs. McBATH. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to celebrate Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage (AANHPI) Month 2023. Each May, the AANHPI community commemorates two historic anniversaries: the immigration of the first Japanese people to the United States on May 7, 1843, and the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869, a significant portion of which was laid by Chinese immigrants. First proposed as a ten-day celebration in 1977, this month celebrates the history, accomplishments, and contributions of the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities in America. With each passing generation, members of this vibrant community continue to enrich the fabric of this great nation with their own unique talents and gifts.

Here in Georgia's Seventh Congressional District, we are well represented by a beautiful tapestry of ethnicities, nationalities, of faith traditions, and experiences. Our diversity is truly our strength—I see it in action every single day. Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders contribute significantly to our community's rich blend of cultures, experiences, and countries. Throughout American history, these men and women have played a central role in the growth and progress of the nation. The full stories of these communities have not been without pain, however. During the construction of the transcontinental railroad, thousands of Chinese immigrants worked under dangerous conditions, endured abusive labor practices, and received unfair compensation. During World War II, people of Japanese ancestry were removed from their homes, imprisoned, and held in desolate places without trial. In recent years, anti-Asian hate and discrimination began to rise during the COVID–19 pandemic due to intolerance and xenophobia. And in metro Atlanta, eight lives were stolen from us by an act of anti-Asian hatred.

As Americans, we must reject and condemn such discrimination and embrace the many differences that make this community a hub of culture and diversity. We must reflect on our responsibility to condemn racism and bigotry that fuels tragedies like the Atlanta spa shooting. We must rededicate ourselves to our responsibility to live in fellowship with our neighbors of all backgrounds and experiences. That is why, at the start of this year, I became a member of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, to fight for the AANHPI communities here in Georgia and across our country. Together, we can support the hard-working Americans who bring their unique experiences to our Nation, advocate and advance our shared goals, and celebrate the many contributions that have made America a more perfect union.

This month and always, I am honored to represent the many cultures, nationalities, and spoken languages that make up Georgia's Seventh Congressional District. Happy Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAKE AUCHINCLOSS

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, I was necessarily absent from votes on May 9, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 203 and YEA on Roll Call No. 204.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LIZZIE FLETCHER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Mrs. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, my flight on Tuesday, May 9 was delayed from taking off from Houston, which prevented me from being able to vote on the evening series of votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 203 and YEA on Roll Call No. 204.

HONORING MAISIE BROWN

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the first Jackson State University student to receive the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation Award, Miss Maisie Brown of Jackson, Mississippi.

For Maisie Brown, activism started with an eight-grade Algebra assignment. Her class was asked to redesign the Mississippi state flag. That made Brown ask, ''Why are we designing a new flag? What's wrong with the old one?''

At the time, the Mississippi state flag featured a Confederate flag as part of its design, and the more Maisie thought about it, the more concerned she became about the message it was sending. ''Flying [the flag] over our state buildings and over schools' little Black children are walking into . . . It was racist, and I found it really disrespectful for the Blackest state in the nation.''

She is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science with a special research interest in how education and environmental policies affect southern black and brown communities. Since her teen years, she has been involved in removing Confederate memorabilia, coordinating clean drinking water to Jackson households, and ensuring incarcerated women have access to feminine hygiene products. As the ACLU of Mississippi's Advocacy Coordinator, she has prioritized engaging young people and created the organization's first-ever Leaders in Action training program. Maisie has contributed to media outlets such as CNN, MSNBC, and Essence, among others, to raise awareness of critical issues, especially the Jackson, MS water crisis. She plans to pursue a PhD in public policy and administration with a concentration in educational policy to ameliorate conditions she faced as a public-school student and expand community

resources. She is the proud mother of one year-old, D'Mari and enjoys reading, watching movies, and spending time with family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing, Miss Maisie Brown for her dedication to improve equality within her city as well as her state.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RETIRED SERGEANT DOREEN GALE PAVEY ON THE OCCASION OF HER PASSING

HON. JAY OBERNOLTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor the life of retired Sergeant Doreen Gale Pavey of the United States Marine Corps. Doreen was born on August 10, 1929, in Johnson City, New York to Ina and Frank Newton. She passed away on March 8, 2023, at the age of 93.

Doreen grew up in the Johnson City area and attended Alfred University. Following her graduation, Doreen joined the United States Marine Corps during the Korean Conflict working for the Commandant of the Marine Corps with distinction for several years. Doreen retired from the service as a sergeant to travel the country with her husband John.

Doreen was a devoted wife and mother to three children. She raised her children using the core qualities she embraced as a sergeant in the Marine Corps: family, country, faith, and service. In fact, her daughter, Rebekah, currently serves as a Hesperia City Councilmember. Doreen cherished her family above all else, and her unwavering love and support were a constant source of strength and guidance to those around her. Doreen is survived by her husband, John, her 3 children, and her 3 grandchildren. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her. My thoughts and prayers are with her family as they navigate this difficult loss.

CONGRATULATING COLUMBIA WATER COMPANY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS BICENTENNIAL

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Columbia Water Company as they celebrate 200 years of service to Lancaster and York Counties.

Over the past two centuries, water delivery systems have changed drastically—but as ground reservoirs have turned into elevated steel storage tanks, and wooden pipes into electronic control systems, one thing remained constant: the company ensuring that residents of Columbia and the surrounding communities had access to clean and safe water.

Incorporated in 1823, Columbia Water has survived a Civil War, a Great Recession, Two World Wars, and countless droughts. Nevertheless, in a nation defined by its entrepreneurial spirit, this company has thrived in a way few others have, serving generations of Lancaster and York families, and playing a critical role in helping the community prosper. Today, it operates 160 miles of water mains, 9 finished water storage tanks, 6 pumping stations, 4 wells, and 11 pressure zones. That's a long way from operating just one log reservoir more than 200 years ago.

Once again, it is my privilege to congratulate Columbia Water Company on the occasion of their bicentennial and thank them for their service to residents in my congressional district.

HONORING DR. LIZA BURRELL-ALDANA

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to congratulate Dr. Liza Burrell-Aldana, principal of Mount Vernon Community School in Alexandria, VA on being named 2023 Washington Post Principal of the Year. Dr. Burrell-Aldana has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills through both typical and exceptional circumstances. As the principal of the only full dual language school in Alexandria City Public Schools, Dr. Burrell-Aldana believes that all students have the capacity to achieve their dreams, and that bilingualism, biliteracy, and biculturalism are key to students' future success in a global society. Her belief in the power of dual language education has guided her leadership in the transformation of Mount Vernon Community School into a high-performing, multicultural and multilingual school in which administrators, faculty, staff and families work collaboratively to implement the mission and vision of the school.

Dr. Burrell-Aldana has led the adoption of new and innovative instructional approaches that emphasize the integration of content and language instruction so that all students are able to succeed in an academically rigorous learning environment. These approaches emphasize critical-thinking, hands-on learning, engaging in metalinguistic analysis of the two program languages, academic discussion and writing, and inquiry.

Her efforts have led to significant academic growth between 2018 and now for various student groups, despite the unprecedented learning interruptions experienced in school years 2019–2020 and 2020–2021, as well as the challenges faced with the reopening of schools in 2021–2022. Dr. Burrell-Aldana's voice, vision, and experiences are unique, and represent a much-needed perspective in K through 12 education. Through her steadfast leadership and powerful vision of bilingualism and biculturalism, Dr. Burrell-Aldana has fostered a school experience and community that values and celebrates students' linguistic and cultural assets, and truly believes in the potential of all students.

