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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, June 26, 2023, at 2 p.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2023

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

Pastor David Bullock, Luke 4:18 Fellowship, Mobile, Alabama, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, maker of Heaven and Earth, redeemer, generous provider, we are desperately dependent upon You for all things. Bestow Your wisdom on this body and its Members to know and do Your will for our Nation, to abandon unrighteous agendas, to hear and heed Your voice, and to make decisions according to Your Holy Word so that we may practice kindness, develop unity, and walk humbly before You. Bring about unity in our Nation through the power of the holy spirit.

May we, in reverence and through repentance of our sins, return to You. As the psalmist said, "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise." Father, open up Heaven's windows to bless this Nation as we humble ourselves before You.

In the name of Jesus, we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. CARL 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.

WELCOMING PASTOR DAVID BULLOCK

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CARL) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, I will take just a moment to thank David Bullock, my pastor, my friend. I sometimes refer to him as a son.

I have known David most all of his life. We grew up in church together. His beautiful family is here in the gallery with us. I am sure you probably can't see them there, but David has come a long way from our old roots in Cottage Hill Baptist Church.

When I say "roots," we are roots. We are family. We all grew up under the ministry of Dr. Fred Wolfe. I gave a speech on brother Fred here a short time ago.

David is the next legacy. He is the next step in the vision of God for our church and for our Nation. It is men like David and women like David's wife, Leslie, and his children that make this country such a special place.

We get on the floor and argue issues down here while we have prayer war-

riors that are at home praying for us—all of us, not just for my side of the aisle, but for all sides of the aisle.

I want to take just a moment to say thank you to the Bullocks and thank you to David for coming and speaking today, and may God bless this assembly.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEWHOUSE). The Chair will entertain up to five further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CONDEMNING USE OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO HOUSE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, since President Biden took office, there have been 5.2 million illegal crossings of our southern border.

Now, because of President Biden and his administration's failures to secure our southern border, our schools and children are suffering from the effects of rampant open borders.

When taxpayer-funded facilities in New York were used to house illegal immigrants, President Biden was silent. Even when the mayor of New York City said: "The President and the White House have failed this city," President Biden was silent.

Well, House Republicans won't remain quiet.

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

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



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We denounced this wasteful abuse of our schools by passing H. Res. 461, which condemned the use of public schools and facilities to house illegal immigrants. We sent a clear and direct message to the American people and the President that this should never be allowed.

TIME FOR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO CATCH UP

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, 50 years ago this week, Oregon became the first State to decriminalize cannabis. I was honored to be a part of that process.

It is time for the Federal Government to catch up.

We owe it to the generations of Black Americans targeted by the failed war on drugs.

We owe it to our veterans with their wounds, seen and unseen.

We owe it to thousands of workers and their employers who fail drug tests every day because they used State-legal cannabis weeks before.

We owe it to the large and growing cannabis industry, whose employees are targets for violent robbery because we deny them bank accounts.

We owe it to the American public who are not waiting for the Federal Government.

We need that framework to tax and regulate cannabis.

On the anniversary of Oregon's historic step to decriminalize cannabis, it is past time for the Federal Government to be a real partner and not a roadblock on the path forward.

SMALL BUSINESSES NEED AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE OPTIONS

(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, small businesses in this country have ranked the cost of health insurance as their number one problem for 32 years straight.

Democrat policies like ObamaCare have led to skyrocketing health insurance costs and a broken individual health market. ObamaCare costs taxpayers more than \$1 trillion a year while covering less than 5 percent of the population.

Small businesses are hardest hit by this as they often struggle to afford the absurdly expensive costs of healthcare.

The health insurance market is over-regulated, and power is concentrated in just a few large insurers. This is not a free market.

Medicare itself will be on the rocks in just a few years unless we change this tide.

To ease the burden on small businesses, House Republicans will intro-

duce and have introduced the CHOICE Act, which will enhance the flexibility and affordability of healthcare for small businesses.

Small businesses are a cornerstone of our American economy and are essential against corporate tyranny, which we see happening these days.

House Republicans will not let small businesses be crushed to death by rising costs and these failed policies.

CHILDREN IN AGRICULTURE MUST BE PROTECTED

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight my bill, the Children's Act for Responsible Employment and Farm Safety, or the CARE Act. This bill will protect children in the agricultural industry by creating the same child labor protections that children have in all other industries.

Farm labor is the most dangerous occupation in our Nation, and there are no child labor protections. As a result, three kids get injured a day, and every 3 days, a child dies from injuries sustained in the fields.

Between 2001 and 2015, nearly half of all fatal injuries to young workers occurred in agriculture.

As an emergency physician, the son of farmworkers, and someone who grew up in an impoverished farmworker community with friends who left school to help financially support their families, I want to protect farmworker children across the country.

My bill aims to stop the alarming rate of farm labor injuries and deaths by raising the age of employment and limiting the number of working hours during the schoolday for children—the same as all other industries.

We must protect children. As a father, doctor, and son of farmworkers, I implore my colleagues to join this effort and cosponsor the CARE Act.

NATIONWIDE BAN ON ABORTION IS THE GOAL

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

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, the Supreme Court's decision in Dobbs will have been the cruel law of the land for 1 year.

In that short time, 14 States enacted near-total abortion bans, and others are trying to do the same.

Wasn't that the goal?

This is not about being pro-life or being for States' rights. The goal is a nationwide ban on abortion. The goal is control over women and girls. The goal is cruelty.

Healthcare providers, the medical experts actually in the rooms with patients who know them by name, have

said many times, and it bears repeating, abortion care is healthcare.

Yet, one in three women and over one-fifth of the American public is now living without abortion access.

Mr. Speaker, 68 percent of OB/GYNs say the management of pregnancy-related medical emergencies is now worse, and 70 percent say Dobbs has widened the racial maternal healthcare gap.

Dobbs puts the physical and mental well-being of millions at risk.

Judges and legislators are grossly unqualified to make personal medical decisions for millions of women.

I have three daughters-in-law and three granddaughters. I will not rest until their full rights, until the rights of all women and girls in this country, are restored.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF RUTH YARBROUGH

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

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th birthday of Mrs. Ruth Yarbrough of Dry Fork, Virginia.

Mrs. Yarbrough was born on July Fourth, 1923, in Dry Fork, where she continues to be an active member of her Pittsylvania County community.

She is the mother of four sons and has been blessed with an abundance of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

While raising her four sons, Mrs. Yarbrough accompanied her children to their school, Stony Mill Elementary School, so frequently that the principal offered her a job as a dietitian. She held that position for over 30 years.

Mrs. Yarbrough lives a vigorous life, still living independently and hosting many visitors in her home. She is steadfast in her faith in God and is currently serving as a deaconess at Guildfield Baptist Church.

We can all learn from the wisdom that Mrs. Yarbrough graciously shares, often stating that the secret to longevity is to "love the Lord, be nice to others, and smile."

I am honored to represent such outstanding constituents like Mrs. Yarbrough. Please join me in celebrating Mrs. Yarbrough's birthday and the long-lasting legacy that she continues to hold.

CELEBRATING PRIDE MONTH

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate LGBTQ Pride Month and stand with all members of the LGBTQ community.

June celebrates the LGBTQ community and the Pride movement's progress. It also reminds us of our history.

We have made progress in our efforts to further the LGBTQ movement and

promote nationwide allyship, yet anti-trans legislation continues to be presented in legislative bodies across the country, and hate crimes targeting LGBTQ communities continue to rise.

The LGBTQ community and its allies will not be silenced.

The cities of Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., both hosted their annual Pride parades on June 11 and 9, with thousands participating in both. It is a beautiful sight to see such strong, growing support in our hometown of Los Angeles and right here in our Nation's Capital.

Let's recommit to defending the rights and privileges of all LGBTQ people as they face a hate-filled wave of anti-equality legislation across our country.

For all this and more, I stand and celebrate LGBTQ Pride Month this June.

□ 0915

BLACK MATERNAL MORTALITY CRISIS

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for Tori Bowie. Tori was once called the fastest woman in the world. She dazzled before international crowds with her remarkable speed on the track. She brought home Olympic medals. She was a role model for young Black girls who were just learning how to lace up their sneakers.

Tori was just 32 years old when she was taken from us. She was 8 months pregnant. She passed away due to complications that included respiratory distress and eclampsia.

Eclampsia is a rare and severe complication of preeclampsia. Multiple studies have shown that Black women are disproportionately at risk for preeclampsia.

Tori's story is unfortunately not unique. A Black woman can be well-off, well-educated, and well-connected, and she is still more likely to die from pregnancy or childbirth complications. This is a crisis.

Black mothers and babies are dying at intolerable rates. Every woman deserves the best quality of maternal care, no matter what they look like or where they come from.

I urge my colleagues to honor Tori's memory by committing ourselves to ending the Black maternal mortality crisis. Action is our only option.

MIDDLE CLASS BORROWER PROTECTION ACT OF 2023

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous material on the bill, H.R. 3564.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 524 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 3564.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 0916

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 3564) to cancel recent changes made by the Federal Housing Finance Agency to the up-front loan level pricing adjustments charged by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac for guarantee of single-family mortgages, and for other purposes, with Mr. NEWHOUSE in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall be confined to the bill and amendments specified in the first section of House Resolution 524, and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the Chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON).

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 3564, the Middle Class Borrower Protection Act, will undo a bad policy implemented at the worst time. Americans are struggling to afford housing. I am talking about the loan level price adjustments that the Federal Housing Finance Agency, FHFA, put into effect on May 1 of this year. This policy essentially implemented a cross-subsidy to individuals with lower down payments and lower credit scores.

Loan level pricing adjustments are up-front fees which adjust the final interest rate charged on mortgage loans based on different risk characteristics associated with individual loans. The most notable characteristics would be the mortgage's underlying loan-to-value ratio and the buyer's credit score.

While such fees may be necessary for Fannie and Freddie Mac, collectively known as the GSEs, to raise capital and adequately hedge against credit risk, the adjustments announced by FHFA would disproportionately hurt individuals with credit scores of 680 or greater.

To put that into perspective, the average credit score is around 710, and nearly 19 out of 20 Americans have credit scores above 680. The other thing is credit scores alone aren't a proxy for

wealth or income. Therefore, most Americans would likely be hurt by these fees.

However, those with a credit score below 680 will benefit from lower rates than the prior LLPA assessments. This fee change violates the fundamental principle of risk-based pricing: Lower-risk borrowers should pay lower prices than higher-risk borrowers for access to the same credit.

Despite the FHFA's opaque approach to assessing LLPAs, the result of their new policies speak for themselves. The Middle Class Borrower Protection Act would reinstate the old LLPA prices that were in effect prior to May 1, while also directing the Government Accounting Office to complete an independent study of the processes and data used by FHFA to change the prices, including the impact of those changes on the safety and soundness of the GSEs, which, I will add, have been in conservatorship under the Federal Government for 15 years. Then GAO would report to Congress within 1 year of the study.

FHFA would be prohibited from changing the LLPAs until 90 days after the report, after which it would be required to: one, follow the basic agency notice-and-comment procedure for making any new changes to the LLPA fee; and two, ensure that future fee adjustments be made based on the actual risk posed by the mortgage.

FHFA would also be prohibited from imposing any new fee on borrowers based on their debt-to-income ratio, which was an idea they considered implementing effective August 1.

Finally, I will acknowledge that over the past weekend, the Congressional Budget Office scored this bill, and they assessed a cost of \$1.8 billion for implementing this bill. I believe the fact that CBO says this bill costs a single penny is absurd and exposes a glaring flaw within our legislative process.

Perhaps CBO has a rebuttal, but that would require them to show their work, which they have not. This is why I have long advocated for another bill of mine, the CBO Show Your Work Act.

This past week exemplified just why we need transparent processes when legislating. The reality is these fees aren't even going directly to the Treasury. While the GSEs are in conservatorship, the money is supposed to go to the balance sheet of Freddie and Fannie so that they can accumulate capital.

As this rule is announced, the explicit purpose was to grow capital on the balance sheets of Fannie and Freddie. These were taken over by the Federal Government in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis. They have remained in the conservatorship of the Federal Government. The revenue isn't coming in directly to the Treasury, it is meant to actually free the GSEs from control of the Federal Government.

These revenues were not imposed by Congress, so there really isn't a need

for us to replace the revenue that the administration imposed with a really misguided rule. There was no revenue coming in on April 30. On May 1, they implement this policy change, and somehow, we are supposed to come up with the revenue to offset it.

Now, I argued against doing that. I asked the Rules Committee to ignore the misguided advice of the Congressional Budget Office and to not implement a pay-for because it is not our—we didn't cause this expense to occur. Frankly, it is not even a real expense. It is essentially a tax imposed by the administration.

Because of the rules, we offered a manager's amendment which was ultimately incorporated into this bill. We add 1 year to a 10-basis point fee that is assessed on every Fannie and Freddie loan, regardless of your credit, just as a cover. That rule has been in place since the bill passed in 1992. It was set to expire in 2032. Now it will expire in 2033.

I hope between now and then we can change that, and we can also liberate Fannie and Freddie from their ongoing conservatorship which, I will note, has lasted longer than Britney Spears' conservatorship. The only way that it would cost the Federal Government money is if the conservator is actually raking money out of it and funding their own operation, which is not what is supposed to happen. It is supposed to stay with Fannie and Freddie, so it shouldn't be costing the Federal Government a dime to implement the Middle Class Borrower Protection Act.

Nevertheless, Fannie and Freddie will benefit from one extra year of money being collected under this manager's amendment that was adopted and incorporated in the bill.

Let me return and focus on the bill at hand, the Middle Class Borrowers Protection Act. Let's think about this: A Federal agency acting under its own purview and not subject to the Administrative Procedure Act implemented a politically motivated cross-subsidy through a clear money grab on unsuspecting credit-worthy borrowers. This wasn't a decision by Congress. This was simply the FHFA using its position as conservator of the GSEs to increase the government's baseline.

Now Congress is trying to undo the changes and re-implement a policy that was in place just 8 weeks ago.

However, Congress, as I said, had to pay for this fake shortfall. Like we see time and again, only in Washington, D.C., would math like this make sense.

It is imperative for this body to protect the cornerstone of the American Dream by promoting housing affordability, and H.R. 3564 does just that.

Mr. Chair, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 3564, the MAGA housing scam act, which follows the blueprint of the GOP

tax scam by helping the wealthy at the expense of the middle class.

Homeownership is a quintessential part of the American Dream, and it is the single most important way that households today can build wealth. That is why expanding access to homeownership is one of the best ways that we can grow the middle class.

Unfortunately, the dream of homeownership is becoming further out of reach for a growing number of households due to a worsening storm of rising interest rates and home prices, fueled by an undersupply of new housing.

In fact, house prices have skyrocketed by 40 percent since 2020, and first-time homeownership rates have plummeted to an all-time low.

Moreover, housing costs are a primary driver of inflation, which is hurting every household in America. It is against this backdrop that Republicans are actually working to make homeownership more expensive for everyone, especially the middle class.

The MAGA housing scam act would affect two different types of fees that apply to mortgages backed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, which make up the vast majority of mortgages today.

First, this bill would extend a guarantee fee of 10 basis points for another year, costing all future home buyers an additional \$5 billion.

Second, this bill would reverse recent changes to loan level price adjustments, better known as LLPAs, which are another type of fee on mortgages backed by Fannie and Freddie. The amount of this fee is risk-based, meaning that it varies depending on characteristics of the borrower and loan, such as income and downpayment; whether the loan has a fixed or a variable rate of interest; and whether the loan is a cash-out refinance.

FHFA, which is the agency that regulates Fannie and Freddie, is responsible for determining the amount of the LLPAs and recently made changes to this fee to help middle-class borrowers.

To illustrate, a middle-class borrower, say, with excellent credit, who makes maybe a 5 percent downpayment on a median-priced home would have their LPPA reduced by nearly half under FHFA's changes.

This bill would reverse the recent changes made by FHFA, resulting in higher fees for middle-class borrowers. Again, the LLPAs are only one of two fees affected by this bill. Altogether, this bill would hit middle-class borrowers with a double whammy of both an extension of a 10-basis point guarantee fee, and an increase in the LLPAs.

During the debate in the Rules Committee on this bill, I pointed out how this bill hurts middle-class borrowers who have worked hard to build excellent credit but can't afford a 20 percent downpayment.

Republicans doubled down, insisting that those with lower downpayments are riskier borrowers and deserve to

pay more. What they failed to understand is that middle-class borrowers who can't afford a 20 percent downpayment are already required to purchase private mortgage insurance, which can add hundreds of dollars to a borrower's monthly mortgage cost. Private mortgage insurance protects Fannie and Freddie from the risks associated with the lower downpayment.

□ 0930

Charging a higher LLPA for risks that are already covered by an insurance policy is simply unfair.

During the Rules Committee debate, Republicans called FHFA's changes redistributive. Let's be clear: FHFA made changes to ensure that middle-class home buyers are not unfairly charged more for risks that are already covered by private mortgage insurance.

This is hardly redistribution. It is ensuring that middle-class borrowers have a fair shot at homeownership. Mr. DAVIDSON's bill, on the other hand, would absolutely redistribute costs from the middle class to the wealthy.

Let me break this down for the RECORD.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office determined that this bill would cost \$1.8 billion before the addition of the manager's amendment. That represents \$1.8 billion in fees that otherwise would have primarily affected the wealthiest home buyers who could barely notice such a nominal fee increase.

In order to pay for this cost, Republicans added a 10-basis point guarantee fee that would increase costs for all home buyers to the tune of \$5 billion.

Mr. Chairman, for all these reasons and more, I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 3564, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, the gentlewoman points out things that just aren't so. The idea that a loan that has less equity in it isn't riskier than a loan with more equity in it is completely false.

Every business school in the country will teach it, but most people don't need to go to business school to understand that a loan with a lot of equity in it is at much less risk of default. It is rational to price risk, and that is what the market should be doing. Plus, people who have low income and have high credit scores are punished by this foolish policy. This simply will undo it.

The last thing I will say is, right now, there is money that is being taken away from consumers in the marketplace—\$1.8 billion over the next 2 years. Once this bill passes, that stops getting taken away. The 10-basis point pay-for that is in this bill is still in effect right now.

In fact, it is scheduled to go out in 2032. In the near term, nothing changes in this bill. It is in 2033 that the pay-for comes in, again, only with the false accounting at the Congressional Budget Office would that even be necessary.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. McHENRY), the chairman of the full committee.

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Chairman, I thank my colleague and the chair of the Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance (Mr. DAVIDSON) for his fine work here legislating and the great work that he has put in this Congress on the Housing and Insurance Subcommittee.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of Mr. DAVIDSON's bill, the Middle Class Borrower Protection Act. What I would say to my colleagues is: Is it right to raise the costs of borrowing for families that have worked hard and saved up to buy a home in order to subsidize those who are less creditworthy? I don't think so.

This bill would ensure that doesn't happen under this new Biden administration rule set. What we have before us today is a bill that would say to the 95 percent of Americans nationwide that have a credit score over 680 that you are going to pay more, and those that are less creditworthy, under 680, the 5 percent of Americans who are under a 680 credit score will pay less under this new Biden administration proposal.

If we don't act with this bill, almost half of those borrowers will face an extra \$1.8 billion in new fees over the next 2 years. That is a tax on more creditworthy people when they access a mortgage. I don't think that is proper. I don't think that is just.

Those are middle-class borrowers in each of our districts, Republican and Democrat, Independent, rural and urban, young and old. They are across the country, and we are trying to stand up for them. For some reason, the Biden administration wants to put their finger on the scales and decide who gets to pay more and who gets to pay less.

That is inherently unfair, whether that is in my district in western North Carolina or districts on the other side of the country. It will make housing less affordable, not more. It puts taxpayers at risk by threatening the safety and soundness of our housing finance system, and we have a chance to change that today and do the right thing.

If you want to protect middle-class borrowers in your district from a new tax, you will support this bill. If you want to take action to address housing affordability, you will support this bill. If you want more Americans to achieve the dream of homeownership, you will vote for this bill.

Mr. Chairman, I thank my colleagues on the House Financial Services Committee, on both sides of the aisle, for the good work they do in this Congress. I also thank my colleague, Mr. DAVIDSON, for his leadership here on this important housing issue that touches all of us across the country, and I urge a "yes" vote.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER).

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3564, the so-called Middle Class Borrowers Protection Act of 2023. The reason for my position is because this legislation does the exact opposite of what it purports.

The reality is this: The Financial Services Committee held a subcommittee hearing on this legislation on May 17, titled: "Undermining Housing Affordability With Politics."

My uncle used to say: "I would kill for a Nobel Peace Prize." It is called irony, but that irony did not match the irony of the hearing on housing issues that had been hyper-politicized.

In my remarks, I mentioned that stations like FOX News have been providing a narrative of FHFA changes that almost all the experts in the field, and all that I have personally talked to, will tell you is untrue, but the complexity of housing finance lends itself to a lack of understanding.

Referring to FHFA pricing changes, which were largely required due to changes in GSE capital requirements and had not been addressed in many years as a socialist scheme, is simply wrong and is transparently political.

The committee then marked up legislation in a partisan way, and what was most surprising to me was the number of industry groups who have expressed issues with the politicization of FHFA loan-level price adjustment changes.

The FHFA in this process has been willing to provide information to Congress and much more information than would have been received by private entities before conservatorship.

I was pleased when FHFA listened to the concerns of Congress and outside organizations in rescinding a debt-to-income-based loan-level price adjustment that would have led to several problems. The bill we are debating today affirms that decision.

However, the bill we are debating today, if we look at what the CBO has said about the bill, is potentially expensive and not in the best interest of the American people. Given the politics of the issue, the American public should have no confidence that the end result would be any less politicized.

For example, requiring notice and comment process in all pricing matters and adjustments would reduce the GSE's ability to quickly respond to changing market conditions, thereby undermining safety and soundness objectives in times of market issues.

This would require the agency to delay implementation of pricing changes for an extended period. There are several alternatives that could be required that would complement the annual guarantee fee report FHFA is already required to publish.

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Chairman, the gentleman from Missouri is accurate. This does cost money. It costs the 19 out of 20 Americans with 680 credit scores or better who choose to get a

Fannie or Freddie mortgage, it costs them money. It takes it out of their hard-earned dollars and transfers it to the GSEs.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Mrs. BICE).

Mrs. BICE. Mr. Chairman, I thank my colleague from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON) for yielding.

When this news broke that the FHFA organization had passed a rule to change how this particular policy was put in place, I immediately went to him and I said: We need to fix this, and here we are.

I am proud to stand in support of this legislation, which I am collating with Congressman DAVIDSON. Under the rule from the Federal Housing Finance Agency, home buyers with good credit scores will be forced to pay more for their mortgages to subsidize loans to higher risk borrowers, and that is why the Middle Class Borrower Protection Act is so important.

It will roll back this administration's senseless rule and stop the anticapitalist agenda. Similar to the student loan scam, the President is, once again, trying to bypass Congress and centralize more power in the hands of the executive branch.

Since President Biden took office, he has increased the role of the Federal Government in the lives of everyday Americans, and this is a perfect example.

With sky-high mortgage rates, the last thing we need is to add more fees and burdens on hardworking Americans and certainly hardworking Oklahomans in my district. I stand in support of this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, before I delve into additional remarks, the Congressional Budget Office deemed this bill to cost \$1.8 billion. Why then would Mr. DAVIDSON, with his amendments, create more money than even the Congressional Budget Office said his bill would cost?

He has raised it \$5 billion more. Who pays for that? I don't care how you put it. Whether it is paid for tomorrow, next month, next year, 10 years from now, who pays for that? The home buyers pay for that and that must be noted.

The bill is increased by \$5 billion by Mr. DAVIDSON, even more than the Congressional Budget Office said the bill would cost at \$1.8 billion. Why would he do that? Why would he charge home buyers more money than even the Congressional Budget Office said the bill would cost?

Accordingly, I will explain further. Currently, middle-class borrowers who cannot make a 20 percent downpayment are charged higher LLpas and must purchase private mortgage insurance.

I am going to say it again. If you are paying less than 20 percent, you have to get private mortgage insurance to

cover the risks that may be posed to the enterprises.

This is an unfair double charge on middle-class borrowers for the same risks. Don't forget, they have paid their g-fees. Everybody has to pay the g-fees to help write the undercosts of the operation of FHFA. They pay those, and it is determined on each individual loan. It depends on the characteristics of that loan.

You build in the question of risk in those fees and then you pay private mortgage insurance, which means the middle-class borrowers are paying more than the wealthy borrowers.

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In fact, borrowers with PMI also have excellent credit, with median FICO scores of 754 as of December 2020, and are more likely to be first-time home buyers. They also pose less loss severity to the enterprises than borrowers who have the means to make a down-payment of 20 percent or more.

FHFA's mortgage pricing changes that reduce this unfair double charge on borrowers with PMI is a critical step to making the dream of homeownership attainable for the middle class in America.

I oppose this bill, and I oppose my Republican colleague, who is part of the message going out from FOX News.

I oppose this bill because, first of all, the \$5 billion is an increase. The Republicans are forever saying that they are trying to cut budgets. They don't want to increase the amount of taxes. Yet, here he is increasing the amount that he claims he is charging homeowners, when even the Congressional Budget Office says it costs \$1.8 billion, and now, he is asking for \$5 billion. Well, I don't quite understand that, and nobody else should understand that. It is not needed.

Again, they keep talking about credit scores. These middle-class homeowners, who could not afford to pay maybe 20 percent down, have good credit scores, equal credit scores to the wealthy home buyers. I don't get why he keeps talking about these credit scores.

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

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

Mr. Chair, I thank the ranking member for recognizing that low-income people do have high credit scores. That is why it is unjust to implement this rule and charge them a higher fee than maybe wealthy people who have low credit scores.

This is an interesting observation. The ranking member on the Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance, Mr. CLEAVER, just pointed out that it would be dangerous to require the FHFA to use the Administrative Procedure Act, i.e., to give notice and get comment, before they implement policies that impose costs on the American public. In July 2020, Ms. WATERS and the majority at the time sent a letter

to Director Calabria—at the time the Director of FHFA—saying: "Moreover, we urge you to use your powers under title 5 U.S.C. 551–559, the Administrative Procedure Act, to engage meaningfully with all stakeholders."

It seems they are not opposed to FHFA using the Administrative Procedure Act. In fact, they asked them to do it, so I wonder why it is selectively.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. LESKO).

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Chair, I thank Mr. DAVIDSON for sponsoring this bill and allowing me to talk.

The Biden administration's mortgage rule is the most recent in a long line of upside-down, absolutely crazy policies by this administration.

Recently, the Federal Housing Finance Agency increased loan-level pricing adjustments for Americans with good credit scores and decreased the fees for the majority of Americans who have poor credit scores. That makes no sense. It is upside down, and it incentivizes people not to have good credit scores.

Americans who have good credit scores and have been fiscally responsible should not be forced to effectively subsidize the loans of people with bad credit, especially in the middle of a cost-of-living crisis with still-high inflation rates and rising home prices.

The Middle Class Borrower Protection Act repeals this terrible policy and ensures that Americans are not unfairly punished for being fiscally responsible.

I have young adult children, and they struggle. They are not wealthy, as some of my Democratic colleagues have said, but they have struggled. They live paycheck to paycheck, but they try to have good credit scores.

One of them said to me: Jeez, with this crazy Biden policy of wanting to punish people with good credit scores so that they have to pay more to subsidize people with poor credit scores, why the heck should I work to have good credit scores?

That is what this administration is doing. This is like socialism. This is insane. That is why I support Mr. DAVIDSON's bill. That is why I support Americans who strive to be fiscally responsible.

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

Mr. Chair, I will take a minute to say that the representation that middle-class home buyers who may not have 20 percent down also have bad credit is not true. The record should reflect that that is not true. That is made up by someone who would like to throw credit scores into this argument and argue that these middle-class buyers, who can't pay 20 percent down, all have bad credit. They do not. They have good credit, and they are eligible for a loan. The only thing they don't have is 20 percent down, and they get mortgage insurance in order to cover that.

Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER).

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Chair, I missed something because I didn't know that the Biden administration was involved in this debate or had any involvement at all with this discussion.

At the appropriate time, I will offer a motion to recommit this bill back to committee. If House rules permitted, I would have offered the motion with an important amendment to the bill.

My amendment would make the \$3.2 billion surplus this bill generates available for Federal programs to assist homeless individuals and families. Instead of making housing more expensive for our constituents, we should be ensuring that every single American is able to live with dignity and comfort.

Mr. Chair, I include in the RECORD the text of the amendment.

At the end, add the following new section:

SEC. 8. USE OF EXCESS AMOUNTS.

Any amount of budget authority resulting from the enactment of section 7 (relating to enterprise guarantee fees) in excess of the amount necessary to offset mandatory spending increases under the other provisions of this Act so as to comply with clause 10.(a)(1) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives of the 118th Congress are hereby made available for assistance under Federal programs to assist homeless individuals and families.

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Chair, I hope my colleagues will join me in voting for the motion to recommit and opposing this sham bill.

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD).

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I thank Mr. DAVIDSON for his leadership on trying to correct this egregious policy coming from the Biden administration.

The American people are suffering today. They are suffering from Bidenflation, 40-year high inflation. They are suffering under higher grocery prices. They are suffering under high gas prices, higher utility energy prices, all as a result of this President's policies.

They are suffering under the massive inflation that has caused housing prices to rise, and then we have complicated that with raising interest rates to make homeownership out of reach for most Americans.

Here comes the Biden administration to the rescue. They are going to charge most Americans higher mortgage fees when they go to borrow to buy a home as a result of having good credit.

I worked in the lending industry for 17 years. Lending prices and fees are based on credit. They are based on stability. They are based on ability. They are based on the loan to value, the amount of loan that you take relative to the value of the home.

The lending industry knows what they are doing. They want to make every possible loan they can make, and they want to price it appropriately, according to the risk.

However, what this does, what we are trying to overturn here, what the Biden administration wants to do, is reward or incentivize bad behavior.

Credit is a reflection of good behavior. There is not even really a correlation between income and credit. There are many high-income individuals who borrow more than they can afford or have bad character demonstrated in their credit. There are many low-income individuals who have outstanding character, outstanding credit history because they do the right thing.

Now, what the Biden administration wants to do is to penalize them and to subsidize that bad credit on the backs of folks who have good credit, of course.

I thank my friend from Ohio, Mr. DAVIDSON, for his leadership on this, his efforts to overturn this terrible policy. It is socialist and un-American, and it is simply wrong. I thank him for his leadership.

