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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 26, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MIKE EZELL to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

EXPANDING RURAL BROADBAND ACCESS

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, more than 500,000 Pennsylvanians lack access to fast and reliable internet service at their homes, often adding a layer of difficulty to students who are trying to learn, to businesspeople who are trying to engage in commerce from their homes, or to patients who are trying to connect with their physicians for telehealth visits.

As I travel throughout my district, I hear from farmers who struggle to implement precision farming due to a lack of GPS signal. When I visit schools, I hear from teachers about students who struggle to complete their homework simply because they lack access to high-speed internet in their homes.

These problems are persistent, and each contributes to the larger issue: that rural communities are suffering from a lack of access to broadband internet.

To ensure that our rural communities are not left behind, it is time for Congress to commit to building out rural broadband infrastructure as part of the agriculture and rural development appropriations.

Ensuring high-speed internet connections, whether from fiber-optic cables, wireless towers, or satellite, will ensure that students are able to learn from home, that employees are able to work from home, and that patients are able to heal from home.

We as a Congress must stand committed to rural broadband development.

PROTECTING OUR FARMLAND

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, right now, nearly 400,000 acres of American farmland are owned by Chinese investors.

The increasing reach of the Chinese Communist Party is incredibly alarming, as this land is being purchased near sensitive military installations and other areas critical to our national security.

It is imperative that the Biden administration gain a better understanding of these land purchases and develop programs to halt the purchase of agricultural land by those associated with China, Russia, North Korea, and Iran.

We must ensure that the USDA is able to improve tracking of foreign land ownership and help to ensure that our communities are protected and safe from the actions of the Chinese Communist Party.

This is a national security issue, and it is time for Congress and the Biden administration to take swift and decisive action to protect our American farmland.

POLITICAL POLARIZATION IN AMERICA

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I am reflecting on a moment that occurred just after I was sworn in to this office.

My former Republican colleague Mark Kirk gave me some of the best advice I had ever received. He said: In the end, anything that gets done here that is any good gets done in the middle, through compromise.

It begs the question: Are we currently in a position to work well together? Can we effectively govern?

The fact is, right now, the occasions when we work together are few and far between. No established democracy in recent history has been as deeply polarized as the United States is now.

A study from the National Bureau of Economic Research found that polarization in the U.S. has increased more dramatically since the late 1970s than in any other country they have examined.

We are not just uniquely polarized on the world stage. We are also uniquely polarized in the context of our own history.

Here is one example. In 1960, 4 percent of Republicans and 4 percent of Democrats said they would be displeased if their son or daughter married someone of the opposite party. In 2019, that number is 45 percent of Democrats said they would be unhappy

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if their child married a Republican, and 35 percent of Republicans said they would be unhappy if their child married a Democrat.

Well, the reasons are manyfold. Americans today read less print than ever before. They can now pick and choose their own news, perspectives, and facts. Cable news channels have moved further to the extremes to keep their audiences engaged. When we all read news designed to affirm our own thoughts, we lose empathy and understanding of how other people come to their decisions.

We must each take responsibility for broadening our sources. You don't have to seek out the opinions of extremists to do this. Seeking out balanced news and news sources, supporting local news, and not rewarding so-called hot takes with money and clicks can all get us closer to a return to more fact-based news.

The rise of social media has also heightened tensions and encouraged extremism to flourish. In an environment where the loudest voices rise to the top, it is all too easy for politicians and elected officials to begin believing that they, too, must be the loudest, most extreme voice.

The words of our leaders have always carried significant weight, but in today's world of heightened tensions, they have even more ability to shape the perceptions of our citizens. As leaders, we have a responsibility to cool the temperature of public discourse. Instead, many conservative speakers have chosen to ramp up the temperature and exploit the tensions that exist.

Dangerous, polarizing rhetoric is not the answer. It is poison. Ultimately, we have a responsibility to lead through example in how we address one another.

At the time of our greatest division, the President stressed the importance of leading ''with malice toward none, with charity for all.''

As John Adams said: ''I fear that in every [elected office,] members will obtain an influence by noise, not sense; by meanness, not greatness; by ignorance, not learning. . . . There must be a decency and respect.''

There must be decency and respect on both sides.

Gerrymandering has also played a role in our national polarization. Let's look at it. Between our two parties, only about 60 of the 435 seats in this House are truly contested in general elections. A lack of true swing districts means that candidates are driven to the polls to win their primaries and that fewer are concerned about appealing to the center in a general election. As a result, items that were once nonpartisan have become bitterly so, issues like funding the government, violence prevention, trade, and even raising the debt ceiling.

Now, finding common ground on core issues can be nearly impossible. Dismantling gerrymandered districts can help put our country on the path of depolarization and produce a Congress and State legislatures that are more reflective of the majority of Americans' views.

Our country has faced deep, polarizing challenges before. To put our current moment in perspective, let's look back at the words of the President who guided our country through the most divided of times.

In a January 1838 speech in Springfield, Illinois, Lincoln said: ''At what point, then, is the approach of danger to be expected? I answer, if it ever reach us, it must spring up amongst us. It cannot come from abroad. If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher.''

We must heed the call to action from these words. We must change how we address our country, how we are elected, how we speak to each other, and how we learn and get informed. We must all learn that empathy and compromise should be commended, not condemned. Our success or failure will determine if ''any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure.''

TREATING AND REDUCING OBESITY

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, as a physician, I believe that we must support and utilize available medical breakthroughs. That is why I am proud to co-lead the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act, legislation that would provide a direct line to chronic weight management medications for Medicare recipients struggling with obesity.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, obesity is prevalent in over 40 percent of adults aged 60 and older. The National Institutes of Health attributes obesity to an increased risk for health problems such as type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke, liver disease, and certain cancers.

This bill would assist those struggling to lose weight and would help decrease comorbidities associated with obesity. I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

ACCELERATING ACCESS TO CARE FOR CHILDREN

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act.

Iowa's First District is blessed to have the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital, and this bill would allow out-of-State children to access our top-tier clinical trials, specialists, and care teams.

Currently, children enrolled in Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program must have an out-of-State care team be screened by their home State's Medicaid program, even though the providers have already been screened and enrolled in their own State program. This causes delays and can cause a child's condition to worsen, putting their lives at risk.

This legislation would streamline the process by allowing providers who treat children and are in good standing to enroll in multiple State Medicaid programs for a period of 5 years.

As a mother, physician, former director of the Iowa Department of Public Health, and a Congresswoman, I understand the duty to care for our children's health, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

REMEMBERING BURLINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT K9 OFFICER PACO

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Burlington Police Department's K9 Paco.

K9 Paco served with the Burlington Police Department for nearly 2 months and was in the process of being trained for assignment as our second K9 unit with K9 Handler Officer Gallegos.

K9s are specifically trained to help members of our law enforcement, and their keen sense of tracking and detection are invaluable for officers.

This is a sad day for the Burlington Police Department, and I will continue to keep the Burlington Police Department and Paco in my prayers.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GLORIA MOLINA

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Gloria Molina, a trailblazer for Latino politicians.

Gloria fiercely served and advocated for the communities she represented, for the city of Los Angeles, the County of Los Angeles, and the State of California. She passed away in her home, surrounded by her loving family, on May 14, at the age of 74.

Gloria was raised in an immigrant household with her nine siblings. Her father, Leonardo, was a construction worker born in Los Angeles but raised in Casas Grandes, Mexico. Her mother, Concepcion, was a homemaker from Mexico. Together, her parents immigrated to the U.S. in the 1940s. Gloria was the oldest of 10 children. As she did everything in life, she led by example and helped wherever and whenever she could.

Gloria's commitment to public service began during President Jimmy Carter's administration, where she served as a deputy for Presidential Personnel and soon after that with the San Francisco Department of Health and Human Services.

Gloria's activism was sparked by the Chicano movement, as she was a woman of firsts. Gloria was first elected to office in 1982, when she became the first Latina elected to the California State Assembly. Some people made the mistake of underestimating Gloria's commitment to her community and her tenacity. She beat the establishment candidate.

In 1987, Gloria ran for the Los Angeles City Council seat that had been redistricted, becoming the first woman councilmember of Mexican ancestry to serve on the Los Angeles City Council.

In 1991, she was elected and became the first Latina member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. She was known as a fiscal watchdog committed to governance reforms, protecting public healthcare, and fighting for quality-of-life issues for millions of residents.

Throughout more than 30 years as an elected official, Gloria changed the landscape of Los Angeles, putting an end to a 100-year pattern of dumping negative land-use developments on the east side of Los Angeles. Her work in East LA resulted in the Los Angeles Metro Board of Directors naming a train station in her honor.

Gloria worked with Mothers of East Los Angeles, a group that organized against and successfully defeated the proposal to build a prison in East Los Angeles.

Gloria valued the power of storytelling through art. She founded the historical LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes and the Eastside Arts Initiative, which provides financial support to community-based organizations.

□ 1015

Thanks to her love of quilting, Gloria founded the quilting group the East L.A. Stitchers, so that others could express themselves through this art form.

Gloria successfully advocated for increased access to parks and green spaces, as well as culturally engaging recreational areas. The motion to rename Grand Park to the Gloria Molina Grand Park was approved and will allow Gloria's legacy and impact to live on in projects that she fought so hard to create.

On top of green and recreational spaces, Gloria constantly fought for the improvement of women's rights and representation. She would regularly fight against the construction of projects that would disrupt predominantly Chicano and Mexican neighborhoods.

On top of her work in politics in the mid-2000s, she would drive around through Skid Row in her free time looking for children living in unsafe conditions so that she could call the Department of Family and Children Services to find them a home.

She led a program that was later named the Gloria Molina Foster Youth Education Program, with the sole purpose of being able to increase the high school graduation rates of students in foster care systems.

As its leader, she and the program did just that and elevated graduation rates from the national average of 58 percent to an amazing 80 percent. One of her final statements as she retired was that she only regretted not being able to raise the average even more.

Gloria stood as a constant beacon of hard work, perseverance, and strength—a role model to Latinas looking to succeed in politics, and a role model to everyone.

Gloria taught us all to fight for those without a voice and to let our passion drive our success. Her impact will be felt for generations to come.

Gloria is survived by her daughter, Valentina; son-in-law, Brendan; grandchildren, Santiago and Ximena; nine siblings; nieces; nephews; Ron Martinez; and many die-hard Molinistas.

FULFILLING OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR COUNTRY'S VETERANS

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans are fulfilling our commitment to our country's veterans by fully funding veterans' healthcare programs, veterans' benefits, and Veterans Affairs programs in the fiscal year 2024 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

Not only are we fulfilling our promise to those veterans who have served our country, but we are taking our efforts up a notch to go above and beyond what the VA is already doing by increasing funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical and Prosthetic Research Program.

I am a proud supporter of this program, and I requested that the Appropriations Committee fully fund this program to the level included in the bill, which is $938 million. That is a $22 million or 2.5 percent increase as compared to fiscal year 2023 and is in line with the President's budgetary request.

The VA's Prosthetics and Sensory Aids Service is the largest and most comprehensive provider of prosthetic devices and sensory aids in the world. This funding will go a long way in making sure the VA has the necessary funds to research ways to restore veterans' abilities to function within their families, communities, and workplaces.

This increased funding will also help the researchers within the VA research program recover from slowed research because of the COVID–19 pandemic. Sustained and predictable funding growth for VA research is imperative to help ensure the best return on spending to improve the health of veterans and all Americans.

Although the VA's Medical and Prosthetic Research Program is specifically dedicated to improving the health and well-being of those who have served the United States in uniformed services, it has had a tremendous impact on the care of all Americans.

The research conducted within this program has led the way in many different healthcare fields, including the treatment of digestive diseases. There is no better way to utilize our tax dollars than by contributing to a cause that will help restore veterans' functionality and also lead to advancements in medical care for all Americans.

Additionally, the Vanderbilt University Medical Center, which has direct ties to my district and constituents, has a proud, longstanding, and multifaceted partnership with the Veterans Administration in Nashville and the mid-South across clinical care, medical training, and research activities. They are proud to join me in supporting increased funding for this medical research program within the VA healthcare system.

Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is that medical research at the VA not only helps those that have put it all on the line in service to this country—some sacrificing pieces of their body that they will never get back—it helps all Americans, as I have already mentioned. This is a great use of taxpayer funds, and I couldn't be prouder to support this initiative to fund this program at the level I have already mentioned.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members on both sides of the aisle to support this provision in the fiscal year 2024 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

STORIES OF SERVICEMEMBERS

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

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I stand here to recognize some of Virginia's many proud veterans and military families. One of my most powerful memories of my late grandfather was when I took him to the World War II Memorial and had the opportunity to stand with him on the side marked Pacific and hear some of his stories from his time in service. These are stories that he, throughout my childhood, never shared, but at that memorial chose to share with me.

As a Representative for Virginia's Seventh District and as a Representative of many military families and veterans, I ensure that I am giving a voice and putting into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD some of the extraordinary stories of service that we have throughout our district.

Earlier this year, I reached out to Virginians across the Seventh District asking them to share stories of service to recognize their loved ones who answered the call or share their own experiences. I heard from people across the Seventh District, and I was proud to share some of those stories in May during Military Appreciation Month, and I will continue to do so into the future.

Kenneth J. Schmidt from Prince William County shared the long record of service in his family, writing ''My family is a proud military one. Our father served during World War I. Seven brothers-in-law, two cousins, and my oldest brother served during World War II. My other brother and I served during the Korean war. Army, Navy, Air Force, we were there.''

I thank Mr. Schmidt for his family's sacrifices on behalf of our country.

We received a story from James Willess who lives in Fredericksburg. Mr. Willess wrote, ''My father, Homer Leroy Willess, served in the U.S. Navy from July 1937 to September 1945, mostly in the Pacific theater. Four of his brothers also served in the Navy, and his eldest sister served as an Army nurse during World War II. Three of his younger brothers served in the Navy during the Korean war, and their youngest sister served as a Navy nurse during the Vietnam war. I am extremely proud of my father and siblings for serving their country in uniform during three major wars.''