On behalf of the residents of Virginia's 8th Congressional District, I congratulate Dr. Liza Burrell-Aldana on her outstanding achievement.

HONORING THE LATE TENNIE SUDDUTH SELF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a tenacious and self-motivated leader, the late Tennie Sudduth Self. Tennie has been a champion of service and dedication to Coahoma County.

Tennie Sudduth was born to Sam and Essie Rush Sudduth on March 10, 1926, in Oktibbeha County, Mississippi, and was educated in the racially segregated public school system of Oktibbeha County. She married David Cornelius Self and to this union 5 children were born: Audrey Wilburn, Olenza Elaine, Howrhu Marcus, David Cornelius, and Juan Ray.

Tennie had a passion for cooking and providing nourishment the masses. She was especially known for her homemade rolls. She worked many years at Coahoma Junior College and Agricultural High School as the college dining hall manager and the high school cafeteria manager. Breaking racial barriers even in the 1960s, she became the first black dietary manager at Coahoma County Hospital.

Tennie was a life member of the NAACP and an active behind-the-scenes participant in the Clarksdale/Coahoma County civil rights movement from the mid 1950s until well into the 2000s. She was also a member of The Versatile Club and The American Legion. She was a dedicated member of First Baptist Church, serving in its choir and as The Missionary Society's President for many years. She was completely in charge of the church's kitchen. She was a compassionate community team player who cared deeply for the youth and the improvement of Clarksdale even to the point of transporting and feeding underprivileged children out of her own purse—seeking nether credit nor recognition. In 2015, she was featured in "Southern Living" magazine and, that same year, the publication of "DELTA JEWELS—In Search of My Grandmother's Wisdom" by Center Street Publishing.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the late Tennie Sudduth Self for her strength, dedication, compassion and advocacy in her community. Her selfless service to her community, Rural MS Delta Region and the State of Mississippi are commended.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MORGAN LUTTRELL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Mr. LUTTRELL. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, I was unable to vote on Roll Call Nos. 203 and 204. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: NAY on Roll Call No. 203, and NAY on Roll Call No. 204.

RECOGNIZING ANNE E. JOYNT, ESQ.

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize and congratulate Anne Joynt on receiving the 2023 Distinguished Alumni Award, presented by the University at Buffalo's Law Alumni Association for her contributions to the betterment of the Buffalo community.

Ms. Joynt started her education at the State University of New York College at Geneseo, where she graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in English and Spanish. She went on to earn her Juris Doctor from the State University of New York at Buffalo Law School. During her time at the University at Buffalo, Ms. Joynt was inducted into the Order of Barristers because of her moot court work and served as co-editor of the Human Rights Law Review.

Ms. Joynt is a partner at Lipsitz, Ponterio & Comerford, LLC, where she has spent her entire legal career, having joined the firm directly out of law school in 2005. There, she focuses her practice on representing people who have suffered injuries due to exposure to asbestos, as well as those injured by childhood lead poisoning, motor vehicle accidents, construction accidents, medical malpractice, and defective products.

Outside of work, Ms. Joynt is actively involved with many different organizations, including the UB Alumni Association where she served on the Board of Directors from 2013 to 2021 holding many different positions including, President, Vice-President, Assistant Secretary, and Co-Chair of the Annual Dinner Committee. Also, Ms. Joynt has served as the Chair of the UB Law mentoring program and has been a law student mentor since 2008 until present. Additionally, she has served as a member to the minority Bar Association of Western New York Foundation, Inc., The National Federation for Just Communities of WNY, Inc., Girls on the Run Buffalo, SUNY Geneseo Regional Board of Directors, and the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York.

Today, I ask that we recognize and give thanks to leaders in the Western New York Community, such as Anne Joynt for her continued dedication and selfless service to her community.

HONORING THE CAREER OF LARRY McHUGH

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished business community leader and true Titan of central Connecticut, Larry McHugh. For nearly 40 years, Larry has been a catalyst of economic partnership and growth in our region. On May 10, 2023, the region will gather to celebrate him and his retirement as President of the Middlesex Chamber of Commerce.

Born and raised in Connecticut, Larry attended Notre Dame High School and Southern Connecticut State University, respectively out of West Haven and New Haven. During high school and college Larry was a star athlete particularly on the football gridiron. After earning his Bachelor of Science, Larry did a brief stint with the New York Titans-the original AFL team from New York City that later was renamed the New York Jets. Side-lined by injury, Larry returned to Connecticut with a new purpose.

Energized and on a new path forward, Larry focused on a career in Connecticut's education system—first as a teacher with Durham High School. In 1963, he transferred over to Xavier High—a school based in Middletown, Connecticut, coveted for its athletic programs—as football coach. For 21 years, as made evident by Xavier's 160–38–7 football record under Larry's helm and his unprecedented designation as the two-time Connecticut Football Coach of the Year and 1973 National Coach of the Year, Larry inspired generations of athletes to grow as both individuals and teammates. It is worth noting, however, that Larry was quite the jack-of-trades during his tenure at Xavier, having also acted as a certified teacher across five different courses and the Executive Director of Xavier's fundraising branch.

In 1983, Larry departed from his career in education to serve his community in a significantly different manner, setting off as the President of the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce. Under his leadership, the Chamber grew from 260 members to over 2,100 members and has received many state and national awards, including recognition from the White House and the U.S. Department of Labor. Behind these impressive data points, however, sits a powerful narrative as to why the organization has been so successful. Mr. Speaker, Larry brought the spirit of coaching to his role as principal of the business community. He was a mentor to business owners-fostering a culture and community structured by positive relationships. This was all purposed towards thinking of businesses—the Chamber's members—as a team purposed toward advocating for economic growth in the region. The relationships and strength of the Middlesex County business community became a self-nurturing force, attracting national employers and investments alike to direct their resources to the region. He has literally helped build the Main Streets of cities like Middletown from the ground up. Mr. Speaker, I had the honor of speaking at a number of Middlesex Chamber breakfasts and can attest to the large enthusiastic membership he fostered during his time at the helm.

As one of the central conduits within Connecticut, he has served on countless boards and commissions, including President of the CT Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives, Goodspeed Opera House Board of Trustees, Director of Liberty Bank, Lyman Orchards board member, Corporator of Middlesex Hospital and Vice Chairman of the CT Tourism Council. By way of his appointment by five governors to various positions on both the University of Connecticut and Central Connecticut State University Boards of Trustees, Larry also remained connected to the state's education system throughout his tenure as President.

Mr. Speaker, Larry is a coach for all time. For the entirety of his career, he has led by example and given a powerful drive to various forms of community development. Larry is the embodiment of what it means to build out a team for the effective pursuit of a mission. Though we, unfortunately, say goodbye to his competent leadership with his retirement, we have faith in the history of legwork he has put in for the development of the Middlesex County economy and business community. There are already numerous fields, buildings and halls of fame in which his name is imprinted upon. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Larry McHugh, thanking him for his life's work, and wishing him well on his continued retirement with his wife, Patty, and family, as they celebrate this May.

HONORING TOMMIEA JACKSON

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tommiea Jackson.