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

Mr. Chair, the MAGA housing scam act would reverse critical cost savings for middle-class borrowers as provided by FHFA.

Before FHFA's May 1 changes, a middle-class borrower with a high credit score and a 5 percent downpayment on a medium-priced home would have paid an LLPA fee of \$81 in addition to private mortgage insurance. Today, this borrower would pay half of that fee, allowing them to access affordable homeownership.

Similarly, a borrower with the same credit score and a 40 percent downpayment on the same priced home would have paid only \$27 before May 1 and today pays just \$20. These are cost savings that Republicans not only want to eliminate but now they want to add an additional \$5 billion in fees for everyone.

This is a scam, not a protection for the middle class. This is messaging by FOX News.

What is that \$5 billion for? Why is it that Mr. DAVIDSON is wanting to raise more money than even the Congressional Budget Office says the bill costs? This is not to be understood.

I know that there is an attempt to try to make the argument that somebody wealthier is paying for those who have less income, less money, less resources. It is not true.

Don't eliminate private mortgage insurance. If you pay less than 20 percent, you pay for private mortgage insurance in addition to the GSE fees. Middle-class borrowers were paying more than even the wealthier borrowers, so it had nothing to do with the credit score because the credit score of that home buyer who only paid less than 20 percent is as good as the credit score of the wealthier buyer. It had nothing to do with that at all.

Again, I don't know why this argument is being made by the other side. It is an attempt, I think, to message in a way that goes directly to constituents who they make angrier because their government is making them do something they should not be making them do.

Don't politicize this. This is about homeownership. This is about the American Dream. This is about making sure that those people who can afford to buy a home are able to do so.

The idea that anybody would say that, if you can't make a 20 percent downpayment but can pay for private mortgage insurance, you must not have good credit scores, that is an absolute untruth. As a matter of fact, you would not be able to get that loan if you had bad credit scores.

I wish the opposition would stop making that argument because it does not fly. That person who is paying, again, private mortgage insurance also has a good credit score. They didn't have the 20 percent down, but they are paying for it with their private mortgage insurance.

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

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Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Chair, I have no additional speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Chairman, I oppose H.R. 3564, which harms middle-class home buyers and their ability to access homeownership on fair and affordable terms.

This bill responds to a misinformation campaign, again initiated by a friend of the Republicans, FOX News, and propagated by extreme MAGA Republicans. It protects wealthy home buyers and imposes billions in new fees on all home buyers.

Mr. Chair, I also oppose this bill because it completely ignores our Nation's worsening housing crisis, which is locking millions out of the dream of homeownership. MAGA Republicans are instead focused on a minuscule fee in the home-buying process that does nothing to address our Nation's housing shortage and rising housing costs that are driving inflation.

We have a shortage of 14 million homes nationwide and more than 582,500 people experiencing homelessness on any given night, with homelessness rising faster in rural communities than anywhere else in the country. Meanwhile, U.S. renters are paying more of their income on rent today than ever before. These are the real problems that Republicans should be working to solve, not increasing fees by billions of dollars according to the CBO.

In fact, this bill is opposed by Americans for Financial Reform, Center for Responsible Lending, the National Fair Housing Alliance, the National Housing Law Project, and the National Housing Resource Center. Industry groups such as the Mortgage Bankers Association and the National Association of Realtors are also very concerned about this.

Republicans are forever worried about the fact that we are not making enough cuts. Yet, in the negotiations that just occurred on raising the debt

limit, they wanted to cut, cut, cut, cut. They are not only jeopardizing middle-class homeowners, but they are increasing the amount of money—more than even needed—than the Congressional Budget Office has said the bill would cost.

Why \$5 billion? I don't get it. I don't understand, but I am through with it.

Mr. Chair, I simply ask for a "no" vote on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Chair, the American people should be angry. They should be upset because the Biden administration did impose a socialist redistribution scheme. The most egregious and obvious part is that they withdrew as we uncovered this and exposed what they were trying to do.

On August 1, their plan was to say that if you have a lot of income and very little debt, then you should pay more, even more than this scheme that took effect on May 1, and you should subsidize the people that have little income and more debt. Now, to be sure, they still would qualify for a mortgage, or they wouldn't get the loan, but that is patently obvious redistribution of wealth.

The component that took effect on May 1 isn't really a redistribution of wealth per se, but it does hit the average credit score of 710. Everyone with a credit score of 680 or above, 19 out of 20 Americans is being hit by a higher fee since May 1 for their mortgages.

It is a redistribution of credit scores, and that is even worse than an idea of redistribution of wealth, in a sense. Because you have responsible people who live within their means, might live just a little bit above paycheck to paycheck, save, scrape together, build up a downpayment, have a mortgage in place, and they are going to pay more now since May 1.

We have to fix this injustice. That is what this bill does. It is time to just move forward in a commonsense way.

First, you study the problem before you implement it. This bill requires the GAO to complete the study, and then it requires FHFA to look at the study, to take 90 days of notice before they implement something else. The part that it bans after the study is over is the real redistribution of wealth, the debt-to-income scheme.

Mr. Chair, I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this commonsense Middle Class Borrower Protection Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise to speak against H.R. 3564, a harmful bill which seeks to cancel recent changes made by the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) to the single-family mortgages' framework.

First, I'd like to applaud the FHFA for their bold and courageous actions that aim to ensure equity and fairness in the mortgage pricing framework.

The title of H.R. 3564 contradicts its content, because in reality, it makes mortgages more expensive for many middle-class American families.

Escalating housing prices in recent years have put many families and hardworking Americans out of the bid for homeownership.

The median U.S. home sales price stands at about \$455,800 dollars as of the first quarter of 2023 representing a whopping 32 percent increase from 2020, just two years ago.

In the last 2 to 3 years however, the average American has neither become 32 percent richer nor gained wage increase of 32 percent.

Increasing amounts of homes owned by private equity and Wall Street firms, accompanied by high inflation and rising demand have contributed to these price increases.

Rising rents make it even more difficult for first-time home buyers to save for a down payment.

At an average cost of \$455,800 for a home, middle-income American families would need to save roughly \$87,500 dollars, an amount which most families simply do not have.

Rather than rescinding their bold and courageous action, we should rather applaud and commend the FHFA in its rightful steps toward making mortgages more affordable for first-time homeowners and many creditworthy borrowers who simply cannot afford a 20 percent down payment.

The eliminated loan level price adjustment fees would actually help these borrowers to save for their monthly mortgage payments.

The upward adjustments in vacation home and investment property mortgages also help to ensure balance, equity, and fairness in the federal housing finance and pricing framework.

The FHFA's actions are in the right direction and help to ensure a more equitable mortgage pricing framework that prioritizes middle class home buyers over investors and second-home owners.

H.R. 3564 is an attempt to rescind the FHFA's more equitable pricing framework and instead require increased fees for many first-time home buyers and those who do not have a 20 percent down payment.

H.R. 3564 will raise the cost of homeownership and make it more expensive for first-time homebuyers and borrowers of color seeking conventional loan.

The FHFA's actions are a step toward remedying this inequity and achieving fairness and equal opportunity.

It is not Congress' job to set mortgage pricing fees for loans purchased by the Government Sponsored Enterprises (GSEs).

This is the role of the government regulator, the Federal Housing Finance Agency.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. ELLZEY). All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 118-8, modified by the amendment printed in part A of House Report 118-115, shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as an original bill for purpose of further amendment under the 5-minute rule and shall be considered as read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3564

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 “Middle Class Borrower Protection Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. REPEAL OF RECALIBRATED SINGLE-FAMILY PRICING FRAMEWORK.

Not later than the expiration of the 60-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency shall revise the recalibrated single-family pricing framework charged by the enterprises for guarantee of mortgages on single-family housing so that such fees are identical to the fees of the standard single-family pricing framework in effect immediately before May 1, 2023.

SEC. 3. RESTRICTIONS ON FHFA ADJUSTMENTS TO SINGLE-FAMILY PRICING FRAMEWORK.

(a) TEMPORARY PROHIBITION ON FURTHER ADJUSTMENTS TO SINGLE-FAMILY PRICING FRAMEWORK.—During the period beginning upon the date of the revision of the recalibrated single-family pricing framework pursuant to section 2 and ending 90 days after the submission to the Congress of the report required under section 5, the Director may not further revise the single-family pricing framework from such framework in effect pursuant to the revision required by section 2.

(b) ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES FOR ADOPTION OF ADJUSTMENTS TO THE SINGLE-FAMILY PRICING FRAMEWORK.—After expiration of the period referred to in subsection (a), when proposing adjustments to the single-family pricing framework, the Director shall follow procedures that are as close as practicable to those requirements for a Federal agency issuing a rule under chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the “Administrative Procedure Act”).

(c) FHFA REQUIREMENT FOR THE USE OF RISK-BASED PRICING.—Section 1367(b)(2) of the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4617(b)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(L) ADDITIONAL POWERS AS CONSERVATOR.—The Agency shall, as conservator for an enterprise, to the greatest extent feasible require that any modifications, including increases, decreases, or eliminations, approved to a loan-level pricing adjustment fee, as such term is defined in section 6 of the Middle Class Borrower Protection Act of 2023, charged by an enterprise shall be based on the risk posed by the mortgage loan to the enterprise.”.

SEC. 4. PROHIBITION OF LOAN-LEVEL PRICE ADJUSTMENTS BASED ON DEBT-TO-INCOME RATIO.

The Director and the enterprises shall not impose any loan-level pricing adjustment fee that is based on the ratio of the debt of the mortgagor to the income of the mortgagor.

SEC. 5. GAO STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study of the revisions made by the Federal Housing Finance Agency to the standard single-family pricing framework under the recalibrated single-family pricing framework to—

(1) analyze—

(A) the methodology, policy considerations, and any other objectives used by the Federal Housing Finance Agency as the basis for such revisions, including the authority cited by the Director under the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4501 et seq.) to require such revisions;

(B) the data, econometric modeling, and other inputs supplied by the enterprises during the revisions process;

(C) the extent to which such revisions comply with the objectives of the Enterprise Regulatory Capital Framework, including the interaction with and treatment of any private mortgage insurance required in connection with a residential mortgage transaction; and

(D) the economic impact of such revisions on various classes of lenders and borrowers affected by such revisions; and

(2) determine the extent to which such revisions—

(A) were conducted on the basis of, and how they might deviate from, the principle of risk-based pricing;

(B) deviate from the data, econometric modeling, and other inputs supplied by the enterprises during the revisions process;

(C) achieve the objectives of the Enterprise Regulatory Capital Framework, including if such revisions have resulted in either a negative profitability gap or negative rate of return on the targeted rate of return on capital for any business segment under the recalibrated single-family pricing framework; and

(D) represent any increased risks to the safety and soundness of the enterprises.

(b) REPORT.—The Comptroller General shall submit a report to the Congress setting forth the findings and conclusions of the study not later than the expiration of the 14-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency.

(2) ENTERPRISE.—The term “enterprise” has the meaning given such term in section 1303 of the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4502).

(3) LOAN-LEVEL PRICING ADJUSTMENT FEE.—The term “loan-level pricing adjustment fee” means an up-front fee paid by lenders when a mortgage loan is acquired by an enterprise.

(4) RECALIBRATED SINGLE-FAMILY PRICING FRAMEWORK.—The term “recalibrated single-family pricing framework” means the loan-level pricing adjustment fee structure as referred to in the announcement of the Federal Housing Finance Agency on January 19, 2023, relating to “Updates to the Enterprises’ Single-Family Pricing Framework”, and set forth in Federal National Mortgage Association Lender Letter LL-2023-01 and Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation Bulletin 2023-1.

(5) RISK-BASED PRICING.—The term “risk-based pricing” means the calibration of fees based on the expected credit losses to an enterprise of each single-family mortgage category as defined by an enterprise based on the credit score and loan-to-value ratio characteristics of a mortgage.

(6) STANDARD SINGLE-FAMILY PRICING FRAMEWORK.—The term “standard single-family pricing framework” means the loan-level pricing adjustment fee structure in effect on April 30, 2023.

SEC. 7. ENTERPRISE GUARANTEE FEES.

Subsection (f) of section 1327 of the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4547(f)) is amended by striking “October 1, 2032” and inserting “October 1, 2033”.

The Acting CHAIR. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part B of House Report 118-115. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MRS. BOEBERT

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part B of House Report 118-115.

Mrs. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 5, line 7, after “study” insert “, and make the report publicly available online on a website of the Department.”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 524, the gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. BOEBERT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Colorado.

Mrs. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I rise in favor of my amendment, which will require the Government Accountability Office to make its report on the findings and conclusions of its study of the Federal Housing Finance Agency’s loan-level pricing adjustment revisions publicly available online.

My commonsense amendment will provide transparency for the administration to answer to the American people.

The latest FHFA fee change could result in thousands of dollars in additional fees for lower risk homeowners over time, while encouraging and rewarding financial irresponsibility. This is a gross overreach and will ultimately contribute to the growing inflation problem we have in this country.

Raising housing costs at a time when mortgage rates are at their highest, thanks to the Biden-Pelosi spending spree, will make housing less affordable and will result in higher mortgage costs and reduced access to credit for most borrowers.

Joe Biden’s agenda of equity over equality defies common sense and will endanger the stability of the housing market. The Republican majority is fighting tooth and nail to protect middle-class home buyers from Joe Biden’s new socialist tax, which puts homeownership out of reach for the middle-class American.

Borrowers with excellent credit should not be punished for doing right and be forced to bear more financial burdens due to the fiscal irresponsibility of others.

Unelected bureaucrats in Washington should not have the ability to impose these un-American regulations on hardworking middle-class families. I am glad this bill puts an end to business as usual here in the swamp.

I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON) for his leadership to block Joe Biden’s new socialist tax to force middle-class borrowers to subsidize risky loans.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of my amendment, as well as the underlying bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

Well, actually, I don’t even want to waste another minute on this pointless and redundant amendment.

Anyone who pays attention to government oversight knows that the GAO already makes all of its reports resulting from legislative mandates publicly available on the GAO’s website as soon as they are issued to Congress.

Mr. Chair, I include in the RECORD two letters: one from Americans for Financial Reform and one from Public Citizen.

AMERICANS FOR FINANCIAL REFORM,
May 23, 2023.

Hon. PATRICK McHENRY,
Chairman, House Committee on Financial Services, Washington, DC.
Hon. MAXINE WATERS,
Ranking Member, House Committee on Financial Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN McHENRY AND RANKING MEMBER WATERS: We are writing to express our opposition to H.R. 3564 “Middle Class Borrower Protection Act of 2023.” The bill’s title is ironic because it would, in fact, make mortgages more expensive for many middle-class American families.

Record housing prices have put homeownership increasingly out of reach for my Americans. The US median home sales price is \$436,800 as of the first quarter of 2023. That’s a 32 percent increase from 2020, when the median was \$329,000. However, Americans have not become 32 percent richer in the last three years. Rather, inflation, rising demand, and the increasing amount of homes owned by private equity and Wall Street firms have all contributed to these price increases. Meanwhile, rising rents make it increasingly difficult for first-time home buyers to save for a down payment. To afford a 20 percent down payment on a \$436,800 home, a homebuyer would need \$87,360 for the down payment, a sum that many middle-income American families simply do not have.

Given these trends, the FHFA should be commended for making mortgages more affordable for first-time homebuyers, borrowers participating in the Enterprises’ affordable mortgage programs, and creditworthy borrowers who lack a 20 percent down payment. These borrowers will see reduced or eliminated loan level price adjustment fees. The FHFA will also increase loan level price adjustment fees for vacation home and investment property mortgages, cash-out refinances, and large loan amounts. Taken together, these actions demonstrate an important first step towards a more equitable mortgage pricing framework that supports middle class homebuyers over investors and second-home owners.

We oppose H.R. 3564 because it would rescind the FHFA’s more equitable pricing framework and instead require the FHFA to increase fees for many first-time home buyers and those who do not have a 20 percent down payment. It would require the FHFA to impose a risk-based pricing model, one that would ultimately benefit housing investors and vacation home owners while making homeownership more difficult for middle class Americans.

H.R. 3564 will disproportionately harm homebuyers of color. Because of our history of racial discrimination, a large racial wealth gap persists that makes it less likely that a homebuyer of color will be able to pay for a 20 percent down payment through their personal savings, assistance from their families, or inheritance.

Opponents of the FHFA’s pricing matrix have spread significant misinformation about its impacts on mortgage pricing. To be clear: under the new framework, borrowers

with good credit and higher down payments will continue to pay lower mortgage costs than borrowers with good credit and lower down payments, because these borrowers will still be required to pay for monthly mortgage insurance until they reach 20 percent equity.

Optimally, Americans for Financial Reform believes the loan-level price adjustment fees should be eliminated altogether because this will increase pricing transparency and make homeownership more affordable. These fees are unnecessary from a risk-mitigation perspective because Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac already have charge guarantee fees to cover the credit risk of acquiring single-family loans from lenders. However, the changes recently made by FHFA are a step in the right direction of mitigating the adverse effects of the adjustment fees, which is why we support FHFA’s actions. H.R. 3564 would move us in the wrong direction by further entrenching the loan-level price adjustment fee flawed framework and making it even more inequitable.

At a time when more and more Americans are struggling with the cost of housing, it defies comprehension that Congress would seek to increase fees for middle class homebuyers. For these reasons, we urge you to oppose this legislation.

Sincerely,
AMERICANS FOR FINANCIAL REFORM.

PUBLIC CITIZEN 50,
May 22, 2023

Chair PATRICK McHENRY,
Ranking Member MAXINE WATERS,
Hon. MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE,
House Committee on Financial Services,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIR McHENRY, RANKING MEMBER WATERS AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE: On behalf of more than 500,000 members and supporters of Public Citizen, we offer the following comment on legislation slated for a vote May 24, 2023, before the House Financial Services Committee. We address these bills in three parts. The first part involves a cluster of capital formation bills. The second part is a bill with multiple titles that purports to respond to the recent bank failures. The third part is a housing bill.

1. CAPITAL FORMATION

The first cluster of bills involves capital formation. Average investors enjoy an ample range of opportunities for savings and wealth creation, and one of the most approachable is the public securities markets. There are thousands of public companies that offer stocks and bonds. Each of these public companies provide detailed disclosures on an annual (10k) or quarterly (10Q) basis, and sometimes more frequently (8k) following a major event that could affect the stock price. These documents are reviewed by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) after they are subject to an independent audit. Most of these documents are studied by Wall Street analysts who publish critical information that an ordinary reader might miss. Investors may also choose a mutual fund, where experts select a portfolio of stocks, usually involving a certain risk appetite, or sector. Or, given that stock-picking can be difficult for even the most seasoned professional, investors may essentially choose “all” stocks through an index fund. Again, these investments are subject to rigorous registration and disclosure, with non-complying brokers subject to fines and expulsion from the industry for shoddy sales practices.

Then there are investment opportunities that fail to meet these standards. That’s often because the underlying business is untested, or perhaps even shady. Sophisticated investors know to avoid them. But Wall

Street salesmen want to earn commissions, and even selling such eschewed junk can generate those commissions. What prevents them are safeguards that Congress and the SEC have erected to deter the unscrupulous from pawning off the odious to unsuspecting victims.

The following cluster of bills are part of a years-long effort by Republican and some Democratic enablers to strip away some of those safeguards.

The Increasing Investor Opportunities Act

This misleadingly titled bill would expose investors to greater risk by increasing the limit that a closed-end fund can invest in a private fund, which are subject to less regulation and disclosure. Currently, the SEC caps the amount that closed-end funds can invest in private funds at 15 percent of net assets, if the closed-end fund is sold to non-accredited investors, who are investors with lower income and total wealth. If a closed-end fund has more than 15 percent of net assets in private funds, it must sell that fund only to accredited investors. This bill would allow closed-end funds to invest 100 percent of their net assets in private funds and still be sold to non-accredited investors. Many private funds are simply bad products that sophisticated investors have avoided. This bill would allow them to be sloughed off on those with less investment experience and less income and savings to lose. We oppose this bill.

The Retirement Fairness for Charities and Educational Institutions Act of 2023

This bill claims to level the playing field between 401(k) plans and 403(b) plans so that both accounts can invest in collective investment trusts (CITs). However, the bill would gut securities laws and allow securities salespeople to sell other, far riskier investments, to 403(b) plans. A 403(b) plan is one that is available to public school organizations.

Securities laws require that mutual funds and variable annuities that are sold to 403(b) plans must be registered with the SEC. Registration requires the disclosure of basic information such as risks and costs. The SEC reviews this for accuracy. This helps investors avoid products that are unfit for a risk-averse portfolio.

This bill would allow unregistered variable annuities and other pooled investment vehicles to be sold to these public-school teachers. The bill does this by amending the Investment Company Act and the Securities Act. This would end the disclosures about risks and costs. We believe this bill is a craven effort to expose hard-working public-sector workers to investment vehicles that can't be sold to people paying attention to important details. We oppose this bill.

The Access to Small Business Investor Capital Act

This bill would allow business development companies (BDCs) to obscure critical information such as acquisition costs and other expenses (acquired fund fees and expenses, or AFFEs). Instead of highlighting them, sales documents could bury this information in a footnote to the fee table. This will be confusing if not misleading. We oppose this bill.

The Helping Angels Lead Our Startups Act

This bill would allow firms to promote risky investments at various forums such as social clubs or college events without providing basic disclosures regarding the securities. The bill also prevents the SEC from offering any restrictions on these quasi sales events. We oppose this bill.

A bill to except quotations of Rule 144A fixed-income securities from certain regulatory requirements

This bill would end the prohibition on publishing certain riskier securities (governed

under Rule 144Af and Rule 15c2-1) from using a quotation medium other than a national securities exchange (such as over-the-counter securities). The SEC did provide an exemption from this prohibition, but it was time limited. This would make the exemption permanent. We opposed the original exemption, and we oppose making it permanent and therefore we oppose this bill.

2. RESPONSE TO RECENT BANK FAILURES

The next bill is an amalgam of irrelevant, wrongheaded responses to the recent failure of three large regional banks. This legislation masks the Republican (and wayward Democratic) sponsorship of a major deregulation effort approved in 2018 known as S. 2155. S. 2155 led to the failures of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank. S. 2155 increased from \$50 billion to \$250 billion the size of bank that would face "enhanced supervision" (as provided under Title I, Section 165 of the Dodd Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act). Enhanced supervision includes regular, frequent stress tests. Tellingly, Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) promptly grew from just under \$50 billion in assets before approval of President Trump's S. 2155, to \$211 billion by the end of 2022. It was not due for another stress test until 2024. When the Federal Reserve raised interest rates precipitously and after persistent, vocal warning to markets, SVB's lazy strategy of holding copious long term, low interest bearing Treasury securities proved fatal. It collapsed March 10, 2023, a billboard for the disastrous deregulatory policy of S. 2155. Rather than acknowledge accountability, Republicans have projected their culpability by complaining that regulators failed; some even blame "woke" capitalism, as SVB devoted some attention to diversity and inclusion.

The Increasing Financial Regulatory Accountability and Transparency Act

Title I of this bill would complicate the FDIC's resolution process for failing banks by requiring new and extensive analyses of the systemic risk exception. While we believe this exception should be used with great caution, the bar is currently high: at least two-thirds of the board members of the FDIC and Federal Reserve must support it, and it must be signed by the Treasury Secretary who must consult with the President. We oppose this title.

Title II would revise the Fed's emergency lending authority with several limitations that would slow down the ability to deploy stabilization tools. There are already a number of limits, the recent failure of three large banks does not make a case for such additional limitations. Instead, Congress should amend the statute (12 USC 1828 13c) that includes an exception to a bank controlling more than 10 percent of the nation's deposits (as JP Morgan does) acquiring another bank, namely if that bank is failing. The statute should authorize the FDIC to accept a second-best bid if from a bank with less than 10 percent of deposits. In its current form, we do not support Title II.

Title III would add another voting member to the Financial Stability Oversight Council (FSOC) and eliminate FSOC's Climate-related Financial Risk Advisory Committee. Given that climate change is the gravest threat to humanity (which is bad for business), Congress should improve oversight rather than reduce it, especially since the recent calamity was caused by simple failure to understand interest rate maturity mismatches, hardly the gravity of climate change. We oppose this title.

Title IV is an ad hominem retort to Federal Reserve Vice Chair Michael Barr, who issued a report identifying S. 2155 as one of the factors causing the collapse of SVB. The

bill would establish qualifications for Vice Chair that Barr does not meet. Legislating should be about policy, not personal attacks. We clearly oppose this title.

Title V would require the FDIC Chair, OCC Comptroller of the Currency, NCUA Chair, and the Fed's Vice Chair of Supervision to testify before Congress on a semiannual basis (currently, only the Fed Vice Chair of Supervision is required to testify semi-annually). This is the only title of the bill Public Citizen does not oppose. We oppose all the other titles, and this bill.

3. HOUSING BILL

The Middle-Class Borrower Protection Act

This bill would stymie the ability of Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae (overseen by the Federal Housing Finance Agency) to appropriately price credit risk. It would compromise the safety and soundness of the housing finance market. We oppose this bill.

Once again, the committee majority are doing Wall Street's bidding by bringing a counterproductive mark-up of deregulatory bills instead of increasing the safety and soundness of our financial system. Responsible lawmakers concerned about investor protection, financial stability and housing must not support this legislation.

Sincerely,

PUBLIC CITIZEN.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to oppose this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Chair, I include in the RECORD letters of opposition to H.R. 3564 from the Center for Responsible Lending, the National Housing Resource Center, the National Housing Law Project, and the National Fair Housing Alliance.

[From the Center for Responsible Lending, Sept. 2020]

MORE HARM AND NO GOOD—SO-CALLED "MIDDLE CLASS BORROWER PROTECTION ACT OF 2023" LEAVES BORROWERS AND TAXPAYERS LESS FINANCIALLY SECURE

The Center for Responsible Lending OPPOSES H.R. 3654, the so-called "Middle Class Borrower Protection Act of 2023," and urges Members of Congress to do the same. As written, the bill would: (1) undo the Federal Housing Finance Agency's recent cost changes for mortgages under the loan-level-pricing-adjustment framework used by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and (2) subject any future framework changes to the Administrative Procedure Act. Yet, rather than protecting America's middle class, these proposals would make it more expensive for middle-class consumers to become homeowners using conventional mortgage loans and more difficult for many consumers to enter America's middle class by obtaining affordable, conventional mortgage credit. Here is what policymakers, advocates, and consumers need to know:

(1) H.R. 3654 Undermines Middle Class Borrowers By Undoing The Pricing Reductions That Were Recently Made For Them. This bill would eliminate the reductions in loan-level-pricing adjustments (LLPAs) that the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) recently established. Those reductions were targeted to the lower wealth, credit-worthy borrowers who disproportionately make up or seek to enter America's middle class.

(2) H.R. 3654 Makes it Harder for More Americans to Enter the Middle Class by Raising the Cost of a Conventional Home

Loan for First-Time And Working-Class Borrowers. Homeownership continues to be the single most important factor in determining the ability of an American household to build wealth and enter or maintain middle-class status. Yet, by eliminating the pricing reductions FHFA recently implemented for lower-wealth and first-time homebuyers, the proposed bill reinforces a two-tier housing finance system where the conventional mortgage market continues to prioritize wealthier borrowers while first-time, underserved or rural borrowers with less wealth are dependent upon government-backed loans from federal agencies. That result is inconsistent with the statutory purpose and mandate of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. As the FHFA has noted, “[a]chieving a liquid, resilient housing finance market throughout the country requires improved access to responsible mortgage credit across different market segments of creditworthy borrowers.

(3) H.R. 3564 Makes All Taxpayers More Vulnerable by Disrupting Safety And Soundness Regulation of for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. In the aftermath of the Great Recession, the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission stated unequivocally that the primary cause of the crisis was a failure on the part of the government to regulate the financial industry, particularly in the secondary mortgage market. Based on its own experience in that regard, Congress created an independent FHFA, empowered it to assume conservator responsibilities for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and ensured that it would have the ability to act swiftly and independently from the political process to manage each government-sponsored enterprise's safety and soundness considerations. Under H.R. 3564, FHFA would lose the ability to act swiftly on pricing considerations tied to safety and soundness by being subjected to the Administrative Procedure Act. That result would require the Agency to delay implementation of pricing changes for an extended period that often does not match changing dynamics in the financial markets. As a result, taxpayers would be a greater risk for, once again, having to bail out the enterprises.

@ Making homeownership more expensive for moderate income borrowers and less accessible for first-time, workingclass, rural and other underserved borrowers is not protecting America's middle class. Likewise, depriving the enterprises' conservator of the tools needed to swiftly respond to safety and soundness considerations raised by pricing and, in the process, increasing the likelihood of another taxpayer funded bail out is not protecting American taxpayers. For each of these reasons, H.R. 3564, the "Middle Class Borrower Protection Act of 2023," is bad public policy and should not be enacted. CRL urges Members of Congress to vote against the measure.

MAY 21, 2023.

Hon. PATRICK McHENRY,
Chairman, U.S. House Financial Services Committee, Washington, DC.
Hon. MAXINE WATERS,
Ranking Member, U.S. House Financial Services Committee, Washington, DC.
Subject: The Current Mortgage Market: Undermining Housing Affordability with Politics

We are writing to show support for the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) changes to the Loan Level Price Adjustments (LLPAs). The past LPPA pricing framework unfairly raised the costs for many first-time homebuyers who had downpayments of less than 20 percent. The main area of growth for first time homebuyers will be people of color and this disproportionately disadvantages them. The

median downpayment in 2021 was 17 percent and for first-time homebuyers it was 7 percent. These homebuyers with lower downpayments will also be paying mortgage insurance which mitigates the risk to the Enterprises and raises the costs for the homebuyer.

Reducing the LLPA fees for first-time homebuyers and participants in the affordable housing programs also helps the Enterprises meet their mission goal of supporting homeownership in America. Ironically, the LLPA framework was instituted in 2009 in response to the financial crisis and has unfairly put the burden of the Enterprises' financial recovery and future catastrophic risk on first-time-homebuyers and especially borrowers of color, despite their communities being the greatest victims of the financial crisis.

We believe the solution is eliminating the LLPAs altogether. Unnecessary LLPA fees raise the cost of homeownership and reduce opportunities for Americans who would like to become homeowners. Our organization urges you to prioritize fair and inclusive mortgage pricing to promote equitable and sustainable homeownership.

Signed,
NATIONAL HOUSING RESOURCE CENTER.

NATIONAL HOUSING LAW PROJECT,
June 22, 2023.