Neil Hornung from Spotsylvania, a veteran himself, shared with us, ''I served in the Marine Corps from 1982 until 2008. Served in Operation Desert Storm, Operation Desert Shield, and Operation Uphold Democracy. My last tour was as the Marine Corps lead for critical infrastructure.''

I thank Mr. Hornung for his service.

Mr. Hornung wanted to recognize a member of his family who followed in his footsteps. He wrote, ''My oldest son is First Lieutenant Brandon Hornung, United States Marine Corps, currently stationed on Okinawa.''

I thank Brandon for his service. Please stay safe.

Paul from Spotsylvania shared his father's story of service in the United States Marine Corps. He wrote, ''My dad, Ed Czartosieski, was at the Battle of Chosin Reservoir in Korea as a marine pilot flying Corsair aircraft. He flew out of Hagaru and was surrounded by Chinese forces. He assisted in saving many lives with the 'advance to the rear' as the Marine Corps. He retired as a test pilot for Grumman Aerospace on Long Island. Dad is doing well in Greenport, New York, and soon to be age 100.'' Paul wrote, ''I hope to get to the United States Marine Corps Museum in Quantico, Virginia.''

Harry Dolph from Stafford sent us the story of his mother, a patriot who stepped into service on behalf of our country when it needed her the most. Mr. Dolph wrote, ''My mother, Caroline Alva Bush, was one of the first dozen women to enlist in the U.S. Navy during World War I, and served in personnel in Washington, D.C.''

George Wratney from Orange County shared a story highlighting the sacrifices and contributions of military families.

Mr. Wratney shared with us, ''I was a Marine in Vietnam from April 1968 to May 1969, but this is about my bride of 22 months when I left home, and the thousands of military brides like her, who had no one 'in their boat' back home to share stories, fears, anxieties. No email then. No social media. Only prayers. We owe them, all of them, much gratitude as they stood by.''

I thank Mr. Wratney for his service and recognizing the service and the sacrifice of military families like his bride.

Veterans, servicemembers, and Virginia's proud military family members are our neighbors, friends, and community members—their stories are woven into the fabric of our Nation and certainly Virginia's Seventh District. We owe them a debt of gratitude, and we must thank every American who answered the call and every American that will do so in the future.

We are undoubtedly freer thanks to the service and sacrifice of Virginians that answered the call.

DIRECTION OF THE COUNTRY

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the direction of our country. In America right now, we are facing a lot of problems. House Republicans have done our part to pass commonsense solutions, but we still have a lot of work to do to get this country back on track.

In January, I released my commitment to the Big First, which is a legislative roadmap to create an economy that is strong, a Nation that is safe, a future that is built on freedom, and a government that is accountable.

Most of the glaring problems in America today fall into one of these four categories, and the reality is that House Republicans have commonsense solutions to all of them, but the Biden administration is refusing to listen.

We need to create an economy that is strong. Washington has a spending addiction. America is $32 trillion in debt, and the Federal Government is deficit spending to the tune of $1 trillion every year. The Biden administration has canceled the Keystone XL pipeline and pushed Green New Deal regulations on small businesses, while attempting at the same time to do away with stepped-up basis and impose a new farm killer capital gains tax on agriculture producers.

Here is the commonsense solution: When you stop the wasteful spending, you don't have to tax people to death. When President Biden took office, inflation was at just 1.4 percent. Inflation hit 6.4 percent in 2022. That is a tax on all Americans.

In the House of Representatives, we passed the Lower Energy Costs Act and the REIN IN Inflation Act to unleash American energy production and revitalize our economy, but the White House still isn't listening. America's position in the global marketplace is degrading, the value of the dollar has been plummeting for a year, and it is time to get our economy back on track before it is too late.

We also need to create a Nation that is safe. Violent crime is on the rise, the suicide rate is climbing, drug addiction and mental illness are spiking, and many parts of our country are basically in chaos. Meanwhile, we are still hearing calls from Washington Democrats to defund the police, and the Biden administration refuses to address the humanitarian crisis at our southern border where fentanyl, criminals, and victims of human trafficking come across every day, unfortunately, into our country.

Here is the commonsense solution: House Republicans passed legislation to secure the border, finish the wall, criminalize all forms of illicit fentanyl, and support the training and hiring of more State and local law enforcement officers. Today, we don't live in a Nation that is safe, but House Republicans have already passed bills that would stop the chaos and usher in safety and order.

We also need to create a future that is built on freedom. Each year I host at least one townhall in every one of the 60 counties in the Big First District. As I travel across the State and meet with Kansans, I listen to their concerns about Big Government, sweeping executive order, and infringement on basic rights, like the Second Amendment and the right to life.

House Republicans are standing for freedom in the face of Big Government overreach. We passed the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act that would defend the lives of innocent children following a botched abortion attempt.

We also passed the Parents Bill of Rights that states that parents have the right to know what their children are being taught. These are no-brainers. It is sad that we even need to pass bills like this because the rights to life and freedom are supposed to be foundational to America in the first place.

On the American farm we also see freedom under attack. The Biden administration vetoed legislation that would have revoked President Biden's Waters of the U.S. rule because his administration prefers to regulate every puddle and drainage ditch from sea to shining sea.

□ 1030

On top of that, the Biden administration hamstrung producers by adding the lesser prairie-chicken to the endangered species list, and I am looking forward to my colleagues' and my voting to disapprove of that rule.

Our message is this: Whether you are a parent, a child—born or unborn—a student, a farmer, or a small business owner, you don't need the Federal Government trying to control your life.

Finally, we need to create a government that is accountable. According to recent IRS whistleblower testimony made public by the Ways and Means Committee, it appears that President Biden was not only aware of his son, Hunter Biden's, corrupt foreign business deals, but was also in the room for them. We need to conduct rigorous oversight to root out corruption in the executive branch. We also need to hold the Federal Government accountable and rein in the White House's abuse of power.

As the Biden administration has proven time and time again, executive orders are out of control, and they are no way to govern in a democracy. That is why I introduced the More Accountability is Necessary Now Act, which requires the President to notify Congress and the public before issuing any new executive orders pertaining to agriculture, energy, natural resources, the right to life, the Second Amendment, and immigration. This is a commonsense way to hold the government accountable and stop some of the Big Government overreach that Kansans and the Big First are sick and tired of.

I don't serve in Congress to be a caretaker in the slow demise of America. I am here to do my part in making America stronger. We need to rebuild our country on behalf of Americans who have had their rights stripped from them, their taxpayer dollars wasted, their values shoved back in their face, and their country's economy brought to the brink of disaster by an administration that isn't getting the message.

We need everything from a balanced budget to a strengthened supply chain, from lower taxes to a secure southern border, and from a strong farm bill to robust police and military forces.

We have a lot of work to do, and if we open our eyes to the real problems that Americans are facing today and look at the commonsense solutions on the table, we can accomplish real meaningful change in our country.

With prayer and hard work, I believe America's brightest days are yet to come.

TIME TO MOVE FORWARD ON VENEZUELA

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply concerned about the ongoing political, human rights, and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela and its hemispheric consequences, including the arrival of 187,000 desperate Venezuelans at our southern border last year.

This crisis has many causes, beginning with misguided and distorting economic policies implemented by successive Venezuelan Governments. Nevertheless, there can be no doubt that the maximum pressure secondary and sectoral sanctions policy put in place by former President Trump and continued by President Biden has deepened the economic pain and hardship suffered by the Venezuelan people. The goal of that policy was to remove Nicolas Maduro from power in Venezuela. It has not worked. Rather, as The New York Times editorial board wrote on July 22, that Maduro ''instead consolidated his grip on Venezuela, blamed its economic misery on American sanctions and drew his country closer to Russia and China.''

Throughout my time in Congress, I have strongly defended the idea that human rights should be at the center of U.S. foreign policy, and I have led many bills to redress human rights abuses, including the Global Magnitsky targeted sanctions legislation. Nevertheless, I don't support the use of sanctions to punish entire peoples for the actions of their leaders or to bludgeon an adversary into submission.

This is why I have said that the Trump-era sanctions should already have been lifted by the Biden administration, and I continue to believe that. However, unfortunately, that has not happened, and it seems unlikely that it will in the near future.

In the end, human rights advocacy is meant to improve and restore the lives of victims of abuses and to change conditions so that abuses will not recur. As a human rights advocate, I have a moral responsibility to do whatever I can to advance these goals.

That is why I welcomed the administration's support for the resumption of negotiations between the Maduro government and Venezuelan opposition in Mexico last year. It is why I believe the social fund for the basic needs of the Venezuelan people, whose creation was agreed to during those negotiations, should be stood up as soon as possible. Additionally, it is why I was encouraged to see the statement of principles that came out of the International Conference on Venezuela convened by the Colombian government last April.

The statement laid out three steps—the establishment of a chronogram for elections, the easing of sanctions in parallel as agreements are reached between the parties, and the continuation of the negotiations accompanied by accelerated implementation of the social fund—that, taken together, offer a real opportunity to begin to resolve Venezuela's crisis.

These steps would empower and benefit all Venezuelans seeking to rebuild their country and their future.

Everyone who is concerned about the human rights of the Venezuelan people should take advantage of this opportunity. I still believe the Trump-era sanctions should be lifted, and I will continue to urge the Biden administration to do so.

Democracy and civil rights will not be advanced by maintaining punishing economic sanctions. All that does is continue to hurt innocent people. Nonetheless, we need to find a way to move the ball forward, and I believe there is an opportunity now. Time is short, and there is a lot of uncertainty, but there is also some hope, and that should guide us.

CONGRATULATING BRIAN HARMAN

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a Savannah, Georgia, native, a Pooler Packer alum, a Savannah Christian School graduate, a UGA Bulldog, a current First District constituent, and an extraordinary golfer on his first major championship win at the 151st British Open Golf Championship in England, Brian Harman.

This win is an incredible honor for the entire First District and was a long time coming for Brian, decades in the making.

Mr. Speaker, you see my sons in this picture. They played youth basketball with Brian, and, in fact, my talented wife, Amy, was the coach of that team. We are so very proud of Brian.

I remember seeing firsthand the talent that Brian possessed, and it wasn't any surprise when Brian went on to play competitively for the University of Georgia's golf team or to finish runner-up at the 2017 US Open.

This past week, after four rounds of golf, Brian's final score at the 2023 Open was 271, 13 strokes under par and six strokes ahead of all other golfers in the tournament.

Brian's win was decisive and hard-earned, and I, on behalf of the entire Savannah community and the First District of Georgia, congratulate him immensely for his victory.

Brian has made Savannah, the First District of Georgia, the State of Georgia, the Pooler Packers, the Savannah Christian School, and the Bulldog Nation proud this past weekend.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to seeing more great work and many more championships from Brian in the future.

CONGRATULATING SOUTHERN SOUL BARBECUE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the local St. Simons barbecue restaurant, Southern Soul Barbecue, for being named the Best Barbecue Restaurant in Georgia.

This year, Yelp searched around the entire country to find the best barbecue restaurants in the Nation, and Southern Soul was an easy selection.

After serving charities in 2007, Griffin Bufkin and Harrison Sapp launched their barbecue business in a subleased kitchen before moving into an antique converted gas station.

They caught their big break in 2010 when Southern Soul was featured on Food Network's ''Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives.''

The St. Simon's community continued to support their favorite barbecue business even after a horrible fire erupted in the establishment in 2010.

Southern Soul didn't let this tragic fire stop them, and in the year 2023, they are still winning awards and serving the best barbecue in Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Southern Soul on their sustained success, and I thank them for all they do for our community.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MR. RALPH DIXON

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Mr. Ralph Dixon, a loving husband, a humble veteran, and a proud grandparent.

Ralph was born in Blackshear, Georgia, in the First Congressional District

in 1929 and graduated from Blackshear High School with the class of 1949. After graduating from high school, he enlisted in the United States Army, spending 21 years in uniformed service.

His official service may have ended in uniform, but his service to the Nation did not stop there. After returning, he began a new 20-year career as a civil servant at Fort Stewart.

On top of his work serving our country, Ralph was very active in the First Baptist Church in Hinesville, becoming a deacon and singing in the choir for over 50 years.

He is preceded by his loving wife of 66 years, Jacqueline Waters Dixon.

Mr. Speaker, my thoughts and prayers go out to his entire family, including 4 children, 12 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great-grandchild.

CONGRATULATING LEOPOLD'S ICE CREAM

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate local Savannah ice cream parlor, Leopold's Ice Cream, for being named in Yelp's Top 100 ice cream shops for 2023.

While it is the many positive Yelp reviews that landed Leopold's on this list, the parlor's superb reputation has been built on over a century of hard work and success.

Leopold's was founded in 1919 by three brothers from Greece on the corner of Gwinnett and Habersham Streets in Savannah.

Streetcar riders would reportedly jump off the streetcar to get their super premium ice cream, which is handcrafted and uses original, secret recipes and techniques handed down in the Leopold family.

Over the years, Leopold's Ice Cream has received rave endorsements by many famous historical figures and celebrities alike.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Stratton Leopold and Leopold's Ice Cream on their tremendous achievement and thank them for being a joy and an inspiration to the great city of Savannah, Georgia, and the First Congressional District of Georgia.

FOOD ASSISTANCE WILL BE SLASHED

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

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because working families in my district and across the country deserve better than the legislation the Republican majority is forcing through this week.

Under the leadership of Speaker McCarthy, House Republicans have drafted a partisan bill that will slash funding for critical food assistance programs that parents depend on to feed their children.

In fact, under this extreme proposal, the GOP is defunding hundreds of millions of dollars from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, or WIC for short.

That means that 5 million women and children nationwide, including 74,000 children and 24,000 women in my home State of Massachusetts, are going to see their benefits drastically cut.

Mr. Speaker, if you think that sounds bad, just wait until you hear how Republicans are going to do it.