Tommiea Jackson, APR was born to Tommie and Josephine Lipsey Jackson of Marks, Mississγpi, in June of 1977. She is the oldest of 3 children. She is the owner of Crimson Magnolia LLC, a small business providing public relations and photography services with a particular interest in nonprofits, small businesses and families in the Mississippi Delta. Jackson is also the communication manager with the Nashville-based nonprofit Tennessee Charter School Center.

Jackson enjoyed growing up in Marks, Jackson is known for her inquisitive nature, resourcefulness, and efforts to keep family and friends connected.

Jackson attended Quitman County Schools through ninth grade before attending Clarksdale High School, and later graduating from South Panola High School. At Rust College, Jackson served as editor of the college newspaper and became a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Jackson holds a bachelor's degree in English with a minor in Print Journalism from Rust and a master's degree in Journalism from the University of Mississippi.

Jackson's first job after graduate school was with the Quitman County Development Organization and Youth Opportunities Unlimited. During this time, she learned the importance of nonprofit organizations and how impactful they can be to the lives of the people they serve.

Jackson, a former Clarksdale Press Register and Monroe (La.) News Star reporter, has spent most of her career as a public relations practitioner at institutions of higher learning. In 2018, Jackson earned accreditation in public relations (APR). Earning the APR reflects a mastery of the knowledge, skills and abilities needed to succeed in the increasingly complex PR profession.

In Orlando, Jackson served as accreditation co-chair of the Florida Public Relations Association Orlando chapter, vice president for the University of Central Florida's Black Faculty and Staff Association and co-chair of the Orlando Metro Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta's Delta GEMS program for high school girls. Though her time in Orlando was rewarding, Jackson longed to return home to do the work she loved for the people she loved most

in the Quitman County community and the Mississippi Delta. Recently, Jackson, along with her sister Tamara, hosted the Crimson Magnolia Kids Cook Camp at the local Mississippi State Extension Service office. The camp's purpose was to teach 9-to 12-year-old children essential life skills and introduce them to the exciting world of food through hands-on cooking classes and food-related careers. Returning home and to her experiences in nonprofits, Jackson hopes to continue serving as a resource, connector and servant for Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Tommiea Jackon for her dedication to serving her commumty and this great state.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF JAMES TURCICH

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of James Turcich, an active public servant in New Jersey's 3rd District who has dedicated his career to the Delran Fire Department for 50 years.

James began his work with Station 232 in March of 1973. In serving our community since, he has translated his passion for helping others into five decades of impressive service across multiple sectors of the Delran Fire Department. While serving the Department, James also devoted 20 years of additional service, specifically to the Delran Emergency Squad for emergency medical services. Having served on multiple committees during his time with Station 232, as well as serving as Chief of the Department from 1982 to 1983, James applied his expertise and leadership to ensure our firefighters had the institutional knowledge they needed to assist our communities in times of crisis. His work extended beyond Delran for over 30 years serving on the Board of Fire Commissioners as Treasurer.

In his personal life—like his professional life, James has been committed to maintaining involvement with local sports teams, coaching his son's youth soccer team as well as assisting with his local ice hockey team. Known by many as the team medic, he has undoubtedly made an impact both during the games and off the field. Beyond local athletics, James was also integral in connecting his daughter's Girl Scout Troop to Station 232 to create a larger local presence within the town. We all owe him a debt of gratitude for more local Girl Scout Cookie options.

It's easy to see through these remarkable milestones and achievements, James has undoubtedly made a difference for his family, friends, and colleagues as well as so many others across our district. Throughout his career and volunteerism, he made our community feel safe. New Jersey is grateful for the work that James has done, and I know I speak for everyone in the 3rd District in wishing him many more years of success in his service to Delran.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF DR. APRIL N. KAPU

HON. ANDREW OGLES

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize a constituent of mine, April N. Kapu, DNP, APRN, ACNP–BC, FAANP, FCCM, FAAN of Brentwood, Tennessee for her service over the last 2 years as President of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP).

Dr. Kapu has an exemplary career of service with more than 30 years of experience in health care, including nearly 20 years as an acute care nurse practitioner. She holds both a master's and doctoral degree in nursing from the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing, where she also currently serves as Associate Dean for Clinical and Community Partnerships and as a Professor of Nursing. Dr. Kapu has spent her career committed to advancing NP-delivered care and increasing patient access to NP care across all settings. She has been recognized as a Fellow for the Society of Critical Care Medicine, Fellow for the American Association of Nurse Practitioners and Fellow for the American Academy of Nursing and has received several awards including the Vanderbilt University Medical Center's ''Transformational Nurse Leader of the Year'' and the Tennessee Hospital Association's ''Nurse of Clinical Distinction''. In 2022, Dr. Kapu was chosen as one of Modern Healthcare's 50 Most Influential Clinical Executives.

The American Association of Nurse Practitioners is the largest professional membership organization for nurse practitioners, representing the interests of the more than 355,000 licensed nurse practitioners in the United States who are delivering care in more than 1 billion patient visits every year. As President of AANP, Dr. Kapu has worked to ensure that policymakers and the public understand the critical role NPs have in increasing patient access to high quality health care, including disease prevention and health management, mental health care and substance use disorder treatment and reducing disparities.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. April Kapu on a successful term as President of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners and in thanking her for her leadership to the nurse practitioner profession and her enduring commitment to building and maintaining a strong national nursing workforce.

HONORING THE WWII, VIETNAM AND KOREAN WAR VETERANS OF ILLINOIS

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the World War II, Vietnam and Korean War veterans who traveled to Washington, D.C. on May 10, 2023 with Honor Flight Chicago, a program that provides WWII, Vietnam and Korean War veterans the opportunity to visit their memorials on The National Mall in Washington, D.C. These memorials were built to honor their courage and service to their country.

The American Veteran is one of our greatest treasures. The Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen who traveled here on May 10th answered our nation's call to service during one of its greatest times of need. From the European Campaign to the Pacific Asian Theatre to the Korean Theater, these brave Americans risked life and limb, gave service and sacrificed much, all while embodying what it is to be a hero. We owe them more gratitude than can ever be expressed.

I welcome these brave veterans to Washington and to their memorials. I am proud to include in the RECORD the names of these men and women for all to see, hear, and recognize, and I call on my colleagues to rise and join me in expressing gratitude.