Hon. KEVIN McCARTHY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
Hon. PATRICK McHENRY,
Chair, House Financial Services Committee.
Hon. HAKEEM JEFFRIES,
Minority Leader of the House of Representatives.
Hon. MAXINE WATERS,
Ranking Member, House Financial Services Committee.

DEAR SPEAKER McCARTHY, LEADER JEFFRIES, CHAIR McHENRY, AND RANKING MEMBER WATERS: The National Housing Law Project writes to express our strong opposition to H.R. 3564, the so-called "Middle Class Borrower Protection Act of 2023".

H.R. 3564 would repeal the structure of upfront fees related to residential mortgages developed by the Federal Finance Housing Agency (FHFA) and instituted by the government-sponsored enterprises (GSEs), Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, on May 1, 2021, and reinstate the prior fee structure. It would also prohibit any changes to the fee structure for at least two more years.

Contrary to the claims of H.R. 3564's co-sponsors, the FHFA's updated fee structure does not uniformly shift the cost of lower fees for borrowers with low credit scores to those with high credit scores. Instead, it represents a carefully calibrated effort to balance risk to the GSEs' balance sheets with their obligation to provide broad and equitable access to homeownership in light of the realities of the housing market.

As explained in a May 23, 2023, letter opposing H.R. 3564 from Americans for Financial Reform (AFR), the updated fee structure that the bill would rescind serves to make the homebuying market more equitable than it has been historically by lowering mortgage costs for first-time and first-generation homebuyers who are disproportionately people of color. Moreover, reverting to the prior fee structure would actually harm the many middle-income families around the country who have never owned a home and who are unable to save for a large down payment by restoring higher upfront fees for their loans.⁴ H.R. 3564 is the epitome of bad policy: a misleadingly named bill that seeks to erase 18 months of careful work by the government's own experts in housing finance for the sole purpose of ratcheting up political

controversy. We urge you to oppose this legislation.

Sincerely,

LISA SITKIN,
Supervising Attorney.

[May 22, 2023]

NFHA ISSUES STATEMENT OPPOSING THE MIDDLE CLASS BORROWER PROTECTION ACT WASHINGTON, D.C.—Nikitra Bailey, Executive Vice President of the National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA), issued the following statement opposing the Middle Class Borrower Protection Act of 2023 introduced by Rep. Warren Davidson (R-OH). The bill would require the Federal Housing Finance Agency to reverse recent changes to its single-family pricing matrix for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

"We are concerned that Congress is attempting to set mortgage pricing fees for loans purchased by the Government Sponsored Enterprises (GSEs). This is the role of their regulator, the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA). A return to the former pricing matrix would raise the cost of homeownership and make it more expensive for first-time homebuyers and borrowers of color seeking conventional loans. The bill also fails to advance housing affordability and does not offer a solution for the millions of mortgage-ready consumers who desire and can succeed in homeownership.

"Prior to FHFA mandating upfront Loan Level Price Adjustment (LLPA) fees, the GSEs had a stronger track record of purchasing loans made to Black, Latino, AAPI, and Native communities. Since FHFA instituted LLPAs in 2008, the GSEs have grossly underserved the very borrowers on whom the health of the future housing finance system depends. LLPAs also unfairly place the potential burden of future catastrophic risk on the backs of the borrowers who were most harmed by the Great Recession.

"LLPAs must be eliminated. They force creditworthy first-time homebuyers and borrowers of color to pay more for mortgages, which prices them out of the conventional market. The GSEs' charters mandate that they serve the whole of the market—not just wealthier borrowers purchasing second homes and investors. FHFA's recent changes move the system toward greater safety and soundness, which is ultimately in everyone's best interest."

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chair, these organizations all fight hard for homeownership, especially for middle-class Americans. They are absolutely opposed to this bill.

Again, I don't understand why we are spending time on this amendment. It does not accomplish anything at all. It would require GAO to do something it already does.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. BOEBERT).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MS. LEE OF NEVADA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part B of House Report 118-115.

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk made in order by the rule.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 4, line 12, strike “and”.

Page 5, line 4, strike the period and insert “; and”.

Page 5, after line 4, insert the following:

(3) assess the benefits that would accrue to first-time, low-income homebuyers based on the recalibrated single-family pricing framework taking effect.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 524, the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Nevada.

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of my amendment to H.R. 3564. This amendment serves one of my highest priorities, expanding access to affordable housing across southern Nevada.

My amendment is quite simple. It would direct the Government Accountability Office to assess how changes to the Federal Housing Finance Agency’s pricing framework would impact first-time, low-income home buyers.

This is a critical addition to any proposed GAO report on new FHFA policies, and it follows my commitment to making sure that any Federal action on housing does right by all Americans and Nevadans, especially those seeking reliable, affordable housing or seeking to buy a home for the first time.

I represent Clark County, which ranks among the top 10 counties nationwide with the highest concentration of renters. Clark County also has one of the highest proportions of households that spend more than 30 percent of their income on rent, and the cost of rent has been going up. The cost of homeownership as well has been going up, and the American Dream remains out of reach for far too many.

We must focus how we can work across party lines, hand in hand with the entities that help families buy their first homes, and ensure that the American Dream can become a reality and not push it further out of reach. We must find bipartisan ways to make access to affordable housing easier, especially for the families of southern Nevada who most need additional support as they work to affordably purchase a home. This is just what my amendment will help us do.

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

□ 1015

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, though I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Chair, while there has been broad discussion about the fundamental unfairness associated with the Biden administration’s new tax on creditworthy borrowers, Congress’ oversight role also extends to the process and impact these changes will have on home buyers and the housing market.

Members on both sides share policy concerns regarding this new tax, and it is equally imperative that we promote transparency to the American people on this flawed effort.

The GAO study does just that as the amendment Mrs. BOEBERT proposed would simply make the GAO study public. Sunlight is the best disinfectant, and in no area is this more relevant than the opaque process with which the FHFA has enacted these and other changes.

This amendment would add to the GAO study included in H.R. 3564 which will play a critical factor toward furthering both Congress’ and the public’s understanding of this issue that impacts millions of home buyers.

Americans deserve a thorough accounting of the process and deserve to know the significant impact of FHFA’s actions. An agency that virtually controls U.S. housing markets should not operate without appropriate congressional oversight.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment to restore fairness, transparency, and accountability to this process and policy that impacts millions of Americans. Amidst economic uncertainty and a housing affordability crisis, the American people deserve nothing less.

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

Ms. LEE of Nevada. I am prepared to close, Mr. Chair, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, I am pleased to see bipartisan support for my commonsense amendment to support first-time home buyers across the country. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to secure meaningful Federal action to better support hardworking families in their efforts to buy their first home and to realize that part of the American Dream.

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

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Chair, I urge all of our colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MS. LEE OF NEVADA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part B of House Report 118-115.

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk made in order by the rule.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 4, line 12, strike “and”.

Page 5, line 4, strike the period and insert “; and”.

Page 5, after line 4, insert the following:

(3) assess the impacts that the recalibrated single-family pricing framework taking effect would have on affordable housing preser-

vation, rural housing, and manufactured housing.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 524, the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of this amendment to H.R. 3564.

Quite like my other amendment, this one also speaks to a top priority of mine in Congress: expanding access to affordable housing across southern Nevada.

This amendment would direct the GAO to assess how changes to the FHFA pricing framework would impact affordable housing preservation, rural housing, and manufactured housing.

This is another critical addition to any proposed GAO report on any new FHFA policies, and it follows on my commitment to making sure that any Federal action on housing does right by Nevadans and their need for a fair and stable housing market.

I am committed to making sure that all Federal action on housing improves southern Nevada’s stock of affordable housing, including manufactured and rural housing options.

This is not an area where we can risk unintended consequences, and, as such, my amendment will direct the GAO to study and make absolutely sure that our Federal Government is doing all it can do to improve affordable housing availability.

In Clark County, Nevada, this is of utmost importance as we continue to see a severe shortage in affordable housing stock. That means real stress and uncertainty for far too many hard-working Nevadans and their families. Again, I remain committed to working across the aisle to ensure that every family has access to affordable, reliable, and safe housing.

This amendment is a step in the right direction.

Mr. Chair, I urge all of my colleagues to vote “yes,” and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Chair, I claim time in opposition to this amendment, although I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Chair, this is a commonsense amendment to the GAO study, and I applaud the gentlewoman from Nevada for including this comprehensive view on the impact of housing affordability.

It furthers the work of the Housing and Insurance Subcommittee, and I think it is an important addition.

Mr. Chair, I encourage all of our colleagues to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Chair, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, I am very pleased, again, to see bipartisan support for my commonsense amendment to ensure that the Federal policy that we create right here delivers affordable housing options across America.

I look forward to working with colleagues on both sides to better support hardworking Americans and their families in securing reliable and affordable housing in Las Vegas and across the country.

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

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Chair, I urge all of our colleagues to support the amendment. I support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. LEE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MS. PETTERSEN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in part B of House Report 118-115.

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk made in order by the rule.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following new section:

SEC. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Sections 2 through 6 of this Act shall take effect, and the amendment under section 3(c), shall be made, in accordance with subsection (c) of this section.

(b) DETERMINATION OF EFFECT ON MIDDLE CLASS BORROWERS.—Promptly after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency shall—

(1) make a determination of whether allowing section 2 of this Act to take effect would result in increased loan-level pricing adjustment fees for middle class borrowers (which term, for purposes of this subsection, means a borrower having a household income equal to or less than 100 percent of the median income for the area in which the residence subject to the mortgage loan for which such fees are charged is located or, in the case of high-cost areas, 140 percent of the median income for such area) who are first-time homeowners; and

(2) notify the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate, in writing, of such determination.

(c) EFFECTIVENESS.—If the determination of the Director submitted pursuant to subsection (b)(2) of this section is that—

(1) allowing section 2 of this Act to take effect would result in increased loan-level pricing adjustment fees for borrowers described in subsection (b)(1) of this section, sections 2 through 6 of this Act shall not take effect, and the amendment under section 3(c) shall not be made, and such provisions shall have no force or effect; or

(2) allowing section 2 of this Act to take effect would not result in increased loan-level pricing adjustment fees for borrowers described in subsection (b)(1) of this section, sections 2 through 6 of this Act shall take effect, and the amendment under section 3(c) shall be made, upon such notification.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 524, the gentlewoman

from Colorado (Ms. PETTERSEN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Colorado.

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

Mr. Chair, we are in the middle of a housing crisis across the U.S. and in Colorado, especially in the Seventh District. The housing supply is lagging significantly behind the demand in our State which has led to skyrocketing prices pushing far too many people out of the communities that they have lived in their entire lives, as well as creating significant challenges to hire and retain workers for small businesses and public servants.

Some communities in the rural part of our district have seen property increase threefold in just a couple of years. While so many people are struggling to get their first home, there are far too many people who are buying up real estate for their third, fourth, and even fifth homes, which has also contributed to the challenges our communities are facing.

While I am very concerned about the rising costs of housing, this bill does not address the problem.

For a little bit of background, the Federal Housing Finance Agency serves as the chief regulator of the enterprises Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Essentially, the FHFA oversees the majority of all mortgages in the United States. Earlier this year, the Financial Services Committee heard from the director, Sandra Thompson, about how the agency is working to help Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac meet capital requirements and promote increased access to homeownership for creditworthy home buyers.

The underlying bill that we are considering today would reverse changes made by the Federal Housing Financing Agency to loan-level price adjustments which are fees charged to originate a loan. The fee matrix has not been updated since 2008 and is woefully out of date.

There was some controversy surrounding a debt-to-income ratio rule, but that rule has already been repealed. The remaining fee matrix will see fee increases only on wealthy individuals, people purchasing a second home, or individuals who are purchasing an investment property while reducing the cost for first-time buyers and low- to middle-income families.

If my colleagues on the other side of the aisle agree that fees should not be increased on those in the middle class who are already struggling to make ends meet, then they should support my amendment.

It would ensure that this legislation would not be implemented until the director certifies that it would not result in increased fees on middle-class home buyers.

If the bill does what they are saying it does, then my amendment would not create a barrier to implementation.

We must come together in a bipartisan way to address affordable housing. I look forward to getting back to work with the chairman and ranking member when we return in July.

Unfortunately, this legislation won't reduce costs for the middle class and would tie the hands of the FHFA to address changing needs, which is why this amendment is necessary.

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

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition, and I am opposed to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment introduced by Ms. PETTERSEN which would make it impossible to repeal the Federal Housing Finance Agency's damaging price increases on creditworthy home buyers. In fact, it will undo the entire point of the bill.

The legislation before us, the Middle Class Borrower Protection Act, would repeal these increases and would require the Government Accountability Office to assess the FHFA's fee structure. That is the point of the GAO's study.

It would also require that any future loan-level fees implemented by the agency adopt a risk-based price framework.

Ms. PETTERSEN's amendment would set up a sham test so that FHFA would have to keep those unfair fees in place even at the expense of the majority of middle-class borrowers.

So while the gentlewoman's amendment is designed to sound fair, the reality is that it would actually have the opposite effect of what it advertises. Instead of lowering fees for middle-income families, it would doom many of them to higher fees. In other words, a vote for Ms. PETTERSEN's amendment is a vote against the Middle Class Borrower Protection Act.

I also find it interesting that our friends on the other side of the aisle would support an amendment that essentially says: Don't do this if it makes fees go up, which is exactly what our bill does. It stops the fees from going up or staying up, as the case is on part of the plan that they implemented.

We should be united in saying that deliberately making mortgages more expensive for creditworthy borrowers is a foolish policy. The sting of inflation and higher interest rates are already hurting middle-income families, and this adjustment by FHFA is not fair.

While I cannot support this amendment, I am glad to see the recognition that we need to protect middle-income families looking to purchase a home from unfair pricing. It makes it harder for some borrowers to afford because they pay more just because they have high credit scores.

Ms. PETTERSEN's amendment would, unfortunately, lock in that unfair system.

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

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), who is the ranking member of the Financial Services Committee.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of Ms. PETTERSEN's amendment which is simply holding Republicans accountable for their claims about the impacts of the bill.

They claim that this bill will help middle-class home buyers, so I don't see why there should be any objection to this amendment which would make the implementation of the bill contingent on the truth of its claims.

Republicans held hearings on this topic where their own witnesses repeatedly debunked MAGA Republicans' claims that these changes would result in higher credit score borrowers paying higher mortgage fees than lower credit borrowers.

If we agree that the goal of this bill is to help middle-class borrowers, then I think we should be able to agree on this amendment.

Mr. Chair, I urge Members to support this amendment.

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Chair, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, I thank Ranking Member WATERS for her remarks in support of the amendment.

Once again, ensuring that all Americans have access to affordable housing is a priority of mine and the Democrats on the Financial Services Committee.

We must ensure that middle-class home buyers have access to our housing market. Unfortunately, this legislation will not reduce costs for the middle-class and first-time home buyers.

Not only are we focusing on a narrow subset of fee increases that are supposed to target wealthy home buyers, individuals purchasing a second home, and people buying investment homes, they are tying the hands of the FHFA in moving forward in changing their fee structures on a more regular basis to address changing needs.

This will make Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac less available to support the housing market if there is a future fiscal crisis, and it only threatens our housing market.

Once again, Mr. Chair, if you want to make sure that fees are not increased for the middle class, then you should support my commonsense amendment.

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

□ 1030

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Chairman, I oppose this amendment. I urge all of our colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. PETTERSEN).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 204, noes 216, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 287]			
AYES—204			
Adams	Golden (ME)	Omar	Carl
Aguilar	Goldman (NY)	Pallone	Carter (GA)
Allred	Gomez	Panetta	Carter (TX)
Auchincloss	Gonzalez,	Pappas	Chavez-DeRemer
Balint	Vicente	Pascrall	Ciscomani
Barragán	Gottheimer	Payne	Cline
Beatty	Green, Al (TX)	Pelosi	Cloud
Bera	Grijalva	Peltola	Clyde
Beyer	Harder (CA)	Perez	Collins
Bishop (GA)	Hayes	Peters	Comer
Blumenauer	Higgins (NY)	Pettersen	Crane
Blunt Rochester	Himes	Pingree	Crawford
Bonamici	Horsford	Plaskett	Crenshaw
Bowman	Houlahan	Pocan	Curtis
Boyle (PA)	Hoyle (OR)	Porter	D'Esposito
Brown	Huffman	Quigley	Davidson
Brownley	Ivey	Ramirez	De La Cruz
Budzinski	Jackson (IL)	Ross	DesJarlais
Caraveo	Jackson (NC)	Ruiz	Diaz-Balart
Carbajal	Jackson Lee	Ruppersberger	Duarte
Cárdenas	Jacobs	Ryan	Duncan
Carson	Jayapal	Salinas	Dunn (FL)
Carter (LA)	Jeffries	Sánchez	Edwards
Cartwright	Johnson (GA)	Sanbanes	Ellzey
Casar	Kamilar-Dove	Scanlon	Feenstra
Case	Kaptur	Shakowsky	Ferguson
Casten	Keating	Schiff	Finstad
Castor (FL)	Kelly (IL)	Schneider	Fischbach
Castro (TX)	Khanna	Slotkin	Fitzgerald
Cherifilus-	Kildee	Schrier	Fitzpatrick
McCormick	Kilmer	Scott (VA)	Fleischmann
Chu	Kim (NJ)	Scott, David	Flood
Clark (MA)	Krishnamoorthi	Sewell	Foxx
Clarke (NY)	Kuster	Sherman	Franklin, C.
Cleaver	Landsman	Slotkin	Gaetz
Clyburn	Larsen (WA)	Smith (WA)	Gallagher
Cohen	Larson (CT)	Sorenson	Garbarino
Connolly	Lee (CA)	Soto	Garcia, Mike
Correa	Lee (NV)	Spanberger	Gimenez
Costa	Lee (PA)	Stansbury	Fulcher
Courtney	Leger Fernandez	Stanton	Gonzales, Tony
Craig	Levin	Stevens	González-Colón
Crockett	Lieu	Strickland	McHenry
Crow	Lofgren	Swalwell	Scott (VA)
Cuellar	Lynch	Sykes	Good (VA)
Davids (KS)	Magaziner	Takano	Gooden (TX)
Davids (IL)	Manning	Thanedar	Gosar
Davis (NC)	Matsui	Thompson (CA)	Granger
Dean (PA)	McBath	Thompson (MS)	Graves (LA)
DeGette	McClellan	Titus	Graves (MO)
DeLauro	McCollum	Tlaib	Miller-Meeks
DeBene	McGarvey	Tokuda	Mills
Deluzio	McGovern	Tonko	Molinaro
DeSaulnier	Meeks	Torres (CA)	Moore (AL)
Dingell	Menendez	Torres (NY)	Moore (UT)
Doggett	Meng	Trone	Moynihan
Escobar	Mfume	Underwood	Morelle
Eshoo	Moore (WI)	Vargas	Moulton
Espaillat	Moskowitz	Vasquez	Donalds
Evans	Mrvan	Veasey	Ogles
Fletcher	Mullin	Velázquez	Gallego
Foster	Nadler	Wasserman	Hoyer
Foushee	Napolitano	Schultz	LaHood
Frankel, Lois	Neal	Waters	Pressley
Frost	Neguse	Watson Coleman	Massie
Garamendi	Nickel	Wexton	Raderwagen
Garcia (IL)	Norcross	Wild	
Garcia (TX)	Norton	Williams (GA)	
Garcia, Robert	Ocasio-Cortez	Wilson (FL)	

NOES—216

Aderholt	Banks	Bost
Alford	Barr	Brecheen
Allen	Bean (FL)	Buchanan
Amodei	Bentz	Buck
Armstrong	Bergman	Bucshon
Arrington	Bice	Burchett
Babin	Biggs	Burgess
Bacon	Bilirakis	Burlison
Baird	Bishop (NC)	Calvert
Balderson	Boebert	Carey

Carl	Harshbarger	Nehls
Carter (GA)	Hern	Newhouse
Carter (TX)	Higgins (LA)	Norman
Chavez-DeRemer	Hill	Nunn (IA)
Ciscomani	Hinson	Obernolte
Cline	Houchin	Palmer
Cloud	Hudson	Pence
Clyde	Huizinga	Perry
Cole	Hunt	Pfluger
Collins	Issa	Reschenthaler
Comer	Jackson (TX)	Rodgers (WA)
Crane	James	Rogers (AL)
Crawford	Johnson (LA)	Rogers (KY)
Crenshaw	Johnson (OH)	Rose
Curtis	Johnson (SD)	Rosendale
D'Esposito	Jordan	Rouzer
Davidson	Joyce (OH)	Roy
De La Cruz	Joyce (PA)	Rutherford
DesJarlais	Kean (NJ)	Salazar
Diaz-Balart	Kelly (MS)	Santos
Duarte	Kelly (PA)	Scalise
Duncan	Kiggans (VA)	Schweikert
Dunn (FL)	Kiley	Scott, Austin
Edwards	Kim (CA)	Self
Ellzey	Kustoff	Sessions
Emmer	LaLota	Simpson
Estes	LaMalfa	Smith (MO)
Ezell	Lamborn	Smith (NE)
Fallon	Langworthy	Stefanik
Feenstra	Latta	Smucker
Ferguson	LaTurner	Spartz
Finstad	Lawler	Stauber
Fischbach	Lee (FL)	Steel
Fitzgerald	Fitzgerald	Timmons
Fitzpatrick	Lesko	Valadao
Fleischmann	Letlow	Van Drew
Flood	Loudermilk	Van Duyne
Fox	Lucas	Van Orden
Franklin, C.	Luetkemeyer	Wenstrup
Garcia, Mike	Luna	Westerman
Gimenez	Luttrell	Strong
Fulcher	Mace	Tenney
Gaetz	Malliotakis	Thompson (PA)
Gallagher	Mann	Tiffany
Garbarino	Mast	Timmons
Garcia, Mike	McCauley	Turner
Gimenez	McClain	Valadao
Fulcher	McClintock	Webster (TX)
Gonzales, Tony	McCormick	Webster (FL)
González-Colón	McHenry	Wenstrup
Good (VA)	Meuser	Walberg
Gooden (TX)	Miller (IL)	Walz
Gosar	Miller (OH)	Waltz
Granger	Miller (WV)	Weber (TX)
Graves (LA)	Miller-Meeks	Witman
Graves (MO)	Mills	Wolberg
Green (TN)	Molinaro	Wrenup
Greene (GA)	Moolenaar	Westerman
Griffith	Mooney	Williams (NY)
Grothman	Moore (AL)	Wilson (SC)
Guest	Moore (UT)	Witman
Guthrie	Moran	Yakym
Hageman	Moylan	Zinke
Harris	Murphy	

NOT VOTING—19

Bush	Morelle	Raskin
Cammack	Moulton	Sablan
Donalds	Ogles	Sherrill
Gallego	Phillips	Trahan
Hoyer	Posey	Williams (TX)
LaHood	Pressley	
Massie	Radewagen	

□ 1101

Mr. SANTOS, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. LUTTRELL, Ms. STEFANIK, Messrs. HERN, CLYDE, and KELLY of Pennsylvania changed their vote from "aye" to "no."

Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. LOFGREN, Messrs. JACKSON of North Carolina, POCAN, and CLYBURN changed their vote from "no" to "aye."

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Chair, I missed one vote on the House Floor today. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 287.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania). Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Carter (GA)	Harder (CA)	Nehls	Kim (NJ)	Norcross	Slotkin
Carter (TX)	Harris	Newhouse	Krishnamoorthi	Ocasio-Cortez	Smith (WA)
Chavez-DeRemer	Harshbarger	Norman	Kuster	Omar	Sorenson
Ciscomani	Hern	Nunn (IA)	Landsman	Pallone	Soto
Cline	Higgins (LA)	Obernolte	Larsen (WA)	Panetta	Stansbury
Cloud	Hill	Owens	Larson (CT)	Pascarel	Stanton
Clyde	Hinson	Palmer	Lee (CA)	Payne	Stevens
Cole	Houchin	Pappas	Lee (NV)	Pelosi	Strickland
Collins	Hudson	Pence	Lee (PA)	Peitola	Swalwell
Comer	Huizenga	Perez	Leger Fernandez	Peters	Sykes
Craig	Hunt	Perry	Levin	Pettersen	Takano
Crane	Issa	Pfluger	Lieu	Pingree	Thanedar
Crawford	Jackson (TX)	Reschenthaler	LoFGREN	Pocan	Thompson (CA)
Crenshaw	James	Rodgers (WA)	Lynch	Porter	Thompson (MS)
Cuellar	Johnson (LA)	Rogers (AL)	Magaziner	Quigley	Titus
Curtis	Johnson (OH)	Rogers (KY)	Matsui	Ramirez	Tlaib
D'Esposito	Johnson (SD)	Rose	McBath	Ross	Tokuda
Davids (KS)	Jordan	Rosendale	McClellan	Ruiz	Tonko
Davidson	Joyce (OH)	Rouzer	McCollum	Ruppersberger	Torres (CA)
Davis (NC)	Joyce (PA)	Roy	McGarvey	Ryan	Torres (NY)
De La Cruz	Kean (NJ)	Rutherford	McGovern	Salinas	Trone
DesJarlais	Kelly (MS)	Salazar	Meeks	Sánchez	Underwood
Diaz-Balart	Kelly (PA)	Santos	Menendez	Barbanes	Vargas
Donalds	Kiggans (VA)	Scalise	Meng	Scanlon	Vasquez
Duarte	Kiley	Schrader	Mfume	Schaakowsky	Veasey
Duncan	Kim (CA)	Schweikert	Moore (WI)	Schiff	Velázquez
Dunn (FL)	Kustof	Scott, Austin	Mrvan	Schneider	Wasserman
Edwards	LaLota	Self	Mullin	Scholten	Schultz
Ellzey	LaMalfa	Sessions	Nadler	Scott (VA)	Waters
Emmer	Lamborn	Simpson	Napolitano	Scott, David	Watson Coleman
Estes	Langworthy	Smith (MO)	Neal	Sewell	Wexton
Ezell	Latta	Smith (NE)	Neguse	Sherman	Williams (GA)
Fallon	LaTurner	Smith (NJ)	Nickel	Sherrill	Wilson (FL)
Feenstra	Lawler	Smucker			
Ferguson	Lee (FL)	Spanberger			
Finstad	Lesko	Spartz	Bush	Morelle	Pressley
Fischbach	Letlow	Stauber	Gallego	Moulton	Raskin
Fitzgerald	Loudermilk	Steel	Hoyer	Ogles	Trahan
Fitzpatrick	Lucas	Stefanik	LaHood	Phillips	Williams (TX)
Fleischmann	Luetkemeyer	Steil	Massie	Posey	
Flood	Luna	Steube			
Foxx	Luttrell	Stewart			
Franklin, C.	Mace	Strong			
Scott	Malliotakis	Tenney			
Fry	Mann	Thompson (PA)			
Fulcher	Manning	Tiffany			
Gaetz	Mast	Timmons			
Gallagher	McCaull	Turner			
Garbarino	McClain	Valadão			
Garcia, Mike	McClintock	Van Drew			
Gimenez	McCormick	Van Duyne			
Golden (ME)	McHenry	Van Orden			
Gonzales, Tony	Meuser	Wagner			
Good (VA)	Miller (IL)	Walberg			
Gooden (TX)	Miller (OH)	Waltz			
Gosar	Miller (WV)	Weber (TX)			
Granger	Miller-Meeks	Webster (FL)			
Graves (LA)	Mills	Wenstrup			
Graves (MO)	Molinaro	Westerman			
Green (TN)	Moolenaar	Wild			
Greene (GA)	Mooney	Williams (NY)			
Griffith	Moore (AL)	Wilson (SC)			
Grothman	Moore (UT)	Wittman			
Guest	Moran	Womack			
Guthrie	Moskowitz	Yakym			
Hageman	Murphy	Zinke			
NAYS—189					
Adams	Clark (MA)	Garcia (TX)			
Aguilar	Clarke (NY)	Garcia, Robert			
Alfred	Cleaver	Goldman (NY)			
Auchincloss	Clyburn	Gomez			
Balint	Cohen	Gonzalez,			
Barragán	Connolly	Vicente			
Beatty	Correa	Gottheimer			
Bera	Costa	Green, Al (TX)			
Beyer	Courtney	Grijalva			
Bishop (GA)	Crockett	Hayes			
Blumenauer	Crow	Higgins (NY)			
Blunt Rochester	Davis (IL)	Himes			
Bonamici	Dean (PA)	Horsford			
Bowman	DeGette	Houlihan			
Brown	DeLauro	Hoyle (OR)			
Brownley	DelBene	Huffman			
Budzinski	Deluzio	Ivey			
Caraveo	DeSaulnier	Jackson (IL)			
Carbajal	Dingell	Jackson (NC)			
Cárdenas	Doggett	Jackson Lee			
Carson	Escobar	Jacobs			
Carter (LA)	Eshoo	Jayapal			
Cartwright	Espaiñat	Jeffries			
Casar	Evans	Johnson (GA)			
Case	Fletcher	Kamala H. D.			
Casten	Foster	Kaptur			
Castor (FL)	Foushee	Keating			
Castro (TX)	Frankel, Lois	Kelly (IL)			
Cherifius-	Frost	Khanna			
McCormick	Garamendi	Kildee			
Chu	Garcia (IL)	Kilmer			

There was no objection.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR STATE TROOPER JACQUES ROUGEAU, JR., AND A PRAYER FOR A FULL RECOVERY FOR LT. JAMES WAGNER

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, we gather today to remember the life of a Pennsylvania State Trooper, Jacques Rougeau who was killed in the line of duty on June 17 while serving at the Juniata County Barracks in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District.

Trooper Rougeau leaves behind a loving wife, Chloe, and all of our hearts go out to her, along with the rest of his family, his friends, and the entire Pennsylvania State Troopers.

At this time, I ask that we also recognize Lieutenant Jim Wagner who was injured in the line of duty on that same terrible day and remains hospitalized.

Please join me in a moment of silence to honor the life of State Trooper Jacques Rougeau and in prayer for the full recovery of Lieutenant Jim Wagner.

NOT VOTING—14

□ 1117

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ and Mr. MRVAN changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Ms. GRANGER changed her vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to a personal family matter, I was unable to be in D.C. and vote today. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 289.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, I was not present during today's vote series. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 287, "yea" on rollcall No. 288, and "nay" on rollcall No. 289.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I had to miss votes today to travel back to Illinois for a funeral. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 287, "nay" on rollcall No. 288, and "yea" on rollcall No. 289.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 287, "nay" on rollcall No. 288, and "yea" on rollcall No. 289.