For children, House Republicans are trying to reduce the WIC fruit and vegetable benefit from $25 to just $11 to cover a whole month. For pregnant and postpartum women, the GOP is slashing the fruit and vegetable benefit from $44 to $13 a month.

For breastfeeding moms, this extreme proposal imposes a devastating 60 percent cut from $49 to just $15 each month.

Mr. Speaker, these cuts are unnecessary, they are dangerous, and they are cruel. Above all else, this bill is a demonstration of the Republican Party's values. It is a demonstration of what they think life is like for working families, that you can simply tell a mom and her children or an expecting mother to stop being poor, and magically they won't be poor anymore.

As someone who grew up in a working family that lived paycheck to paycheck, I can tell my colleagues across the aisle firsthand: That is not how it works.

In fact, telling families to ''pull themselves up by their bootstraps'' while cutting the very program that they depend on to feed their children is going to have the opposite effect. It is going to force millions of Americans—millions of children—into hunger or worse.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I know many of my Republican colleagues may not know what it is like to worry about making ends meet. They may not know what it is like worrying if they will be able to put food on the table the next day or have to swipe that EBT card at the grocery store in front of a long line praying it will cover everything in your cart.

However, there are thousands—if not tens or hundreds of thousands—of people in their home State who know exactly what that feels like and who experience that feeling every single day, and they are depending on them to stop what they are doing.

Mr. Speaker, stop trying to cut the last safety net that they have to make sure their kids don't go hungry.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose this dangerous legislation.

AGRICULTURE SPENDING

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

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4368, the Agricultural Appropriations bill which stands as a beacon of hope for our farmers, ranchers, and rural communities.

This bill represents a balanced approach to funding necessary agencies and programs, and it also reclaims fiscal responsibility and reins in the wasteful spending that has plagued our government for far too long.

We, as stewards of the American people's resources, owe it to them to utilize taxpayer dollars wisely and efficiently. One of the key aspects of this bill is the redirection of billions from partisan bills that contained Democrats' priorities, such as the Inflation Reduction Act.

By channeling these funds toward supporting America's producers and rural communities, we demonstrate our commitment to the heart of our Nation's economy: agriculture. Additionally, we recognize the need to address the changing circumstances brought on by the pandemic.

The bill seeks to restrict the USDA Secretary's discretionary spending authority on unauthorized, nonemergency programs. We must put an end to wasteful Washington spending and hold our government accountable for every dollar spent. It also seeks to kneecap the bureaucracy in D.C. by empowering State and county offices.

By directing USDA hiring efforts to assist producers and rural communities at the grassroots level, we acknowledge the importance of local knowledge and understanding in addressing the unique challenges that they face.

Moreover, the bill includes essential clawbacks of prior appropriations, rescinding funds that were allocated for radical Green New Deal initiatives and other programs that have been deemed unconstitutional.

Mr. Speaker, I remind my colleagues that the fiscal year 2024 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies bill is not just about funding, but it is about our values, our commitment to the American people, and our dedication to a prosperous future for this great Nation.

□ 1045

SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4366, the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024.

This legislation reaffirms our commitment to serving those who have served us so bravely, our military veterans.

I recently had the privilege of visiting the Bath, New York, VA hospital in my district, in Steuben County, where I witnessed firsthand the incredible dedication of the VA staff and the challenges they face daily in providing the best possible care for our Nation's heroes.

There are clinics across my district that act as lifelines for our veterans, offering crucial services that range from mental health care to cancer

treatment and beyond. These facilities are responsible for serving thousands of veterans and empowering them to heal, recover, and rebuild their lives. They deserve our unwavering support, especially in their darkest hours.

Mr. Speaker, we can agree that caring for our veterans is not a partisan issue, and I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation and secure the funds needed to uphold and strengthen our VA healthcare programs. By investing in these programs, we invest in the well-being of our veterans and their families and ensure they receive the highest standard of care that they rightfully deserve.

ENSURING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE IN RURAL AND REMOTE AREAS

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

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, since my first day in Congress, access to quality, affordable healthcare and mental health services has been among my top priorities.

I represent one of the most rural and remote districts in the country. I have seen and heard firsthand the devastating consequences of inadequate access to care.

On Molokai, a constituent shared with me the weight and pain she felt over the loss of her daughter. The treatment and end-of-life care her daughter needed wasn't available on island, so she was forced to leave her children and family behind and tragically passed away without them by her side.

On Lana'i, a kupuna sat me down and said: ''I love living here . . . but it is a difficult place to be born and to die.'' If you need obstetric care, assisted living, or end-of-life care, you have to board a plane, most often alone.

In Wai'anae, a close friend and community leader held up a CDC report in his hand and expressed his anger and frustration that the life expectancy of residents living on the rural west side of O'ahu was a decade less than those living in downtown Honolulu.

In the small, close-knit community of Kauai, too many people have a family member or friend who took their own life. With limited access to mental health professionals and services, our Garden Isle has historically struggled with high rates of suicide and suicide attempts.

In Kona, on the Big Island of Hawaii, a woman cried as she told me that her sister died because she couldn't get the emergency care she needed in time. She then asked me if I knew what the golden hour was, that critical window of time between emergency medical care and a medical trauma happening.

I told her I did. My mother missed hers. She was in a car accident, and the hospital in our community didn't have the appropriate trauma services to deal with her injuries, so she was taken to the next town, where she passed away shortly after getting to the ER.

For many of my constituents, they are just one diagnosis away from a major illness and the impossible financial and family decisions that will come with it. Yet, they live in geographically isolated areas—their homes, where they continue to be denied their right to healthcare.

While Hawaii's geography and demographic makeup are, in fact, unique, these barriers to healthcare are similarly felt elsewhere across the country.

More than 60 million Americans, one-fifth of the United States population, live in rural areas. Compared with their urban counterparts, rural Americans are generally older and have less resources and poorer healthcare conditions.

While they may require more medical attention and care, rural Americans often have more limited access to care as a result of physician shortages, lack of reliable transportation options, insufficient health insurance coverage, and increased exposure to environmental and occupational hazards.

These disparities in healthcare access highlight the need for greater attention and resources aimed at improving healthcare and outcomes in rural and remote communities.

That is why I am proud to co-lead the Bipartisan Rural Health Caucus. Together with the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. HARSHBARGER), we have revived this bipartisan coalition to ensure every American, no matter their ZIP Code or circumstances, has access to the care that could literally save their lives.

When it comes to my hope for rural healthcare, it comes down to the four As.

Accessibility: The distance a patient must travel by car, plane, or ferry to receive medical services;

Affordability: The cost for a patient to get the care they need;

Acceptability: The extent to which a patient receives culturally and linguistically appropriate services in healthcare; and

Availability: The extent to which providers have the requisite resources, such as personnel and technology, to meet the individual needs of patients.

In a time of such deep divisions in our country and Congress, we must find ways to come together to recognize the urgent needs of our constituents and do better for all of our people.

The Bipartisan Rural Health Caucus will look beyond the partisan gridlock of Washington to tackle the rural healthcare crisis in the United States.

From the pristine, sandy beaches of Hawaii to the Great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee, rural Americans are asking Congress to step up and take meaningful action to save their hospitals and clinics, address health inequities, strengthen their healthcare workforce pipeline, ensure fair and adequate reimbursement for providers, and reduce healthcare costs.

For the health and well-being of all of our people, I invite my colleagues to join us in this movement to enhance access and delivery of healthcare and mental health services for rural and remote communities throughout our country.

REPRESENTING THE PEOPLE, NOT A BUREAUCRACY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a government that represents the people, not a bureaucracy that represents Washington's interests.

Pending on the Supreme Court docket is Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo, a case with the potential to overturn 40 years of bureaucratic overreach and restore the proper role of Congress, the courts, and the Presidency.

Nearly 40 years of deference by lawmakers and judges to the executive has given rise to the administrative state, sometimes called the fourth branch of government. Over time, this unaccountable bureaucracy has gradually subverted the doctrine of separation of powers laid out by our Founders.

According to the Constitution, Article I vests the power to make law in the Congress; Article II vests the power to enforce law in the Presidency; and Article III vests the power to interpret law in the courts.

In no article are all three powers—to make, enforce, and interpret the law—jointly vested in a managerial bureaucracy of 1.8 million civil service employees. The very idea is offensive to our founding.

However, at the heart of Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo lies the doctrine of Chevron deference, a legal construct which would make our Founders turn in their graves. It is a 1980s judicial invention that shifts lawmaking powers from lawmakers and adjudicating powers from judges to a plenary executive branch.

In the 1980s, Chevron deference may have been reasonably supported by those who believed faithful bureaucratic agents could be trusted to fill in areas where the law is silent. In 2023, the Biden administration's relentless pursuit of government power has disabused any dewy-eyed believer in faithful bureaucrats.

The 40-year experiment of Chevron deference has allowed the bureaucracy to aggrandize nearly unlimited power, culminating in the Biden administration exceeding its authority from sea to shining sea and from cradle to grave with overregulation.

Just recently, President Biden and Secretary Cardona tossed up a Hail Mary when their illegal, economically disastrous, taxpayer-funded student loan bailout for the wealthy arrived at the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court emphatically said no. It also said

that such a scheme ''requires that Congress speak clearly before a Department Secretary can unilaterally alter large sections of the American economy.''

Nevertheless, the Biden administration continues to claim the power to implement its student loan bailout under even more ambiguous legal pretenses.

President Biden's National Labor Relations Board, NLRB, is yet another example of the unforeseen consequences of Chevron deference. Within the NLRB, bureaucrats command the power to create law, execute law, and adjudicate legal conflicts. Under the Biden administration, the NLRB has issued sweeping rules regarding joint employer status and union elections, enforced said rules, and then adjudicated hundreds of cases, overturning longstanding preferences.

The Committee on Education and the Workforce is working hard to conduct oversight of an agency that assumes it has lawmaking, law enforcing, and law interpreting power. These abuses, and many more, are the direct failure of the Chevron deference regime.

For many in this body, fighting back against the Biden administration requires confronting an uncomfortable truth. Congress creates, enables, and abides by the administrative state when it passes statutory language without clear meaning. Congress' illegal delegation of its Article I authority and the accelerated transfer of legislative powers to unaccountable bureaucrats in the executive has been a fault of this body over decades and the fault of both parties.

Today, there are over 123 statutes that enable the President and his agencies to circumvent ordinary lawmaking processes upon the declaration of a ''national emergency.'' The ultimate national emergency, however, is if unscrupulous politicians abdicate the power vested in them by the American people to make laws and instead make more legislators. Then, the people will have no means to hold their government accountable.

In fulfilling House Republicans' Commitment to America, we are demanding accountability from the Federal Government. To fulfill the will of the people, the Court must repeal Chevron deference in Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo.

I pray next term that the Court reclaims and fortifies Congress' rightful powers.

CELEBRATING 88TH ANNIVERSARY OF SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate a foundational program that has delivered for older Americans and people with disabilities.

Since 1935, Social Security has lifted millions of families out of poverty. It has protected seniors' retirement, helped disabled Americans live with dignity, and provided a lifeline for families that have lost loved ones. Over 1 million Californians rely on Social Security.

We should build on that success, not dismantle a program that adds zero dollars to the Federal deficit.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the Social Security 2100 Act, which will safeguard this program for generations to come.

Workers pay into Social Security. They work hard and contribute to our economy. Congress has a duty to keep this Nation's promise and guarantee that Social Security will be there when workers and their families need help.

On the 88th anniversary of Social Security, let's recommit ourselves to fulfilling this responsibility.

NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY ANNIVERSARY

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, August 5, 2023, marks the 60th anniversary of the Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, a milestone that shows our commitment to peace and safety.

The year before the treaty's signing, the world was closer to nuclear war than ever before. By halting most nuclear tests, this agreement cooled the arms race and demonstrated the power of diplomacy.

The anniversary of this treaty also serves as a solemn reminder that the United States has never taken responsibility for the harms of the 67 nuclear tests that we conducted in the Marshall Islands.

With world tensions heightening once again, the ideals put forth six decades ago in the Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty remain just as important today. I have introduced bipartisan legislation to formally apologize for the harms we inflicted on the Marshallese people, and I will continue to demand action as a member of the House Indo-Pacific Task Force.

We owe it to our kids and grandkids to safeguard this planet for future generations.

□ 1100

HOLDING THE FAA ACCOUNTABLE

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Aviation Administration is responsible for keeping Americans safe in the air and on the ground. It should be subject to rigorous and consistent oversight.

Our constituents deserve a Congress that does its job of holding the FAA accountable. Too often, the FAA takes months just to respond to congressional inquiries, much less fix these longstanding problems.

I am proud that the House adopted my bipartisan amendment requiring the head of the FAA to testify annually before Congress so that we can get answers about the Agency's successes and shortcomings. My amendment also strengthens the transparency on FAA's response time for congressional requests.

Holding Federal agencies accountable is not a partisan issue. Every American benefits from tough, consistent, and fair oversight. I urge the Senate to include this oversight amendment in its own FAA legislation.

BRAIN IMAGING HELPS BLAST EXPOSURE VICTIMS

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, our troops risk their lives to keep us safe. In training and during combat, they can develop health conditions that aren't immediately visible. To repay those who serve our country, we must do all we can to identify and treat these internal injuries and prevent them when possible.

In recent decades, we have seen a striking increase in troops with traumatic brain injuries due to blast exposure. I have worked with Democrats and Republicans to deliver help.

The House recently adopted a bipartisan amendment that I wrote to gather more data on how routine brain scans can contribute to the diagnosis, treatment, and even prevention of brain injuries.

At least one study has shown that regular brain imaging can accelerate patients getting the care they need and put them on the path to recovery. A more complete understanding of this technology will help us get our servicemembers the top-notch care they deserve.

ADDRESS THE THREAT IN OUR OWN BACKYARD

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

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, since I was a little boy I have been told that a dog that won't bark in his own backyard ain't much of a dog.