Thomas J. Alcock, Donald B. Anderson, Rogelio Arredondo, Walter H. Arvesen, John W. Beaty, John M. Beele, Charles J. Bellock, William D. Benne Sr., John E. Berry, Joseph B. Bibro, Mark C. Bonen, Vernon F. Bremer, Francis J. Brow, Robert B. Burch, Anthony J. Caliendo, James T. Campagna, Robert K. Campbell, Ronald S. Carlow, Joseph Chavez, Robert E. Chavez, Phil C. Coffing, Anthony J. Conniff, Bruce L. Cook, Jerry M. Cowsert, Douglas R. Deetjen Sr., Jerome B. Dubaka, Lester L. Dunscomb, Jr., Gary L. Eich, Bertram Farrington, Bernard T. Fearon, Steven L. Fick, James A. Fredrickson, Donald R. Frost, Walter E. Fuja Jr., Ronald L. Gallman, Dennis R. Gardner, John L. Garstka, Henry L. George, David P. Giere, Erik J. Godvik, Richard D. Goulet, William C. Grizzle, Jr., Edward N. Gustovich, Herman J. Hamlet, Edward L. Hartman, John L. Hill, Gerald Hoenig, George E. Hresil, Alan M. Hunter, Carmen W. Iacullo, Richard L. Inskeep, Alan W. Jarasius, Clark Jennings, Wendell A. Johnson, Edward M. Kasper, Gary W. Kiefer, William R. Klein, John E. Kleinfeldt, Robert P. Klett, Steve Korovesis, Joseph S. Koscal, Charles F. Krasneck, Kris Kringle, John I. Krupiczowicz, Michael A. Kurzydlo, Arthur J. LaCroix, Martin Lampert, Thomas E. Law, Brian R. Lupescu, Norman P. Lupescu, George A. McCoy, Bruce A. McDonald, Kenneth J. Merritt, Steven L. Meyer, Erwin Moehl, Robert V. Morgan, Curtis J. Norman, Dale L. Norwood, Anthony S. Novak, Edward H. Novak, Mark L. Payton, Thomas L. Pelt, Dante H. Plata, John J. Ptak, Rocco M. Revello, Herman Richardson, Ramon R. Rivera, Richard S. Rock, Casimir Romanowski, Andrew R. Samborski, Frank P. Scellato, Robert A. Schiavo, Karl E. Schmidt, Terry M. Schnell, Duane C. Schroeder, Arnold H. Schweitzer, Charles L. Singleton, Dennis Smothers Jr., Jack F. Sokol, Robert J. Spalo, Arthur J. Steinke, Milton Stennis, Raymond F. Szweda, Christopher Tavlas, Rickey L. Taylor, Joseph Tremmel, Virgle R. Tyler, Ruben Vasquez, Paul Waters, Glenn J. Waver, Emmett A. Williams, James E. Wilson, James C. Wiora, Jeffrey R. Wombold, Raymond A. Ziehmer, Charles M. Zynda.

HONORING THE HEROIC ACTIONS OF MANHEIM TOWNSHIP POLICE OFFICERS KYLE CARNER AND ANTHONY DICLEMENTE

HON. LLOYD SMUCKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Manheim Township Police Officers Kyle Carner and Anthony DiClemente, who went above-and-beyond the call of duty, rescuing a woman whose vehicle had become submerged in a pond.

Though water rescue is not part of standard training for many police officers, these heroes acted with competence, speed, and bravery to save the life of another. Despite the cold, they immediately took action upon arriving at the scene, wading through the murky water and rescuing the victim moments before she found herself underwater.

When moments mattered, they thought not of themselves, but of the life of a stranger who was in need.

It is heroes like Officers Carner and DiClemente who help us to understand and appreciate the role of policing in our communities: to serve and protect.

I thank Officers Carner and DiClemente for their services to our community on that December night, and everyday they have worn their uniforms before or since. Their actions exemplify a high degree of character and integrity which we should all strive to emulate.

HONORING JUDGE LARITA COOPER-STOKES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable elected official, Judge LaRita Cooper-Stokes. LaRita Cooper-Stokes is a child of God, and she gives thanks and praises to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Judge Stokes was serving her third term as County Court Judge for Hinds County. She was sworn in on January 5, 2015. She was blessed to become the first African American woman to serve the citizens of Hinds County on the bench in the County Court. She has served two terms as Senior County Court Judge.

Judge Stokes was formerly elected as City Councilwoman of Ward 3, in Jackson, Mississippi, in 2012. At the same time, her husband was elected to serve as a member of the Hinds County Board of Supervisors.

Judge Stokes has been a licensed attorney for over thirty years. She was a graduate of the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University in Houston; Jackson State University; and Lanier High School. She was reared by loving parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy and Lucy Cooper, along with four siblings. She was a member of New Hope Baptist Church. She was married to Jackson's City Councilman, Kenneth I. Stokes, and was a mother and grandmother. She was humbled by being elected a public servant, and she was thankful for the opportunity to serve the citizens of Hinds County.

Judge Stokes gained her eternal wings and went to be with God in the early hours of Monday, May 8, 2023, at a Jackson hospital, due to complications with her respiratory system. She would have celebrated her 65th birthday May 27.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Judge LaRita Cooper-Stokes for her dedication to politics, her city, and her community.

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE ELLSWORTH ROUTE OF THE CHISHOLM TRAIL

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Ellsworth Route of the Chisholm Trail. The paths of both the main Chisholm Trail and the Ellsworth Route pass through the 4th Congressional District of Kansas. Throughout my district, communities along the trail are gearing up to celebrate this remarkable example of frontier courage and adventure.

During the Civil War, longhorn cattle in Texas roamed free and multiplied while railroads were built across the central plains, with major stops in Kansas. After the war, eager to meet the growing demand for beef nationwide, ranchers and cowboys came west to seize this new opportunity. On horseback, they gathered the wild cattle herds and moved them north. The brave men who took up this challenge formed a cornerstone of the American identity and made history.

In 1865, J.R. Mead and Jesse Chisholm established a trading post near the confluence of the Arkansas and Little Arkansas Rivers in Kansas, founding what would become modern-day Wichita. From this new settlement, Mr. Chisholm established a trail bringing trade goods from Wichita down to Indian Territory in what is now Oklahoma. When the cattle herds started coming north after the Civil War, the cowboys could easily follow Chisholm's route north toward the rail lines. As the path became world famous for its cattle drives, the nearly 1,300-mile route became known as the Chisholm Trail.

As stockmen and entrepreneurs continually sought better opportunities, another route was surveyed to access new cattle stockyards in Ellsworth, Kansas. When the Ellsworth trail opened in 1873, millions of longhorns traversed both paths on their journey north. Along the way, small towns and outposts sprung up to provide supplies to the cattlemen opening up the vast swaths of the American West.

Today, I want to honor the people of these cattle trail communities and all those who maintain the history of these trails in Kansas and beyond. Our nation can learn from the legacy of grit and determination that these cowboys left behind. Without assistance or interference from the government, they blazed new trails to feed the world, settle the frontier, and grow the American economy. On this 150th anniversary of the Ellsworth Route of the Chisholm Trail, let's honor this piece of history while encouraging the producers and entrepreneurs of today.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT C. FREEMAN, ESQ.

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize and congratulate Robert Freeman on receiving the 30 under 30 award presented by Forbes to individuals who have impactful careers and accomplishments in their industry.

Mr. Freeman started his education at the State University of New York College at Buffalo, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts, and continued his education there earning a Juris Doctor from the University at Buffalo's School of Law. During his time at the University at Buffalo, Mr. Freeman was a member of the Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society, and a recipient of the Milton Plesur History Honor Award.

Mr. Freeman is a partner at Nesper, Ferber, DiGiacomo, Johnson & Grimm, LLP, where he has been since Oct. 2019. There, he focuses his practice on commercial and residential real estate law. Some of his previous work experience includes internships with the New York State Supreme Court, 8th Judicial District, and the Erie County District Attorney's Office.

Outside of work, Mr. Freeman is actively involved with Saints Peter and Paul's Chapter of The Society of St. Vincent de Paul and is an on-ice volunteer with the SABAH program. Also, he is a member of the UB Law Alumni Association and sits on the Town of Amherst's Employee Suggestion Merit Award Board. He is a proud recipient of the Father Nelson Baker Service Award and is an Eagle Scout.