ADJOURNMENT FROM FRIDAY, JUNE 23, 2023, TO TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2023

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday next.

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

CONGRATULATING CONGRESSIONAL ART WINNER ALMA SWARTZENTRUBER

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District 2023 Congressional Art Competition winner, Alma Swartzentruber.

The annual art competition, organized by the Congressional Institute, showcases the artwork of high school students from across every congressional district in the country. Alma is a recent graduate from the Keystone High School in Clarion County. Her winning artwork is titled, "Great Horned Owl." She created this piece with charcoal and graphite.

Alma's work was selected by an independent panel of judges from 73 entries, with a record number of participants in the 15th District's Congressional Art Competition.

I would also like to congratulate Alma's teacher, Ms. Janet Hockman, and her parents for the role that they played in Alma's success.

All of the winning pieces will be displayed for the year in the Cannon tunnel, where they will be viewed by Members of Congress, staff, and many visitors to the Capitol each and every day.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Alma on her great work. I am proud to have her artwork representing the 15th District.

PROTECTING THE LIMBS AND LIVES OF AMERICANS NATIONWIDE

(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 my bill, the Amputation Reduction and Compassion Act, or ARC, and how it will protect Americans from Peripheral Artery Disease, or PAD, from unnecessary amputations.

PAD is a disease of the arteries that can cause blockages in arms and legs and lead to unnecessary amputations. There are 200,000 PAD patients at risk of an amputation every year, and African Americans are three times more likely to need one from PAD than any other American.

My ARC Act would change that. It requires Medicare and Medicaid to cover screenings for Americans with a high risk for getting PAD. It establishes a PAD education program at the Department of Health and Human Services to create more awareness of PAD symptoms. It requires HHS to reduce the number of unnecessary amputations from PAD.

My bill will protect the limbs and lives of Americans nationwide, and I am proud to introduce it this week. I ask my colleagues to please join the PAD Caucus along with me.

RECOGNIZING JUDE STAMPER, A REMARKABLE YOUNG MAN

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a remarkable young man from the Fifth District of Michigan, Jude Stamper.

While completing his Eagle Scout leadership project, Jude sought to raise funds to help purchase a new van for a local shelter. He organized, emceed, and played in a fundraiser with the Monroe High jazz band that far surpassed his initial goal.

Jude has a rare condition called AMC which makes movement difficult, but Jude doesn't slow down. In 2018, then-Michigan basketball coach John Beilein recognized Jude's infectious attitude, valuable perspective, and unparalleled energy. Beilein had him join the team, and stars like Moe Wagner and Duncan Robinson credited Jude's spirit for helping propel the team to the national championship game.

Mr. Speaker, we are grateful for Jude's contributions, and we look forward to what he takes on next.

CELEBRATING PRIDE MONTH IN PENNSYLVANIA'S 17TH DISTRICT

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

Mr. DELUZIO. Mr. Speaker, June is Pride Month, a month that celebrates the contributions and importance of the LGBTQ+ community all over the country and in Pennsylvania's 17th District.

My home borough of Aspinwall hosted Pride in the Park, a festival to connect and celebrate the community with history walks, community resources, art, music, and a vendor fair of local LGBTQ-owned small businesses.

Pride is celebrated all across western Pennsylvania, from a Pride-themed Roller Derby bout in Cheswick, to festivals in Dormont and Mt. Lebanon. There is also Prom in Millvale, online writing groups for seniors, a parade and music in Swissvale, and lots more.

It is a busy month for our community and one that centers around freedom at its core. It also remembers those who fought tirelessly for equal rights and those hurt by discrimination or lost to senseless hatred and violence.

America was founded under the ideals of liberty and justice, not censorship, discrimination, or control. All people shall have the freedom to love who they love, to be who they are, to be accepted, to feel safe, and to be treated equally under the law.

On behalf of the good people of western Pennsylvania, I will keep fighting for these freedoms here in Washington.

□ 1130

DISASTER IN TEXAS PANHANDLE

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

Mr. JACKSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, multiple disasters have struck Texas-13 over the last month, from devastating floods in May to a series of deadly tornadoes in the last week, first in Perryton and later in Matador and Afton.

While we continue to assess the most recent damage, we already know that hundreds of homes, businesses, and properties were destroyed. Many of my constituents were injured, and tragically, lives were lost.

Despite the wreckage, my constituents, assisted by their community, local officials, and volunteers from across the State, came together to provide water, food, fuel, and so much more to their neighbors in need.

The Federal Government must act to do everything it can to bring the needed aid to the Texas Panhandle and help expedite the recovery and cleanup efforts.

For too long, the Federal Government has forgotten about rural America. We cannot let this happen here. It may take months to rebuild, but I know we will do it thanks to the steadfast spirit of the Texans I represent.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent the brave people of the Texas Panhandle, and I ask that you please join me in praying for them at this time.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MIKE WILLIAMS

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, with a heavy heart, I rise to honor the remarkable life of recently departed Florida AFL-CIO President Mike Williams.

Starting as an apprentice, he became an electrician, working temporary service and construction jobs and living paycheck to paycheck, like so many workers do.

Seeing the critical value of job protections and livable wages, he devoted his life to the labor movement, first as a rank-and-file member for 15 years before becoming business manager of his local, IBEW 177.

Later, he became president of the Florida Building Trades Council, and in 2009, Mike was elected president of the Florida AFL-CIO, where he served distinctively until his death.

A natural-born leader, Mike revitalized Florida labor by fostering new alliances with community, immigrant, and faith-based groups.

Tall and with a contagious smile, he was a straight-shooter and always brought a worthy cause and compelling case for workers to the Capitol.

Direct and trustworthy, he was a man of standards whose shoes will be hard to fill.

Mike's empathy, dedication, and compassion will be sorely missed, but his legacy and impact must never be forgotten.

I will miss my dear friend. May his memory be for a blessing.

REMEMBERING JERRY LEWIS CLARK

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Jerry Lewis Clark, also known as Red Dog.

Mr. Clark was born on March 31, 1943, in Savannah, Georgia, where he began his life of service to others. He served for 25 years in the military as an Army combat medic in Vietnam and in the Georgia Air National Guard. He was a Purple Heart recipient for his heroics during the Vietnam war, and he retired from the military as a senior master sergeant.

Outside of his military service, Mr. Clark was a computer programmer, an English teacher, a medical salesman, and a homebuilder. He also worked as the minister of activity and director of operations at Calvary Baptist Temple.

Mr. Clark's record shows what he truly was. He was a patriot. He was a public servant. He truly had a servant's heart.

Mr. Clark is a hero who will be greatly missed by his community and by his friends and his family.

ASSESSING FAST FASHION

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

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, satellite images have identified a pile of discarded clothing in Chili, sent there from Europe, Asia, and America. It is so large it can be seen from space.

This mountain of textile waste illustrates the environmental toll of what is called fast fashion. Unfortunately, fast fashion has become very popular with consumers, but it comes at a high cost to our planet.

Fast fashion relies on cheap manufacturing, frequent consumption, and short-lived garment use. This constant cycle of production and disposal is exemplified by these mountains of discarded shirts and skirts.

Textile waste has increased dramatically over the last two decades and, in the process, has become a massive environmental challenge. In 2018, 17 million tons of textiles were generated in the U.S. and 11.3 million tons were thrown into landfills.

As the rate that clothing is produced and discarded increases, only 15 percent of the clothing in the U.S. is recycled or reused, with the rest either incinerated or sent to landfills for disposal.

I am formally calling on the GAO to assess what actions the EPA has taken and can take to combat fast fashion waste.

In Maine, we have a deeply ingrained sense that you can always get a little more use out of something. I agree. The Federal Government can and must do more to stop waste and pollution. Fast fashion should be sustainable fashion.

SECURING THE BORDER

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

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I have been to the border several times now. When I visited in 2019 under President Trump, it was orderly, and the situation was contained. It brings me no pleasure to say when I visited last time, under the Joe Biden administration, it was an unmitigated disaster.

We watched migrants flow over the border and saw holding facilities far past capacity. We saw guardsmen pulled away from their border posts to go buy diapers and other supplies. We saw mountains of drugs that had been confiscated, which left everyone wondering how many had gone through undetected.

On any visit to the border, CBP will inform you that where there is a barrier, the border is secure, and the portions without are not.

Yet, sadly, this administration has done nothing over the past 2½ years to curb illegal immigration. Inversely,

they have actually encouraged it, which has strengthened the cartels. It has gotten so bad we are having illegals fill up school gymnasiums.

Yes, we need comprehensive immigration reform, but we need to stop the bleeding first by securing the border. We know how to do it.

COMMEMORATING PRIDE MONTH

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

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Pride Month for the good people of west Michigan.

Even as we celebrate this month as a time of joy, allowing individuals to be their authentic selves, it has been marked by communications from back home about the challenges and direct harm individuals face just for being a member of the LGBTQ community. Far, far too often, this harm is inflicted directly and intentionally in the name of God.

West Michigan has not had a countervoice in Congress, but they do now. I rise today as a lawmaker to express my commitment to championing freedom and justice for all in this country. I also rise today as a woman of deep and unwavering faith to reaffirm the equality that we all experience as precious human beings created with love, with joy, in the image and likeness of God. No scheme of man can change that.

To all of you in west Michigan who have felt unseen, unheard, or, even worse, bullied, this statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD is for you. My votes are for you. My presence here on the House floor is for you.

We are bending the arc toward justice, toward inclusion, toward equality. Happy Pride.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LARRY DOCKINS

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

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Larry Dockins, a Wyomingite who courageously served our country and who was and remains a beloved hero by all who knew him.

After receiving his GED, Larry made the decision to join the Army National Guard in 1962, where he began his life-time career in service to his country.

Throughout his time in the Army National Guard, he prioritized the needs of his community and that of his fellow residents. Plowing snow and hauling hay were just a few of the ways in which Larry was able to assist those around him.

He was also a proud member of the Command Maintenance Evaluation and Training team, which sought to solve logistical and equipment-related issues experienced by National Guard units

through assistance and training. Upon the conclusion of his service, Larry retired as a master sergeant.

Despite his love for public service, Larry valued family above all else and cherished every minute he was able to spend with both his grandkids and great-grandkids.

Larry, sadly, passed away on January 4, 2023. His selfless service will always be remembered by his family and friends and will leave a lasting impression on the communities he dedicated his life to assisting.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in remembering the life of Larry Dockins, honoring his service to our Nation and standing with his family in these difficult times.

STOPPING CRIMINAL FENTANYL SALES

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as we move toward the Fourth of July, after celebrating and commemorating Juneteenth, I want to talk a bit about freedom.

I ask my colleagues to join me in co-sponsoring my legislation, the STOP Fentanyl Now Act, to prevent the rise in the criminal selling of fentanyl and the death that comes to our children and to stop the online sales. Join me in stating to America that we will not give up on the fight against eliminating fentanyl in our streets and in our homes.

Then, Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to take note that a Member stood on the floor and utilized the Constitution about impeaching the President of the United States, Joe Biden. There is no basis in this Constitution for high crimes and misdemeanors.

Isn't it interesting that border crossings are down, but because they disagree with immigration policies that they have helped contribute to, they want to impeach him?

Finally, happy Pride Month and happy understanding that we all are created equal. The LGBTQ+ community stands tall as Americans in this Nation. Happy Pride.

HONORING HENRY WILLIAMSON

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

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Henry Williamson, an aviation mechanic with 50 years of dedicated service, most of which he spent working at the Conway-Horry County Airport.

Mr. Williamson, of Horry County, began his career in aviation after receiving a degree in aircraft maintenance from the Florence-Darlington Technical College.

In honor of his dedication to the industry as an aviation mechanic, Mr.

Williamson was recently awarded the Charles Taylor Master Mechanic Award from the Federal Aviation Administration. This is an award that only 40 South Carolinians have ever received.

I want to express my sincerest congratulations to Mr. Williamson for this much-deserved recognition and thank him for his dedication to keeping his customers safe in the skies.

ANTI-SEMITISM IS A THREAT TO ALL AMERICANS

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

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, this week, horrific anti-Semitic flyers were distributed across my district in Pennsylvania. I heard from friends and neighbors who found flyers in their front yards or in their driveways. These hateful flyers were found in some cases by children.

I am not going to show nor repeat the flyers' disgusting words because that is what those who spread hate want, for people to amplify their insidious message, one that is on the rise as the Anti-Defamation League records year-to-year increases in anti-Semitism.

I am a proud Jewish American, but anti-Semitism isn't just a threat to those of us who are Jewish. It is a threat to all of us because anti-Semitism, like other forms of bigotry that spread lies and stock hatred, is an existential threat to our values as Americans.

It takes all of us, drawing strength and community from one another, to stand up to those who want to divide us. Let's keep standing together so that, united as neighbors, we can root out the anti-Semitism and hate that endangers our fundamental American values.

□ 1145

FLYING THE PRIDE FLAG AT EMBASSIES

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I point out that every month in this country, if you include the people who come over here kind of administratively, we hit new records of people who I think are here illegally. That is not going down if you compare month after month.

In any event, currently the Biden administration is encouraging our embassies abroad to fly the so-called pride flag on our embassies, including the Vatican. This is completely inappropriate, and the Biden administration should immediately stop this policy.

America is a blessed Nation that has, I think, been the light of the world. Rather than sending a message to the world that America stands for and is

great because of its freedoms guaranteed under our Constitution and the bravery, faith, purity, and respect for the law of its people, it sends the message that America stands for the LGBT sexual agenda.

Leaving aside the absurdity that any sexually related flag should stand with Old Glory—how ridiculous—this is not the message we want to send to the countries around the world. It is also an insult to the hundreds of millions of Americans who oppose this agenda as well as the hundreds of thousands who made our country great and would be appalled by this.

President Biden, please take down this flag.

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

FIGHTING FOR REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

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

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, one year ago tomorrow, the Supreme Court overturned a half century of precedent by ending the nationwide guarantee that women be allowed to make choices over their bodies.

Since then, we have seen the devastating result: Numerous States enacting bans that deny a woman's ability to make decisions over her body, oftentimes without any exception.

In the face of this new wave of attacks on reproductive freedom, I have fought with many of my colleagues to preserve access to abortions and to restore a nationwide right to abortion access.

House Democrats produced and passed legislation to ensure women can travel safely and freely to States in which abortion is still legal, have access to contraception, and cover abortions regardless of income or health status.

We will not stop there.

We will continue to push for legislation that will once again allow women everywhere in America to be in charge of their own health decisions.

ALFREDO AND JANE CALVO CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

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

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate two of my constituents, Alfredo and Jane Calvo, who will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on June 30 this year.

They will be spending this milestone anniversary with their family: Al, Michael, Kari, Leigh, and their young grandson, Tucker.

Jane served in the Henderson County PTA, the North Carolina General Federation of Women's Clubs, and spent 16

years of her career as a staffer for one of my predecessors, the Honorable Congressman Charles Taylor. Jane has also worked for the Social Security Administration.

Alfredo was a volunteer soccer coach at Flat Rock Middle School and East Henderson High School and served in the Social Security Administration for more than a decade.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Alfredo and Jane Calvo on their 50th wedding anniversary. Here is to many more.

HONORING THE LIFE OF IRA SHARP

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

Ms. JACOBS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Ira Sharp, a beloved member of the greater San Diego community who passed away this month.

Ira was a native of St. Louis, where he came of age organizing sit-ins at segregated restaurants, activating students in support of civil rights, and eventually practicing law.

He later lived here in Washington, D.C., where he and his wife Rose Ann ran a successful small business in legal services and court reporting, and in Naples, Florida, until they retired for good in San Diego.

After their grandson was born and after the Parkland shooting, Ira and Rose Ann cofounded NeverAgainCA, and Ira served on the national board of the Brady Campaign. His fingerprints are on nearly every piece of gun safety legislation in San Diego County and California in the past decade.

Beyond his immense advocacy, Ira was a good friend. If he was proud of you, he would tell you. If you had a cause for him to support, he was there.

May his legacy live on as we continue the work to end gun violence, and may his memory be a blessing.

REJECTING INDEPENDENCE FOR PUERTO RICO

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

Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to reject attempts by the United Nations Special Committee for Decolonization calling for the independence of Puerto Rico.

It is no surprise that Cuba, Nicaragua, Russia, Syria, and Venezuela, who are among the worst human rights violators and antidemocratic regimes in the world are the ones calling for Puerto Rico's independence in an attempt to advance their anti-American agenda and grow their influence in the region.

For 106 years, Puerto Ricans have been proud American citizens, participating in the U.S. Armed Forces in

record numbers. As a U.S. territory and under the U.S. Constitution, it is Congress, not the United Nations, and certainly not a committee made up of authoritarian regimes that has the ultimate responsibility to address Puerto Rico's political status.

Puerto Ricans have made it very clear through votes and democratic elections—something these nations will never learn—we want to join our fellow Americans on equal footing as a full State of the Union.

ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the epidemic of gun violence our country is experiencing.

On average each year gun violence in America kills some 43,000 people and injures around 76,000 more.

Over and over, our communities are left reeling from senseless tragedy, stuck in a devastating cycle of violence. We can no longer allow this level of pain to be our normal. Change must happen and happen now.

I am proud to have signed the discharge petitions to bring essential gun violence prevention legislation to the House floor, including the Assault Weapons Ban, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act, and the Enhanced Background Checks Act.

These are rational and commonsense bills. They are not about taking away rights. They are about protecting our children, families, and communities. They are about taking the fear out of the every day.

Going to school, the grocery store, or even making a wrong turn should not be a death sentence. Our communities deserve better, and I vow to continue to fight for long overdue action to address gun violence in our beloved country.

HIGHLIGHTING THE SERVICE OF LEWIS LYMAN SUMNER

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

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, I often say that Vermont is held together with duct tape, twine, and hundreds of volunteer hours.

I rise today to highlight the work of Lewis Lyman Sumner. His 54-year commitment to the Halifax community has been immeasurably impactful. He served for over half a century on the Halifax Select Board and gave 6 years of service to the National Guard. He is also a 50-year member of the Grange—such incredible public service.

The Sumner family has deep roots in Halifax and has been a staple in that community since they settled there in 1783. Lewis and his family continue to operate their family farm.

Lewis served his community as emergency management director for eight FEMA disasters, working tirelessly to keep Vermonters safe during these emergencies.

Lewis and his wife, Laura, are both dedicated public servants. Laura served as town clerk for 43 years until her retirement in 2010.

I close by thanking Lewis, Laura, and their family for their years of service to southern Vermont.

RECOGNIZING THE U.S. ARMY'S 54TH COAST ARTILLERY REGIMENT

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

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the service and the legacy of the United States Army's 54th Coast Artillery Regiment that served during World War II.

As the Army's only all-Black heavy artillery regiment in World War II, they were given used weapons and secondhand uniforms from World War I. Despite that lack of fancy gear and guns, the men of the 54th stood firm and stood fast as they guarded the entire central coast of California, from San Francisco Bay to Port San Luis, from Morro Bay to Monterey Bay, and from Lighthouse Point in Santa Cruz to Point Pinos Lighthouse in Pacific Grove.

Through their service, but also through their social lives, the soldiers impacted and became entwined in our community. They formed a local baseball league during their assignment, and after their service some even returned to the Central Coast to serve our community.

Mr. Speaker, the history of the all-Black 54th Coast Artillery Regiment is not just important to the 19th Congressional District, but it is about the broader story of our military. Americans of all levels, all races, all genders, all creeds coming together to fulfill their responsibility of living in our democracy by defending our communities and serving our country.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF EUGENE GATES

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

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to mourn the loss of my constituent and a beloved member of the United States Postal Service, Eugene Gates.

On Wednesday, Mr. Gates passed while delivering mail on his route in Dallas, Texas, where the heat index reached temperatures of nearly 115 degrees.

My heart breaks for Eugene's wife, Carla, his children, grandchildren, and everyone in Lancaster, Texas, who called him neighbor and friend.

Mr. Gates was a 40-year veteran of the U.S. Postal Service and will be remembered and mourned by many in north Texas who looked forward to his visits every day. He had the heart of a public servant and will be missed by all who had the honor of knowing him.

As a member of the Oversight and Accountability Committee, I have continued to uplift and fight my colleagues on the other side of the aisle for respect and to protect and honor those Federal workers just like Mr. Gates instead of belittling them. Mr. Gates should be here.

It is past time that we do the people's work in the people's House. I pray that we honor Mr. Gates' life by offering pragmatic solutions along with our prayers. We need to do this for Eugene, his family, and for all of our letter carriers putting public service before self every single day.

SUPPORTING FEDERAL FIREFIGHTERS

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 40 brave Nevada Bureau of Land Management wildland firefighters who have selflessly offered their support to battle the raging fires in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I include their names in the RECORD.

Anderson, Truett, Southern Nevada District; Arroyo, Omar, Carson City District Office; Atwater, Trevor, Carson City District Office; Brunjes, Bailey C, Southern Nevada District; Chatham, William A, Carson City District Office; Daniels, Aaron Lee, Carson City District Office; De Raedt, Nick Peter, Carson City District Office; Drake, Lauryn Emily, Carson City District Office; Duenas, Kevin Gerardo, Carson City District Office; Engdahl, Alyssa Grace, Carson City District Office; Esh, Heidi, Carson City District Office.

Evers, Tommy, Carson City District Office; Fonseca, Alex, Southern Nevada District; Giordano, John M, Carson City District Office; Henderson, Theodore A, Carson City District Office; Hucks, Roman B, Carson City District Office; Kalb, Jonathan Matthew, Carson City District Office; Kavle, Henry James, Winnemucca District; Kelly, Kevin, Carson City District Office; Koski, Christine Marie, Carson City District Office; Kracaw, Will A, Winnemucca District.

Li, Ren X, Carson City District Office; Livie, Nathan David, Carson City District Office; May, Wyndham F, Carson City District Office; McGovern, Nicholas B, Southern Nevada District; Mini, Daniel Raymond, Carson City District Office; Monson, Victor Charles, Carson City District Office; Mortimore, Jennifer Lee, Carson City District Office; Murphy, Ayden Patrick, Carson City District Office; Quenga, Kevin, Carson City District Office; Richmond, Levi Robert, South Nevada District.

Rodriguez, Roberto, Carson City District Office; Satterfield, Nathan Robert, Carson City District Office; Shoemaker, Don, Carson City District Office; St Cyr, Andrew T, Carson City District Office; Stephenson, Karl Joseph, Battle Mountain District; Tartaglia, Vincenzo Cesidio, Carson City District Office; Wadsworth, Justin Allen, Carson City

District Office: Wagner, Lane Nicholas, Carson City District Office; Williams, Joshua David, Carson City District Office; Whipple, Tyler Jeffrey, Southern Nevada District.

Ms. TITUS. When smoke covered Washington, D.C., and New York for hundreds of miles recently, people across the East Coast witnessed the impact of the devastating wildfires Canada is currently experiencing.

To date, the United States has deployed more than 600 firefighters and support personnel to respond to these wildfires in Canada, including our Silver State Interagency Hotshot Crew.

Nearly every major wildfire in the U.S. relies on response from Federal wildland firefighters and the services their specialized crews provide, but right now they are paid significantly less than their counterparts at State and local agencies.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the Nevada Federal firefighters, the Hotshots, who are on the front lines. I urge support for a needed increase in their base salaries. It is the least we can do for their service and sacrifice.

MORGAN HALLETT IS A TRULY EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT ATHLETE

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Morgan Hallett, a rising senior from Norton High School, as Ohio's 13th Congressional District Champion of the Week.

Morgan recently won her second straight Division II State title in the discus, blowing out her competition with a record-breaking throw of 170 feet, 8 inches.

After putting on a brilliant athletic display, which Morgan and her dad fondly call the "Mo Show," Morgan now has the longest throw in a Division II State meet and is tied for the longest throw in Division II history.

Morgan has established herself as a truly exceptional student athlete, and her hard work, dedication, and commitment to excellence are truly outstanding.

Morgan's achievements have made her family, teammates, coaches, school, and community proud. Once again, I congratulate Morgan Hallett on her second straight Division II State title in discus and the best of luck as she reaches her third next year.

□ 1200

RECOGNIZING LILYANA BALDERAS

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize one of my constituents, Lilyana Balderas, who is an Anaheim High School freshman and a 15-year-old athlete who is rapidly rising

through the Nation's ranks as one of the best wrestlers in the country.

Lilyana just finished her freshman year at Anaheim High School with 33 wins, crowned the 121-pound CIF Champion and CIF State runner-up champ. She is ranked 10th nationally as the best wrestler in the United States.

She is a top-notch student with a 3.9 GPA.

What is her goal?

Lilyana simply wants to win an Olympic Gold Medal for the United States.

I know Lilyana has got this. Go Colonists. We will be watching her career.

HONORING REVEREND MARIE GALATAS ORTIZ

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

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Marie Galatas Ortiz, Louisiana's matriarch in the civil rights movement.

After the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Ortiz became increasingly involved and determined to work toward equality in her community. She founded the Grass Roots Organization for Women, GROW, in 1975, aiming to encourage women's participation in leadership roles and challenge patriarchal social systems.

Ortiz also led protests and demonstrations, including one demanding justice for the death of Stanley Magee. She actively fought against racially motivated violence and worked to remove Confederate statues in Louisiana.

Ortiz remains committed to her spiritual mission and continues to support underserved individuals through various organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Reverend Galatas for her hard work and dedication. I pray that she will continue to fight assuring a successful and bright future for all men and women. Today, we give her roses while she lives.

God bless Reverend Galatas, and may she continue her great work.

23RD ANNUAL NEW CITIZEN RECOGNITION PROGRAM EVENT

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

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the new 56 citizens of our Nation in the city of Elgin, which I am proud to represent in the Third Congressional District of Illinois. The city of Elgin's New Citizen Recognition Ceremony is a cherished tradition and a celebration that goes back 23 years.

Every single new U.S. citizen has a story. They took a journey that has brought them to that citizenship ceremony. As their Congresswoman, I

couldn't be more proud of who they are, of their strength, of what they have overcome, the sacrifices they have made, the changes, and the geographical distances from their families.

I know it hasn't been easy, but they did it. I celebrate them and the journey that has brought them to the United States.

They know that in Elgin, a city in Illinois' Third Congressional District, they will always find a community with open doors and open hearts.

"Congratulations." "Felicitaciones."

BIPARTISAN COSPONSORS

(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, today I stand before you, honored to share the progress we have made in improving the lives of eastern North Carolinians. Together we have cosponsored 100 bipartisan bills that address our communities' most pressing needs.

My commitment to put aside partisanship and focus on our shared values is stronger than ever. Working together, we can accelerate job creation, expand educational opportunities, and champion affordable healthcare for families across the First Congressional District.

This isn't just about the present, but it is about creating a brighter future for the next generation. With every bill I cosponsor, I envision a community where our children have boundless opportunities to succeed.

I am immensely proud of the bipartisan progress we have achieved. Mr. Speaker, let's continue to bridge divides, forge new pathways, and create a legacy of positive change that will inspire generations to come.

WE MUST FREE JAMSHID SHARMAHD

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

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to demand the release and safe return of Jamshid Sharmahd.

Mr. Sharmahd, a U.S. national and the father of one of my constituents, was unlawfully arrested and imprisoned in Iran 3 years ago in retaliation for simply doing his job as an independent journalist.

Following a sham trial that was condemned by international human rights groups, Mr. Sharmahd was sentenced to death. Mr. Sharmahd was convicted in an Iranian court of "corruption on Earth," a nonsense charge designed only to imprison and execute political dissidents.

He deserves to be reunited with his daughter in Ontario, California.

Mr. Speaker, I call on the State Department and the White House to do

everything in their power to free Mr. Sharmahd and ensure his safe return.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KILEY) laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable KEVIN McCARTHY, Speaker of the House of Representatives:

WASHINGTON, DC.
June 23, 2023.

I hereby designate the period from Saturday, June 24, 2023, through Monday, July 10, 2023, as a “district work period” under section 3(z) of House Resolution 5.

KEVIN McCARTHY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUFERD), who is my good friend and a wonderful leader in the Law Enforcement Caucus in the House of Representatives.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Leslie and Carlton C. Smith for their high achievement in exportation. Leslie and Carlton’s Jacksonville-based heavy equipment exporting business, Heavy Equipment Resources of Florida, or “HERO FL,” is a top exporter of components and spare parts to mining industries all around the globe.

Earlier this month, HERO FL was awarded with its second Presidential E Star Award for Exportation. This award is the highest honor given to our Nation’s exporters and highlights HERO FL’s significant contribution to U.S. exports and their development of market entry strategies for challenging international markets, specifically in Africa.

The E Star Award, which is now designated by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, sets HERO FL apart from their peers for their noteworthy export promotion efforts.

Just since 2013, HERO FL has grown from 10 export markets to over 32. This is an incredible achievement and is a testament to Leslie and Carlton’s hard work in northeast Florida and across the globe.

I am honored to recognize their efforts, and I am grateful for the eco-

nomic growth that they continue to bring to Florida’s Fifth Congressional District.

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for his promotion of his constituents and their success in exporting and for his recognizing the importance of small business to the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY). My friend is from one of the most beautiful congressional districts in America, the Sierra Nevada.

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Music in the Mountains, a unique organization in Nevada County, California, that combines world-class orchestral, choral, and musical theater performances with a deep commitment to music education.

The Music in the Mountains season features live concerts and events showcasing the orchestra and chorus performing with world-renowned classical musicians and soloists. Performances are staged in several venues located in historic gold rush communities of Grass Valley and Nevada City.

At the heart of Music in the Mountains is the SummerFest Classical Festival, now in its 42nd year. Audiences are enthralled by powerful classical masterworks, modern favorites, and innovative pieces from brand new composers staged in an outdoor theater.

In the days leading up to July Fourth, the festival celebrates music, community, and our country’s birth.

In addition to presenting inspiring concerts, Music in the Mountains offers innovative educational programs touching the lives of about 5,000 students each year.

To fulfill the goal of empowering children to perform, compose, and listen to music, Music in the Mountains offers a variety of activities, including Take 5 for Music, Carnegie Lineup, Full Circle Music Program, and Peer Performing 4 Peers.

The youth orchestra is a symphony orchestra program for string, woodwind, brass, and percussion players ages 8 to 21. Students in the Young Composers project study composition, notation software, conducting, melodic and rhythmic dictation, music theory, and music history.

The Side By Side program offers student musicians the opportunity to sit in with the orchestra at rehearsals and perform with their mentors in live performances.