Mr. Speaker, the number one enemy to the Communist Chinese Party is the United States of America. As a matter of fact, Xi Jinping has clearly stated that by 2049 he wants China to be the world leader diplomatically, economically, militarily, even in space. As a matter of fact, they are on pace right now to outperform and pass the United States as a leader in space before 2045.

Where are we right now? Well, China owns $870 billion in U.S. Treasuries that finance our debt. They either own or have a huge portion of the Chicago Stock Exchange, AMC Theaters, General Electric's appliance division, General Motors, and Smithfield Foods, just to name a few.

On another alarming note, they own 384,000 acres of American agricultural land. That is a 30 percent increase just since 2019. On top of that, they own land near an Air Force base in North Dakota. That is a clear threat to our national security.

That is what the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration appropriations bill is going to address. It is going to put American interests first by directing the Secretary of Agriculture to prohibit the purchase of land by those associated with our foreign adversaries.

Mr. Speaker, this dog is barking, and Congress needs to address the threat right here in our own backyard.

BRING STEEL PLANTS BACK TO AMERICA

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

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, recently I traveled to Lordstown, Ohio, in Ashtabula County, Ohio; Johnstown, Pennsylvania; and Farrell, Pennsylvania. I saw steel mill after steel mill shut down, including in Cleveland, in Detroit, and in Downriver, Michigan.

Of the world's top 15 steel companies, China has 9 and the United States of America doesn't have a single one. How did we let this happen as a country? How did we decimate American steel, costing community after community so many good jobs, hurting urban centers with large African-American working populations, and hurting factory towns across America? This was a colossal mistake.

In the 1950s, we used to make over 50 percent of the world's steel. That is down to 2 or 3 percent. Today, China makes nearly 50 percent of the world's steel.

This is a national security issue if we ever have to mobilize for our military. This is a climate issue. China's steel puts three times the emissions into the atmosphere than American steel does because we use electric arc furnaces and recycled material, unlike the blast furnaces that China uses.

It is time for America to have a strategy to bring modern steel production back home. We can make steel that is cleaner and of higher quality; and we can revitalize towns like Johnstown, Pennsylvania; Lordstown, Ohio; Akron, Ohio; and Downriver, Michigan, if we build these modern steel plants.

I am going to be working with my colleagues on a bipartisan basis to introduce a modern steel act to say that the government should partner with our steel unions and with our steel companies to build modern steel in the United States of America.

This will be clean steel with either hydrogen or electric arc furnaces. This will create good-paying jobs. This will be good for national security, and this will ensure that America leads in steel in the 21st century, not China.

Mr. Speaker, we made a big, big error in the United States of America, losing our lead in domestic production. It is time for our country to become a manufacturing superpower again. It is time to begin that with modern steel.

RESCUE WORKERS HELP THOSE IN NEED

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

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the actions of emergency responders in Appomattox and Campbell Counties.

Recent major rainstorms caused severe flooding that affected many of the residents of these counties. When that happened, the Concord Rescue Squad, the Concord Volunteer Fire Department, and the Appomattox Volunteer Fire Department sprang into action, working around the clock to courageously save many people from the floodwaters.

These three emergency squads mobilized and volunteered their time once again, as they always do, to help those in need. All their water rescue teams were activated as they demonstrated true selflessness, bravery, and decisive action, while making multiple rescues of drivers trapped in submerging cars.

In fact, these three volunteer squads effectively responded to over 10 calls in one night. They had to navigate dangerous conditions and unsafe roads, helping to clear fallen trees, power lines, and other debris. They also saved many others whose houses were flooded with no other way to escape the floodwaters.

I am grateful for the valiant efforts of the Concord Rescue Squad, the Concord Volunteer Fire Department, and the Appomattox Volunteer Fire Department. I am proud to represent them in Virginia's Fifth District.

DANVILLE FIRE CAPTAINS HONE SKILLS

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the accomplishments of three fire captains in Danville, Virginia.

Few people demonstrate the mental and physical strength, personal diligence, or sacrificial love and commitment to their communities that fire captains do.

Three Danville fire captains recently honed their skills through the Virginia Chief Officer Academy. The academy is a 6-day training period established to equip aspiring chief officers in overcoming whatever leadership challenges may come their way.

During the program, students were trained in personal leadership and other skills needed to lead at the executive level.

I am proud to congratulate these captains on their completion of this program at the University of Richmond on Saturday, July 22:

Captain J. Satterfield,
Captain W.T. Poteat, and
Captain J.P. Haymore.

They have worked tirelessly to effectively serve the Danville community. After completing the program, these men are even more ready to lead as chief officers in the Danville Fire Department.

I am proud to represent these hardworking individuals in the Fifth District of Virginia, and I admire their excellent character and determination to help those in need.

HONORING MARVIN ARRINGTON, SR.

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

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Mr. Marvin Arrington, Sr., a giant in the Atlanta community, where he served as one of the city's longest running councilmembers, a father, a friend, and a judge.

An Atlanta native, Judge Arrington graduated from Henry McNeal Turner High School and went on to graduate from what was at that time Clark College on a football scholarship. He began his legal studies at Howard University School of Law before returning home to Atlanta and integrating Emory University School of Law, where he was one of the first two Black students to graduate from the law school.

At age 28, Judge Arrington was elected to the Atlanta Board of Aldermen and continued serving after the city charter amendment changed the board into a city council. In 1980, he became Atlanta City Council president, a position he held for nearly two decades. In 2002, he was appointed judge in the Fulton County Superior Court, where he sat on the bench until his retirement in 2012.

During Judge Arrington's trailblazing tenure in public service, he helped build and shape Atlanta into the great city that it is today. He left his imprint on the city's public transportation system and expanded Zoo Atlanta into the award-winning attraction that it is today.

In the early 1990s, Judge Arrington was one of the driving forces on the team who brought the 1996 Summer Olympic Games to the city of Atlanta. While he was at it, he used the lead up to the summer games to convert rundown public housing projects to quality, affordable housing.

Mr. Speaker, we have a saying in Atlanta, ''Atlanta Influences Everything,'' and that is true in part because of Marvin Arrington, Sr.'s, great work to influence the growth of Atlanta. In fact, in 2019, the city council chambers were named after him to honor the tremendous impact that he had on our city.

Judge Arrington was a member of Big Bethel AME Church, the Gate City Bar Association Hall of Fame, and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated. For 16 years, he was a member of the board of trustees for Emory University. He served in many roles—elected, appointed, and, yes, volunteer—but in all things he demonstrated a deep commitment to equity, justice, and empowering young people.

Marvin Arrington, Sr.'s, life of service and sacrifice is a reminder for everyone of the rent we pay for living in this society. Atlanta is the city that I chose to call home, and it was the work of leaders like Marvin Arrington, Sr., that made it the city to choose.

I send my deepest condolences to his daughter, Michelle Arrington; his son, Fulton County Commissioner, Marvin Arrington, Jr.; and his entire family. Marvin Arrington, Sr.'s, legacy will inspire future leaders for generations to come.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 13 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

Apart from You, O Lord, anything we have, anything we boast in, anything we hope for amounts to nothing. We draw near to You this day, the source of our strength, for in You only do we trust.

As we pray for this country, we ask that You would preserve all that You have granted us, especially the gift of liberty, which protects us from tyranny and oppression. In exercising this gift, may we do so with civility, respecting the rights of those who think differently.

As we pray for our communities, we ask that You would inspire in us the commitment to the common good. In living out this pledge, may our hearts be inclined to find the paths toward peace and security for all our neighbors.

As we pray for our world, we ask that You would give refuge and protection to those who are enduring unimaginable adversity. Answer the prayers of those who call upon You in the war-torn regions and contested areas of Ukraine, Sudan, Armenia, the Sahel, and so many others. In praying for Your people around the globe, we ask Your counsel that we may have the eyes to see and the minds to discern how You would have us serve You in these places.

On this day, stand before us and guide us. May we prove faithful wherever and however You would have us serve You this day.

In Your sovereign name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Louisiana (Ms. LETLOW) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. LETLOW led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

DELIVERING ON OUR COMMITMENT TO AMERICA

(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, this week, House Republicans are continuing to deliver on our commitment to America—a Nation that is safe—by providing the Department of Defense with the facilities it needs to protect us from foreign adversaries.

One of the bills we will consider is the fiscal year 2024 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies appropriations bill that funds the Department of Defense facilities and veterans' healthcare programs.

We don't stop there. This bill prohibits the use of funds to promote or advance the destructive critical race theory and prohibits the Biden administration's executive orders on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

There is more work to be done to get our military back to the world's elite fighting force focused on combating adversaries. By taking these small steps to eliminate fraud, waste, abuse, and unnecessary programs, we are taking the right first steps.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF PASTOR RALPH W. EMERSON, JR.

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the great tenure of Reverend Ralph W. Emerson, Jr., who will be conducting his last sermon at Rising Star Baptist Church on Miller Avenue and Avenue M in Fort Worth this August before he kicks off his retirement.

Reverend Emerson, better known as Pastor Ralph, was first called to preach in 1978 and was ordained that very year in December. He became the assistant pastor of Rising Star Baptist Church in 1989 and after 1 year he was called to be the senior pastor in 1990. During his illustrious tenure at Rising Star he has really served the community well. He made sure that kids know how to read, that souls are fed, and he has done a tremendous job.

Reverend Emerson has worked dutifully in several different capacities and several cities, including Compton, Houston, and Fort Worth. Prior to coming to Rising Star, he was an active member of Mount Moriah Baptist Church in Los Angeles and Faith Baptist in Houston.

Reverend Emerson is involved in so many different endeavors in the community: JPS, our public hospital, Aids Outreach, different food banks, and again, he does a tremendous reading program for kids in the summer.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Reverend Emerson on his retirement and the community thanks him for his service.

HONORING THE LIFE OF HERSHELL WEST

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

Ms. LETLOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the remarkable life of Hershell West who has left an extraordinary impact on our community and an outstanding legacy across the State of Louisiana.

Hershell is known as a role model across the State, most famously as one of Louisiana's great sports heroes, as a true legend in the world of college basketball.

Hershell was a respected community leader across the State of Louisiana, serving as a mentor and teacher to generations of young Americans. Hershell is most notably known for his selfless spirit and his unique ability to inspire others to action.

Throughout his career he displayed an unwavering commitment to bettering the lives of those around him. He had outstanding accomplishments as an athlete and coach, including Louisiana State AA Championship in 1959, the NAIA Championship in 1961, and elected as one of the first 25 members of Grambling Legends Sports Hall of Fame in 2009.

We remember and celebrate his extraordinary life, his skill, his honor, and his legacy.

Mr. Speaker, today the House honors an outstanding Louisianan, Hershell West.

RECOGNIZING ERIN DOTY

(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 to honor Erin Doty and celebrate her great accomplishments as my legislative director for the past 8 years.

She led my legislative strategies to great success. Under her leadership, we passed 47 bills into law. Some of our most memorable bills are the Safe Step Act, the Protecting People from Surprise Medical Bills Act, the Humanitarian Standards for Individuals in Customs and Border Protection Act, and the Honoring our PACT Act.

Erin has a heart of gold, a relentless commitment to social justice, and a

special talent to make sure I never missed a vote. She was unwaveringly dedicated, often staying very late for votes, despite me insisting that she go home to rest.

Erin is a wonderful human being, a good friend, and a trusted adviser.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Erin for her service on behalf of the American people, especially the people of California's 36th and now 25th District. We miss you dearly and we wish you luck and look forward to your future endeavors.

JULIE SU'S IMPERILED CONFIRMATION

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, Julie Su has now exceeded the previous record for the longest duration between a Presidential Cabinet nomination and a confirmation—when the same party controls the White House and the Senate—since 1887.

It is no surprise that Axios even dubbed her as ''Biden's forever nominee.''

That is not a title, and certainly not an accolade worthy of a gold star or pat on the back. For months on end, her nomination has languished before the Senate. This is a telltale sign that she does not have the votes.

One doesn't need to be an expert in reading tea leaves to see that her nomination is on life support.

Mr. Speaker, I will offer some much-needed advice to the Biden administration: rip the Band-Aid off already and pull Julie Su's nomination.

SHORTAGE OF PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS AT VA CLINIC

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

Mr. HARDER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today out of concern for the ongoing shortage of primary care physicians at Stockton VA Clinic in my district.

There are nearly 30,000 veterans that live in San Joaquin County, but earlier this year the Stockton VA Clinic went from eight doctors to just four in the span of just a couple of months, a 50 percent reduction of full-time, in-person physicians. This is completely unacceptable. This is leading to a caseload of over 7,000 veterans for every doctor that we have.

My constituents have been telling me that they have to wait more than 90 days to get an appointment. Men and women who risk their lives for our freedom deserve better than months-long wait times to see a doctor.

As we consider the VA's budget this week, it is clear that we can do so much more to address the workforce shortages in my district and across the country at the VA. Our veterans deserve better.

Primary care is an essential part of every veteran's medical care, and it is on us to make sure that that care is never in jeopardy. I will continue to fight for the funding to fully staff our clinics until we get that done.

PROVIDING FOR THE COMMON DEFENSE OF OUR NATION

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

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, both fiscal year 2024 appropriations bills we are considering this week will ensure that the Federal Government fulfills one of its main duties outlined in the Constitution, providing for the common defense of our Nation.

Until our Republican majority took over, this body neglected this duty and failed to prepare our Nation for the threats posed by China and Russia. Our Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies appropriations bill will provide our military with the resources they need to succeed.

This funding will be focused on investments in the Pacific theater, barracks, and other quality-of-life projects so that our men and women in uniform will be ready to meet any challenge that they face.

Additionally, our agricultural appropriations bill will invest in strengthening our supply chain, so we don't have to rely on foreign adversaries for necessities like food and medications.

In passing both of these critical bills, we provide for the safety and the prosperity of our great Nation for generations to come.

□ 1215

RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING LESLIE MERRILL

(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, I rise today to recognize and congratulate a great Mainer and a longtime public servant, Leslie Merrill. Leslie is retiring this month after 22 years of dedicated constituent service to the people of Maine's First District, having served under my predecessor before joining my office.