Today, I ask that we recognize and give thanks to leaders in the Western New York Community, such as Robert Freeman for his continued dedication and selfless service to his community.

HONORING ANDREA S. LEE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable servant, Andrea S. Lee.

Andrea is a native of Grenada, MS, and is the President and Founder of The Diamond Project, Inc. She attended undergraduate school at The University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Psychology. She earned her Master of Business Administration from The University of Maryland. Andrea works on Capitol Hill for the United States Congress as the Director of Operations for the House Committee on Homeland Security.

Andrea is the owner of Showoff Cosmetics, an inspirational beauty brand that encourages individuals to step into their dreams. Within

two months of its launch, Showoff Cosmetics was displayed on a billboard in New York City's Time Square in December 2021.

Andrea is also owner of Talented Touches by Andrea, where she does event planning/design, cake decorating, sweet treats, gift wrapping and baskets. With over 19 years of experience, Talented Touches by Andrea has provided services for numerous clients, including The Recording Academy (Grammys) and Bravo TV's The Real Housewives of Atlanta. Andrea has served as a volunteer at the 57th Presidential Inauguration of President Barack Obama, worked on the event teams at the 2012 National Democratic Convention and the 2016 Democratic Presidential Debate.

Andrea realized her passion for community service in 2012 after starting an annual holiday tradition of adopting families and/or nursing homes in her hometown of Grenada, along with the women in her family, The LoveLee Ladies. In 2014, she became the co-coordinator of a group of female volunteers on Capitol Hill who planned, prepared, and served monthly dinners at a local women's shelter in Washington, D.C. Andrea is a firm believer that "God blesses us so that we can bless others." Therefore, she uses her leadership skills and creative abilities to give back to the community. Andrea is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Andrea S. Lee for her dedication and tenacity to serving her community and desire to be an example for all.

H.R. 2, THE SECURE THE BORDER ACT OF 2023

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to reassert my opposition to H.R. 2—the Secure the Border Act of 2023.

I along with my colleagues have attempted to address many of the ills these bills purport by offering common sense amendments that Republicans have continued to refuse any meaningful consideration.

I would like to highlight some of my amendments that were offered in both the Judiciary Committee Markup and the Homeland Security Committee Markup for H.R. 2.

In addressing H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act of 2023, we need the American people to understand that this is an unfortunate patchwork of extreme anti-immigrant proposals that would only add to more chaos at the border.

It includes a variety of illogical measures that would shut down the U.S. asylum system and target families and children for the cruelest forms of treatment.

One measure would make overstaying a visa a crime—for the first time in our history.

I offered amendments to H.R. 2 along with many of my Democratic colleagues both during Homeland Security Committee markup and for consideration by the House Rules Committee for inclusion for consideration during this bill—but all Democratic amendments were rejected by the Republican majority.

As a senior member of the House Committees on Homeland Security and Judiciary, I have a well-established public record for working to address our nation's most pressing immigration issues through sound government policies.

Immigration is not a criminal matter but categorized as a civil claim because seeking to travel, requesting refugee status, or attempting to make a better life in another country should not result in criminal prosecution.

There are nations who do seek to punish U.S. citizens who are traveling abroad through criminal prosecution with tragic consequences.

I have worked on the issue of unlawfully detained U.S. citizens who are held in other countries for a host of reasons that come down to the politics of a country and not due to a defendable immigration policy.

The conduct of the previous Administration in the forced separation of families I offered what would have added a mens rea requirement such that to be criminally liable, a person must knowingly and willingly overstay their visa.

It is important to remember that an individual can make an honest mistake about when they need to depart the country, be physically incapable of departing the country, or unable to return because of circumstances beyond their control in their home country.

Yet this bill has no exceptions or flexibility when it comes to overstaying a nonimmigrant visa. It is also important to remember that if a person overstays their visa, they are already subject to removal. The addition of a criminal penalty is both cruel and unnecessary.

Our immigration system needs reforms, and we are absolutely interested in bold new ideas to fix it, but this is not one of them.

My first amendment for H.R. 2 was offered to require U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to provide Congress with a plan for implementing—within one year—the use of body-worn cameras by its agents and officers who are engaged in border security or immigration enforcement activities. Any implementation of a plan for body-worn cameras would require additional Congressional Action.

Both CBP and ICE have already begun deploying body-worn cameras to their frontline officers and agents to provide greater transparency into interactions with the public.

In the event there are allegations of excessive force or other misconduct by an officer or agent, footage from body-worn cameras can enhance the agencies' ability to investigate.

Several studies on the effectiveness of body-worn cameras have found that police officers wearing cameras generate significantly fewer complaints and "use of force" reports relative to officers without cameras.

And savings from reduced complaints against officers, and the reduced time required to resolve such complaints, can result in substantial cost savings.

It is troubling that the underlying bill seems to seek cost savings at the expense of ensuring orderly and fair processing of asylum seekers; it would make more sense to save money by investigating complaints more quickly and preventing misconduct in the first place.

My second amendment for H.R. 2 was offered to clarify that the official policy of the United States as implemented by the agencies of the Department of Homeland Security shall be to keep families together and not remove children from parents or responsible adults unless the safety or welfare of the child is at risk.

The official policy of the Trump Administration was to separate children from their parents. No child—no matter where they are born—should be separated from their family, particularly after surviving the harrowing journey to the U.S. border.

My amendment was offered to stand firm in our principles that should bar CBP from separating children from their families unless there is evidence that the child is being trafficked. It further directs the DHS, in coordination with the State Department and HHS and the Attorney General to provide quarterly reports to Congress on the status of efforts to reunify migrant families and prevent future family separations.

Never again should we allow families to be ripped apart.

These are common-sense amendments that have been repeatedly disregarded by my colleagues across the aisle who have instead chosen to put forward legislative attacks on our most vulnerable populations.

It is time we stop the negativity and counterproductive efforts that are ripping apart our country, and to instead focus on coming together to work towards sensible and effective solutions that can work for the betterment and growth of our country.

I urge my colleagues to vote no on this wrong minded legislation.

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, May 11, 2023 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 16

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Defense

To hold closed hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2024 for hypersonic threats, missile defense, and the protection of the U.S homeland.

SVC–217

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the failures of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank.

SD–G50

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2024 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
SR–253

Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine House Republican supplemental IRS funding cuts, focusing on the impact on Federal law enforcement and the Federal deficit.
SD–215

Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine U.S. policy towards Russia.
SD–419

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine artificial intelligence in government.
SD–562

Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology, and the Law
To hold an oversight hearing to examine A.I., focusing on rules for artificial intelligence.
SD–226

10:15 a.m.
Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2024 for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
SD–406

2 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2024, focusing on investing in U.S. security, competitiveness, and the path ahead for the U.S. China relationship.
SD–106

Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Ana A. Escrogima, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman, Lisa A. Johnson, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Lebanese Republic, Ervin Jose Massinga, of Washington, to be Ambassador to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Bryan David Hunt, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Sierra Leone, and William W. Popp, of Missouri, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Uganda, all of the Department of State, and other pending nominations.
SD–419

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

3 p.m.
Committee on Finance
Subcommittee on International Trade, Customs, and Global Competitiveness
To hold hearings to examine economic cooperation for a stronger and more resilient Western Hemisphere.
SD–215