Through its performance and educational endeavors, Music in the Mountains recognizes the power of music to heal and transform the individual and the community.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I am honored to recognize Music in the Mountains for the empowering programs and profound impact the organization has had on Nevada County and the broader region.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments and for

promoting this good work in his district, and I thank him for his public service.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an important piece of legislation that I am working on here in the people’s House.

The Ouachita Mountains inside the Ouachita National Forest stretches some 220 miles from my district in central Arkansas to eastern Oklahoma.

For 50 years now, I have sought refuge and pleasure in visiting a remarkable corner of the rugged Arkansas Ouachita National Forest mountains called Flatside. It is named for a sandstone outcrop that dominates the forest below.

Mr. Speaker, you can see in this photo on one very cold February day with a blanket of snow on the ground that I was looking west from the top of Flatside toward another high point in the wilderness area called Forked Mountain.

My guide that day was my good friend of now 50 years and longtime neighbor in Little Rock, Don Hamilton.

Don is a longtime member of the Ozark Society, a former board member for the National Wildlife Federation, and a tireless advocate for wilderness areas in our Nation.

□ 1215

At the time of this photo, I was a Senate staffer, and Don was urging me to persuade my then boss, U.S. Senator John Tower, a Republican from Texas, to cosponsor Democrat Arkansas Senator Dale Bumpers’ Arkansas Wilderness Act.

This act would establish the 10,000 acres of public U.S. forestland around Flatside as one of nine new wilderness areas and the only one in the Second Congressional District.

With Senator Tower’s endorsements and the tireless work by Senator Bumpers and my Second District predecessor, Republican Congressman Ed Bethune, Flatside did, in fact, join the U.S. Forest Service wilderness rolls in 1984 when it was signed into law by President Reagan.

At that time, the Flatside area was anticipated to be larger, encompassing the additional U.S. Forest Service lands that I am addressing on the House floor today in my new legislation.

Over the ensuing years, the Forest Service and advocates were never able to craft a strategy whereby those acres left out of the 1984 designation could be included.

When I joined Congress in 2015, I set about to design an approach that would expand Flatside to its originally contemplated size.

First, I introduced the Flatside Wilderness Enhancement Act, which passed in both the House and Senate in 2018 and was then signed into law by President Trump in January of 2019.

This bill added what I called the Bethune Woods acreage to Flatside.

Thanks to Congressman Bethune for his years of hard work on this area.

This 640-acre addition had been coded by the U.S. Forest Service as wilderness and managed that way but had never been formally added to the boundaries of Flatside.

As a companion measure, Senator JOHN BOOZMAN of Arkansas and I included in the fiscal year 2019 appropriations bill a provision whereby the Forest Service would complete a careful and thorough study of the other Federal forest lands around Flatside that might well meet the 1964 Wilderness Act definition and be eligible for inclusion.

In May of 2021, Flatside's wilderness evaluation was completed by the Forest Service. They thoroughly examined all the areas in question and outlined the ones that they believed would qualify as wilderness if so designated by this House, by our Congress.

Thus, Mr. Speaker, here we are, 40 years later, discussing my bill, H.R. 3971, the Flatside Wilderness Additions Act. This act implements the careful U.S. Forest Service study that was completed back in May of 2021.

Further, I collaborated on the design of the measure with my colleague, the chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, Chair BRUCE WESTERMAN and his staff.

This bill admits 2,200 existing qualifying public U.S. Forest Service acres to the existing wilderness area. Land that qualifies for wilderness designation in accordance with the May 2021 study and is currently already managed as potential wilderness by the Ouachita National Forest Management Plan.

This measure is supported by our Arkansas Governor, Sarah Sanders, our parks and tourism leadership, our game and fish commission, our local officials in the nearby counties, and our outdoor recreation leaders, including The Ozark Society who was so instrumental in the 1994 work.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and complete the good work started by my predecessor so long ago, Congressman Ed Bethune, and initiated by President Reagan, signing the Arkansas Wilderness Act of 1984 into law.

Today, we take this final step to complete Flatside Wilderness' original footprint and offer the wild beauty of The Natural State for generations to come.

For me, Flatside has provided five decades of peace that was promised in John Muir's great poem that goes like this:

Climb the mountains and get their good tidings, nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves.

HONORING THE LIFE OF AMBASSADOR C. BOYDEN GRAY

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the life of a dear friend and a remarkable public servant, Ambas-

sador Boyden Gray. Boyden died on May 21, 2023, at the age of 80.

There was no finer gentleman, father, companion, or principled conservative advocate than the Honorable C. Boyden Gray.

In his remembrance of Ambassador Gray at a June 7 service at Christ Church, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas described Boyden as calm and courageous, warm and humorous.

It was my great pleasure to serve on the White House staff of President George H.W. Bush and witness Boyden's humor, courage, and principled leadership on a regular basis.

President Bush was fortunate to have Boyden Gray as his White House counsel, his friend, and also his counsel during his years as Vice President during the Reagan administration.

Boyden was instrumental in advising the President on appointments and on landmark legislation such as the Clean Air Act amendments of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Gray went on to continue his public service as our U.S. Ambassador to the European Union from 2006 to 2007.

Boyden was also a long-time attorney and conservative constitutional advocate in private practice in Washington, D.C.

In his touching eulogy, Justice Thomas quoted Boyden's frequent statement that his daughter, Eliza, was "the best thing I have ever done."

That was in full evidence as Eliza gave a beautiful tribute to her dad. Her dedication and love and his for her was in full evidence.

Martha and I send our hugs to Eliza, her husband Nick, and their children Jane and Wyatt.

The world is a less interesting place with the loss of our friend, Boyden Gray. I have no doubt that he is suggesting many structural regulatory reforms in Heaven as we speak.

RECOGNIZING NORTH LITTLE ROCK HIGH SCHOOL'S VICTORY IN THE CAPITOL HILL CHALLENGE

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight an incredible achievement from the high school students at North Little Rock High School who finished in first place in the SIFMA Foundation's 20th Annual Capitol Hill Challenge.

This is the security industry's nationwide contest. We used to call it the stock market game many years ago.

Thousands of teams from all 50 States compete in this 4-month financial education program where student teams invest a hypothetical \$100,000 and learn the value and function of our capital markets and investing fundamentals through an integrated, comprehensive curriculum.

Additionally, these students learn how to think critically and collaborate with their peers which, in turn, improves their own personal decision-making and financial literacy.

The Capitol Hill Challenge allows for thousands of students across the country, particularly at underprivileged

schools, to have access to exceptional financial educational programming and for those who might not even have had an opportunity to learn these important skills.

These students, as well as others whose schools finish in the top 10, recently traveled to Washington, D.C., and got to meet with their Congressmen and their Senators.

I congratulate the hardworking students at North Little Rock High School for this great achievement of being tops in financial literacy and in this contest.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL ANGELA OCHOA

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Angela Ochoa for her distinguished service as the 19th Airlift Wing Commander at Little Rock Air Force Base.

Colonel Ochoa was commissioned in 2001, and throughout her career has flown in Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Resolute Support, Operation Freedom's Sentinel, and Volant Shogun.

Colonel Ochoa has spent the last 2 years dedicated to the C-130 airlift community, ensuring that the 19th Wing is mission ready for global support.

Through her efforts, she has left a positive impact on more than 10,000 personnel and families that travel in and out of Little Rock Air Force Base every day.

In addition to her focus on combat readiness of the force, Colonel Ochoa continued to vitalize and support the central Arkansas community through the introduction of the Department of Defense's STARBASE program, which provides STEM-focused education opportunities for children in the area. She has also made immeasurable contributions to our community through the Honorary Commander Program.

I wish Colonel Ochoa continued success as she comes here to metro Washington, D.C., and takes command of the 89th Airlift Wing at Joint Base Andrews.

HAPPY 187TH BIRTHDAY, ARKANSAS

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge that this month, June, our great State of Arkansas celebrates 187 years of statehood.

Arkansas' rich history has shaped the vibrant and growing communities across our State today. I am especially grateful for the opportunity to stand before you and celebrate its heritage, progress, and the possibilities ahead for our citizens.

Arkansas' heritage is evident across our State in museums and historic sites but also in the individual stories of people across our State, their own stories, their own generations of calling Arkansas home.

Throughout our history, Arkansas has consistently lived up to its nickname, The Natural State. Families across our country visit our State parks, our historic sites, and other great outdoor recreational experiences from the Ozark Mountains to the Mississippi Delta.

Besides the outdoors, Arkansans of all ages take advantage of opportunities in our State from art to sports to business and technology.

I am proud to support business investment in Arkansas and our young people as they learn more about what it means to call Arkansas home.

For all these reasons and more, I am confident that Arkansas has a bright future ahead. Today, and every day, I am proud to represent the many central Arkansans that make our State great. Happy Birthday, Arkansas.

CONGRATULATING SUSAN RAMSEY, AG IN THE CLASSROOM OUTSTANDING TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Susan Ramsey, the recipient of the Ag in the Classroom Outstanding Teacher of the Year award from the Arkansas Farm Bureau.

Ms. Ramsey teaches language arts in Pangburn, and she leads a garden class on Fridays for third and fourth graders, providing them new and engaging experiences in and around our food system and agriculture.

Pangburn High School's agriculture teacher Brian Harris, who nominated Ms. Ramsey for the award, praised her garden program because it provides students these important experiences at such a good, young age.

Ms. Ramsey has undeniably made a positive impact on her students, providing them the tools they need for future success. Programs like these benefit students and their families across our State.

This recognition is well-deserved, and as our State's nominee, she will represent Arkansas well at the National Ag in the Classroom Conference coming up. Thank you, Ms. Ramsey, for your dedication to your students.

CONGRATULATING DR. GARY B. ARNOLD

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend, Dr. Gary B. Arnold, for his outstanding work as Head of School at Little Rock Christian Academy. After 16 years at Little Rock Christian, Dr. Arnold's legacy will not be forgotten.

From expanding the campus, building modern athletic facilities, and improving the art and science programs, Dr. Arnold improved student life immensely over his tenure.

Not only did Dr. Arnold lead his students, but he was a mentor to many other heads of school across the Nation.

Dr. Arnold held many positions of leadership for national organizations, promoting high standards and the growth of independent Christian education.

Through his devotion to spreading the faith and serving in the name of Jesus, Dr. Arnold's leadership creates a long-lasting, positive impact.

I congratulate Dr. Arnold on his amazing work at Little Rock Christian and look forward to his continued leadership across our great country.

CONGRATULATING ALLIE THOMAS

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Allie Thomas on rep-

resenting Arkansas in the 2023 National History Day competition.

National History Day is a high school competition whereby students can present historical research projects through websites, endorsements, or even performances.

Each year, nearly a half million students across our great country participate in National History Day. The topic for this year's competition was Frontiers in History: People, Places, Ideas. The students' topics ranged from the history of science to politics and the military.

Allie was one of only 3,000 students selected to participate in the National History Day competition at the University of Maryland just this past week.

To advance to the National Competition, Allie's project was named a top-two project in her category and division.

I am so proud of Allie and her hard work. And we are honored she represented our great State of Arkansas.

□ 1230

RECOGNIZING ARKANSAS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Arkansas Children's Hospital for being featured in the most recent U.S. News & World Report's list of best children's hospitals.

Arkansas Children's Hospital received a top 50 ranking in seven medical specialties for pediatric hospitals across the United States and was also ranked in the top 10 pediatric hospitals for the southeast region.

This recognition is well deserved. Arkansas Children's provides critical and incredibly valuable services to our children and their families across our State and the surrounding region.

This kind of comprehensive care is necessary so that kids and their families in our State can reach their full potential and have access to the absolute best care possible for every kind of complication that life can bring.

Providing these important services at such a high caliber requires a committed and talented team. The staff at Arkansas Children's Hospital certainly reflects these values.

As a former hospital director there and now a Member of Congress, I am always proud to highlight their quality pediatric care in our State and glad that the exceptional performance of Arkansas Children's Hospital is being recognized at a national level.

CONGRATULATING JIMMY MOSES

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jimmy Moses, who was recently honored for his work in downtown Little Rock for Little Rock's successful growth, redevelopment, and preservation over his many decades of leadership.

Mr. Moses was featured in Block, Street, & Building magazine as a true difference maker, and I can certainly assure you, Mr. Speaker, that is understated.

His family has exemplified values that made our State great for genera-

tions. They have not only benefited from their deep roots in Little Rock, but they have used those talents and love for the area to give back. Jimmy Moses is absolutely continuing that longtime Moses family tradition.

Mr. Moses has worked in urban development and planning for years. He has worked on projects to restore historic buildings and facilitate creative development as our vital central business district of Little Rock has grown and changed over the past 40 years.

Mr. Moses also serves as one of the founders of Moses Tucker Partners, a prominent real estate development firm in Little Rock.

His background, skills, and passion demonstrate why he is so deserving of this important recognition. I am proud to recognize him as a visionary that has been so clearly dedicated to making our hometown a better place.

CELEBRATING EARL SMITH'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Earl Smith, who celebrated his 100th birthday on June 10.

Mr. Smith, an Arkansas native, is a World War II veteran. Drafted at 19, he served in the Army and the Army Chemical Corps.

He was also part of the Rhineland campaign and the northern France campaign and was awarded two Bronze Stars and a good conduct medal.

Earl was married to his wife, Eloise, for 57 years. Together, they had two children, four grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

Earl is still an active member of the community. He makes sure to attend all of his grandchildren's events and holds the longest membership in Life-line Baptist Church. Earl also is the oldest member of the Little Rock VFW Post 9095.

When asked about this remarkable birthday, he said: "I had no idea I would live this long, but every morning when I wake up, I thank the good Lord for another day."

I thank Mr. Earl Smith for his service to our beloved Nation and congratulate him for his 100th birthday.

HONORING DAVE PERESKO

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dave Peresko.

Mr. Peresko is a longtime veteran who served our Nation in the Vietnam war.

Continuing his service to our country, Mr. Peresko began working for the U.S. Postal Service in Little Rock in 1973. During that work, Mr. Peresko was no stranger to any of our community members. His lively and kind spirit spread throughout our community, leaving a positive impact on everyone he came across.

Completing over 45 years of service with the post office, Mr. Peresko retired from the post office just a few years ago in 2019.

This very committed Kansas City Chiefs superfan brightened the city of

Little Rock every day in the way he touched people and cared for them in his public service.

We salute Dave in his retirement.

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

RECOGNIZING JUNETEENTH AND
SLAVERY REMEMBRANCE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. And still I rise, Mr. Speaker. I am grateful for the time and the opportunity to share some of my thoughts and views about crucial issues, to share them not only with my colleagues here in Congress but also with the people of our great country.

And still I rise today to talk about Juneteenth. I believe Juneteenth is a very special time in the history of our country, and I would like to say a few words about Juneteenth. I would also like to talk about Slavery Remembrance Day.

For those of you who are tuning in, please know that I will speak about Juneteenth, and I will speak about Slavery Remembrance Day, but I will also speak about a day that occurred before Juneteenth.

As you know, President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. Prior to signing the Emancipation Proclamation, President Lincoln signed the District of Columbia Compensated Emancipation Act of 1862. April 16, 1862, is the day it was signed.

This is an important piece of legislation because the District of Columbia Compensated Emancipation Act impacted Washington, D.C. The District of Columbia Compensated Emancipation Act would accord compensation for slaves who were freed—human beings held in bondage, human beings who had been kidnapped, likely, or they may have been born into slavery. Some people were born into slavery and lived their entire lives as slaves and died as slaves.

These human beings, the genesis of which was persons who were kidnapped from the Continent of Africa, for our purposes today, as we talk about slavery here in the United States, these human beings were kidnapped, brought to this country, sold, forced to work, and forced to be separated from their families. Children were sold at the auction block. They went to one plantation, and their mother and father went to another.

This is what slavery was about: kidnapping, rape, murder.

These are true words, words that we don't like to hear because, in this country, we have reviled the enslaved and revered the enslavers.

Let's go back to the District of Columbia Compensated Emancipation Act of 1862, which impacted Wash-

ington, D.C., as I indicated. This act was to free slaves. It would free them. It brought with it compensation.

A reasonable and prudent person would believe that the compensation would be accorded the slave, the person who had been working at the mercy of a person known as a master. Slaves had masters.

This act, one would assume, would compensate the slave upon the slave being freed. That was not so, my dear friends—not so.

The District of Columbia Compensated Emancipation Act of 1862 compensated the master. The person who owned the slave received compensation for allowing a person to have the liberty that God has accorded all of his children. Some have been denied the liberty, but it was a birthright for every person ever born, the right to be free.

This act of trying as best as he could—President Lincoln—to free slaves accorded persons who owned them approximately \$300. Before the \$300 was presented, as it were, there was a slave owner who came and actually appraised slaves. They were considered chattels, property. They were appraised, and owners received this compensation, sort of like compensating the kidnapper who kidnaps a person, compensating this person for the act of kidnapping. Release the person you kidnapped, and you can receive compensation.

It is like the bank robber bringing the ill-gotten gains back to the bank and being rewarded for bringing the ill-gotten gains back after having robbed the bank. It was similar to this, only more horrific, of course, because we are talking about human beings.

We have this situation where persons who were enslaved in Washington, D.C., the Nation's Capital, enslaved right here in Washington, D.C., when they were released, they received the opportunity to fend for themselves. They were released to the winds and the rains and the weather and the elements. They were not given any compensation for their labor, for the crime against humanity.

Slavery was one of the greatest crimes ever committed against humanity—committed for centuries, I might add. It is a crime against humanity that has never been properly addressed.

Even to this day, people don't want to hear this message. There are people who literally cannot tolerate hearing the message because they have been indoctrinated to believe that the enslaved people somehow were wrong and that the enslavers were heroes.

Well, this didn't work so well, emancipation for consideration to be accorded the enslavers. It didn't work so well. Hence, we find that President Lincoln did, in fact, issue the Emancipation Proclamation, which was issued to free these enslaved persons who were a part of the States that left the Union. They were said to have been given their freedom, but that didn't

work too well for the people who were enslaved because in States like Texas, the enslavers didn't really honor the Emancipation Proclamation.

□ 1245

There are some who say, well, they didn't know. Well, they did, but in Texas they chose not to honor it.

Some more than 2 years and a half later, General Gordon Granger came to Galveston, Texas, to inform the people of Texas that the persons that were being held—and this was after the end of the Civil War, I might add—the persons that were being held, to inform them that they had been liberated, and to tell the holders, the masters, the enslavers, that these human beings had to be released.

General Gordon Granger was an intelligent man. He did not come by himself. He had the good sense to know that the people of Texas were not likely to find his words with favor; that they were not likely to see and look upon what he was about to do with favor.

General Gordon Granger, understanding that Texans spoke a specific kind of language and, as a result of understanding Texas-speak, General Gordon Granger concluded that he would bring some translators with him, persons who would be understood by Texans. Well, I say persons; they weren't really persons, but these were instrumentalities, if you will, that Texans would understand.

So he brought with him the Colts. He brought with him the Smith & Wessons, and the Winchesters. They spoke a language that Texans understood.

But before General Gordon Granger arrived, a wonderful thing occurred. It is said about a week before he arrived, they sent in the 25th Corps. The 25th Corps consisted of about 1,000 or more persons, and it was the 25th Corps that came in and ran the rebels out of Galveston, chased them to the border of the country, the boundaries, chased them all the way to Mexico. It was the 25th Corps that paved the way for General Gordon Granger to come into Texas and to issue his General Order No. 3.

But here is what history doesn't say enough about. The 25th Corps consisted of Black men. Somehow we don't choose to celebrate these Black men who actually were the liberators, who came in before General Gordon Granger, came into Texas, fought fiercely to liberate the Black people in Texas.

General Gordon Granger appeared with his General Order No. 3, accompanied by a lot of firepower, about 2,000 military personnel with him and, as a result, slaves in Texas were free to work for their masters.

Imagine that. The person that has held you in slavery now becomes your boss—your employer, is the way it was stated—but your boss, your employer. Your slave master is now your employer. Well, that didn't work well for the enslaved persons.

This was followed with a series of laws that caused Black people to have to serve time and become slaves by another name; convict leasing is what it was called because we had these Black codes, these laws, that would require persons to work. If you didn't work you could be arrested, and then you could be leased to a plantation owner.

In Houston, Texas, just outside actually, in Sugarland, there is a grave with about 95 common bodies having been buried in it, called the Sugarland 95. These persons served as slaves under a different title.

But the point is, we had the Emancipation Proclamation. We had the enforcement of it by virtue of General Gordon Granger coming into Galveston, Texas. Then we had other circumstances that were unpleasant for people of color.

All of these things are things that we should take note of. I think we should actually celebrate the persons who came in in the 25th. I plan to introduce a resolution. I plan to introduce a resolution to honor these persons, the 25th Corps. I plan to introduce legislation so that they can be properly honored.

Now, I know that there are people who hear me say these things and sometimes they decide that, well, I think I will do it first. Well, go ahead. I will still have the original.

It is something that we ought to do to celebrate Juneteenth, but also to commemorate the lives of the persons that suffered under slavery, commemorate them and celebrate them, on Juneteenth. Quite frankly, I believe we ought to do that, and I am going to do it. I have supported Juneteenth.

I have supported Al Edwards who is the father of Juneteenth. Al Edwards, a State representative out of Houston, the father of Juneteenth. He was the person who, as a freshman State representative in Texas, managed to get the impossible done, the impossible. We are talking about Texas now.

He managed to get Texans in the State legislature, that would be the House and the Senate, and the Governor to sign a law causing Juneteenth to become a holiday in the State of Texas. It is a miracle.

Al Edwards, Juneteenth. He managed to get it to become the first in the entire country, the first State in the entire country to recognize Juneteenth, June 19, as a holiday. Al Edwards, the father of Juneteenth.

Unfortunately, not a lot has been said about Al being the father of Juneteenth, but I will be filing a resolution in this House honoring him as the father of Juneteenth.

We ought to do these things. We ought to tell the truth. This is history. And obviously, a person who is the very first to file a piece of legislation that becomes law, that eventually permeates and becomes the law in other States, and now, in the United States—but it was Al Edwards. He is the father of Juneteenth. So I will be filing that resolution as well; and other legislation.

I seem to have become the person whose mission in life is to right these wrongs, and I plan to do it with my colleagues, many of whom will support what we are trying to do. I thank them, all of them who sign on to these pieces of legislation.

So we have Juneteenth to celebrate the lives of those who were freed, and we commemorate the day and those who didn't get the opportunity to be liberated because, you see, liberating those who were still alive is a wonderful thing to do. But we still really and truly must commemorate the lives of those who were not alive on June 19, 1865. Their lives have to be remembered and respected.

In this country, we have days of remembrance. We have a day of remembrance for 9/11, a day of remembrance for the bombing of Pearl Harbor, a Holocaust Remembrance Day, and this House, just last year, passed a remembrance day for slavery, Slavery Remembrance Day. It was done by this House of Representatives.

I must tell you, Mr. STENY HOYER—Mr. STENY HOYER, I will never forget, nor will I let others forget the role that he played. It was Mr. HOYER that assisted me, or perhaps I ended up assisting him. It was my legislation, but legislation that Mr. HOYER helped get through this House. He took, as it were, the proverbial bull by the horns, and he helped this Congressperson pass this legislation.

So Mr. HOYER, wherever you are, I thank you and want you to know that at some point we would like to honor you for what you did to make real Slavery Remembrance Day in the House of Representatives.

The bill did not pass the Senate, but Ms. WARREN, the Senator, Senator WARREN, had legislation in the Senate to honor the enslaved people. It was to commemorate their lives, as well.

So Slavery Remembrance Day passed the House, and on August 20 of last year, we actually celebrated, commemorated—excuse me—because Slavery Remembrance Day deals with solemnity and commemoration, not celebration. We celebrate on Juneteenth and commemorate.

But Slavery Remembrance Day is for commemoration, not celebration, because we want to commemorate the lives that were lost to slavery, the lives of people who were born into slavery, lived their lives as slaves, many of them, and died as slaves.

I heard somebody repeat that just recently. It is a wonderful thing to hear people repeat that. One of my colleagues did, and I appreciated hearing that being repeated.

But Slavery Remembrance Day is about solemnity, and there is a ceremony that we had reminding us that we must always remember. This ceremony requires that a person talk about the various things that occurred and at some point would say, we must, and those who were in attendance would say, always remember, because we must always remember.

Slavery Remembrance Day, August 20 of last year, the first. We had over 1,000 people show up on short notice. We plan to have it again in Houston, Texas, and in other places, as well. Slavery Remembrance Day, a day for us to commemorate the lives of those who were enslaved in this country for centuries, I might add, centuries. It wasn't just some short period of time.

I think many people assume that slavery occurred for maybe a few months or a few years, perhaps a decade, maybe several decades. But no, my dear friends, it was centuries. Centuries that our country, the country that I love, the country where I say the Pledge of Allegiance, the country where I sing the national anthem, it was in this country, my country that we enslaved people for centuries.

But it is also in this country, my country, where we decline, to this day, to respect the people who were enslaved. We respect the enslavers. We have named schools after the enslavers; there are Lee High Schools across the country.

We respect the enslavers. We name military bases after them; Bragg, Braxton Bragg. We name bases after them, schools after them, but not the enslaved.

Somehow there seems to be this belief that the enslaved persons must have been wrong in some way.

What was their wrong?

What did they do to cause this country to demean them to this day?

I stand here in the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America to say that this country has got to respect the lives of those that were sacrificed so that it could have the riches that it has today. The economic foundation that we stand on today was put in place by enslaved people.

□ 1300

They were the economic foundational mothers and fathers of this country and they ought to be at least respected. At minimum they should be respected.

They ought to be respected to the same extent that we have respected the enslavers. This is the second item on the conscience agenda. In 1956, the Congress of the United States of America, honored Confederate soldiers with a Congressional Gold Medal. A Congressional Gold Medal for the enslavers. A Congressional Gold Medal for the persons who fought to keep persons in bondage and disrespect for the enslaved. No dignity was accorded the enslaved.

As a matter of fact, in Texas, there was a movement afoot to rename slavery, to style it as involuntary relocation. Theft of human beings, kidnapping, rape, murder—involuntary relocation. Let's just sanitize it rather than show a person the dignity and respect that they have earned by virtue of the suffering and the pain that we inflicted upon them so that this country could become the great Nation that it is.

How sad it is to know that Members of this House refuse to this day to show them the dignity and respect that human beings deserve after having been enslaved for centuries. The House is a symbol of national shame just as the Richard Russell Office Building is, by the way.

I will say more about that, perhaps, in a moment or two, but we are a symbol of national shame. If anybody thinks that I am going to cease to say this, you are entirely wrong because it is the truth. We ought to do for the enslaved persons what we did for the Confederate soldiers in 1956. We ought to accord a Congressional Gold Medal to them. We should, but we won't.

We have the power to do it. We did it for the Confederate soldiers, but we lack something else that we don't have to do it—the integrity. It takes integrity to do this. Don't have the integrity to do it.

By the way, this circumstance is not something that is unknown to Members because I have circulated the request for the Dear Colleague, the request for persons to sign on and help us acquire the signatures necessary to accord the enslaved persons who built the country, planted the seeds, harvested the crops, fed the Nation, the enslaved persons, accord them a Congressional Gold Medal.

My colleagues are aware so it is nothing new that I am saying, but it takes integrity. It takes being a person of good will to do this. I am sad to say that we cannot get 290 persons of good will. All they have to do is sign a piece of paper and we can then move forward with the process to present a Congressional Gold Medal to the enslaved people. Sign your name. That is all. That is not going to happen. It hasn't happened so far.

I don't mean to sound pessimistic; I am just realistic. It is not happening. I hope that there will be a change in the hearts of Members so that we can do this. I pray for a change in the hearts. It hasn't happened so far. It takes a person with integrity, a person of good will, a person who understands the wrong that has to be corrected, that has to be righted, and we can do it.

I am going to ask my colleagues to do, again, for the enslaved persons what we did in 1956 for the enslavers. We have shown that we revere the enslavers and revile the enslaved. We don't consider them heroes.

I was at the Museum of the Bible just recently with a dear friend here, a name I need not and shall not mention, but we went to the Museum of the Bible located just a stone's throw if you got a really strong arm, but near here. It is about a mile or two away at most.

There in the Museum of the Bible on the wall, they had this huge painting of what we will call liberators, and there was a word “liberators” under the painting. They showed the liberators. One of the liberators was Abraham Lincoln. I think Abraham Lincoln quali-

fies as a liberator, but here is something that will offend a lot of my colleagues to know that one of the liberators at the Museum of the Bible was John Brown.

You see, we have been taught in this country that John Brown was a murderer. John Brown was a liberator. People were enslaved. John Brown sought and fought to liberate people from slavery. He was a liberator. We revere the enslavers, who murdered, killed, kidnapped, and raped. We revere them. We pay tribute to them, but to the persons who were the victims of the kidnapping, murder, rape, we revile them and anybody that tried to help them.

John Brown was a liberator. This is over at the Museum of the Bible. I beg that people would go over there, dear brothers and sisters. We are one race and that is the human race. We are all related. I love you, but you have got to be told the truth.

Go to the museum and see for yourself. Nat Turner was a liberator. Go over and view this for yourselves. Nat Turner's name was not among those. I don't want to mislead you, but he was a liberator, as well.

The point is, we have a duty, a responsibility, an obligation to ourselves, Members, to do justice, to demonstrate that, yes, we have come a long way and we are going to go the rest of the way.

Yes, we have a Juneteenth. We need a slaver remembrance day that has been acknowledged by the Senate, signed into law by the President. This House has already taken one step.

We need that, but we also need to accord dignity and respect to the enslaved people. One way of doing it is with the Congressional Gold Medal to them just as we have done it for the enslavers.

I am of the opinion that we can do it, but it hasn't happened and I have indicated to you that it probably won't. However, I am going to keep hope alive. I will be back to remind us again and again and again. I don't know that the reminder is sufficient. I am going to use prayer, and we will find out if we have 290 people in this House who have the courage and the heart to just sign their names so that we can do for the enslaved what we did for the enslavers.

Dear friends, I love the words of Maya Angelou. She indicates in these words—I might not quote her exactly, but she indicates: “. . . bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave, I am the dream and the hope of the slave.” “. . . the dream and the hope of the slave.”

I stand here in the Congress of the United States of America knowing that somebody some centuries ago prayed for a day when they would receive the dignity and respect God accords all human beings as a birthright. Dignity and respect of liberty and justice for all as we have placed in our Pledge of Allegiance. Dignity and respect, that is all. That is all we are indicating we should have, dignity and respect.