I believe that the majority of us who work in this institution do so because we want to improve the lives of those around us.

Leslie has committed her career to doing just that—whether guiding asylum seekers and refugees through the immigration process, securing passports for many anxious travelers, or assisting Maine youth with the Academy nominations process so that they may pursue a career in the military.

Beyond her considerable skills as a caseworker, she has been a mentor to countless staff, sharing her Rolodex, her institutional knowledge, and her relationships with those in agencies across the country, all of which have been invaluable to constituents and colleagues throughout the First District.

Importantly, she has been a treasured friend to so many of us in and outside of the office. The lives of Mainers are infinitely better for Leslie having served as their advocate, friend, and neighbor.

We will miss Leslie dearly. We wish her and Peter the very best in their next adventure.

WADSWORTH BLUE TIP FESTIVAL 50TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the annual Blue Tip Festival in Wadsworth, Ohio.

The Blue Tip Festival is a longstanding community celebration. The festival's name pays tribute to the city's former largest employer, the Ohio Match Company and their famous blue tip matches.

Each year, the Blue Tip Festival begins the Tuesday after Father's Day with a 2½-mile parade. The parade leads to the ceremonial lighting of a 17-foot blue tip match sculpture that holds the record for the world's largest matchstick sculpture. The next 5 days are filled with family fun like amusement rides, carnival games, festival food, and more.

I commend the city of Wadsworth and the Blue Tip Festival Committee for their commitment to make the Blue Tip Festival one of the best celebrations in Ohio's Seventh District. Year after year, their dedication has created a space for our community to recognize and enjoy Ohio's rich history. Here is to another safe and fun 50 years of the Blue Tip Festival.

UPS-TEAMSTERS

(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 celebrate the historic labor deal reached between the Teamsters and UPS. This is a monumental achievement for organized labor, underscoring the power of unions that make up the backbone of our economy and our democracy.

I would especially like to recognize Teamsters Local 348, which represents UPS workers in Ohio's 13th Congressional District.

These hardworking, dedicated union members were on the front lines throughout the entire pandemic, keeping our country running by consistently delivering essential supplies, food, and medicine to communities

across our district, as well as throughout the country.

This historic contract acknowledges their hard work and sacrifices and raises the bar for all workers in all industries.

I was proud to join my Labor Caucus colleagues last week in sending a bipartisan letter reaffirming my constituents' right to collectively bargain, and I will always stand with workers to support higher wages, safer working conditions, and better benefits.

Congratulations, again, to the 340,000 Teamsters at UPS, and I thank them for their dedication to setting a new standard for workers across the country.

SUPPORTING AMERICAN FARMERS, RANCHERS, AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

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

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I am here to speak about the fiscal year '24 Agriculture Appropriations bill, specifically how this legislation supports American farmers and ranchers by slashing regulations and reducing spending back to prepandemic levels.

Georgia is the top poultry producer in the Nation. Our poultry industry generates an economic impact of $28 billion for our State.

This bill eliminates harmful regulations that unnecessarily dictate how to raise and market livestock which negatively impact Georgia producers and consumers alike. It also cuts spending to account for the end of the COVID pandemic emergency by saving $32 billion in taxpayer dollars.

My colleagues and I in the House are going to have the opportunity to discuss this legislation and support our rural communities and farmers.

RECOGNIZING IRENE PEREZ PLOKE SGAMBELLURI

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Irene Perez Ploke Sgambelluri. A proud mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, and a World War II survivor are just some of the words used to describe Ms. Irene Perez Ploke Sgambelluri, or as many call her, Aunty Irene.

Aunty Irene has been a fighter for World War II survivors, a champion for Guam's Greatest Generation, and one who has worked tirelessly over the decades to ensure that those who endured the atrocities of the occupation are recognized by the Federal Government.

Aunty Irene advocated for the payments of World War II reparations for decades, and the fruits of her labor were rewarded when former President Donald Trump enacted legislation to ensure these reparations were fulfilled.

During the month our community celebrates Guam's liberation, I honor her for her years of advocacy.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Aunty Irene, and may God continue to bless her and her family.

RECOGNIZING NORTHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING CLASS 3 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Northside High School Women's Softball team on winning the class 3 State championship, the program's first State title since 2010 and its second win in history.

Beating the York Falcons by 3–1, the Vikings delivered strong performances needed to win.

These talented athletes include Baylee Compton, McKenzie Taylor, Leila Aguilar, Sydney Jordan, Karlee Austin, and Abbie Caldwell.

Baylee pitched a five-hitter for the Vikings, striking out 16 of the Falcons' players and walking one.

The Vikings scored twice in the top of the fifth to grab a 2–1 lead. In the seventh inning, the ladies scored another run, then held strong on defense to prevent the Falcons from catching up.

Mr. Speaker, all of these young ladies are a true testament that with hard work and determination, you can achieve your dreams.

We congratulate, again, all of the players, Coach Kassie Brammer, their families, as well as the Northside faculty and staff.

Virginia's Sixth Congressional District is incredibly proud of their accomplishment.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4366, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S.J. RES. 9, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE RELATING TO ''ENDANGERED AND THREATENED WILDLIFE AND PLANTS; LESSER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN; THREATENED STATUS WITH SECTION 4(D) RULE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTINCT POPULATION SEGMENT AND ENDANGERED STATUS FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTINCT POPULATION SEGMENT''; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S.J. RES. 24, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE RELATING TO ''ENDANGERED AND THREATENED WILDLIFE AND PLANTS; ENDANGERED SPECIES STATUS FOR NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT''

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 614 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 614

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4366) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 or clause 5(a) of rule XXI are waived.

SEC. 2. (a) No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution, and pro forma amendments described in section 4 of this resolution.

(b) Each amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be

subject to amendment except as provided by section 4 of this resolution, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

(c) All points of order against amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules or against amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution are waived.

SEC. 3. It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or her designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of amendments printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc offered pursuant to this section shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided by section 4 of this resolution, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

SEC. 4. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees may offer up to 10 pro forma amendments each at any point for the purpose of debate.

SEC. 5. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit.

SEC. 6. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 9) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Lesser Prairie-Chicken; Threatened Status With Section 4(d) Rule for the Northern Distinct Population Segment and Endangered Status for the Southern Distinct Population Segment''. All points of order against consideration of the joint resolution are waived. The joint resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the joint resolution are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to commit.

SEC. 7. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 24) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Northern Long-Eared Bat''. All points of order against consideration of the joint resolution are waived. The joint resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the joint resolution are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to commit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. D'ESPOSITO). The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE) pending which time I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be amended by striking the last sentence in the first section of the resolution and insert ''All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived.''.

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

There was no objection.

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

House Resolution 614 provides for consideration of three measures: H.R. 4366, S.J. Res. 9, and S.J. Res. 24.

The rule provides for H.R. 4366, the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2024 to be considered under a structured rule with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member on the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees, and provides one motion to recommit.

The rule makes in order 41 amendments.

Additionally, the rule provides for consideration S.J. Res. 9, a resolution of congressional disapproval related to the lesser prairie-chicken under a closed rule with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their designees, and provides one motion to commit.

Finally, the resolution provides for consideration of S.J. Res. 24, a resolution of congressional disapproval related to the northern long-eared bat under a closed rule with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their designees, and provides one motion to commit.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4366 fulfills our commitment to America's veterans by fully funding their healthcare programs and benefits, providing robust funding for mental health services, and rejecting the Biden administration's efforts to insert far-left policies into the VA.

As a Navy veteran, I am proud that this bill improves the quality of life for servicemembers by investing more than $17.6 billion in military construction and family housing for our heroes.

This includes critical investments in childcare development centers, upgrades to barrack housing, and billions to counter China in the Indo-Pacific.

Additionally, H.R. 4366 includes a provision prohibiting the closure of Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and also prohibiting the use of funds to build detainee facilities on U.S. soil.

□ 1230

As a veteran of the global war on terror and someone who prosecuted terrorists in the Iraqi court system, I saw firsthand the destruction and chaos caused by these radical extremists. Bringing these terrorists to U.S. soil is unthinkable to me, and many of these terrorists were directly involved in the September 11 terrorist attacks.

Mr. Speaker, the underlying legislation also provides important congressional oversight of the Biden administration.

S.J. Res. 9 and S.J. Res. 24 utilize the Congressional Review Act to nullify the Department of the Interior's rules related to the lesser prairie-chicken and the northern long-eared bat.

In both instances, bureaucrats from the Biden administration are placing red tape on economic development and private land use, and without warrant. These rules expose farmers to litigation and lawsuits for routine farming activities, shut down existing conservation efforts from private industry, and impose new restrictions on farmers and ranchers.

This is just another example, another instance, of far-left, extreme Democrats in Washington, D.C., making it more costly for Americans to make a living, put food on the table, and develop our rural communities.

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

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman, my friend from Pennsylvania, for the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman said, today's rule provides for consideration of three bills. The first of those bills is H.R. 4366, the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024.

Mr. Speaker, this is typically a bipartisan bill, one of the most bipartisan bills that we consider in the United States Congress. That is not the case this year. Why? Because House Republicans decided to inject into this bill extreme policy riders that threaten the freedoms of each and every American. They have kicked off appropriations season by doubling down on funding bills that endanger essential services.

Just to speak frankly, neither this bill nor any of the others that they will bring to the floor on the appropriations

side have any chance of becoming law. My colleagues across the aisle know that.

Today, they come to the floor to proudly tout a bill that would slash $1.3 billion—not my number; their number—from military construction programs that support quality-of-life services for members of the Armed Forces and their families.

Democrats fight against cuts to vital programs that help the American people. Unfortunately, House Republicans are doing the opposite.

We saw this cycle many times, Mr. Speaker. Throughout the last 7 months, it has been hard to understand what my colleagues across the aisle truly want.

At the beginning of this Congress, the other side of the aisle voted for a House rules package that promised an open rules process for amendments. Yet, here we are, debating another rule structured by Speaker MCCARTHY and Republican leadership.

Now, House Republicans threaten to shut down the government in order to fulfill an unpopular agenda full of far-right policy riders that undermine equal opportunity, restrict access to abortion, and more.

We are going to hear a lot from my colleague, my friend on the other side of the aisle, about what he claims this bill will do. It is important for the American people to understand three simple things.

It cuts military construction by $1.3 billion. Think about the impact that will have, Mr. Speaker, on servicemembers across the country.

It funds no infrastructure backlog for the Department of Defense. Mr. Speaker, we have a $100 billion infrastructure backlog in the Department of Defense for installations across the world, across the country, and in our districts. The President asked for $2 billion to start to address that backlog. House Republicans said no. How much did they give? Zero.

Finally, the bill does nothing to address toxic PFAS contamination—not a thing. Last year, House Democrats, under President Biden's leadership, appropriated $200 million toward PFAS remediation to address the toxic chemicals that are literally killing people across the country. This bill appropriates how much? None.

Those are the facts.

If that weren't enough, as the gentleman said, we are considering two other bills today. The American people watching this might think that perhaps House Republicans would decide to bring a bill to the floor to lower costs, address inflation, try to reduce the cost of healthcare, grow the middle class, build safer communities, or address school safety. No. House Republicans have declined to put any of those bills on the floor. Instead, what are we left with? Hearings and bills on gas stoves and, today, bills on the lesser prairie-chicken and the northern long-eared bat. That is what we are here to debate, Mr. Speaker.

I think the American people would be deeply disappointed at the choice of priorities that House Republicans are pursuing. Let's get back to the core issues at hand. Let's negotiate in good faith. Let's do the people's business.

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

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

Let's just go back and look at what has been said over the last few months. For the last few months, the administration and extreme congressional Democrats have been spreading lies that House Republicans were cutting veterans benefits. These lies were merely designed to score cheap political points at the expense of our veterans.

Let's go through a few of the quotes from extreme Democrats.

President Biden stated in May: ''Republicans in Congress proposed budget cuts that would threaten veterans housing services, medical care, and mental health care.''

It didn't stop there. Ranking Member TAKANO stated, on April 26, they are holding veterans benefits ''hostage, again pointing to concerns about fiscal responsibility.''

In the Senate, Senate Majority Leader SCHUMER stated, on March 1: ''Republican proposals would narrow healthcare eligibility for veterans and cut VA mandatory funding.''

Now we get to this week, when House Republicans will pass a bill that will fully fund veterans benefits, fully fund veterans healthcare, and fully fund all other veterans programs. This bill provides the VA $16.4 billion over the fiscal year 2023 enacted level and matches the President's budget request for fiscal year 2024.

There is no question who was and who was not misleading the American people. There is no question that our actions today support veterans. Just watch to see how many of those Democrats will vote ''no'' tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY), my good friend and a member of the House Rules Committee.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for yielding me time to address the House today.

I rise today in support of keeping the promises made to our Nation's veterans. Millions of men and women served this Nation in uniform bravely, and they have been failed by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Too often, the VA has left veterans and their loved ones with long delays, substandard service, and neglect. Now, rather than continue the Trump administration's work to hold the VA accountable, the Biden administration is instead focused on promoting divisive ideologies and radical leftist priorities.

Mr. Speaker, the VA should be focused on the needs of our Nation's veterans, not promoting a political agenda. The legislation before us today puts the VA back on the task at hand, caring for the men and women who gave their all for this country, like finally pushing the VA to fix its electronic health record system, where patient safety issues have been so dire that they have even resulted in several deaths.

Let me say that again. The inability of the VA to do its job has resulted in injury and death to veterans. Sadly, this isn't the first time we have heard of such negligence. We need to do better. We owe better, and this bill will help accomplish this today.

I think I speak today for all the veterans in my district when I say that they are sick and tired of indignities and substandard care due to electronic records.

I strongly support the underlying legislation before us today, and I hope my colleagues can overcome partisan outrage to stand with our Nation's veterans.

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, let me just say that only in Washington can politicians demand recognition after being shamed into doing the right thing. That is what we just heard.