3:30 p.m.
Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold hearings to examine the impacts of debt ceiling brinkmanship and default on America's small businesses.
SR–428A

MAY 17

9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities
To hold hearings to examine the role of Special Operations Forces in supporting the National Defense Strategy, including activities that contribute to long-term strategic competition with China and Russia.
SR–222

10 a.m.
Committee on the Budget
To hold hearings to examine how tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations drive the national debt.
SD–608

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security
To hold hearings to examine a crisis in mental health and substance use disorder care, focusing on closing gaps in access by bringing care and prevention to communities.
SD–430

Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.
SD–226

10:15 a.m.
Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine Federal actions to improve project reviews for a cleaner and stronger economy.
SD–406

10:30 a.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Business meeting to consider S. 285, to provide for the perpetuation, administration, and funding of Federal Executive Boards, S. 311, to correct the inequitable denial of enhanced retirement and annuity benefits to certain U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers, S. 1137, to establish the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Program, S. 931, to improve the visibility, accountability, and oversight of agency software asset management practices, S. 885, to establish a Civilian Cybersecurity Reserve in the Department of Homeland Security as a pilot project to address the cybersecurity needs of the United States with respect to national security, S. 1425, to require a report on Federal support to the cybersecurity of commercial satellite systems, S. 1464, to restrict the flow of illicit drugs into the United States, S. 1443, to require an interagency strategy for creating a unified posture on counter-unmanned aircraft systems (C–UAS) capabilities and protections at international borders of the United States, S. 473, to provide for drone security, an original bill entitled, ''Expanding Whistleblower Protections for Contractors Act'', an original bill entitled, ''Disaster Assistance Simplification Act'', an original bill entitled, ''Congressional Budget Office Data Access Act'', an original bill entitled, ''Artificial Intelligence Leadership Training Act'', an original bill entitled, ''GAO Inspector General Parity Act'', and an original bill entitled, ''Rural Hospital Cybersecurity Enhancement Act''.
SD–562

2 p.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations
To hold hearings to examine health care denials and delays in medicare advantage.
SD–562

Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Federal Courts, Oversight, Agency Action, and Federal Rights
To hold hearings to examine Federal judicial ethics processes at the Judicial Conference of the United States.
SD–226

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Subcommittee on Economic Policy
To hold hearings to examine strengthening accountability at the Federal Reserve, focusing on lessons and opportunities for reform.
SD–538

Committee on Finance
Subcommittee on Health Care
To hold hearings to examine improving health care access in rural communities, focusing on obstacles and opportunities.
SD–215

Joint Economic Committee
To hold hearings to examine how a U.S. default crisis harms American families and businesses.
SH–216

3 p.m.
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
Subcommittee on Rural Development and Energy
To hold hearings to examine rural broadband, focusing on connecting our communities to the digital economy.
SR–328A

Committee on Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2024 and 2025 advance appropriations requests for the Department of Veterans Affairs.
SR–418

MAY 18

10:15 a.m.
Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine tax incentives in the Inflation Reduction Act, focusing on jobs and investment in energy communities.
SD–215

MAY 31

2:30 p.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

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1577–S1608

Measures Introduced: Forty-two bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1508–1549, and S. Res. 205–206. **Pages S1602–03**

Measures Reported:

Special Report entitled "Legislative Activities Report of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the United States Senate during the 117th Congress". (S. Rept. No. 118–21)

S. 467, to modify the age requirement for the Student Incentive Payment Program of the State maritime academies, with an amendment. **Page S1602**

Measures Passed:

Mark Swidan: Senate agreed to S. Res. 23, demanding that the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Communist Party of China immediately release Mark Swidan. **Pages S1587–88**

Countering International Parental Child Abduction Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 115, supporting the goals and ideals of "Countering International Parental Child Abduction Month" and expressing the sense of the Senate that Congress should raise awareness of the harm caused by international parental child abduction. **Page S1608**

Appointments:

Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Review Board: The Chair announced, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 107–12, the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Review Board: Sherriff Errol Toulon of New York vice Joseph Fox of New York. **Page S1608**

Congressional Review Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached provided that at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, May 11, 2023, Senate begin en bloc consideration of S.J. Res. 23, 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", and S.J. Res. 24, 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"; that notwithstanding Rule XXII, at 11 a.m., Senate vote on passage of the joint resolutions in the order listed; provided further that upon disposition of the joint resolutions, Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Bradley N. Garcia, of Maryland, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit, and then immediately recess subject to the call of the Chair; and that when the Senate reconvenes, there be 2 minutes for debate equally divided prior to a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination. **Page S1608**

Message from the President: Senate received the following messages from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13873 of May 15, 2019, with respect to securing the information and communications technology and services supply to China; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–10) **Page S1601**

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13667 of May 12, 2014, with respect to the Central African Republic; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–11) **Page S1601**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 52 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 117), L. Felice Gorordo, of Florida, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of two years. **Pages S1577–82**

By 52 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. EX. 119), Glenna Laureen Wright-Gallo, of Nevada, to be Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education.

Pages S1582–83, S1583–85

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 52 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 118), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S1582–83**

By 52 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 120), Colleen Joy Shogan, of Pennsylvania, to be Archivist of the United States. **Pages S1583–85**

By 51 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 121), Geeta Rao Gupta, of Virginia, to be Ambassador at Large for Global Women's Issues. **Pages S1585–87, S1588–97**

Messages from the House: **Page S1601**

Measures Referred: **Page S1601**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S1602**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1603–05**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S1605–07**

Additional Statements: **Pages S1599–S1601**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S1607–08**

Record Votes: Five record votes were taken today. (Total—121) **Pages S1582–83, S1585, S1588**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:03 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, May 11, 2023. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1608.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NOMINATION

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Xochitl Torres Small, of New Mexico, to be Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Luján, testified and answered questions in her own behalf.

APPROPRIATIONS: INDIAN COUNTRY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2024 for Indian country, after receiving testimony from Roselyn Tso, Director, Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services; and Bryan Newland, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs.

APPROPRIATIONS: U.S. COMPETITIVENESS AND CHINA

Committee on Appropriations: Committee received a closed briefing on the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2024, focusing on United States competitiveness, and the United States-China relationship from Ely Ratner, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs; Kin W. Moy, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs; and Thea D. Rozman Kendler, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Export Administration at the Bureau of Industry and Security.

APPROPRIATIONS: FBI AND DEA

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies concluded open and closed hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2024 for the Federal Bureau of Investigation and for the Drug Enforcement Administration, after receiving testimony from Christopher A. Wray, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Anne Milgram, Administrator, Drug Enforcement Administration, both of the Department of Justice.

COSTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Committee on the Budget: Committee concluded a hearing to examine leadership perspectives and experience on the national costs of climate change, after receiving testimony from former Senator Bill Frist, The Nature Conservancy; Terry Branstad, former Ambassador to China, Department of State, Des Moines, Iowa; and former Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, Sydney.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 229, to require SelectUSA to coordinate with State-level economic development organizations to increase foreign direct investment in semiconductor-related manufacturing and production;

S. 576, to enhance safety requirements for trains transporting hazardous materials, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1280, to require coordinated National Institute of Standards and Technology science and research activities regarding illicit drugs containing xylazine, novel synthetic opioids, and other substances of concern, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1284, to improve forecasting and understanding of tornadoes and other hazardous weather, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1414, to improve the instant messaging service used by the National Weather Service;

S. 1416, to provide guidance for and investment in the upgrade and modernization of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Weather Radio All Hazards Network; and

Promotions in the Coast Guard.