Now, as I bring this to a close, dignity and respect would also require

that the name Richard Russell—Richard Russell, dear friends, was a man who fought antilynching legislation, fought civil rights legislation, coauthored the Southern Manifesto. Richard Russell was a self-proclaimed white supremacist. Richard Russell said this is a White man's country.

By the way, there are some Richard Russells alive today. He wasn't the last Richard Russell, but this Richard Russell said this is a White man's country and he wanted to keep it that way.

Now, this Richard Russell has his name on a building, the Senate Russell Office Building. Richard Russell, the white racist, his name is on a building.

Is it asking too much to remove Richard Russell's name from the building? We haven't named any buildings John Brown or Nat Turner. By the way, I am not asking that this building be named John Brown or Nat Turner, but we haven't done it. No taxpayer dollars go toward a building being named John Brown, but we have a building named in honor of Richard Russell, a white supremacist.

I don't think tax dollars ought to support a building that honors a white supremacist. The Senate is a place of shame. The building is a symbol of national shame. Senators can change this. Senators can change this almost overnight. All they have to do is remove his name. The Senate has the power and the authority to take Richard Russell's name off of the Russell Senate Office Building.

They haven't done it. Some tell me that if they did it, we would have to have another name and we can't agree on a name, so they keep the name of the bigot on the building because we don't have another name.

By the way, I haven't said name it Martin Luther King. I haven't said name it Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman. I haven't said name it John Brown, Nat Turner.

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Here is what I have said. I have said to remove his name and let the name become what it was before it was the Russell Senate Office Building. It was called the Old Senate Office Building. Revert back to the Old Senate Office Building and take as much time as you like to develop a process, if you like, and then a name, a name that is suitable for the building.

The excuse of “we can't take it off because we can't agree on a name,” that is shameful. Every Senator over there ought to be ashamed.

I don't go into the Russell Senate Office Building. I am a one-person protest. I am not going to demean myself. I have enough respect and dignity for myself not to go into a building named in honor of a racist and bigot. I am not going to do it. Those who do it, it is their choice. If you don't have to, you are disrespecting yourself.

I have written a letter to various organizations when I was invited to come

and speak over in the building for various reasons. I have written a letter, and I am sending it to all the human rights and civil rights organizations, letting them know that I am a one-person protest and that I won't be going into the Russell Senate Office Building, except to protest. There is an exception, I will go in to protest.

I will be going in to protest, so I am giving everybody fair notice. There will be protestation at the Russell Senate Office Building. I won't say when, but I will be going to protest.

I am hopeful that we can take the name of Richard Russell off the Senate office building paid for in tax dollars. It is easy to do but difficult if you don't have the courage, if you don't have the integrity, and if you don't have the heart to do what is right.

Here is what I suspect will happen at some point. At some point, my brothers and sisters in the Senate will find a way to do this and ignore the fact that I have been standing in this House appealing to them to do it.

You see, people are written out of history who make these kinds of demands. They are written out of history because it can never be said that a person of African ancestry had the courage to do this and then it was done. That would mean, then, that there are other things that people of color might have the courage to do and to get done in a similar fashion.

They will find a clever way to get it done. The name will change, and we will just go on as though none of this ever happened.

I just pray that the record will show that someone came to this well and stood for justice. Just as we like to record the history of all the things that people do, let it be known that at least one person came here and asked that we take that name off of that building.

It will happen. It is just a matter of time. At some point, there will be people who are going to coalesce around this, and the Senate will have to do it. It is shameful that they haven't done it, but they will have to do it.

Maybe not while I am here, but at some point, this Congress is going to award a Congressional Gold Medal to those persons who suffered slavery. Congress will do it, but they have to find a way to do it so that it doesn't look like they were forced to do it, that they were forced by a person, a Black man who had the courage to come and stand in the well and say this is something that we must do.

They can't let it seem as though this person did this, so they will find a way to do these things, and it will be as though none of this ever happened.

Do you know what? The good news is that it will happen. Maybe not in time for me to see it, but it will happen.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that I love my country. In spite of the way my country has behaved, I still love it. It is sort of like a mother or father loving children. Sometimes children don't

behave properly, but you don't cease to love them. You want to correct them. I come here to correct my country and help us to do the right thing. Actually, more important than that, Mr. Speaker, is to do the righteous thing. I love my country, and I pray that my country will do the righteous thing.

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

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 467.—An act to modify the age requirement for the Student Incentive Payment Program of the State maritime academies.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 21 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-1316. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Chartering and Field of Membership (RIN: 3133-AF06) received June 20, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-1317. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's final interagency policy statement — Interagency Policy Statement on Allowances for Credit Losses (RIN: 3133-AF05) received June 20, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-1318. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Subordinated Debt (RIN: 3133-AF08) received June 20, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

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. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. GUTHRIE, Ms. CRAIG, and Mr. SESSIONS):

H.R. 4315. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect beneficiaries with limb loss and other orthopedic conditions by providing access to appropriate, safe, effective, patient-centered orthotic and prosthetic care; to reduce fraud, waste, and abuse with respect to orthotics and prosthetics; and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in ad-

dition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PALMER (for himself, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. BIGGS, and Mr. BOST):

H.R. 4316. A bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to permit a State to include as part of the mail voter registration form a requirement that applicants provide proof of citizenship, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. PALMER:

H.R. 4317. A bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require States to submit a report to the Election Assistance Commission that includes information with respect to the voter list maintenance activities of the State, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. PALMER:

H.R. 4318. A bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to eliminate reliance on the change of address information provided by the United States Postal Service for the purpose of removing ineligible voters from the official list of voters in a State, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. LOFGREN (for herself, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. COSTA, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. DUARTE, Mr. CUELLAR, and Mr. NADLER):

H.R. 4319. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for terms and conditions for nonimmigrant workers performing agricultural labor or services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Education and the Workforce, and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ALLEN:

H.R. 4320. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to clarify employer rights with regard to hiring; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BABIN (for himself, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. PALMER, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. OWENS, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. SELF, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. FALLON):

H.R. 4321. A bill to prohibit the United States Government from providing bailouts or other financial assistance to any State or local government that enacts any law providing reparations for slavery, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. BALINT (for herself, Ms. CHU, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BUSH, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CASAR, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. KAMLAJERDOVE, Mr. KILMER, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. MAGAZINER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. McGOVERN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. PINGREE,

Mr. POCAN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia:

H.R. 4322. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify that all provisions shall apply to legally married same-sex couples in the same manner as other married couples, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia (for himself, Mrs. PELOTA, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. RUTHERFORD, and Ms. MACE):

H.R. 4323. A bill to prohibit the issuance of an interim or final rule that amends, updates, modifies, or replaces the North Atlantic Right Whale vessel strike reduction rule until mitigation protocols are fully developed and deployed; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida:

H.R. 4324. A bill to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to provide the Commission with notice and comment rule-making authority respecting unfair or deceptive acts or practices and to provide for civil penalties for violations of such Act respecting unfair or deceptive acts or practices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. CHERFILUS-MC CORMICK (for herself, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. McGARVEY, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CARBAJAL, and Mr. LIEU):

H.R. 4325. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the Center for Minority Veterans and the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans to include services for historically underserved veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. CHU (for herself, Ms. BALINT, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. EVANS, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. BEYER, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GREEN of Texas, and Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE):

H.R. 4326. A bill to permit legally married same-sex couples to amend their filing status for income tax returns outside the statute of limitations, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify that all provisions shall apply to legally married same-sex couples in the same manner as other married couples, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. COSTA (for himself, Ms. PIN GREE, and Mr. VALADAO):

H.R. 4327. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish the alternative manure management program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 4328. A bill to provide for establishment of the National Task Force on the Nursing Shortage; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas (for herself, Ms. CHU, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. LIEU):

H.R. 4329. A bill to provide enhanced funding for family planning services; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 4330. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to require serial numbers to be engraved on ammunition, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GOLDMAN of New York:

H.R. 4331. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to increase Federal Med

icaid funding for States that provide intensive community-based services for adults with serious mental illness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. HAGEMAN:

H.R. 4332. A bill to redesignate land within certain wilderness study areas in the State of Wyoming, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. HOULAHAN (for herself, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, and Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana):

H.R. 4333. A bill to enhance the authority granted to the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Justice with respect to unmanned aircraft systems and unmanned aircraft, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Homeland Security, 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. ISSA (for himself, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. PANETTA, and Mr. WALTZ):

H.R. 4334. A bill to amend chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code, to allow suit against the United States for injuries and deaths of members of the Armed Forces caused by improper medical care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KILMER (for himself, Ms. PETTERSEN, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. BERGMAN, and Mr. RUTHERFORD):

H.R. 4335. A bill to amend the National Housing Act to include information regarding VA home loans in the Informed Consumer Choice Disclosure required to be provided to prospective FHA borrowers; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. KIM of New Jersey:

H.R. 4336. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to eliminate certain requirements under the summer food service program for children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. KUSTER (for herself, Mr. BURCHETT, and Ms. SCHRIER):

H.R. 4337. A bill to expand access to graduate education by amending the Federal Pell Grant program to include postbaccalaureate study; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LAHOOD (for himself, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. LATURNER, and Mr. NEGUSE):

H.R. 4338. A bill to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Route 66 National Historic Trail, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LAWLER (for himself and Mr. D'ESPOSITO):

H.R. 4339. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to ensure enhanced Federal funding made available to States under the Medicaid program is equitably distributed to political subdivisions; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LIEU (for himself, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. SABLÁN, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. PETTERSEN, Mr. STANTON, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Ms. TITUS, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. EVANS, Ms. PIN GREE, Mr. MFUME, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. CORREA, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. PANETTA, Mrs. NAPOLI-

TANO, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. BERA, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. BALINT, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. SOTO, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. KILMER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. WEXTON, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. FROST, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. PETERS, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, and Mr. HIMES):

H.R. 4340. A bill to prohibit commercial sexual orientation conversion therapy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER (for himself, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. BARR, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. HUIZENGA, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mrs. KIM of California, and Mr. SESSIONS):

H.R. 4341. A bill to direct the United States Executive Directors at the international financial institutions to use voice, vote, and influence of the United States to prevent companies from countries that actively or tacitly supported the Russian invasion of Ukraine from benefitting from its reconstruction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. MATSUI (for herself, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KILMER, Mr. CASE, and Mr. CARBAJAL):

H.R. 4342. A bill to support educational entities in fully implementing title IX and reducing and preventing sex discrimination in all areas of education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. MATSUI (for herself and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H.R. 4343. A bill to amend the National Organ Transplant Act to clarify the definition of valuable consideration, to clarify that pilot programs that honor and promote organ donation do not violate that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MENG (for herself and Mr. LIAMIS of New York):

H.R. 4344. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Army to ensure that a member of the reserve components of the Army may access the Army Training Requirements and Resources System using a personal internet-enabled device; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. MILLER of Illinois (for herself, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. BABIN, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. HARRIS, and Ms. GREENE of Georgia):

H.R. 4345. A bill to protect the dignity of fetal remains, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MOONEY (for himself, Mr. BARR, Mr. DONALDS, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. OGLES, and Mr. NUNN of Iowa):

H.R. 4346. A bill to raise the consolidated assets threshold under the small bank holding company policy statement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MOULTON (for himself and Ms. ESCOBAR):

H.R. 4347. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide increased penalties for mass killings involving machineguns or certain semiautomatic weapons, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 4348. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude the portion of a

lump-sum social security benefit payment that relates to periods prior to the taxable year from the determination of household income; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PALLONE (for himself, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. PASCARELLI, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. VAN DREW):

H.R. 4349. A bill to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PANETTA (for himself, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. CARSON, Mr. PETERS, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. PINGREE, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 4350. A bill to encourage and facilitate efforts by States and other stakeholders to conserve and sustain the western population of monarch butterflies, 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. PLASKETT (for herself and Mr. CARL):

H.R. 4351. A bill to amend the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 to improve access to broadband telecommunications services in rural areas, including by encouraging the provision of broadband loans and grants to increase broadband service in rural ports, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, 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. SALAZAR (for herself, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ):

H.R. 4352. A bill to provide Nicaraguan political prisoners who arrived in the United States on February 9, 2023, and their immediate family members with certain benefits available to refugees; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, 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. SALINAS (for herself, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. GUTHRIE, and Ms. HOYLE of Oregon):

H.R. 4353. A bill to amend Public Law 91-378 to authorize activities relating to Civilian Conservation Centers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, and 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. SLOTKIN (for herself, Mrs. McCCLAIN, and Mr. SCHNEIDER):

H.R. 4354. A bill to ensure that certain incidents involving a covered employee that are

reported to the title IX coordinator at an eligible institution of higher education have been reviewed by the president of the institution and not less than 1 additional member of the institution's board of trustees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska (for himself, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mrs. FISCHBACH, and Mr. PANETTA):

H.R. 4355. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an exclusion for assistance provided to participants in certain veterinary student loan repayment or forgiveness programs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. STANSBURY (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. COHEN, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, and Mr. COSTA):

H.R. 4356. A bill to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to increase Tribal access to water conservation and efficiency grants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. TENNEY (for herself and Ms. SEWELL):

H.R. 4357. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make the look-through rule for related controlled foreign corporations permanent; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. THANEDAR (for himself and Mr. LAWLER):

H.R. 4358. A bill to provide lawful permanent resident status and authorized dual intent for certain doctoral degree holders; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. THOMPSON of California:

H.R. 4359. A bill to require the Agricultural Research Service to conduct research relating to the exposure of wine grapes to wildfire smoke, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. TIFFANY (for himself, Mr. SORENSEN, and Mr. GROTHMAN):

H.R. 4360. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to revise the shareholder threshold for registration under that Act for issuers that receive support through certain Federal universal service support mechanisms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. TRONE (for himself, Ms. MACE, Mr. MFUME, Ms. SCANLON, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 4361. A bill to give Federal courts additional discretion to determine whether pretrial detention is appropriate for defendants charged with nonviolent drug offenses in Federal criminal cases; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. VAN DUYNE (for herself, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. COLLINS, and Mr. MCCRICK):

H.R. 4362. A bill to require the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration and the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to jointly issue regulations relating to air carrier transport of human organs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. CARSON, Mr. MFUME, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, and Ms. CLARKE of New York):

H.R. 4363. A bill to address the health of cancer survivors and unmet needs that survivors face through the entire continuum of care from diagnosis through active treat-

ment and posttreatment, in order to improve survivorship, treatment, transition to recovery and beyond, quality of life and palliative care, and long-term health outcomes, including by developing a minimum standard of care for cancer survivorship, irrespective of the type of cancer, a survivor's background, or forthcoming survivorship needs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SHERRILL:

H. Con. Res. 54. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 applies to the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA), and the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) should work to prevent discrimination on the basis of sex in its programs and activities; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ALLRED (for himself and Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE):

H. Res. 548. A resolution encouraging the Government of Sierra Leone to abide by their promise to a peaceful and credible electoral process; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia (for himself and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia):

H. Res. 549. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge is a vital part of the ecology of Georgia and should be inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage Site list; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. HOUCHIN (for herself, Ms. SEWELL, and Mr. PENCE):

H. Res. 550. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services developing a mobility metric to guide providers in preventing mobility loss among hospitalized older adults; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. McGARVEY, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SABLON, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. EVANS, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. BROWNLEY, and Ms. TLAIB):

H. Res. 551. A resolution fully addressing child poverty; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. PORTER (for herself and Mr. CROW):

H. Res. 552. A resolution requiring Members of the House of Representatives whose Members' Representative Allowance is used to pay expenses incurred for official travel to provide the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives with detailed information on the travel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. SÁNCHEZ (for herself, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. CHU, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CORREA, Mr. COSTA, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. MULLIN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. PETERS, Ms. PORTER, Mr. VARGAS, and Ms. WATERS):

H. Res. 553. A resolution honoring the life, achievements, and legacy of Gloria Molina,

the first Latina elected to the California State Legislature, the first Latina elected to Los Angeles City Council, and the first Latina elected to Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. SLOTKIN (for herself, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mrs. McCCLAIN, Mr. BERGMAN, Ms. MACE, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. STEVENS, and Mr. ALLRED):

H. Res. 554. A resolution affirming the nature and importance of the support of the United States for the religious and ethnic minority survivors of genocide in Iraq; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, and Ms. CLARKE of New York):

H. Res. 555. A resolution recognizing the importance of intersectionality for abortion access; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

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. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 4315.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution in that the legislation exercises legislative powers granted to Congress by that clause “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 any Department or Office thereof.”

The single subject of this legislation is:

to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect beneficiaries with limb loss and other orthopedic conditions by providing access to appropriate, safe, effective, patient-centered orthotic and prosthetic care.

By Mr. PALMER:

H.R. 4316.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 4 Clause 1

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to permit a State to include as part of the mail voter registration form a requirement that applicants provide proof of citizenship, and for other purposes.

By Mr. PALMER:

H.R. 4317.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 4 Clause 1

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require States to submit a report to the Election Assistance Commission that includes information with respect to the voter list maintenance activities of the State, and for other purposes.

By Mr. PALMER:

H.R. 4318.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 4 Clause 1

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to eliminate reliance on the change of address information provided by the United States Postal Service for the pur-

pose of removing ineligible voters from the official list of voters in a State, and for other purposes.

By Ms. LOFGREN:

H.R. 4319.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 4 provides Congress with the power to establish a “uniform rule of Naturalization.”

The single subject of this legislation is:

Immigration

By Mr. ALLEN:

H.R. 4320.

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:

To amend the National Labor Relations Act to clarify employer rights with regard to hiring

By Mr. BABIN:

H.R. 4321.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Prohibiting federal funding to bail out states or municipalities that would implement reparation programs.

By Ms. BALINT:

H.R. 4322.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec. 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Modernizing the tax code

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 4323.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of article I of the U.S. Constitution provides Congress with the power to regulate commerce.

The single subject of this legislation is:

The single subject of the bill is to prohibit NOAA from further developing a rule to restrict vessel speeds that would damage coastal economies.

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida:

H.R. 4324.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution provides Congress with the authority to “provide for the common Defense and general Welfare” of Americans.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Updating the Federal Trade Commission’s Authorities

By Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK:

H.R. 4325.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Veterans affairs

By Ms. CHU:

H.R. 4326.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I

The single subject of this legislation is:

Refund equality and equal dignity for married tax filers

By Mr. COSTA:

H.R. 4328.

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:

Creating a task force to address the national nursing shortage

By Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas:

H.R. 4329.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

The Title X family planning program

By Mr. DAVIS of Illinois:

H.R. 4330.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution: To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the powers enumerated under section 8 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:

Gun Violence

By Mr. GOLDMAN of New York:

H.R. 4331.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power “to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This legislation creates a new package of services under Medicaid that specifically aims to provide care to individuals living with SMI, sets a national standard for SMI care, and incentivizes states to provide intensive community based services to treat SMI.

By Ms. HAGEMAN:

H.R. 4332.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section VIII

The single subject of this legislation is:

To redesignate land within certain wilderness study areas in the State of Wyoming, and for other purposes.

By Ms. HOULAHAN:

H.R. 4333.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution. The single subject of this legislation is: Renew and expand the existing authorities for the DOJ and DHS to combat threats from drones.

By Mr. ISSA:

H.R. 4334.

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:

To change chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code, so that service members in the Armed Forces can sue the United States if they suffer from medical malpractice in a military medical treatment facility

By Mr. KILMER:

H.R. 4335.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (relating to the power of Congress to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.)

The single subject of this legislation is:

The bill requires a Federal Housing Administration mortgage notice to a veteran to contain comparative rate and fee information about loans available under the Veterans Affairs home loan program.

By Mr. KIM of New Jersey:

H.R. 4336.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article One, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:
Nutrition
By Ms. KUSTER:
H.R. 4337.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power “to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof.”

The single subject of this legislation is:
Higher Education
By Mr. LAHOOD:
H.R. 4338.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
U.S. Constitution Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2: “The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States . . .”

The single subject of this legislation is:
The bill would amend the National Trails System Act to designate a trail of approximately 2,400 miles extending from Chicago, Illinois, to Santa Monica, California, as the Route 66 National Historic Trail.
By Mr. LAWLER:
H.R. 4339.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:
To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to ensure enhanced Federal funding made available to States under the Medicaid program is equitably distributed to political subdivisions.
By Mr. LIEU:
H.R. 4340.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
U.S. Const., Art. 1, Sec. 8

The single subject of this legislation is:
Civil rights
By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:
H.R. 4341.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
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 direct the United States Executive Director at the international financial institutions to use voice, vote, and influence of the United States to prevent companies from countries that actively and tacitly supported the Russian invasion of Ukraine from benefiting from its reconstruction, and for other purposes.
By Ms. MATSUI:
H.R. 4342.

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 require the Department of Education to establish an Office for Gender Equity to support fully implementing title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.
By Ms. MATSUI:
H.R. 4343.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
section 8 of article I of the Constitution
The single subject of this legislation is:
health care
By Ms. MENG:
H.R. 4344.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the US Constitution
The single subject of this legislation is:
National Guard
By Mrs. MILLER of Illinois:
H.R. 4345.

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:
Commerce
By Mr. MOONEY:
H.R. 4346.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Bank Holding Companies
By Mr. MOULTON:
H.R. 4347.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:
Creating a terror statute for specified mass shootings, adding that terror statute to the existing material support statute (2339A), and requiring reporting on prosecutions.
By Mr. NEGUSE:
H.R. 4348.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude the portion of a lump-sum social security benefit payment that relates to periods prior to the taxable year from the determination of household income.
By Mr. PALLONE:
H.R. 4349.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Pursuant to clause 2(d)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee finds the authority for the legislation 1, section 8 of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:
National Flood Insurance Program
By Mr. PANETTA:
H.R. 4350.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:
The single subject of this bill is conservation.
By Ms. PLASKETT:
H.R. 4351.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:
To require the Department of Agriculture, when distributing funds for broadband deployment, to prioritize projects for ports in rural areas.
By Ms. SALAZAR:
H.R. 4352.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Nicaraguan Refugee Benefits
By Ms. SALINAS:
H.R. 4353.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article IV, Section 3, clause 2 and Article I, Section 8, clause 3.
The single subject of this legislation is:
Wildfire Response and Conservation Workforce Development
By Ms. SLOTKIN:
H.R. 4354.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Section 8: Powers of Congress
The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;
The single subject of this legislation is:
Summary:
This bill would require university leaders to certify they have reviewed any reports of sexual abuses perpetrated by university employees
By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:
H.R. 4355.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1, of the United States Constitution
The single subject of this legislation is:
Tax
By Ms. STANSBURY:
H.R. 4356.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
To amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to increase Tribal access to water conservation and efficiency grants, and for other purposes.
By Ms. TENNEY:
H.R. 4357.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
It would make the controlled foreign corporation look-through rule permanent.
By Mr. THANEDAR:
H.R. 4358.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: U.S. Const. Art. Sec. 1
The single subject of this legislation is:
Immigration
By Mr. THOMPSON of California:
H.R. 4359.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8 Clause 18
The single subject of this legislation is:
Agriculture Research (Agriculture)
By Mr. TIFFANY:
H.R. 4360.

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:
This bill increases the shareholder registration threshold for issuers receiving support through federal universal service support mechanisms.
By Mr. TRONE:
H.R. 4361.

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:
This legislation would eliminate the blanket presumption of pretrial detention for most federal drug charges.
By Ms. VAN DUYNE:
H.R. 4362.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:
Homeland Security

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ:
H.R. 4363.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
US Constitution, Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
To address cancer survivorship care

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 51: Mr. MCGARVEY.
H.R. 82: Mr. MILLER of Ohio.
H.R. 472: Mr. NICKEL.
H.R. 542: Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 543: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 544: Mr. BRECHEEN, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 556: Mr. TIMMONS and Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 621: Mr. CRAWFORD and Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 625: Mr. McGOVERN.
H.R. 648: Mr. STAUBER, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Ms. BUDZINSKI, and Mr. SORENSEN.
H.R. 655: Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER.
H.R. 683: Mr. MOOLENAAR.
H.R. 724: Mr. KILMER, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. LIEU, and Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 790: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee and Mrs. McCCLAIN.
H.R. 795: Mr. NICKEL.
H.R. 830: Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 894: Mr. CLEAVER and Mr. STANTON.
H.R. 895: Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 972: Mr. FERGUSON.
H.R. 982: Mr. KHANNA.
H.R. 1005: Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER.
H.R. 1083: Mr. NEGUSE and Mr. GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 1105: Mr. LANDSMAN and Ms. LEE of Nevada.
H.R. 1147: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS and Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 1191: Ms. LEE of Nevada and Mr. ESPAILLAT.
H.R. 1278: Ms. PETTERSEN and Mr. LIEU.
H.R. 1325: Mr. CASTRO of Texas.
H.R. 1380: Ms. STANSBURY.
H.R. 1383: Mr. LIEU.
H.R. 1385: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 1388: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
H.R. 1393: Ms. CROCKETT and Mr. LUTTRELL.
H.R. 1406: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 1413: Mrs. MCBAATH.
H.R. 1432: Mr. MURPHY.
H.R. 1459: Ms. CARAVEO.
H.R. 1480: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 1555: Mr. SHERMAN and Ms. SÁNCHEZ.
H.R. 1565: Mr. MANN.
H.R. 1617: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
H.R. 1631: Mr. MORAN.
H.R. 1691: Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 1699: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin and Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.
H.R. 1729: Mr. TRONE and Mr. SARBAKES.
H.R. 1770: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. PHILLIPS, and Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 1774: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 1777: Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. LAWLER, and Mr. TIFFANY.
H.R. 1780: Mr. BARR.
H.R. 1795: Mr. LATURNER and Mr. CLINE.
H.R. 1818: Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. JAMES, Mr. FEENSTRA, and Mrs. HOUGHIN.
H.R. 2370: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.
H.R. 2377: Ms. ROSS.
H.R. 2402: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 2403: Ms. WATERS and Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 2413: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI.
H.R. 2414: Ms. DELBENE, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 2424: Mr. NUNN of Iowa and Mrs. MCBAATH.
H.R. 2454: Mr. NEWHOUSE.
H.R. 2539: Mr. BARR, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, and Mr. TURNER.
H.R. 2569: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 2664: Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 2673: Mr. STEUBE, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. FLOOD, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 2703: Mr. LIEU.
H.R. 2705: Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 2708: Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. NORTON, and Mrs. TRAHAN.
H.R. 2718: Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 2730: Mr. CORREA.
H.R. 2743: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas.
H.R. 2745: Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 2766: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI.
H.R. 2822: Mr. MCGARVEY.
H.R. 2830: Mr. MOORE of Utah.
H.R. 2871: Mr. CASAR.
H.R. 2873: Ms. GARCIA of Texas and Mr. CASAR.
H.R. 2915: Ms. CARAVEO.
H.R. 2964: Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 3012: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 3031: Mr. QUIGLEY and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 3074: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 3087: Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 3092: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.
H.R. 3126: Mr. MCGOVERN and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 3207: Mrs. MCCLELLAN.
H.R. 3246: Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 3285: Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3337: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 3358: Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. PFLUGER, and Mr. BUCSHON.
H.R. 3375: Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 3392: Mr. HARRIS and Mr. BENTZ.
H.R. 3413: Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. CLINE, and Ms. CARAVEO.
H.R. 3432: Mr. TAKANO, Mrs. LESKO, and Ms. MANNING.
H.R. 3448: Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 3464: Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3475: Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Ms. CHU, and Ms. ESCOBAR.
H.R. 3481: Mr. DESAULNIER and Mr. CASE.
H.R. 3508: Mr. ROUZER.
H.R. 3537: Mr. HIMES and Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 3539: Ms. ROSS.
H.R. 3547: Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 3548: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 3561: Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. PETERS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. CURTIS, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 3612: Mrs. LESKO.
H.R. 3660: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.
H.R. 3774: Mr. LANDSMAN and Ms. CARAVEO.
H.R. 3790: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 3792: Mr. BOST, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. NICKEL, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. STEIL, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. TIFFANY, and Mr. MOOLENAAR.
H.R. 3851: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 3875: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 3877: Ms. PINGREE, Mrs. HAYES, and Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 3882: Mr. BOST and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 3904: Mr. PANETTA, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, and Ms. CARAVEO.
H.R. 3916: Ms. TLAIB, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. PHILLIPS, and Mr. LAHOOD.
H.R. 3925: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 3953: Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. BALINT, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. RASKIN, and Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 3963: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 3970: Mr. DESAULNIER and Ms. SÁNCHEZ.

H.R. 3985: Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 3986: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
H.R. 4083: Ms. SEWELL.
H.R. 4086: Mr. LIEU.
H.R. 4090: Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina and Ms. PEREZ.
H.R. 4104: Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 4119: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 4127: Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. WITTMAN, and Ms. CARAVEO.
H.R. 4137: Ms. DE LA CRUZ.
H.R. 4161: Mr. FRY.
H.R. 4173: Ms. CARAVEO.
H.R. 4238: Mr. SELF.
H.R. 4249: Mr. KIM of New Jersey.
H.R. 4259: Mr. D'ESPOSITO.
H.R. 4262: Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 4268: Ms. PINGREE, Ms. ROSS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 4273: Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 4274: Mr. LAWLER, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. PEREZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 4285: Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 4293: Mr. BOST, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, and Mr. JACKSON of Texas.
H.R. 4299: Mr. BURLISON.
H.R. 4314: Ms. TITUS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. ESPAILLAT.
H.J. Res. 66: Mr. MOORE of Alabama.
H. Res. 50: Mr. GOSAR, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. STEUBE, and Mr. PFLUGER.
H. Res. 299: Ms. PORTER.
H. Res. 465: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio and Mr. BIGGS.
H. Res. 483: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
H. Res. 498: Ms. PINGREE.
H. Res. 509: Ms. LOFGREN.
H. Res. 516: Mr. CORREA.
H. Res. 538: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois and Mr. COLLINS.
H. Res. 544: Mr. BRECHEEN.
H. Res. 546: Mr. LAMBORN and Mr. CRAWFORD.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

PT-4. The SPEAKER presented a petition of Ashley Moody, Attorney General of the State of Florida, Tallahassee, Florida, relative to urging Speaker McCarthy, Leader Scalise, Whip Emmer, Chairwoman Stefanik and Chairman Palmer to act to protect the American people and impeach Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XV, the following discharge petition was filed:

Petition 5, June 21, 2023, by Ms. DEGETTE on House Resolution 468, was signed by the following Members: Ms. DeGette, Ms. Lee of California, Ms. Chu, Ms. Tlaib, Ms. Lee of Pennsylvania, Mr. McGovern, Mr. Higgins of New York, Mr. Lieu, Ms. Leger Fernandez, Mrs. McClellan, Ms. Brownley, Mrs. Cherifilus-McCormick, Mrs. Napolitano, Mrs. Foushee, Ms. Tokuda, Mr. Phillips, Mrs. Hayes, Mr. Meeks, Mr. Thompson of California, Mr. Casar, Ms. Caraveo, Mr. McGarvey, Ms. Titus, Mr. Jackson of North Carolina, Mr. Torres of New York, Mr. Vargas, Ms. Salinas, Mrs. Torres of California, Mr. Courtney, Ms. DelBene, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Crow, Ms. Lee of Nevada, Mrs. McBath, Mr. Schneider, Mr. Ruppersberger, Ms. Kelly of Illinois, Ms. Budzinski, Ms. Crockett, Ms. Stansbury, Mr. Menendez, Mr. Pocan, Ms. McCollum, Mr. Allred, Ms. Brown, Ms. Kamlager-Dove, Ms. Adams, Ms. Ross, Mr. Beyer, Mrs. Trahan, Ms. Blunt Rochester, Mr. Vasquez, Ms. Jacobs, Ms.