We all know that the default on America act that House Republicans pursued was primed to cut veterans benefits. House Democrats, President Biden, and Senate Democrats led the charge to convince our colleagues to come back from the brink, and now they have the audacity to demand that we thank them for it.

By the way, Mr. Speaker, this comes from the same party that overwhelmingly voted against the Honoring our PACT Act, the most comprehensive healthcare legislation for veterans in my lifetime, the proudest vote I have taken since I was sworn into the United States Congress.

Mr. Speaker, 174 of them voted against it, including the gentleman from Pennsylvania. Now they have the audacity to claim that they are fighting for veterans?

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN), the distinguished assistant Democratic leader.

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

I rise to take note of the sad irony that the extreme Republican majority is bringing this appropriations bill to the floor on the 75th anniversary of President Truman's desegregation of the Armed Forces.

President Truman's heritage would suggest that he would be an unlikely champion for civil rights. He grew up in a segregated town in Missouri, in a family that owned slaves and defended slavery.

When our 33rd President heard of the blinding of Sergeant Isaac Woodard, Jr., a decorated Black World War II veteran who was brutally attacked by a police officer while traveling home to

Winnsboro, South Carolina, on a Greyhound bus—still in his uniform after being honorably discharged—Truman was moved to forsake his upbringing and desegregate the Armed Forces.

President Truman courageously recognized and acted to further our Nation's fundamental obligation to our servicemembers and veterans, regardless of their backgrounds.

We should be working to build upon the progress he made, but regrettably, the MILCON-VA bill that the majority is bringing to the floor today would constitute a significant step backward.

This ill-conceived legislation, in addition to reducing funds for the military construction projects that are fundamental to our servicemembers' quality of life, is also an attack on the dignity of our veterans.

It attacks the dignity of women veterans by blocking reproductive healthcare when their health is endangered.

It attacks the dignity of veterans in need of gender-affirming care by blocking the VA from providing it, even if it is recommended by a doctor.

It attacks the dignity of veterans and all Americans of color and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality by blocking the Biden administration's ongoing efforts to advance equity.

President Truman recognized that our national security is enhanced by respecting the dignity of all American patriots who sacrifice to defend it. This legislation being brought today by the extreme Republican majority is at odds with that principle.

□ 1245

If the Members of today's extreme Republican majority were in office in 1948, I fear they would have attacked President Truman's desegregation order as an unacceptable diversity, equity, and inclusion measure, which section 417 of this legislation would ban.

I fear that if this bill were enacted into law, it would prevent the military from discussing the blinding of Sergeant Isaac Woodard and its influence on President Truman because the topic would be deemed critical race theory, which would be banned by section 415, rather than the historical fact that it was.

Will this section ban our military leaders from making repairs to the GI Bill benefits that were denied Black World War II veterans?

Mr. Speaker, when President Truman was informed of Isaac Woodard's blinding, he reportedly exclaimed: ''My God, I had no idea it was as terrible as that. We have got to do something.'' Sadly, this extreme Republican majority seems to find new ways to be terrible every week.

I rise in opposition to the consideration of this awful bill because Democrats know we have got to do something to prevent them from pushing us off our trek toward a more perfect Union that President Truman so courageously advanced 75 years ago today.

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

Mr. Speaker, since we are discussing the Department of the Interior's out-of-touch rulemaking decisions this week, let's talk about last week with the Department of the Interior. The Department proposed a new rule adding barriers to the future of energy production. This decision will drastically impact oil and gas investments and will raise energy costs for hardworking Americans.

Let's not forget that under the Trump administration, our Nation was energy independent, and this rulemaking will only deepen our reliance on foreign adversaries for energy.

According to a recent Morning Consult poll, 88 percent of Americans believe we should produce oil and gas here in the United States, and 85 percent agree domestic energy production counters China and Russia. Again, that is 85 percent. In addition, 88 percent believe that domestic energy production will help lower costs for families. That is 88 percent. These seem to me like pretty overwhelming numbers.

However, we have a bunch of unelected, career bureaucrats who are accountable to no one who are making these decisions. It is clear that Biden's Department of the Interior rulemaking continues to hurt our national security, our economy, and our energy independence, not to mention how wildly out of step this administration is with the American people. It is time that extreme Democrats stop the war on American energy.

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

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ), a distinguished member of the Rules Committee.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I really wish I could say that caring for our veterans is a bipartisan issue, something we all agree on. Instead, for the first time in years, the appropriations for military construction and VA will not be bipartisan because my colleagues across the aisle have not put veterans first. Instead, they have tacked onto their VA bill a kitchen sink of culture wars.

H.R. 4366 would trample on our veterans' freedoms, slash access to reproductive care, and slash access to gender-affirming care. It would prohibit training that helps people from different backgrounds work together that addresses the inequalities that still exist in our military. It would allow homophobia to run rampant.

This legislation makes our VA facilities less welcoming for the thousands of diverse New Mexicans who receive care there.

Every homeowner knows it is better to fix a leaking roof right away because if not, it is going to be really expensive.

Yet, this bill cuts $1.5 billion from military construction. Our military housing and health clinics are leaking, but these cuts will cost us so much more in the future. We must do more than just thank our veterans for their service. We can't just use words. We must actually back it up with resources.

When Democrats led the House, we passed the Honoring our PACT Act to expand healthcare coverage and compensate veterans exposed to toxic substances, which 174 Republicans voted against. Democrats listened to the needs of our communities and passed legislation that made an actual difference in their lives.

Now veterans have until August 9 to file a claim to receive retroactive 2023 benefits. To make sure our veterans know about these benefits, I am hosting a PACT Act townhall on August 1.

That is what it looks like to not just thank veterans but to truly care about the patriots who served our country. That is the difference that Democratic leadership makes.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I understand it is a little empty on the other side of the aisle. There are perhaps not many Members who want to come to the floor to defend the propriety of this bill that cuts military construction funding, and I don't blame them.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. RESCHENTHALER), whom I respect, has the unenviable task of trying to make the case for a bill that cuts military construction funding, does nothing to address the infrastructure backlog, and cuts PFAS toxic exposure remediation, to say nothing of the many other ills within the legislation.

We heard a lot earlier about the supposed work that House Republicans are doing on the appropriations front. Of course, this is the first appropriations bill that has come to the floor. However, we still can't get House Republicans to commit to protecting Social Security and Medicare, as House Democrats have championed. Of course, we know why. It is because they have been unabashed about their efforts to cut both vital programs.

Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment that we have offered before to the rule to provide for consideration of a resolution which unambiguously states that it is the House's duty to keep our solemn promise to American workers and seniors to protect and preserve Social Security and Medicare and reject any cuts to these critical programs.

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SCHOLTEN) to discuss our very important proposal.

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle may not have something to say today, but I surely do.

I rise today to express my profound disappointment in House Republicans' decision to prioritize their extremist agenda over passing a strong, bipartisan appropriations bill.

I pride myself on always looking for ways to find common ground with my Republican colleagues, and the bill to fund the VA and military construction usually provides ample opportunity to do so. We need to do everything we can to ensure that our current and former servicemembers are provided the best possible care.

I was hoping I could count on my friends across the aisle to put forth a bill that we could all support, just like we have done time and time again. Instead, extremists in the party have hijacked this bill and removed dedicated funding for PFAS cleanup, eliminated funding for climate resilience during a time of increasingly severe weather events, and put women and families at risk by restricting access to potentially lifesaving healthcare.

By including these provisions, extremists on the right have decided that playing partisan politics is more important than improving the lives of our Nation's heroes.

Mr. Speaker, unlike our colleagues across the aisle, Democrats are focused on delivering results on the things that matter to our communities. For this reason, if we defeat the previous question, we will bring up a resolution affirming our commitment to protecting Social Security and Medicare.

Why don't Republicans want to do the same thing? These programs are critically important lifelines for tens of millions of Americans across the country. In west Michigan, my home district, Medicare provides lifesaving healthcare coverage for over 100,000 seniors. Additionally, nearly 150,000 recipients receive $264 million in monthly Social Security benefits, including over 110,000 seniors.

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

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Michigan.

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, these are the sorts of programs we should be spending our time working on and strengthening, not unserious messaging bills which will be dead on arrival in the Senate. We are just wasting time.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to defeat the previous question so we can bring up this important legislation.

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

Mr. Speaker, it is amazing, I guess if you say something to knock people, you just assume they are going to think it is true.

Let's talk about the facts. Let's talk about the numbers. This bill provides the VA $16.4 billion above FY23 levels. We are over the levels the Democrats passed last year. We are actually at the levels that the President wanted, that he put in his budget request for FY24. We are fully funding the VA.

My crystal ball is broken today, but I am willing to bet that every single Democrat will vote ''no'' on this bill which, again, fully funds the VA and all the programs that they are talking about. Let's just see where they vote tomorrow. It is quite amazing.

The talk about DEI in the military, under the Biden administration DEI created a recruiting and retention crisis without any reason for doing this, and that has weakened our military readiness. I was in the Navy. I lived through this.

I can tell you that DEI and CRT are plummeting our recruitment numbers. For what? From 2015 to 2020, the Army went on a witch hunt. The Army reported 21 of roughly a million soldiers were subject to disciplinary actions due to participation in extremist organizations. That was in 2020, they said a million soldiers were involved in this.

In 2021, the DOD did a study on that, and it reported that less than 100 of the over 2 million servicemembers actually participated in prohibited activity. For those of you without a calculator, that is roughly 0.00005 percent. That is what we are fighting over here.

The underlying legislation we are talking about actually eliminates wasteful spending for DEI and CRT, and puts it where we need it, in veterans' programs and military construction. It also does a lot to reverse the negative impact on military readiness and what is driving down our recruitment—just one of the many things that is driving down our recruitment.

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

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman talked about facts. Again, these are not my numbers. These are their numbers. This year in this bill, House Republicans appropriate $17.5 billion for military construction. That is $1.5 billion less than the current level. In other words, it is a decrease. It is a cut of $1.5 billion to military construction, which is used for housing for our servicemembers.

Under current levels, there is $200 million dedicated to PFAS remediation. In this bill, there is none.

President Biden requested $2 billion to address the infrastructure backlog in our military. Under this bill, there is none.

These are not my numbers. These are their numbers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD an article from The Hill today titled: ''Senate GOP fears House actions could lead to shutdown: It's going to be a problem.''

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

There was no objection.

[From The Hill, June 15, 2023]

SENATE GOP FEARS HOUSE ACTIONS COULD LEAD TO SHUTDOWN: 'IT'S GOING TO BE A PROBLEM'

(By Al Weaver)

Senate Republicans are worried the House GOP's decision to write government funding bills at levels below those laid out in the recently passed bipartisan debt ceiling bill will create a tough road for lawmakers to avert a government shutdown.

House Republican leaders this week announced a plan to write 2024 spending bills at fiscal 2022 levels, an attempt to assuage House Freedom Caucus members who effectively shut down all work in the chamber last week over their dissatisfaction with the debt ceiling deal struck by Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R–Calif.) and President Biden.

The news outraged Democrats and landed like a thud with GOP appropriators in the Senate, leaving them to scramble to get a funding bill through Congress before the end of September.

''It's going to be a problem,'' Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (W.Va.), the No. 5 Senate Republican and an Appropriations Committee member, told The Hill. ''I don't want to coopt what Sen. [Susan] Collins [R–Maine] might say, but . . . we struck an agreement that will write to those numbers.''

''We'll go into a collaborative conference, try to hash it out,'' Capito continued. ''But I don't think it's going to be easy.''

The Senate has eight working weeks between now and the end of September before a spending deal is needed, with the annual monthlong August recess sandwiched in between.

In total, the decision to put the bills together at the 2022 levels would represent a $120 billion haircut that Democrats in both chambers and most Senate Republicans are not at all prepared to swallow.

A number of Senate Republicans were already upset that the debt ceiling agreement likely will not allow for an increase in defense spending in any 2024 funding deal, and the possibility of even greater cuts is making the road to an agreement even more treacherous than before.

''I'm not concerned that we lack the capacity to do it,'' Sen. Bill Hagerty (R–Tenn.), a Senate Appropriations Committee member, told The Hill. ''But we have to have the will to get on it.''

If there's anything that makes some senators hopeful that they can reach a resolution, it's the carrot and stick included in the debt ceiling deal. If a spending accord is not struck, a 1 percent cut across the board for defense and nondefense priorities would go into effect next year—a result almost no one in the upper chamber wants.

Senators on both sides of the aisle are warning the national security implications will be dire if the cuts take place.

''I think there's an incentive for both sides to try and get to a deal even though it's going to be really hard,'' said Sen. John Thune (S.D.), the No. 2 Senate Republican. ''Moving bills here is hard enough. It's going to be really challenging I think in the House.''

McCarthy and House Republicans have attempted to assuage concerns that a shutdown may be the end result of their decision and have insisted they are adhering to the debt deal. They say the budget caps represent a ceiling, not a floor, meaning writing bills at 2022 numbers is reasonable.

Democrats could not disagree more. They note lawmakers generally look at spending caps as spending levels to aim for, not a number to come in under, and they believe McCarthy is ''reneging'' on his deal with the

White House, according to Sen. Angus King (I–Maine).

''This is a big problem,'' said Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D–Md.), a Senate appropriator. ''This is obviously a bad start in the House because the ink was barely dry . . . before Speaker McCarthy ran away from the bargain he struck.''

''It seems pretty clear that Speaker McCarthy's No. 1 priority is political survival and I think feels he has to cater to the far-right, MAGA crowd there,'' Van Hollen continued. ''It's clearly going to make for some rocky moments over the next couple of [months].''

The gripes of Senate Democrats echo their House colleagues. House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D–N.Y.) said Democrats will oppose anything under the spending levels laid out in the debt ceiling deal.

''The Senate is going to mark up to the deal that was made. And so House Republicans are going to completely make themselves irrelevant [and] make their members vote on these deep, deep cuts, and it has no possibility of becoming law,'' Rep. Pete Aguilar (Calif.), the chair of the House Democratic Caucus, told reporters Tuesday in the Capitol.