NPS BUDGET

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks concluded a hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2024 for the National Park Service, after receiving testimony from Charles F. Sams III, Director, National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

NOMINATION

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Jeffery Martin Baran, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, after the nominee, who was introduced by Representative Beyer, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

CONFLICT IN SUDAN

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the conflict in Sudan, focusing on options for an effective policy response, after receiving testimony from Victoria Nuland, Under Secretary of State; and Sarah Charles, Assistant to the Administrator for the Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance, United States Agency for International Development.

INSULIN AFFORDABILITY

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the need to make insulin affordable for all Americans, after receiving testimony from David A. Ricks, Eli Lilly and Company, Indianapolis, Indiana; Lars Fruergaard Jorgensen, Novo Nordisk, Bagsvaerd, Denmark; Paul Hudson, Sanofi, Paris, France; David Joyner, CVS Health, Woonsocket, Rhode Island; Adam Kautzner, Express Scripts, St. Louis, Missouri; and Heather Cianfrocco, Optum Rx, Eden Prairie, Minnesota.

LOC OVERSIGHT

Committee on Rules and Administration: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Library of Congress, after receiving testimony from Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress.

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: 32 public bills, H.R. 3169–3200; 1 private bill, H.R. 3201; and 6 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 41 and H. Res. 384–388, were introduced. **Pages H2243–45**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H2246–47**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 383, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2) to secure the borders of the United States, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1163) to provide incentives for States to recover fraudulently paid Federal and State unemployment compensation, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–51). **Page H2243**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Steel to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H2177**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:34 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Page H2180**

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by voice vote. **Page H2181**

General Counsel of the United States House of Representatives—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of Mr. Matthew B. Berry as General Counsel of the United States House of Representatives, effective February 1, 2023. **Page H2183**

Communication from the Clerk of the House: The Clerk of the House transmitted notification to the Speaker that the following individuals each have signed an agreement not to be a candidate for the

office of Senator or Representative in, or Delegate or Resident Commissioner to, the Congress for purposes of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 until at least 3 years after they are no longer a member of the board or staff of the Office of Congressional Ethics: Michael D. Barnes, Paul Vinovich, Lynn Westmoreland, Lorraine C. Miller, William H. Cable, Annie Cho, William P. Luther, Helen Eisner, Karen L. Haas, Kristina M. Crump, Docktrel Cromartie, Omar Ashmawy, Caleb S. Moore, Aaron Wilensky, and Indhira Benitez. **Page H2183**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:24 p.m. and reconvened at 4:12 p.m. **Page H2183**

Recess: The House recessed at 6:05 p.m. and reconvened at 6:11 p.m. **Page H2194**

Secure the Border Act of 2023: The House considered H.R. 2, to secure the borders of the United States. Consideration is expected to resume tomorrow, May 11th. **Pages H2183–94**

H. Res. 383, as amended, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 2) and (H.R. 1163) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 215 ayes to 209 noes, Roll No. 207, after agreeing to the Roy amendment by a recorded vote of 236 ayes to 190 noes, Roll No. 206, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 215 yeas to 211 nays, Roll No. 205.

Pages H2183–94, H2194–95, H2195–H2236

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow, May 11th for Morning Hour debate. **Page H2236**

Presidential Messages: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13667 with respect to the Central African Republic is to continue in effect beyond May 12, 2023—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 118–38). **Page H2183**

Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13873 with respect to securing the information and communications technology and services supply chain is to continue in effect beyond May 15, 2023—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 118–39). **Page H2183**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H2181.

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote and two recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H2193, H2193–94, and H2194–95.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Education and Workforce: Full Committee held a markup on H.J. Res. 45, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to ''Waivers and Modifications of Federal Student Loans''. H.J. Res. 45 was ordered reported, without amendment.

FISCAL YEAR 2024 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY BUDGET REQUEST

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials held a hearing entitled ''Fiscal Year 2024 Environmental Protection Agency Budget Request''. Testimony was heard from Michael S. Regan, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency.

CLOSING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE: OVERSEEING FEDERAL FUNDS FOR BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled ''Closing the Digital Divide: Overseeing Federal Funds for Broadband Deployment''. Testimony was heard from Andrew Von Ah, Director of Physical Infrastructure, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

THE FUTURE OF DIGITAL ASSETS: MEASURING THE REGULATORY GAPS IN THE DIGITAL ASSETS MARKETS

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Digital Assets, Financial Technology and Inclusion; and Subcommittee on Commodity Markets, Digital Assets, and Rural Development of the House Committee on Agriculture held a joint hearing entitled ''The Future of Digital Assets: Measuring the Regulatory Gaps in the Digital Assets Markets''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

FEDERAL RESPONSES TO RECENT BANK FAILURES

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Monetary Policy held a hearing entitled ''Federal Responses to Recent Bank Failures''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EVALUATING HIGH-RISK SECURITY VULNERABILITIES AT OUR NATION'S PORTS

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security held a hearing

entitled "Evaluating High-Risk Security Vulnerabilities at our Nation's Ports". Testimony was heard from Rear Admiral Lower Half Wayne R. Arguin, Jr, Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy, U.S. Coast Guard; Eric Goldstein, Executive Assistant Director, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Department of Homeland Security; and John Latta, Assistant Administrator, Enrollment Services and Vetting Programs, Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 2494, the "Protect Our Law enforcement with Immigration Control and Enforcement Act of 2023"; H. Res. 363, expressing support for recognizing "National Police Week"; H.R. 3091, the "Federal Law Enforcement Officer Service Weapon Purchase Act"; H. Con. Res. 40, expressing support for local law enforcement officers and condemning efforts to defund or dismantle local law enforcement agencies; H.R. 288, the "Separation of Powers Restoration Act"; and H.R. 3089, the "NDO Fairness Act". H.R. 3089 and H. Con. Res. 40 were ordered reported, without amendment. H. Res. 363, H.R. 3091, H.R. 2494, and H.R. 288 were ordered reported, as amended.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURE

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 2989, the "Save Our Sequoias Act". Testimony was heard from Randy Moore, Chief, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; Dennis Townsend, Chairman and Supervisor, District 5, Tulare County Board of Supervisors, California; and public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries held a hearing on H.R. 524, to amend the Coastal Barrier Resources Act to create an exemption for certain shoreline borrow sites; H.R. 615, the "Protecting Access for Hunters and Anglers Act of 2023"; H.R. 2689, the "Trust in Government Act of 2023"; and H.R. 2872, to amend the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 to allow States to issue electronic stamps under such Act, and for other purposes. Testimony was heard from Representatives Porter, Rouzer, and Wittman; Matt Strickler, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior; Bryan McClinton, Undersecretary, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Louisiana; Darryl Mills, Mayor, Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina; and public witnesses.

ESG PART I: AN EXAMINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND GOVERNANCE PRACTICES WITH ATTORNEYS GENERAL

Committee on Oversight and Accountability: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "ESG Part I: An Examination of Environmental, Social, and Governance Practices with Attorneys General". Testimony was heard from Sean Reyes, Attorney General, Utah; Steve Marshall, Attorney General, Alabama; and Michael Frerichs, State Treasurer, Illinois.