Matsui, Ms. Balint, Ms. Castor of Florida, Mr. Pappas, Ms. Schakowsky, Ms. Escobar, Mrs. Fletcher, Ms. DeLauro, Mr. Casten, Mr. Deluzio, Mr. Keating, Ms. Kuster, Mr. Carter of Louisiana, Ms. Strickland, Mr. Nadler, Ms. Stevens, Ms. Wasserman Schultz, Ms. Perez, Mr. Ivey, Mr. Garamendi, Mr. Norcross, Mr. Foster, Mr. García of Illinois, Mr. Frost, Mr. Espaillat, Mr. Doggett, Ms. Craig, Ms. Sherrill, Mr. Takano, Ms. Ocasio-Cortez, Ms. Clark of Massachusetts, Mrs. Peltola, Ms. Underwood, Ms. Williams of Georgia, Ms. Houlahan, Mr. Soto, Ms. Sewell, Mr. Costa, Mrs. Beatty, Mrs. Watson Coleman, Ms. Bush, Mr. Sarbanes, Ms. Scanlon, Mr. Pasquella, Mr. Sherman, Mr. Bishop of Georgia, Mr. Clyburn, Mr. Hoyer, Ms. Clarke of New York, Mr. Payne, Ms. Pelosi, Ms. Garcia of Texas, Mr. Scott of Virginia, Mr. Jeffries, Ms. Jayapal, Mr. Green of Texas, Mrs. Sykes, Mrs. Ramirez, Ms. Scholten, Mr. Nickel, Mr. Gottheimer, Mr. Levin, Mr. Cartwright, Mr. Cleaver, Mrs. Dingell, Mr. Magaziner, Mr. Horsford, Ms. Dean of Pennsylvania, Mr. Larsen of Washington, Mr. Thompson of Mis-

sissippi, Mr. Harder of California, Ms. Pingree, Mr. Aguilar, Mr. Blumenauer, Mr. Trone, Mr. Carson, Mr. Auchincloss, Mr. Kil-dee, Ms. Wilson of Florida, Mr. Evans, Mr. Bera, Ms. Bonamici, Mr. Khanna, Mr. Larson of Connecticut, Mr. DeSaulnier, Ms. Velázquez, Mr. Mfume, Mr. Landsman, Ms. Pettersen, Mr. Davis of Illinois, Mr. Thanedar, Ms. Spanberger, Ms. Lofgren, Ms. Manning, Ms. Lois Frankel of Florida, Mr. Carbajal, Ms. Davids of Kansas, Ms. Schrier, Mr. Krishnamoorthi, Mr. Stanton, Mr. Huffman, Mr. Kim of New Jersey, Mr. Jackson of Illinois, Mr. Sorensen, Mr. Schiff, Mr. Morelle, Ms. Moore of Wisconsin, Mr. Quigley, Ms. Omar, Mr. Moskowitz, Mr. Raskin, Mr. Ruiz, Mr. Connolly, Ms. Kaptur, Mr. Goldman of New York, Mr. Peters, Mr. Grijalva, Mr. Cohen, Mr. Gallego, Mr. Boyle of Pennsylvania, Ms. Jackson Lee, Mr. Mrvan, Ms. Slotkin, Mr. David Scott of Georgia, Mr. Case, Mr. Swalwell, Mr. Cárdenas, Mr. Castro of Texas, Mr. Tonko, Mr. Correa, Mr. Mullin, Mr. Neal, Mr. Veasey, Ms. Waters, Ms. Barragán, Ms. Wexton, Mr. Kil-

mer, Ms. Meng, Mr. Lynch, Ms. Hoyle of Oregon, Mr. Neguse, Mr. Pallone, Mr. Himes, Ms. Porter, Mr. Robert Garcia of California, Ms. Eshoo, Ms. Pressley, Mr. Golden of Maine, Mr. Johnson of Georgia, Mr. Moulton, Mr. Gomez, Mr. Pascrell, Ms. Wild, Mr. Smith of Washington, Mr. Bowman, Ms. Sánchez, Mr. Vicente Gonzalez of Texas, Mr. Davis of North Carolina.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS—
ADDITIONS AND WITHDRAWALS

The following Members added their names to the following discharge petitions:

Petition 3 by Mr. CLYBURN on House Resolution 453: Mr. Davis of North Carolina.

Petition 4 by Mr. THOMPSON of California on House Resolution 454: Mr. Davis of North Carolina.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CUSTOM HEALTH OPTION AND INDIVIDUAL CARE EXPENSE ARRANGEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3799) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for health reimbursement arrangements integrated with individual health insurance coverage.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 3799, which makes two substantial changes to health coverage policy, both of which are very harmful to workers.

H.R. 3799 aims to codify a Trump Administration rule on Individual Coverage Health Reimbursement Accounts (ICHRAs) and rename them "CHOICE" accounts.

While this bill certainly allows employers to make choices, it also allows employers to discriminate against certain employees.

First, H.R. 3799 could circumvent Affordable Care Act (ACA) protections on pre-existing conditions, lifetime and annual limits, and preventive care.

This legislation describes individual market coverage but does not explicitly reference the code in defining an individual health insurance plan that requires the ACA market protections like pre-existing conditions protections.

The policy is intended to allow plans that are unable to selffund with adequate reserves to instead purchase a high level of stop-loss insurance.

Lack of adequate reserves leave many of these plans, and their enrollees, at risk since stop-loss insurers often retain the right to drop the insurance if medical costs for the group begin to climb.

This is not a stable form of coverage.

Secondly, this bill leaves room for employers to offer less coverage through ICHRAs to lower income workers, hourly workers, or seasonal workers, reserving better coverage for executives.

The mere offer of an ICHRA may leave employees worse off.

For example, an employee who has an offer of an "affordable" HRA is prevented from accessing premium tax credits in the marketplace.

A Brookings analysis found that allowing employers to offer IHRAs alongside a traditional group health insurance plan could increase marketplace premiums by 16 percent to 93 percent.

This offer hurts lower-wage workers where they would otherwise be able to find more affordable coverage in the marketplace and could lead to higher premiums and out-of-pocket costs than under ACA coverage for the employee.

We have seen this from Republicans before, using policies to make the marketplace risk pool weaker, instead of more robust.

Overall, this bill makes it easy for employers to target workers with higher health costs, sending them to the individual market with a voucher.

Republicans once again, are putting wealth before health.

We must work together to mitigate these concerns and include important safeguards that protect employees from discrimination.

Every American is entitled to affordable healthcare, and we must ensure that every American can make the best health care choices for their families.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIONVILLE-SEBEWAING AREA PATRIOTS ON THEIR FOURTH CONSECUTIVE STATE SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. LISA C. MCCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartfelt congratulations to the Unionville-Sebewaing Area Patriots on their fourth consecutive state softball championship, which also marks their ninth overall title. The unmatched dedication, skill, and determination of these incredible athletes have once more brought great pride to our community.

This team's triumph not only further solidifies their place as champions, but also sets a new standard of excellence for future athletes to follow. The Patriots' commitment to their craft, their tireless hours of practice, and their winning sportsmanship have certainly propelled them to this fantastic achievement.

As we celebrate this resounding victory, we must also remember that this victory extends far beyond the field. Behind this team, there are incredibly dedicated and supportive coaches, teachers, friends, and families.

It is no small feat to achieve victory once, let alone four straight times. This team has continuously showcased their resilience, winning spirit, and tireless dedication, and it is no doubt that this mindset led to yet another victory.

On behalf of Michigan's 9th Congressional District, I extend my most sincere congratulations to the Unionville-Sebewaing Area Patriots and to all the coaches and families who have helped build this outstanding record.

CELEBRATING THE BIENNIAL MEETING OF THE 4TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT CONNECTIONAL LAY ORGANIZATION OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church is one of the oldest and most influential African-American denominations in the United States. The roots of the AME Church can be traced back to the late 18th century during a time of intense racial segregation and discrimination in the United States. The institution of slavery was deeply entrenched, and African Americans faced severe restrictions in practicing their faith within predominantly white churches.

In 1787, Richard Allen, a former slave and preacher, along with other black Methodist worshippers, formed the Free African Society in Philadelphia. The society aimed to provide spiritual support, education, and assistance to African Americans in the city.

The AME Church convenes regular conferences and conventions at various levels within its organizational structure, of which the Biennial is one. The Biennial Meeting of the Connectional Lay Organization is done every two years. The Lay Organization of the AME Church is commissioned to teach, train, and empower its members for lay ministry, global leadership, and service following the tenets of Jesus Christ.

Located in the 7th Congressional District of Illinois, the 4th Episcopal District Connectional Lay Organization of the AME Church will host two conventions in Chicago from June 25–30, 2023: the 81st Annual Connectional Lay Organization Meeting, and the 38th Connectional Lay Biennial Convention. Their theme is: "Living A Global Witness Ministry that Transforms, Transcends and Liberates".

I salute the work of the Connectional Lay Organization under the leadership of: Bishop Stafford J.N. Wicker, Commission Chair and newly-elected Council of Bishops President; Bishop John Franklin White, Host Bishop; Mrs. Penny H. White, Episcopal Supervisor; Matikane Abe Makiti, President of the Connectional Lay Organization of the AME Church; Mrs. Patricia Wright, Connectional Director of Lay Activities; Ms. Jameshia Williams, Connectional Young Adult Representative; Mr. Jerry Turner, Jr., 4th District Episcopal President; Mr. Michael A. Cousin, Jr., 4th District Episcopal Director of Lay Activities; and Mr. Terrence Sanford, 4th District Episcopal Young Adult Representative.

I welcome the participants of the Biennial Meeting of the 4th Episcopal District Connectional Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church to the 7th Congressional District of Illinois, and I wish them much success.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I missed Roll Call No. 140. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY.

HONORING DANA GERSHON

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the leadership of Dana Gershon, whose term as Board President of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) comes to an end on June 30th. She has helped to navigate and grow the organization despite a tenure that coincided with COVID. She is a dedicated, tireless, and passionate advocate for women, children, and families who has represented the organization to world leaders including President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, and Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff. Dana has guided the organization through our Jewish values of b'tzelem Elohim, we are all created in G-d's image; kavod ha bri'ot, respect and dignity for all and tzedek tirdof, the pursuit of justice. These values inform her perspective, inspire her efforts, and drive her work to ensure everyone has the full range of health care, enough to eat, and a safe place to call home; in which we can all each achieve financial security while caring for our health and family; in which every young person is affirmed at school, gets unbiased information about their health, and is safe; that no matter who we are or where we are from, we all can access education, economic opportunities, and a court system committed to justice for all; and in which our democracy is strong and stable.

Dana has been a leader and trusted partner of mine, organizing grassroots advocacy efforts for critical legislative priorities, including the Abortion is Health Care Everywhere Act, the Black Maternal Health Omnibus Package, the Immigrant Safety and Empowerment (WISE) Act, the Violence Against Women Act, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, the Enhanced Background Checks Act, the assault weapons ban and countless other initiatives that would enhance equity and social justice.

Dana Gershon has been a social justice activist and leader in the Jewish community since high school. A graduate of Combined Jewish Philanthropy's (CJP) Acharai program, Dana held a number of leadership positions during the nearly twenty years that she and her family lived in Boston: she served as President of the Board of Trustees of the Rashi School (the Boston area Reform Jewish Day School) from 2010–2012 and was Co-Chair CJP's Boston-Haifa Connection. Dana was instrumental in the founding of Parents at the Center in Haifa, Israel, early intervention for underserved children and their families. She has been a Director on the national board of NCJW since 17, and is a member of the Executive Council of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Dana's work has been expansive and impactful and I thank her for her collaboration and best in her future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING BEN F. KOLB MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR EARNING HISTORIC STATE AND NATIONAL RECOGNITION IN THE SCHOOLS TO WATCH PROGRAM

HON. PETE AGUILAR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ben F. Kolb Middle School students, teachers and administrators by congratulating them on being nationally recognized in the Schools to Watch Program, Kolb Middle School, located in the City of Rialto, was one of 36 new California schools selected in the Schools to Watch program in 2023.

The Schools to Watch program recognizes schools that demonstrate a strong commitment to academic excellence, foster positive school culture and support holistic student development. Schools chosen for this prestigious award are high-performing, model schools that demonstrate responsiveness to the needs of young students, social equity and exceptional academic performance.

Today, I offer my hearty congratulations to former Principal Armando Urteaga and his dedicated staff for their commitment to their students for not only developing a well-rounded academic curriculum, but also providing Social-Emotional Learning support. By ensuring their students develop healthy identities, learn how to manage their emotions and make responsible and caring decisions, Kolb Middle School has allowed Rialto students to thrive.

I'm incredibly proud of the hard work of our Kolb Cougars and celebrate the accomplishments of all the California schools recognized as Schools to Watch this year.

HONORING PERRY MILLER

HON. JENNIFER L. McCLELLAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mrs. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Perry Miller, the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Capital Region Airport Commission, which owns and operates the Richmond International Airport.

Perry is an airport executive with a distinguished career spanning three decades. He graduated from Texas Southern University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Airway Science and a Master of Science degree in Transportation Planning and Management. Perry began his airport career with the Houston Airport System, where he spent 25 years serving in several capacities that are critical to the smooth functioning of our Nation's airports, including airport operations, maintenance, properties management, and business development. His positions there included Airport Manager of Ellington Airport, Airport Manager of William P. Hobby Airport, and Interim Manager of George Bush Intercontinental Airport.

In 2015, Perry became the Chief Operating Officer of the Jackson Municipal Airport Au-

thority in Jackson, Mississippi. In 2019, Virginia was fortunate to have Perry accept the position of President and Chief Executive Officer of the Capital Region Airport Commission. In the four years since he has been there, Perry has successfully led the Richmond International Airport through the COVID crisis, has worked to increase the level of air service for the Capital Region, and has undertaken a comprehensive infrastructure program to meet our region's current and growing needs.

In recognition of Perry's distinguished career, his peers in the airport community previously elected him to serve on the Board of Directors of the American Association of Airport Executives, the world's largest professional organization for airport executives. Founded in 1928, AAAE has 9,000 members from more than 800 airports.

Most recently, Perry became the Chair of AAAE, the highest volunteer leadership position within this prestigious national organization. Achieving this senior position is clear testimony to Perry's distinguished career in the airport community, the high regard his fellow airport executives have for him, his high level of professional achievement, and his dedication to public service.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Perry Miller on this significant accomplishment. We are grateful for his many contributions to our Nation's aviation system and look forward to his continued contributions in the years ahead.

EMPLOYER REPORTING IMPROVEMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3801, the Employer Reporting Improvement Act.

This bill streamlines reporting requirements for small businesses when it comes to health insurance coverage information.

This bill will reduce administrative burdens and make it easier for businesses to comply with the Affordable Care Act.

More specifically, it permits employers to electronically file certain documents related to employees' health coverage if the employee has previously agreed to electronic statements.

The bill further streamlines reporting by allowing employers the option to use covered individuals' full name and date of birth if the employer is unable to collect the covered individuals' taxpayer identification number.

Currently, small businesses can be left in limbo by the IRS, sometimes for years, without knowing whether they correctly filed their health insurance coverage information.

The Employer Reporting Improvement Act reins in the IRS' ability to penalize American small businesses and gives them peace of mind that they won't be unfairly hit with a penalty.

Thanks to these streamlined procedures, small businesses will now have more time to focus on running their business, providing opportunities for their employees, expanding their business, and serving their customers.

In my home district of Houston, nearly 97 percent of the region's businesses are considered small businesses.

These small businesses employ 44 percent of the region's workforce, over 1.2 million employees across the city of Houston.

These small businesses continue to rise as over 150,000 new business applications were filed across Houston last year.

The city ranks 10th nationally in new businesses per capita and these businesses continue to drive the city's economic growth upwards.

Further, nearly 35 percent of these small businesses with 50 or fewer employees are minority-owned and Houston ranks 5th in the nation for minority entrepreneurship.

Small businesses are not only vital for Houston, but for our entire nation.

Across America, small businesses account for over fifty-nine million jobs, constituting nearly half of the national workforce.

Overall, they generate one third of all U.S. business revenue, approximately 13.7 trillion dollars annually.

This bill helps to relieve the burdens of complex paperwork and uncertainty on these small businesses and best equips them for success in Houston and across the nation.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3801 and in supporting small businesses by streamlining reporting processes.

HONORING COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Colorado School of Mines Men's Cross Country Team for winning the 2022 NCAA Division II Cross Country National Championship.

This has been an exceptional season for the School of Mines' cross country program. They managed to achieve a record-setting victory, beating the second place team by 133 points—the largest margin in NCAA history. They were honored for this achievement at the White House following the close of the season, which was another first for the program. None of this would have been possible without Coach Chris Siemers. The School of Mines Men's Cross Country Team has flourished under his leadership. His efforts were also recognized by the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association, who deservedly chose him for their National Coach of the Year Award.

It is my honor to congratulate the School of Mines Men's Cross Country Team for their success. I hope there will be many more championships to celebrate in the future.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL U.S. METALCASTING WEEK

HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the importance of National U.S.

Metalcasting Week and to highlight the significant contributions made by the metalcasting industry to our nation's economy and security. Metalcasting, an essential manufacturing process, plays a pivotal role in various sectors, including aerospace, automotive, defense, agriculture, infrastructure, and many others. This week-long celebration provides us with a unique opportunity to recognize and appreciate the achievements of this vital industry.

Metalcasting is the process of pouring molten metal into a mold to create intricate shapes and components used in a wide range of applications. From the engine blocks that power our vehicles to the turbine blades that generate electricity, metalcasting is at the heart of modern industrial production. It enables the creation of complex and durable metal parts that are essential for countless industries, fostering innovation and progress.

One cannot underestimate the economic significance of the metalcasting industry. According to the American Foundry Society, metalcasting contributes over \$44 billion to the U.S. economy annually and employs over 200,000 skilled workers. These jobs are spread across the nation, supporting local economies and providing stability for communities. The industry's direct and indirect impact cannot be ignored, as it contributes to our nation's prosperity and competitiveness on the global stage.

Moreover, metalcasting plays a critical role in national security. Defense systems, such as tanks, aircraft carriers, and missile guidance systems, rely on the durability and precision of metalcast components. The industry's ability to produce advanced materials and components that meet the stringent requirements of our armed forces is essential for maintaining a strong national defense.

National U.S. Metalcasting Week serves as a platform to raise awareness about the technological advancements and environmental achievements of the industry. Over the years, metalcasters have embraced innovation and sustainability, adopting cleaner and more efficient processes. By reducing energy consumption, minimizing waste, and recycling materials, the industry is actively contributing to environmental preservation and sustainability goals.

Furthermore, Metalcasting Week provides an opportunity to showcase the critical role of education and workforce development in sustaining this industry's success. It allows us to celebrate the skills and craftsmanship of metalcasting professionals while inspiring the next generation to pursue careers in this field. By investing in training programs and promoting STEM education, we can ensure a pipeline of talented individuals to support the continued growth of the metalcasting industry.

National U.S. Metalcasting Week is a time to celebrate the achievements of an industry that is vital to our nation's economy, security, and technological progress. The contributions of the metalcasting industry are felt in numerous sectors and touch the lives of millions of Americans. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing and appreciating the dedication and excellence of metalcasters, not only in Indiana's Second District, but all across the United States.

HONORING THE BIRTHDAY OF MR. ZEDDIE COLEY

HON. SHONTEL M. BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Ms. BROWN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 90th birthday of Mr. Zeddie Coley, a remarkable member of the OH-11 community.

Mr. Coley was born in Albany, Georgia in 1933 and graduated from Monroe High School in 1950. He earned a bachelor's degree in education in 1953 from Albany State College, where he also became a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated. In 1974, he completed his master's degree in education from Cleveland State University. After receiving his formal education, Mr. Coley served in the United States Army.

Mr. Coley was married to Shirley Ann Jackson (1932-2019) for 68 years and together they have two daughters, Carma Coley (Warrensville Hts.) and Cynthia Coley-Anderson (Chicago), both retired teachers. He is the proud grandfather of five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Mr. Coley began his teaching career in 1955 in the Cleveland Public Schools system as a fourth-grade teacher at Wade Park Elementary. Moving forward, he continued his career in the East Cleveland City Schools as a science teacher, retiring as an administrator in 1984. He continues to maintain contact with many of the students he has taught throughout the years.

Since 1964, Mr. Coley has lived in the Lee-Harvard Community. There, he served as an active member of the Harvard Community Services Center, a member of their Board of Trustees for 27 years and as president of the Walden Avenue Street Club for 30 years. In addition, he served as an Education Association Committee Chairperson. During his tenure, he was active in hiring several principals in the Lee-Harvard area schools and spearheaded the track and field stadium renovation committee for John F. Kennedy High School. Mr. Coley has received numerous honors—Harvard Community Services Center's Lifetime Achievement Award, Senior of the Year for Ward 1, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority's Black Diamonds Award, John F. Kennedy's Community Volunteer Award, and the Neighborhood Leadership Award, to name a few.

He has been an active member of the East Zion Baptist Church for over 60 years. As an avid gardener, he takes pride in harvesting vegetables to share with his neighbors. When asked what he loves most about Cleveland, he says, "Cleveland gave me my wife, which makes me love it the most."

Happy birthday to Mr. Coley.

STEVEN HELMICK

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Steven Helmick of Donald R. Roberts Elementary in Little Rock for being named the 2023 Arkansas Elementary School Principal of the Year.

Mr. Helmick is known for his outgoing personality and willingness to do whatever it takes to inspire his students, including running a mile for each of the 168 fifth graders in his elementary school, and camping out on the school's roof.

Steven Helmick has turned Roberts Elementary into one of the highest achieving elementary schools in Arkansas, receiving a grade of A from the state education leadership.

I congratulate Mr. Helmick on his well-deserved award and the outstanding work as Principal of Roberts Elementary.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF CHARLES R. WOOTEN

HON. ERIC BURLISON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and legacy of Chuck Wooten. Mr. Wooten recently passed away at the age of 95, having dedicated his life and career to public service and giving back to his community. A U.S. Navy Veteran of World War II, Mr. Wooten served with honor and distinction overseas in Japan. His patriotism and love for his country were evident in every aspect of his life, and his military service exemplified his unwavering dedication to defending the principles upon which this nation was built.

In addition to Mr. Wooten's service to our nation in World War II, he also served as a Missouri State Representative for 5 terms, as well as a City Councilman for Springfield. During his time in the state legislature, Mr. Wooten played a critical role in the creation of the Missouri Veterans Cemetery located in my hometown of Springfield, Missouri. The Veterans Cemetery would not be a reality without Chuck Wooten.

Additionaly. Mr. Wooten's many talents carried over to his career as a talk radio host on the legendary KWTO radio station in Springfield. He is survived by his wife Joan; his three children Johnie, Donnie, and Mary, and daughter-in-law, Carole Wooten; also 10 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren.

Mr. Wooten is described by those who knew him well as an upbeat, always positive, kind, and generous man who would give you the shirt off his back. I can't think of a more deserving man to honor and recognize today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, due to a family obligation was unable to attend session on June 22, 2023. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 284, YEA on Roll Call No. 285, and YEA on Roll Call No. 286.

PAPERWORK BURDEN REDUCTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3797, the Paperwork Burden Reduction Act.

This bill amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an alternative process for providing individuals with certain health insurance coverage statements.

H.R. 3797 allows American workers to access health insurance tax forms online, rather than mailing this form in excess to American households.

While only 1.4 percent of American workers and their families need this form, it gets mailed to millions each year, wasting taxpayer resources, and creating more work for small businesses.

This bill recognizes that more Americans than ever fill out their tax returns online and allows them to access this health insurance tax form online as well.

This bill saves small businesses owners time and money by relieving them of mailing excess copies of outdated paperwork.

As a result, small businesses will now have more time to focus on running their business, providing opportunities for their employees, expanding their business, and serving their customers.

In my home district of Houston, nearly 97 percent of the region's businesses are considered small businesses.

These small businesses employ 44 percent of the region's workforce, over 1.2 million employees across the city of Houston.

These small businesses continue to rise as over 150,000 new business applications were filed across Houston last year.

The city ranks 10th nationally in new businesses per capita and these businesses continue to drive the city's economic growth upwards.

Further, nearly 35 percent of these small businesses with 50 or fewer employees are minority-owned and Houston ranks 5th in the nation for minority entrepreneurship.

Small businesses are not only vital for Houston, but for our entire Nation.

Across America, small businesses account for over fifty-nine million jobs, constituting nearly half of the national workforce.

Overall, they generate one third of all U.S. business revenue, approximately 13.7 trillion dollars annually.

This bill relieves the burden of outdated paperwork on these small businesses and best equips them for success in Houston and nationwide.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 3797, the Paperwork Burden Reduction Act, and the economic growth of our Nation, which is fueled by small businesses.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF COLSTRIP, MONTANA

HON. MATTHEW M. ROSENDALE, SR.

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize the centennial celebration of the town of Colstrip, Montana's energy capital. Colstrip is surrounded by beautiful open rangeland, farms, and ranches, but what has made this community truly remarkable is the Rosebud mine, which is responsible for much of the area's prosperity. This incredible facility serves as a crucial part of Montana's economy and energy sector. Since its establishment, the mine has not only powered Montana's economy but also provided reliable energy to the entire globe.

Colstrip was first founded by employees of the Northern Pacific Railway in 1924 to provide Americans with affordable and reliable coal to power their homes and businesses. During the Second World War, the mine was strategically important to America's war effort. Thanks to the work of the men and women of Colstrip, the Allies successfully defeated their enemies and defended freedom across the entire world.

I want to commend the people of Colstrip for their dedicated work to ensure the continuation of this vital part of Montana's economy and for contributing so much to our state's culture. Colstrip's tight-knit community has powered America for over 100 years, and I'm excited to see what the future holds for this model community. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the entire Colstrip community for their commitment to America, and it is a privilege to celebrate the mine's anniversary in the U.S. House of Representatives

HONORING THE U.S. ARMY'S 54TH COAST ARTILLERY REGIMENT

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the soldiers who served during World War II in the United States Army's 54th Coast Artillery Regiment. The 54th was the U.S. Army's only all-Black heavy artillery regiment and it shared the mission of defending the central coast of California from enemy attack.

This historic regiment defended the Golden Gate Bridge, the San Francisco Harbor, and Monterey Bay, in addition to the millions of tons of cargo and munitions coming out of the port. Further down the coastline, the 54th defended coastal oil terminals at Morro Bay and Port San Luis. The Monterey Bay was particularly vulnerable to Japanese invasion due to its gently inclining shoreline and ready access to a major coastal highway.

Activated at Camp Wallace, Texas on February 10, 1941, the 54th was comprised of Black soldiers from Texas, Kansas, and Missouri. Despite that these troops were armed and clothed with used weapons and second-hand uniforms dating to World War I, they did not complain and served with pride and distinction.

After completing their training at Fort Fisher in late February of 1942, the 1st Battalion and 3rd Battalion of the Regiment were ordered to Fort Cronkhite in San Francisco, California. Until April of 1944, these two battalions rotated along the Central Coast shoreline batteries and manned the coastal artillery weapons at Point Pinos Lighthouse in Pacific Grove shortly after Pearl Harbor Attack on December 7, 1941.

Additionally, many soldiers of the 54th were former Negro Baseball League players. While stationed in Pacific Grove, the soldiers formed a community baseball league. They named it the Twilight League because all the lights in the seaside town were turned off at sunset for increased security from the Japanese.

On April 19, 1944, the 1st Battalion and 3rd Battalion were relieved from duty on the Western Defense Command as the threat of Japanese attacks on the West Coast diminished.

Although they have since disbanded, the legacy and influence of the 54th Regiment lives on in the memory of our Central Coast communities. Many troops returned to the Central Coast after the Allied Powers emerged victorious and were active, integral members of our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the U.S. Army's 54th Coast Artillery Regiment in honor of their lasting impact on the Central Coast and our Nation's history. We are forever grateful for their service and bravery in World War II and in the defense of our coastline. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor them here today.

CELEBRATING THE BONANZA CASINO'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARK E. AMODEI

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. AMODEI. Mr. Speaker, on July 1, 2023, the Bonanza Casino in Reno will celebrate its 50th anniversary. In anticipation of this major milestone, I would like to highlight the contributions this family operated business brings to our community and recognize the leadership of one of its original owners and current partner, Russ Sheltre.

The Bonanza Casino is one of Northern Nevada's most successful gaming properties, but its beginnings were quite humble.

As a student at the University of Nevada, Russ Sheltre worked at the local Food King. After graduating with a degree in business, Russ bought the Food King with no formal contract—just an agreement etched out on the back of a napkin. Russ turned the Food King into his V&T Market.

In 1973, he made the decision to transform the V&T Market into the Bonanza Casino when another supermarket was built across the street. The casino thrived, quickly becoming a favorite for locals. Today, the casino has nearly 400 slot machines and two successful restaurants.

Russ's son, Ryan, now works alongside his father in the family business. Both Russ and Ryan believe in the importance of giving back to the community that has given them so much.

For the past 22 years, the Bonanza Casino has provided multiple \$1,500 college scholar-

ships to graduating students at North Valleys High School.

Additionally, the Bonanza Casino supports the mission of the Prostate Cancer Foundation by hosting the "Cruisin' for the Cure" car show, a fundraiser to raise money for prostate cancer research. To date, the Sheltre family and Bonanza Casino has donated over \$165,000 to the Prostate Cancer Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, as the Bonanza Casino celebrates its 50th year of operations, I want to thank Russ Sheltre for his lifetime of commitment to Northern Nevada, and this Nation. His ingenuity and dedication serves as an inspiration to us all.