Sen. Patty Murray (D–Wash.), chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, has already vowed to bring up the series of a dozen appropriations bills at the levels agreed to in the recently passed debt ceiling bill.

And some in the Senate are simply ignoring the House's actions as lawmakers realize that any spending deal will have to move in a similar fashion to the debt ceiling deal, which drew conservative ire but ultimately passed in a bipartisan fashion.

''It doesn't strike me as serious. . . . I don't think it can pass the House and even if it does it definitely can't pass the Senate,'' said Sen. Brian Schatz (D–Hawaii), a Senate appropriator. ''We're going to have to do a bipartisan appropriations bill and they can start out with whatever partisan position they want, but this ain't it.''

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, that article is quoting a Republican Senator from the gentleman's region, his neighbor, Senator SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO.

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When House Republicans shut down the government in 66 days, which they seem committed to doing, the American people will be right to ask the question, they will be justified to ask the question of why House Republicans decided to focus their time on the northern long-eared bat and the lesser prairie-chicken. It is a fair question for the American people to ask.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado for his leadership, and the manager of our friends on the other side of the aisle.

The United States military, each and every soldier, each and every member of every single branch, take an oath when they leave their loved ones and accept the responsibility of dying for this country. If you have been able to fight on a battlefield and become a veteran, you still have taken that oath and you were willing to die for this country.

With the enormous cuts that are facing our soldiers, our families in this military construction legislation, let me make it plain for my colleagues. They will deny those who take an oath, Active Duty, their families, job opportunities. They will deny them housing.

Has anyone been to bases and seen some of the military housing that needs absolute either rebuild or rehab?

Have you understood the importance of food assistance, particularly to veterans' families depending on that?

Do they know how important it is for the soldiers to feed their families, to keep roofs over their heads?

Do they know how important it is to provide education and training opportunities for those who leave the United States military?

Let me remind you of the importance of their oath, and then let me remind you of the hard-earned work that this Congress did with President Biden to provide the PACT Act. The proposed cuts would have drastic consequences for the PACT Act. That is the bill that recognizes the toxicity that our brave men and women were in while they were fighting battles. That exposure fund could lead to slashing the medical care resources in the fund by 86 percent and fully abandoning the toxic exposure fund next year.

Are we defaulting on our commitment to those who took the oath to die for this Nation? I think that is worthy of shame.

Cities will be vulnerable when their veterans do not have the resources that are necessary for them to have.

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

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, can you imagine the burden on local cities?

Our veterans are homeless. Our veterans are suffering, many times from PTSD, and if we do not have the kind of support services for them that this legislation provides, where are we in terms of the kind of housing and other assistance that they may need?

I just simply ask my friends on the other side of the aisle, we stand here on the floor, I am fighting for the cities and the States that receive these dollars ultimately, because that is where the people are.

I do want to oppose the bills that are endangering our endangered species, S.J. Res. 9 and H.R. 4366. I oppose endangering our endangered species.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in opposition to H.R. 4366, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024.

This is a bill that appropriates funding for our military, the Department of Veteran Affairs, and other related agencies for fiscal year 2024.

I strongly oppose this bill's realignment of military construction funding from priority projects to other less relevant projects.

The level of funding allocations in this bill does not help the Veteran Affairs to support key priorities of its Administration such as ending veteran homelessness, increasing access to mental healthcare, and providing suicide prevention services, as well as investments in other critical areas, including caregiver support programs, overdose prevention, and treatment programs.

While it is important to make annual adjustments to bills such as this, our national strategic planning cannot be based on vague predictions; it must present a concrete plan that goes beyond the current year.

This Congress, and other relevant elements of the U.S. government should focus on a real integrated strategy that considers all aspects of national security spending while also helping to protect our veterans.

Any reckless policies that attempt to claw back billions in funding for veterans' medical care would have negative impact on our veterans and put their healthcare in jeopardy.

This bill should reflect efforts by the Congress to secure protection for adequate funding to ensure that the Department of Veterans Affairs will be able to continue to spend those essential resources for veterans' medical care.

Doubling down on the Default on America Act by cutting over $142 billion in funding does nothing but hurts our veterans, farmers, and their families by denying them access vital programs that they rely on.

Surprisingly, Republicans do not want to end there; recent reports indicate that they want to go up to over $159 billion in funding cuts, and even as high as $189 billion with their insatiable desire for drastic cuts in funding for programs that support American families.

Republicans need to stand by their word and let this House and the American people know where they stand on their support for veterans.

Any radical cuts in funding by Republicans to the Department of Housing and Urban Development would be devastating to more than 50,000 veterans who rely on the Housing Choice Vouchers for their housing needs.

Cutting funding to the Department of Labor by as high as 30 percent would result in more than 4,200 veterans losing the job training, counseling, and job readiness services they so desperately need; a group that is already either experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Earlier versions of Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill that Republicans supported in subcommittee provided for the transfer of $4.5 billion in critical funding for veterans' medical care to other purposes.

The Republican-backed bill, if passed, could have resulted in drastic cuts to dedicated funding for veterans exposed to Agent Orange, burn pits, and other toxic substances.

Republican proposed cuts would have drastic consequences for the PACT Act Toxic Exposures Fund and could lead to slashing the medical care resources in the Fund by 86 percent, and fully abandoning the Toxic Exposures Fund next year.

I, along with my Democrat colleagues, will continue to work with veterans' organizations to ensure that this bill does not pass with these unreasonable cuts to critical programs and services that veterans across the country depend on.

Congress cannot renege on the pledge and promises that are contained in the PACT Act; to provide the necessary, dedicated, funding; this bill requires nothing short of full funding for the Toxic Exposures Fund.

Even with all these necessary measures, the 2024 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies funding bill still

falls short of our commitment to veterans, servicemembers, and their families.

This Committee should not pass a bill that cuts military construction by billions of dollars in effort to cut down on the entire process of funding the government.

Through the PACT Act, the Biden administration continue to deliver its promise to better serve and better take care of our veterans of all wars who have been exposed to harmful chemicals like Agent Orange, burn pits, and other toxic substances.

That funding for toxic exposures should not have to compete with other discretionary priorities; it should complement other funding sources.

In addition to these drastic cuts, Section 258 of H.R. 4366 would prevent the VA from using funds to implement, administer, or carry out the Interim Final Rule (IFR) published on September 9, 2022, which expanded access to abortion for certain veterans, a provision which also prevents the VA from providing needed care to veterans when the health of the woman is endangered.

Our country must ensure that the department of Veteran Affairs is able to provide access to abortions, especially in instances where the life or health of the pregnant veteran would be endangered if the pregnancy were carried to term, or when a pregnancy is the result of rape or incest.

Sections 414, 415, and 417 of this H.R. 4366 further outline provisions that seek to limit efforts by the Federal Government to implement a comprehensive approach to advancing equity for all, including people of color and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty, inequality, and diversity.

In its current state, this bill would prevent the Veteran Affairs from using funds to display any but the listed flags, intended to prevent the Veteran Affairs from displaying flags demonstrating support for historically marginalized groups such as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex veterans.

This would indiscriminately undermine same sex marriage while also unduly complicating the routine business of the Department to provide healthcare and other services for veterans.

The President's budget proposal presents a viable solution to provide desperately needed funding for construction projects and the military construction bill must prove to support the President's commitments to our veterans.

Any real, pragmatic progress in Veteran Affairs' infrastructure backlog requires dedicated investment in our facilities outside the normal discretionary funding streams.

It is my sincere hope that this military construction appropriation would ensure the quality of care at Veteran Affair's facilities for our veterans and Veteran Affairs employees.

As our military leadership has indicated, 30 percent of our military infrastructure worldwide remains in poor condition; cutting funding for military construction is not a viable solution to this problem.

With the present need to address recruitment and retention problem that currently faces our military, and to ensure a major quality of life issue for our servicemembers, we cannot afford these senseless cuts to military construction funding.

I cannot support the passage of this military construction bill because our nation cannot to backtrack on our commitment to our servicemembers and their families.

Mr. Speaker, I speak in opposition to S.J. Res. 9, a resolution that provides for congressional disapproval to legislatively de-list the lesser prairie-chicken from protection under the Endangered Species Act.

Specifically, this bill calls on Congress to disapprove the rules submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to protections for endangered and threatened wildlife and plants.

The population and habitat of the lesser prairie-chicken, an endangered southwestern prairie grouse, is under growing threat.

Originally numbering in the millions, the population of this bird has decreased by as much as 97%, and it now only inhabits 16% of its former habitat.

Aerial survey results from 2012 through 2022 estimate a 5-year average lesser prairie-chicken population of 32,210 across the five-state region in Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, as well as my state of Texas.

The conversion of natural grasslands to agriculture, energy development, fire suppression, drought, and the use of herbicides to kill Shinnery Oak habitat are all ongoing challenges that cause habitat loss and fragmentation.

Additional harm is caused to these birds' habitats by fencing, power wires, and other tall structures that entice perching by predatory animals.

The lesser prairie-chicken is a sign of healthy prairies and grasslands because it requires huge, undamaged natural grassland parcels to support self-sustaining populations.

This makes them a crucial indicator of the general well-being of America's grasslands, a treasured and iconic terrain.

It is essential that we work together to uphold the Endangered Species Act (ESA), which is responsible for the recovery of iconic species like the bald eagle.

I urge my colleagues to support science-based decisions and join me in opposing this bill, S.J. Res. 9.

Mr. Speaker, I speak in opposition to S.J. Res. 24, which relates to the endangered species status of the Northern Long-Eared Bat.

S.J. Res. 24 is a resolution of congressional disapproval to legislatively down-list the Northern Long-Eared Bat from ''endangered'' to ''threatened.''

Not only would this downgrade the Northern Long-Eared Bat's status today, but it would effectively block the species from being moved up to a higher endangered threat level, no matter how close the species comes to extinction.

It would be irresponsible to use extreme legislation, not science, to down-list the Northern Long-Eared Bat, thereby effectively scaling back its protections under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Without ESA protections, states, industries, and other entities will have little incentive to conserve or recover the Northern Long-Eared Bat.

It is highly likely that the bat populations would likely dwindle further towards extinction.

Moreover, by using the Congressional Review Act Process, this Congress is effectively limiting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from making similar future listings for this bat species.

This move would prevent the agency from using its discretion to take the necessary measures for species conservation and will impede long term recovery efforts.

Ultimately, Congressional action in this arena gives industries, not science, the upper hand in species listings.

It is clear that some of my colleagues are doing the bidding of the timber and agriculture industries, despite the consequences that Northern Long-Eared Bat extinction could have on biodiversity and long-term agriculture and timber industry practices.

Down-listing this species would be especially dangerous in the current moment because the Northern Long-Eared Bat population is actively under threat from white nose syndrome, a deadly fungus that has caused a rapid decline in bat populations.

The Northern Long-Eared Bat's current endangered status provides adequate protections while wildlife scientists work to address the underlying causes of white-nose syndrome.

More broadly, Congress should not be interfering with the work of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under its Endangered Species Act authority.

Species populations are constantly fluctuating based on environmental factors, invasive species, climate change, and other emerging threats.

To remain up to date, the ESA requires periodic study and updates to ensure protections align with the best available science.

By blocking future up-listing decisions, using the Congressional Review Act undercuts the ESA's inherent flexibility and agencies' science-based decision-making for species conservation.

I urge my colleagues to support science-based decisions for endangered and threatened species and oppose this bill.

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

We can sit here and talk about the numbers all day because the Republicans, we have actually increased military construction $800 million over what President Biden requested in his budget. We are $800 million over what the President wanted.

Where are we using that money? Well, we are using it in places like the South Pacific. Today, China is the global leader in human rights abuses.

In 2021, the Trump administration determined that the CCP is committing genocide against the Uyghurs. In the South China Sea, China is militarizing disputed territory and growing their malign influence.

In 2020, let's not forget that China ended Hong Kong's longstanding autonomy and a democracy came crashing down.

In 2019, a manmade virus escaped from a Chinese lab in Wuhan, killing tens of millions around the world. In the near future, the CCP plans to invade our ally, the free and independent democracy of Taiwan.

That is why I support the underlying legislation which focuses investment in the Pacific theater by providing $1.425 billion for infrastructure related to the Pacific Deterrence Initiative and $131 million for U.S. INDOPACOM. That is the Indo-Pacific Command.

Again, think about those numbers. Think about combating China and their malign influences. When the Democrats sit here and say they are going to vote against this bill, they are voting against strengthening our Pacific theater against the malign influence of the CCP.

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

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

Again it feels like Ground Hog Day. Again, I have great respect for my friend from Pennsylvania, but I don't understand what numbers he is looking at.

Does he deny that in statute we appropriated last year $19 billion for military construction?

He is an appropriator. I am happy to engage in a colloquy with him to the extent that he wishes to clarify that.

Last year, military construction was funded at $19 billion. This year, it is funded at $17.5 billion. Not complicated, and, of course, the gentleman knows that because half of his caucus is bragging about the fact that they have cut military construction and a variety of other programs, juxtaposed against the levels that were set by Congressional Democrats.

This is not disputed anywhere but apparently during this particular debate. They are cutting military construction. They are not funding military infrastructure backlog needs that the President has requested of this Congress; and they have zeroed out any dedicated funding for PFAS remediation. Those are the facts.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MCGARVEY).

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the rule on H.R. 4366 and the underlying bill. I oppose this bill because it hurts our servicemembers, it hurts our veterans, and it weakens our military.

This bill fails our servicemembers and hurts our military readiness. It cuts over $1.5 billion for military construction projects all over the country, and includes no funding, no funding to make military installations like Fort Knox and Fort Campbell more resilient against climate change and the natural disasters that have ravaged my home State of Kentucky.

Instead of writing a bill that strengthens our military or will improve resources for our servicemembers, my Republican colleagues are bringing to the floor a bill riddled with the partisan provisions to get rid of diversity, equity, and inclusion programs, restrict women's access to abortion and reproductive healthcare, and make VA facilities less welcoming for all of those who served our country.