RISKY BUSINESS: COSTLY INACTION ON FEDERAL LEGACY IT

Committee on Oversight and Accountability: Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation held a hearing entitled "Risky Business: Costly Inaction on Federal Legacy IT". Testimony was heard from Kevin Walsh, Director, Information Technology and Cybersecurity, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

EXAMINING CHINA'S COERCIVE ECONOMIC TACTICS

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Examining China's Coercive Economic Tactics" [Original Jurisdiction Hearing]. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "An Overview of the Budget Proposal for the National Institute of Standards and Technology for Fiscal Year 2024". Testimony was heard from Laurie E. Locascio, Director, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce.

RETURN ON UNPRECEDENTED INVESTMENT: AN ANALYSIS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IIJA, THE IRA, AND THE CHIPS AND SCIENCE ACT

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Energy; and Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight held a joint hearing entitled "Return on Unprecedented Investment: An Analysis of the Department of Energy's Implementation of the IIJA, the IRA, and the CHIPS and Science Act". Testimony was heard from Geraldine Richmond,

Under Secretary for Science and Innovation, Department of Energy; and Kahleen Hogan, Principal Deputy Under Secretary and Acting Under Secretary for Infrastructure, Department of Energy.

TAKING ON MORE RISK: EXAMINING THE SBA'S CHANGES TO THE 7(a) LENDING PROGRAM PART I

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Taking on More Risk: Examining the SBA's Changes to the 7(a) Lending Program Part I''. Testimony was heard from Patrick Kelley, Associate Administrator, Office of Capital Access, U.S. Small Business Administration.

FREIGHT FORWARD: OVERCOMING SUPPLY CHAIN CHALLENGES TO DELIVER FOR AMERICA

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Highways and Transit held a hearing entitled ''Freight Forward: Overcoming Supply Chain Challenges to Deliver for America''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

EXAMINING POLICIES THAT INHIBIT INNOVATION AND PATIENT ACCESS

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled ''Examining Policies that Inhibit Innovation and Patient Access''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

JOINT WORLDWIDE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Joint Worldwide Intelligence Communications System''. This hearing was closed.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2024 for the Department of Defense, 9 a.m., SD–124.

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2024 for the Department of Education, 10 a.m., SD–192.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: business meeting to consider the nominations of Jared Bernstein, of Virginia, to be Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, Ron Borzekowski, of Maryland, to be Director, Office of Financial Research, Department of the Treasury, and Solomon Jeffrey Greene, of the District of Columbia, and David Uejio, of California, both to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine cannabis banking challenges of small businesses and workers, 9:45 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Communications, Media, and Broadband, to hold hearings to examine the state of universal service, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine opportunities for Congress to reform the permitting process for energy and mineral projects, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine cross-border prescriptions, focusing on pharmaceutical manufacturers and U.S. international tax policy, 10 a.m., SD–215.

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, S. 1339, to provide for increased oversight of entities that provide pharmacy benefit management services on behalf of group health plans and health insurance coverage, and other pending calendar business, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider 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, S. 412, to provide that it is unlawful to knowingly distribute private intimate visual depictions with reckless disregard for the individual's lack of consent to the distribution, S. 1170, to reauthorize and update the Project Safe Childhood program, 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, S. Kato Crews, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado, Jeremy C. Daniel, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, Marian F. Gaston, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California, Brendan Abell Hurson, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland, and Darrel James Papillion, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana, 10 a.m., SH–216.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 662, the ''Block Grant Assistance Act of 2023''; H.R. 1450, the ''Treating Tribes and Counties as Good Neighbors Act''; H.R. 1713, the ''DOE and USDA Interagency Research Act''; H.R. 1480, the ''Beagle Brigade Act of 2023''; and H.R. 1697, the ''Promoting Precision Agriculture Act of 2023'', 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Nutrition, Foreign Agriculture, and Horticulture, hearing entitled ''Stakeholder Perspectives on Agricultural Trade'', 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on the Budget, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Exposing the Woke, Wasteful, and Bloated Bureaucracy'', 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Education and Workforce, Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development, hearing entitled ''Examining America's Workforce Challenges: Looking for Ways to Improve Skills Development'', 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled ''Preparing for and Responding to Future Public Health Security Threats'', 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''Examining the Root Causes of Drug Shortages: Challenges in Pharmaceutical Drug Supply Chains'', 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security, hearing entitled ''Fiscal Year 2024 Department of Energy Budget Request'', 2 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''Oversight of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank: GAO's Preliminary Review'', 10 a.m., 2220 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Oversight and Accountability, hearing entitled ''Reviewing the Bureau of Industry and Security, Part I: U.S. Export Controls in an Era of Strategic Competition'', 2 p.m., HVC–210.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Accountability, hearing entitled ''Censorship Laundering: How the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Enables the Silencing of Dissent'', 2 p.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on House Administration, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''American Confidence in Elections: Protecting Political Speech'', 9:30 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing on H. Con. Res. 34, expressing disapproval of the withdrawal by the Secretary of the Interior of approximately 225,504 acres of National Forest System lands in Cook, Lake, and Saint Louis Counties, Minnesota, from disposition under the United States mineral and geothermal leasing laws; and legislation on the ''Superior National Forest Restoration Act'', 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs, hearing entitled ''Examining the President's FY 2024 Budget Request for the Indian Health Service'', 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''The Biden Administration's Executive Overreach and its Impact on American Energy Independence'', 2:15 p.m., 1334 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Accountability, Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, hearing entitled ''Investigating Pandemic Immunity: Acquired, Therapeutic or Both'', 10 a.m., 2247 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs, hearing entitled ''Strengthening the Fleet: Challenges and Solutions in Naval Surface Ship Construction'', 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Health Care and Financial Services, hearing entitled ''FDA Oversight Part II: Responsibility for the Infant Formula Shortage'', 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, And Technology, Subcommittee on Environment, hearing entitled ''An Overview of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2024'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Research and Technology, hearing entitled ''Reauthorizing the U.S. Fire Administration and Fire Grant Programs: Evaluating Effectiveness and Preparedness for Modern Challenges'', 2 p.m., 2325 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Contracting and Innovation, hearing entitled ''Leveling the Playing Field: The State of Small Business Contracting'', 2 p.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, hearing entitled ''Assessing the Shortage of United States Mariners and Recruitment and Retention in the United States Coast Guard'', 10 a.m., 2253 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials, hearing entitled ''Getting Back on Track: Exploring Rail Supply Chain Resilience and Challenges'', 2 p.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Subcommittee on Central Intelligence Agency, hearing entitled ''Sexual Assault'', 2 p.m., HVC–304 Nelson Room. This hearing is closed.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Thursday, May 11

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will begin en bloc consideration of S.J. Res. 23, Critical Habitat CRA, and S.J. Res. 24, Northern Long-Eared Bat CRA, and vote on passage of the joint resolutions in the order listed at 11 a.m.

Following disposition of the joint resolutions, Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Bradley N. Garcia, of Maryland, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit, and then immediately recess subject to the call of the Chair. When the Senate reconvenes, there will be 2 minutes for debate equally divided prior to a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Thursday, May 11

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Consideration of H.R. 2—Secure the Border Act of 2023. Consideration of H.R. 1163—Protecting Taxpayers and Victims of Unemployment Fraud Act.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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