HONORING THE LIFE OF KAYE T. GOOLSBY

HON. MICHAEL T. McCaul

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Speaker, with a heavy but grateful heart, I rise to recognize the life of Kaye Goolsby. Kaye was not only a political giant in the state of Texas; she was also a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and dear friend to so many, including me.

One of my first supporters, Kaye helped propel me to public service, and she always inspired me to be the best representative I could be for the people of Texas. Originally from Louisiana, she and her family moved to Katy, Texas, in 1977, where they have lived for more than 45 years. And Kaye certainly earned her title as a Texan, holding dozens of leadership roles in the state and helping to advance many Texans to prominent government positions. In 2011, she was honored as one of the Top Ten Republican Women in Texas. Kaye also faithfully supported her local school district, Katy ISD, and selflessly served at First United Methodist Church.

There simply aren't enough words to describe Kaye's contribution to her community, the state of Texas, and our country. No matter what new task she took on, she remained grounded by an unwavering belief in the importance of freedom, faith, and family.

She will be deeply missed by her husband of 48 years, Gary Goolsby, her son Greg and his wife Christie, and her grandchildren, Preston and Avery.

The last words I said to her were, "I love you, Kaye." The fact is: Everyone she touched loved her as well. While we mourn this tremendous loss, we also take comfort in knowing her impact will live on for generations.

RETIREMENT OF DARLA SIDLES, ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK SUPERINTENDENT

HON. JOE NEGUSE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy and retirement of Darla Sidles, the first female Superintendent of Rocky Mountain National Park.

For the last seven years, Darla has been in charge of managing and supervising all oper-

ations within Rocky Mountain National Park—the Nation's fourth busiest national park—an area I am lucky to represent in the United States Congress. Rocky Mountain National Park surpassed 4 million visitors for the first time the year before she took over, and it has exceeded 4 million almost every year since,

Darla has helped Rocky Mountain National Park navigate unprecedented challenges like record levels of visitors, the global pandemic forcing a closure of the park in 2020, and then another closure of the park that same year as a result of Colorado's two largest wildfires ripping through Rocky Mountain and burning about 10 percent of the park. Through it all she remained dedicated to improving and protecting our treasured public lands.

Darla has served at the National Park Service for 34 successful years. She has been a trusted and valued partner to my office and to the Town of Estes Park. We are sad to see Darla go, but wish her a happy retirement.

CELEBRATING ROB STOKER

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the service of the president of the Building Trades Council of Alameda County and longtime member of Sheet Metal Workers Local Union No. 104 (Local 104), Rob Stoker, on the occasion of his retirement after over 30 years of service on Saturday, July 1, 2023.

A lifelong resident of the Bay Area, Rob grew up in Castro Valley and graduated from Castro Valley High School in 1982. Rob's career in sheet metal began when his father, Wayne, signed him up for a class at Laney Community College. Upon completing his sheet metal apprenticeship in 1989, Rob began working at the Monterey Mechanical Company in Oakland, moving his way up from a journeyman to a division manager.

Rob is a proud Local 104 member. He has served as a part-time instructor for the union's apprenticeship programs and as Local 104's executive board officer. Rob was elected as Local 104's union business representative in 2006, where he found his passion for recruiting future unionized sheet metal workers.

Rob has remained a fierce advocate for all trade workers throughout the Bay Area in his roles as Local 104's political and public relations director and then eventually assumed the role of president of the Building Trades Council of Alameda County. He has negotiated countless project labor agreements, including with large Bay Area municipalities, major transit agencies, federal government bodies, and nonprofit agencies.

More specifically, Rob's advocacy efforts helped pass CA Assembly Bill 841 in 2020, creating the School Energy Efficiency Stimulus Program providing funds for schools to test and assess HVAC systems and supporting unionized labor.

For over 30 years, Rob has dedicated his career to the industry and the men and women that work within it. He has remained an integral part of the building trade community in the Bay Area, and I am sure he will be missed at both Local 104 and the Building Trades Council of Alameda County. I wish him

well-deserved rest and relaxation, filled with quality time with Christine, his wife of 34 years, and his children Will, Lane, and Natalie as he enters this new chapter.

UNITED STATES-TAIWAN INITIATIVE ON 21ST-CENTURY TRADE FIRST AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4004, the United States-Taiwan Initiative on 21st Century Trade First Agreement Implementation Act.

This bill expresses the approval of Congress for the June 1, 2023, agreement regarding trade between the United States and Taiwan.

The bill also imposes requirements on the negotiations of certain further trade agreements between the United States and Taiwan.

The bill also imposes requirements on the negotiation of further agreements under the United States-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade, such as requiring the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) to:

(1) share any U.S. negotiating texts with Congress prior to sharing the text with Taiwan or any parties outside of the executive branch.

(2) share any negotiating texts from Taiwan within three days of receipt, and

(3) provide daily briefings to certain Members of Congress during negotiating rounds.

A further agreement shall not take effect unless

(1) the President, at least 60 days before entering into the further agreement, makes the text publicly available on a USTR website; and

(2) a bill is enacted into law expressly approving the further agreement.

The United States and Taiwan signed a first agreement under the U.S.-Taiwan Initiative on 21st-Century Trade, announced in June 2022.

The initial 2022 agreement aimed to streamline customs procedures, help smaller businesses navigate the regulatory procedures in both markets, and prevent corruption.

This agreement is not a formal free-trade agreement that regulates tariffs, but rather aims to strengthen U.S.-Taiwan trade ties amid heightened tensions.

Taiwan and the United States have maintained commercial ties since 1979.

Although the United States does not have diplomatic relations with Taiwan, we maintain a strong unofficial relationship that must continue, and H.R. 4004 will allow the United States to do such that.

REVEREND DR. PAULSON RAJ SANGALA: A TESTAMENT TO FAITH, RESILIENCE, AND SERVICE

HON. JONATHAN L. JACKSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today. I am privileged to rise in this esteemed

chamber to speak about a man of incredible faith, resilience, and dedication, the Reverend Dr. Paulson Raj Sangala. Born on March 7, 1973, in the humble village of Bheemaram, Telangana State, India, Dr. Sangala's life is a testament to overcoming adversities and committing oneself to a life of service.

The son of a mason and a school attendant, Dr. Sangala grew up amidst financial challenges after his family lost their wealth due to his grandfather's alcohol addiction. Despite these hardships, his spiritual zeal led him to regular Bible study and prayer. His faith would be tested further when he lost his father at a young age, taking on the family burden as the eldest son. When a mysterious illness left him bedridden, Dr. Sangala found solace in his faith, and it was this faith that carried him through his healing and ultimately led him to his calling.

In 1991, Dr. Sangala began his ministry in a small hut following a vision he received during prayer and fasting. Starting with one woman receiving healing from cancer, the ministry steadily grew, bringing the Gospel and the healing power of Jesus Christ to many. This was the beginning of a remarkable journey that would see Dr. Sangala overcome opposition and adversity to serve his community and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, the culmination of Dr. Sangala's journey is the Christ Jyoti Church, inaugurated recently in a grand ceremony attended by pastors and devotees from all over the world. Built on 11 acres of land and capable of hosting an impressive 40,000 people, the Church, with its vast prayer hall and four towers named Moses, David, Peter, and Dr. Paul, is a testament to Dr. Sangala's vision, faith, and years of dedication.

Beyond the grandeur of the Church, Dr. Sangala's work in his community is truly astounding. His organization runs a Bible College and operates 500 churches in different cities and villages. It has commissioned over a thousand pastors for the ministry, prepared a thousand prayer warriors for continuous offering of prayers, and provides spiritual comfort and guidance to thousands through various prayer services, gospel meetings, and media outreach.

Dr. Sangala's life journey serves as a poignant reminder of the transformative power of faith and service. His story shines brightly as a beacon of hope and a source of inspiration, demonstrating how adversities can be converted into opportunities for serving others. His extraordinary path from a small village in India to the founding of a Church that serves thousands testifies to his unwavering faith, unyielding dedication, and his steadfast commitment to his divine calling.

As we stand here in this chamber, dedicated to service and leadership, let the story of Dr. Sangala remind us of the profound impact that unwavering faith, resilience, and dedication to service can have on our communities.

Mr. Speaker, may we carry his spirit of service, resilience, and dedication in our hearts as we continue to serve our constituents and our great Nation.

NEW RISE OF ASSAD

HON. J. FRENCH HILL

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, recently, Syrian President Bashar Al Assad was invited back into the Arab League after 12 years of being in exile.

I can't tell you how incredibly frustrating and disappointing this is to many, particularly the innocent people of Syria who have endured more than a decade of war, murder, and torture.

Assad's readmittance to the Arab League sends the wrong signal.

It sends the signal to the rest of the world that his atrocious war crimes against his own citizens over the past twelve years are acceptable.

A recent Reuters article had the headline Arabs bring Syria's Assad back into the fold, but want actions, action on the drug trade.

Well that's rich, because the only reason there is an epidemic in the drug trade in the Gulf and the region, is because of Assad.

Assad turned Russia and Iran to maintain his death machine, and now the Captagon drug trade, led by his cousins, led by his military, providing an independent source of funding for his regime while he poisons his neighbors and takes their money and fuels terrorism in the region.

And yet he's invited back to the Arab League meeting.

It's preposterous.

My bill that passed last year's National Defense Authorization Act was called the Captagon Act and requires the U.S. Government to develop a multilateral and all of government approach to disrupting and dismantling the production of the Captagon drug right in the heart of Syria.

Recently, the Treasury Department along with our ally the United Kingdom, took steps to sanction key actors in Assad's inner circle who are producing and trafficking Captagon.

This is a good step, but it's months late Mr. Speaker

It's in the right direction of disrupting and dismantling the trafficking networks associated with this illicit drug.

But it's just a good start, and it comes years after we know the deadly impact of Captagon in the region, on families, but also fueling of terror by Assad through the billions of dollars transferred from that illicit trafficking.

So it's critical that governments across the globe to continue to show their support for the Syrian people by denouncing those who seek to normalize relations with the repulsive regime, granting Assad admittance to the Arab League once again sends the opposite message, it rewards barbaric behavior.

The United States government has an obligation to sanction Assad in our efforts to dismantle the Captagon drug trade and hold Assad accountable for his war crimes.

And that's why I'm pleased this week to co-sponsor the Middle East Subcommittee Chairman JOE WILSON's new bill H.R. 2302, The Assad Regime Anti-Normalization Act.

This bill was passed this week unanimously in the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Congress will act where this administration has continuously failed to consistently do so.

I look forward to supporting this bill on the House floor and seeing it signed into law.

RECOGNIZING A CIVIL RIGHTS AND GRASSROOTS ICON, REVEREND MARIE GALATAS ORTIZ, A PROMINENT Matriarch IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reverend Marie Galatas Ortiz, Louisiana's Matriarch in the Civil Rights Movement locally and across the country. Marie Galatas Ortiz, born in New Orleans in 1939, became increasingly involved in the Civil Rights Movement after the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. When Ortiz reflected on how she felt following the passing of Dr. King, she said "I just said I'm going to get so active, I'm going to help keep his work going on . . . They can't stop us!"

Ortiz furthered her commitment to the Civil Rights Movement by founding the nonprofit organization Grass Roots Organization for Women (GROW) in 1975. The organization started in New Orleans, located at 1610 Basin Street, and participated in many demonstrations, marches, and boycotts. Ortiz wanted an organization that encouraged women to serve in their communities and further the movement through peaceful protests, rallies, and street marches. GROW challenged the traditional patriarchal social systems that prevented women from participating in leadership roles. Reverend Ortiz took on the challenge of fighting for anti-crime, including rape treatment and prevention, when no one was advocating for these victims and speaking out against these atrocities.

Ortiz was a force in the later years of the Civil Rights Movement. In 1976, she led demonstrations for the family of Stanley Magee who suspiciously passed away while in custody. The protest and subsequent march over Stanley Magee's death began at the 22nd Judicial Courthouse and included many African American residents of St. Tammany and Washington Parishes. It was one of the largest demonstrations ever held in Covington. Ortiz explained that some of the more difficult and passionate Civil Rights cases, especially those involving racially motivated deaths and violence, were passed on to her organization from the NAACP. "It was GROW that did the work," Ortiz said. Ortiz remains politically active today.

Her most recent work was taking down monuments dedicated to Confederate leaders in New Orleans. In December 2015, the City Council of New Orleans voted 6 to 1 to take down three Confederate statues: those of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, Gen. Robert E. Lee, and Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard. In January 2016, a federal judge dismissed an attempt by preservation groups and a chapter of the Sons of Confederate Veterans to stop their removal. Reverend Ortiz remained committed, fighting to the end, assuring every statue was removed!

Reverend Marie Galatas Ortiz is also the president and pastor of New Creation Christian Church, founded over 35 years ago,

where she continues her spiritual mission of working closely with women and underserved communities. She is also the president of Broadway Rehabilitation and Economic Development & Jobs Skills Academy, Inc., an organization assisting formerly incarcerated people and marginalized groups to develop training to join the workforce.

I am so blessed to have this opportunity to acknowledge a true Matriarch of Civil Rights. My prayer is that she continues her fight assuring a successful and bright future for all men and women. God Bless Reverend Marie Galatas Ortiz on her continued path blessing our great community.

SUPPORTING HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

HON. LAUREL M. LEE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Hillsborough County Veterans Treatment Court and the volunteers who are the heart of this program.

Hillsborough County is proud to be home to Florida's largest population of veterans—nearly 94,000 veterans. Hillsborough is also home to the number one Veterans Treatment Court in the country.

One in five veterans has a diagnosed mental illness or cognitive impairment, and one in six veterans has a substance abuse problem. In some cases, upon returning home, these men and women commit a criminal offense that is directly attributed to a service or combat-related injury.

The Hillsborough County Veterans Treatment Court, in addition to its Mentor Program run entirely by volunteers, integrates alcohol and drug treatment programs, mental health services, and justice system case processing, while focusing on the successful reintegration of veterans back into their communities.

I'd like to not only recognize but extend a sincere thank you to the wonderful volunteers who have had a hand in getting our veterans the care they require and deserve.

HONORING THE LIFE OF IRA SHARP

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and achievements of Ira Sharp, who passed away on Saturday, June 10, 2023. He is survived by his wife Rose Ann Sharp, daughter Elizabeth Sharp, son Andrew Sharp, daughter-in-law Carine Harambill Sharp, grandson Samuel Sharp as well as his sisters, Jacqueline Schroeder, Barbara Jensen, and Sally Harman, as well as their families.

Mr. Sharp received a bachelor's degree from Washington University in St. Louis before earning a J.D. at Columbia Law School. After law school, Mr. Sharp became a practicing attorney before moving to D.C. to take over a

then struggling family business. For the next two and a half decades, Mr. Sharp would use his expertise and perseverance to transform the company into a thriving business, later selling it to a Fortune 1000 company.

As a resident of the California 49th Congressional District, Mr. Sharp was an active member of the community. He was appointed to the San Diego County Civil Service Commission as well as sat on several Del Mar City Council committees and the Del Mar School District Independent Citizens Oversight Committee. Additionally, Mr. Sharp contributed to the Del Mar Foundation, the Rancho Santa Fe Democratic Club, and the Chairmen's Round Table, a group that provides mentorship to businesses in San Diego County.

Mr. Sharp's true passion was advocacy for gun violence prevention. Following the Parkland Shooting in February of 2018 and the birth of his grandchild, Mr. Sharp along with his wife Rose Ann Sharp founded NeverAgainCA. Mr. Sharp then went on to create SafeStorageCA in 2019, where he brought together elected officials and gun violence prevention groups. The impact of Mr. Sharp's work can be seen in the passage of AB 452, which requires California public school districts to send students home with information about the importance of safe firearm storage, as well as the passage of AB 893 and SB 264, which ban the sale of firearms and ammunition at the Del Mar and Orange County Fairgrounds.

More recently, Mr. Sharp spent time as a board member for the Brady Campaign, a national nonprofit whose mission is to ensure that every community is safe from the epidemic of gun violence in our country.

Ira Sharp's tireless advocacy is a reminder of the immense impact an individual can have on their community and the importance of collaborating with others to make our community a safer place. It has been an honor to celebrate Ira Sharp's remarkable life and his success which continues to inspire.

RECOGNIZING MIKE FLANNERY FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO JOURNALISM

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize Mike Flannery's distinguished career as a political reporter in Illinois and to congratulate him on his well-earned upcoming retirement from Fox 32-Chicago. For decades, Illinois residents have relied on Mr. Flannery's sharp analysis to make sense of top political stories. Through his weekly television program, "Flannery Fired Up," Illinois residents have come to trust Mr. Flannery as a voice of insight, fairness, and integrity.

Mr. Flannery grew up in Washington D.C. in a family that understood the importance of public service and its demands. His father, a World War II veteran and Purple Heart recipient, imparted on Mr. Flannery a sense of patriotism and a desire to find a career that benefitted others. Despite financial hardships, Mr. Flannery won a scholarship to attend Georgetown University, where he discovered a passion for journalism and became editor of the

university's newspaper. Through his coursework, he became fascinated by the unique political culture of Chicago and Mayor Richard J. Daley's administration.

After graduation, Mr. Flannery moved to Chicago and began his career in journalism covering politics and labor for the Chicago Sun Times. He built a reputation for integrity at a time when political corruption was a powerful force in Chicago politics. When Mr. Flannery transitioned to TV and joined WBBM-Channel 2 as Political Editor in 1980, he brought his unique sensibility into viewer's living rooms.

Over the course of Mr. Flannery's 50-year career, he has covered the administrations of ten Chicago mayors and eight Illinois governors with extraordinary insight and accuracy. Mr. Flannery's TV program has become a central stage for political discussion in Chicago, drawing countless elected officials and experts. His sharp questioning held powerful officials to account and provided context for the week's news for his loyal viewers. Behind the scenes, Mr. Flannery has been just as tireless in his pursuit of the facts, engaging regularly with community leaders and experts, even chasing politicians—sometimes literally—as he did when he jogged after former Illinois Governor Rob Blagojevich in 2010. Both on and off the air, Mr. Flannery has a record of relentlessly pursuing the truth on behalf of greater Chicago.

Mr. Speaker, I extend immense gratitude to Mike Flannery for his invaluable contributions to political reporting, and I wish him well in his retirement. His dedication to the public service of informing Illinoisans on the issues facing our state is commendable and he leaves behind a legacy of excellence in journalism.

RELATING TO THE CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 503, IMPEACHING JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR., PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, FOR HIGH CRIMES AND MISDEMEANORS

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2023

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, impeachment is serious, yet here we are engaged in a baseless political stunt to impeach our current President.

It is not a punishment, sought to be inflicted when one branch of government merely dislikes what a coordinate branch has done.

It is a serious remedy designed to prevent abuses of power and is designed to ensure that ours remains a government of, by, and for the people.

The Constitution governs the order of our nation, and it dictates the work of the Congress.

Article I details the powers of the House and the exercising of these powers as they relate to the coordinate, coequal branches of government, codified in Articles II and Articles III: three equal branches of government coexisting and cohesively working to provide oversight to the respective actions of the Congress, the Executive and Judiciary.

This has worked, with challenges of course, since 1789, yet the outright abuse of our Con-

stitution to use impeachment as a political tool is an abomination of our congressional duties.

This impeachment resolution is centered on accusations that the Biden Administration lacks appropriate security at the Southern U.S. border.

The resolution of impeachment specifically states that President Biden's conduct and dereliction of duty in these matters "warrants impeachment and trial, removal from office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust, or profit under the United States."

This accusation, that the President of the United States has abused his powers and that his conduct is in dereliction of his duties as President is flatly outrageous.

When the Framers of our Constitution designed our government, they bifurcated power between the federal and state governments, and divided among the branches.

They vested in the Congress the capacity to make the laws, and in the Executive the power to faithfully execute those laws.

Because the House enjoyed a natural superiority, as most representative of the passions of the populace, the Framers vested in the House of Representatives the sole power of impeachment and made the Senate the judges.

Entirely unlike the incredulous and now confirmed illegality of President Trump's behavior while in office, the President Biden has certainly not earned the same stain of impeachment from the House of Representatives and whereby his conduct absolutely does not merit conviction and removal from office by the Senate.

When the Founders inserted the Impeachment Clause in Article I, Section 2, Clause 5, they did so to preserve our democracy, protect the American people, and to prevent the abuses and excesses of the Chief Executive.

The Constitution has served our nation well for over two hundred years.

In order to keep faith with the Framers and with our future, we must preserve, protect and defend that Constitution and all its provisions.

This is why this impeachment attempt is not one that is within the national interest but a disgrace to our government and its entrusted duties.

I ask colleagues to vote no on this shameful resolution.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
NASSER ABOUKHALIL

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Nasser AbouKhalil.

Throughout his life, Nasser has shown his commitment to supporting patients and providing a space for advocacy and healing in the community. Nasser was born in Tyr, Lebanon and graduated from the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California. He opened the Alamo Pharmacy in 1987. In 1997, he opened the Oak Grove Pharmacy in Concord, California where it remains a staple in our community.

Through his work, Nasser practices compassionate care and comprehensive support.

He believes in not only ensuring that patients have the appropriate medications, but also offering individualized health care advice and cost-effective alternatives. Nasser also takes pride in mentoring aspiring health care professionals in the pharmacy, providing them real-world experience to prepare them as they enter the medical field and work to serve their communities.

In addition to his professional work, Nasser is also an advocate for the Lebanese community in the Bay Area where he volunteers with the Lebanese American Association.

Please join me in recognizing Nasser AbouKhalil for his leadership and invaluable contributions to our community.

IN MEMORY OF NAVAJO NATION
PRESIDENT BEN SHELLY

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize former Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly, who passed away on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, leaving his wife Mrs. Martha Shelly, five adult children, 12 grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. The President and Mrs. Shelly were married for 57 years.

President Shelly's public service spanned numerous decades and positions. During his 16 years on the Navajo Nation Council, he rose to the esteemed position of Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee. From 2007 to 2011, he served as Vice President of the Navajo Nation. On January 11, 2011, Shelly became the eighth President of the Navajo Nation, a position he held for four years. In fact, he was the first elected Vice President to ascend to President as well. President Shelly's service extended beyond Navajo Nation as a McKinley County Commissioner.

As President, Shelly was a steadfast supporter of self-determination and self-sufficiency for Indian Country. He and the Navajo Nation worked with Congress to secure approval of the Navajo Nation General Leasing Act to provide the Nation with leasing authority over tribal land. President Shelly also fostered economic development to bring prosperity to Navajo communities. In President Shelly's final testimony to Congress, he advocated for Gallup Indian Medical Center to become a "trauma one" level facility status. This would provide the highest level of care to our many tribal communities.

President Shelly was born on the Arizona-New Mexico border of Tséyah Si'ani, Lupton, Arizona. He lived most of his life in Thoreau, New Mexico, in the third congressional district. He never stopped working to support the people of the Navajo Nation. His accomplishments and legacy will live on for generations to come. May we all honor President Ben Shelly's incredible life and his deep commitment to serving the beloved communities of the Navajo Nation.

RECOGNIZING SARA KATHERINE BOWEN

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my Communications Director, Sara Katherine Bowen, for her service to Kentucky's Second District.

The Georgia native joined my office in December 2020. A proud graduate of the University of Georgia, she began her career in Congressman Buddy Carter's office before serving as press secretary for the Energy and Commerce Committee. S.K. has proven to be an extremely valuable member of my team by clearly communicating what is happening in the halls of Congress with my constituents. S.K. has worked on many projects, with one of the biggest being the communications for the Healthy Futures Task Force—part of the House Republicans' Commitment to America. I am grateful for all her hard work behind the scenes to make sure Kentuckians' priorities were included in the blueprint for how the People's House would operate under a New Majority.

I want to thank S.K. Bowen for her work serving Kentucky's Second District as my Communications Director and I wish her all the best in the next chapter of her life, moving closer to Kentucky's Second District as she continues her education pursuing her Masters of Business Administration at Vanderbilt University.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION**HON. J. FRENCH HILL**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I missed Roll Call Numbers 144, 235, 238, 239, and 240. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

WELCOMING PRIME MINISTER SHRI NARENDRA MODI TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with the Asian-American Community of Metropolitan Chicago in welcoming Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi to the United States of America to address a Joint Session of Congress on June 22, 2023.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF BARRON INDUSTRIES OF OXFORD

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 23, 2023

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 100th anniversary of Barron Industries of Oxford, Michigan.

Founded in 1923, Barron Industries has led a remarkable journey. Family-owned and operated since its beginning, this esteemed company has remained committed to delivering excellence, innovation, and quality.

100 years ago, Barron Industries began as a comparatively small foundry producing 60-ton sand castings and even hand-delivering other orders to customers like Henry Ford. But now, this company maintains a sterling reputation as a manufacturer of precision aerospace, defense, automotive, oil and gas, nuclear, and medical components which are shipped and used worldwide.

For decades, Barron Industries has built an impressive track record in countless industries, and they have done so here in our community. Since 1983, they have been a vital employer, innovator, and contributor to the Oxford area.

With the promise of quality and product integrity, this company has cemented its name as a trusted manufacturer by many other leading industries, all the while remaining family-owned and operated since its founding. Their commitment to precision, innovation, and their community truly embodies the sense of responsible American entrepreneurship that has driven our Nation forward for centuries.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Barron Industries of Oxford on their centennial celebration. Here's to another century of accomplishment, growth, and continued success both in our community and throughout the world.

CONDEMNING THE USE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL FACILITIES TO PROVIDE SHELTER FOR ALIENS WHO ARE NOT ADMITTED TO THE UNITED STATES

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 22, 2023

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H. Res. 461, condemning the use of elementary and secondary school facilities to provide shelter for aliens who are not admitted to the United States.

This bill is an absurd measure to condemn the facilities of a public elementary or secondary school that serves students to provide shelter for non-U.S. nationals who are not admitted into the United States.

I believe that a comprehensive approach is needed to solving the current immigration crisis.

However, using the facilities of a public elementary or secondary school to provide shelter for non-U.S. nationals who are not admitted into the United States.

ter for non-U.S. nationals who are not admitted into the United States should not be politicized, as this is a humanitarian issue and failure of our broken immigration system.

As a Member on the Homeland Security committee, and more specifically the Border Security and Enforcement subcommittee, I interact with those at the border and migrants frequently.

As such, I think it is essential that migrants are brought and allowed into the country through legal immigration.

I am a strong proponent of humanitarian aid efforts in the immigration context, from preventing the breakup of individual families as a result of a wrongful deportation to ensuring that victims of civil wars and national disasters around the globe receive a temporary protected status under the U.S. immigration laws.

We should not condemn the use of public elementary or secondary schools provide shelter for non-U.S. nationals who are not admitted into the United States.

I acknowledge that schools are places of learning and development for students, but there are time periods when school campuses are not being used, such as during school breaks.

Because of this, the space could be used for humanitarian aid purposes, such as allowing migrants to stay there while they wait for legal processing and paperwork to conclude.

Other exceptions need to be reviewed, such as whether migrants could stay at schools when school is in-session, but humanitarian aid should not be overlooked in the immigration context.

As a leading country on the global stage, it is our duty and responsibility to assist who we can in a legal manner.

More importantly when it comes to schools in America, we should be addressing critical issues that are truly impacting our educational system—namely, the hostile state takeovers of majority-minority school districts—as is what is happening in my district with the Texas Education Agency takeover of the Houston Independent School District.

State takeovers in other districts have led to school closures, layoffs, and no improvements in test scores.

The vast majority of school districts that have been taken over by state agencies (TEA included) have not improved but declined.

With data ranging back to the late 1980s, researchers found that most state takeovers don't translate to academic improvements.

We have to stop the State from interfering and overstepping into our educational systems—causing further harm and damage to our communities.

That is why I have called upon President Biden and the Department of Education, to investigate and take immediate action to address the recent systematic and dangerous efforts underway by state and local officials in Texas seeking to undermine and undo decades of civil rights protections and advancements in educational institutions and student populations.

And so, I am here today to say that these are the issues that the American people truly care about and want us to be fighting for, for the protection and preservation of their educational rights.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

The Senate was not in session and stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, June 26, 2023.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 49 public bills, H.R. 4315–4363; and 9 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 54; and H. Res. 548–555, were introduced.

Pages H3140–43

Additional Cosponsors:

Page H3145

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Pastor David Bullock, Luke 4:18 Fellowship, Mobile, Alabama.

Page H3113

Middle Class Borrower Protection Act of 2023: The House passed H.R. 3564, to cancel recent changes made by the Federal Housing Finance Agency to the up-front loan level pricing adjustments charged by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac for guarantee of single-family mortgages, by a yea-and-nay vote of 230 yeas to 189 nays, Roll No. 289.

Pages H3115–28

Rejected the Cleaver motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Financial Services, by a yea-and-nay vote of 197 yeas to 214 nays, Roll No. 288.

Page H3127

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 118–8, modified by the amendment printed in part A of H. Rept. 118–115, shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services now printed in the bill.

Page H3120

Agreed to:

Boebert amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 118–115) that requires the GAO Study in Section 5 to also be made available to the public online;

Pages H3120–23

Lee (NV) amendment (No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 118–115) that requires that the GAO study assess the recalibrated single-family pricing framework's impact on first-time, low-income homebuyers; and

Pages H3123–24

Lee (NV) amendment (No. 3 printed in H. Rept. 118–115) that requires that the GAO study assess the recalibrated single-family pricing framework's impact on affordable housing preservation, rural housing, and manufactured housing.

Pages H3124–25

Rejected:

Pettersen amendment (No. 4 printed in H. Rept. 118–115) that sought to prevent the legislation from being enacted if the FHFA Director determines that Sec. 2 would increase fees on middle class borrowers (by a recorded vote of 204 ayes to 216 noes, Roll No. 287).

Pages H3125–28

H. Res. 524, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 3564) and (H.R. 3799) and the resolution (H. Res. 461) was agreed to Wednesday, June 21st.

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, June 22nd.

Work Period Designation: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he designated the period from Saturday, June 24, 2023, through Monday, July 10, 2023, as a "district work period" under section 3(z) of House Resolution 5.

Page H3134

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H3126, H3127, and H3127–28.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 1:21 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs held a markup on the Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs FY 2024 Appropriations Bill. The Subcommittee on State, Foreign Op-

erations, and Related Programs FY 2024 Appropriations Bill was ordered reported, without amendment.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR MONDAY, JUNE 26, 2023

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

2 p.m., Monday, June 26

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Tuesday, June 27

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 9 a.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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