These are distractions. We shouldn't pick and choose which servicemembers we honor. Anyone who answers the call to serve our country deserves to be treated with dignity and respect, and they deserve to have access to quality healthcare, food, housing assistance, and more.

Mr. Speaker, this bill does nothing to actually support our military, our veterans, and our servicemembers.

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time remains on both sides.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Colorado has 5½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 18½ minutes remaining.

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers at this time, and I am prepared to close.

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

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

Again, I thank my friend and colleague from Pennsylvania for the respectful debate. I understand that we don't see eye to eye on the bills that this House will unfortunately be considering this week but, nonetheless, I appreciate his courtesy.

Mr. Speaker, today marks 200 days since House Republicans gaveled us into this 118th Session of the United States Congress; 200 days that they have been in control; 200 days that they have had the gavels here in Washington, D.C.

The American people would be justified in asking how have House Republicans spent those 200 days. Any bills to address inflation, to lower costs for working families, any bills to grow the middle class, to build safer communities? The answer is none.

Instead, they have pursued extreme policy after extreme policy, and this MILCON appropriation bill is no exception. Gas stoves, the northern long-eared bat, the lesser prairie-chicken, and whatever other issue House Republicans conjure up when we are back in session, that is how they have chosen to spend their time and taxpayer dollars.

When House Democrats were in control, working with President Biden and our colleagues in the upper Chamber, we focused on issues that mattered to the American people:

A bipartisan infrastructure law that, unfortunately, most of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle in this Chamber voted against that is rebuilding bridges and roads and highways across this country from Pennsylvania to Colorado, ensuring folks have clean water to drink and clean air to breathe;

The PACT Act, the most comprehensive veterans' healthcare legislation enacted in my lifetime, that 174 Republicans in this Chamber voted against;

The Inflation Reduction Act, capping insulin costs at $35 for seniors participating in Medicare across the country. That is how we spent our time.

As I said earlier, we know that in 66 days, House Republicans will shut down the government. They are telegraphing that. Many of their Members have said publicly that they want to shut down the government; that, in their view, a shutdown of the government is the desired outcome; 66 days.

Mr. Speaker, in 72 hours, Republicans will gavel this Chamber out of session. They will adjourn this Chamber for a 45-day recess.

Mr. Speaker, 66 days until the government runs out of funding, 45-day recess, 72 hours until that recess, and we are here debating the lesser prairie-chicken and the northern long-eared bat.

It is deeply disappointing, and it does not comport with how the American public expects us to operate here in Washington, D.C. We can do better, and I would challenge my Republican colleagues to come back from the brink that I described earlier, work with us in good faith. Help us deliver for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this rule, and to vote ''no'' on the underlying bills. If you support cutting military construction, if you support not addressing military infrastructure backlog, if you support zeroing out PFAS remediation then, by all means, vote for the MILCON bill. But if you oppose those draconian cuts, as I do, then I hope you will vote ''no.''

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

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

I thank my good friend from Colorado for the spirited debate. I always enjoy it.

We are here today because the Biden administration wants to tell the American people what they can do, how they can live. They want to tell you what kind of car you have to drive. They want to tell you what kind of stove that you can buy. They want to tell you what kind of energy you can use to heat your home.

Now, under these Department of the Interior rules, Biden bureaucrats want to place further burdens on our farmers and ranchers, our rural communities, and economic development and on public and private land.

Instead of focusing on the lesser prairie-chicken and the long-eared bat, maybe the Department should focus on securing our domestic energy supply chains and supporting American energy independence. Maybe that is the real purpose of why we are here talking about these issues, to force this Department to actually focus on what matters to American security and the American economy.

I urge my colleagues to send that message to the Biden administration and support the underlying legislation.

Additionally, as a Navy veteran, I support the underlying legislation that fulfills our commitments to America's veterans, our servicemembers, and their families.

□ 1315

Let's not forget that this MILCON-VA bill is $800 million for military construction over what President Biden requested in his budget request for FY24. It is also at the President's requested level of FY24. Maybe instead of attacking these numbers, my Democratic colleagues should be attacking their far-left Democratic President who wanted numbers below what the Republicans wrote for these numbers, and, again, we are fully funding Biden's requested VA numbers.

It is simple that a ''no'' vote on this is a vote against our veterans, and that is absolutely horrifying. Our country has sent generations of heroes around the globe to defend our freedoms and the freedoms of others. It is essential that we now take care of those who took care of us.

For those reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on the previous question and ''yes'' on the rule.

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

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 614 OFFERED BY MR. NEGUSE OF COLORADO

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 8. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall proceed to the consideration in the House of the resolution (H. Res. 178) affirming the House of Representatives' commitment to protect and strengthen Social Security and Medicare. The resolution shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution and preamble to adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means or their respective designees.

SEC. 9. Clause 1 (c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H. Res. 178.

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

The previous question was ordered.

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1330

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. D'ESPOSITO) at 1 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 614;

Adoption of House Resolution 614, if ordered; and

The motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3395, if ordered.

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

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4366, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S.J. RES. 9, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE RELATING TO ''ENDANGERED AND THREATENED WILDLIFE AND PLANTS; LESSER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN; THREATENED STATUS WITH SECTION 4(D) RULE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTINCT POPULATION SEGMENT AND ENDANGERED STATUS FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTINCT POPULATION SEGMENT''; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S.J. RES. 24, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE RELATING TO ''ENDANGERED AND THREATENED WILDLIFE AND PLANTS; ENDANGERED SPECIES STATUS FOR NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT''

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 614) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4366) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 9) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Lesser Prairie-Chicken; Threatened Status With Section 4(d) Rule for the Northern Distinct Population Segment and Endangered Status for the Southern Distinct Population Segment''; and providing for consideration of the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 24) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Northern Long-Eared Bat'', on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 208, nays 191, not voting 35, as follows:

[Roll No. 367]

YEAS—208

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

Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—191

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

NOT VOTING—35

Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Cárdenas
Carter (TX)
DeLauro
Foster
Fry
Gallego
Garcia, Robert
Good (VA)
Greene (GA)
Huffman
Joyce (OH)
Kaptur
Kelly (IL)
Lee (NV)
Meng
Nadler
Perez
Phillips
Raskin
Rose
Salazar
Schakowsky
Sessions
Sewell
Timmons
Titus
Trahan
Trone
Van Drew
Wexton
Williams (NY)
Wilson (FL)
Wittman

□ 1351

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

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. TIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on today's Previous Question. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 367.

Stated against:

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall No. 367 on H. Res. 614, my vote was not successfully registered. Had my vote been registered, it would have been a "nay."

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Mr Speaker, I was unable to vote on rollcall 367. Had I been present, I would have voted ''nay'' on rollcall No. 367.

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

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 217, noes 206, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 368]

AYES—217

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

NOES—206

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

NOT VOTING—11

Gallego
Huffman
Issa
Kim (CA)
Kuster
Lynch
Sewell
Trone
Wexton
Williams (NY)
Wilson (FL)

□ 1358

So the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "NO" on rollcall No. 368.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. WEXTON. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was not able to be present for roll call votes 367 and 368 today. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 367 and "nay" on rollcall No. 368.

U.S. SUPPLY CHAIN SECURITY REVIEW ACT OF 2023

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 3395) to direct the Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission to seek to enter into an agreement with a federally funded research and development center to evaluate foreign ownership of marine terminals at the 15 largest United States container ports, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. JAMES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SOO LOCKS SECURITY AND ECONOMIC REPORTING ACT OF 2023

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 3399) to study the security of the Soo Locks and effects on the supply chain resulting from a malfunction or failure of the Soo Locks, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4366, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 614 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. 4366.

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

□ 1415

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. 4366) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, with Mr. ISSA 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 shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and the ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations, or their respective designees.

The gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER).

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

Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 4366, a bill that would provide funding for military construction and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

During the last Congress, $3 trillion was spent outside of the normal appropriations process. As spending soared, so did inflation. There was damage done to the economy, and the work of the Appropriations Committee changed significantly over those 2 years. That is why, earlier this year, I asked subcommittee chairs to evaluate all of the funding in the pipeline.

When the President's budget finally arrived, I directed them to review each agency budget line by line. I thank the subcommittee chairs for their work to identify ways to save hard-earned tax dollars.

These savings have allowed us to reduce overall spending without short-changing—which is most important—national defense, homeland security, and veterans.

The bill before us demonstrates our commitment to reduce overall spending and still honor our commitment to our veterans. This bill makes good on that promise by fully funding veterans healthcare. It will ensure our veterans get the medical treatment and benefits they deserve.

Specifically, the bill prioritizes our Nation's heroes by providing critical funding for our military bases and facilities, improving the quality of life of our servicemembers and their families, and ensuring our veterans are appropriately honored in our cemeteries and battle monuments. The bill also prohibits funding to be used for biased and controversial programs.

Mr. Chair, I thank the Members and staff on both sides of the aisle for their hard work. This is a strong bill, and I look forward to supporting it.

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

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

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4366, with great respect to both of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, Chairwoman GRANGER and Chairman CARTER, who are friends but with whom we strongly disagree on this legislation.

The FY 2024 military construction, veterans affairs, and related agencies bill is, sadly, not one that I can support.

Back in May, the subcommittee mark of the MILCON-VA bill cut the Cost of War Toxic Exposures Fund by $14.7 billion in 2024 and completely eliminated the toxic exposures fund in 2025, less than a year after we passed the bipartisan Honoring our PACT Act that promises dedicated funding for veterans of all wars exposed to Agent Orange, burn pits, and other toxic substances.

This was in addition to the default on America act introduced in April by Republicans, which included a $2 billion rescission to immediately cut critical funding for VA and include no protections for veterans funding. We pushed back hard on these cuts as Democrats, and we were successful.

Thankfully, as part of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, President Biden was able to undo that grievous harm by delivering the promise we all collectively made to our veterans by fully funding the toxic exposures fund.

However, the problems did not stop there, and Democrats made significant efforts to right the other major wrongs in this bill, but, unfortunately, to no avail.

The MILCON-VA bill is traditionally one of the more bipartisan bills—actually, so often that it is almost indistinguishable who is in the majority and who wrote those bills.

That is not the case, sadly, this year because it is riddled with partisan riders, coming out of the full committee on a party-line vote significantly worse off than where it started. Riders include preventing VA from implementing its interim final rule that provides access to abortions for the life or health of the mother and in the case of rape or incest, as well as abortion counseling to provide healthcare services for women who desperately need it, and, importantly, to ensure that veterans have equal access to healthcare regardless of what State they live in because they get their healthcare from a Federal agency.

It includes riders that do everything from prohibiting VA from implementing diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives as well as training; prohibiting VA from flying the Pride flag over VA facilities; creating a license for people and organizations to discriminate against LGBTQI+ people under the guise of religious liberty and prevents the Federal Government from adequately responding; and prohibiting access to gender-affirming care, further disenfranchising veterans from VA.

VA is a place where all veterans should feel welcome, included, and cared for. All veterans means all veterans, and what this bill does is shameful.

On the MILCON side, this bill cuts funding for servicemembers and their families by $1.5 billion compared to the enacted level, compared to current services.

The Republicans have cut military construction funding by $1.5 billion compared to the current funding. In fact, this bill is $200 million lower after the full committee markup than when it was first introduced in subcommittee. Even after the agreement with President Biden was signed into law, this bill cuts even more.

We have a recruitment and retention problem, Mr. Chairman, and this bill cuts funding for military construction.

We have major quality-of-life issues for our servicemembers, and this bill cuts funding for military construction and cuts funding for things like childcare centers, training centers, and airplane hangars that house and protect our billions of dollars of military equipment.

This bill cuts dedicated funding for PFAS forever chemicals remediation and cleanup, which is a cut of $200 million from the current level, and dedicated funding for military installation climate change and resiliency projects, which is a cut of $90 million from the current level.

There is an enormous need for funds to clean up PFAS forever chemicals contamination at BRAC sites as the services are still in the early stages of dealing with PFAS forever chemicals contamination.

Dedicated PFAS forever chemicals funding has previously been provided in this bill so we can ensure continued progress in remediating contamination at closed bases and minimize the impact for those surrounding communities. This is critical funding needed to fulfill our commitment to ensure those pieces of land are safe for future use and for people who live nearby. This is poison that Republicans are refusing to provide funding to clean up.

Furthermore, neglecting to continue investing in protecting our installations from climate change is a national security risk. We all know how extremely costly disaster assistance funding is. I am from Florida. I certainly know about that better than most.

Last year, we provided DOD with $90 million, a comparatively small sum of funding now, which will pay huge dividends in the future and ensure our national security in the face of our changing climate. By eliminating the dedicated resilience funding this year, this bill would threaten future military readiness.

Cutting military construction by $1.5 billion slows our historically bipartisan efforts to reduce the infrastructure backlog to strengthen our national security and to improve the quality of life of our servicemembers and their families. We are backtracking on our commitment to our servicemembers and their families.

To make matters worse, veterans rely on programs throughout the Federal Government, not just programs in this bill. Instead of honoring the bipartisan budget agreement that this Chamber voted into law just last month, the FY 2024 House appropriations bills collectively break the commitment that was negotiated, agreed to, passed by a majority of Congress, and signed into law by President Biden to adequately fund critical domestic investments. Instead, these bills are written to the same exact number used before negotiations even began.

These drastic cuts diminish access to education, transportation, job opportunities, and food assistance that veterans and their families rely on.

Is there no line that Republicans won't cross? Is there no population that is off-limits?

The MILCON-VA bill is just one piece of the puzzle, Mr. Chairman, and gutting all the other programs that veterans and their families rely on throughout the Federal Government breaks our promises to veterans and pulls the rug out from under those who served our country and whom we promised to take care of upon their return. I cannot and will not support it.

The House MILCON-VA bill, as well as all 11 other appropriations bills, are headed for a collision course with the Senate, which got to work in a bipartisan manner. By the way, their version of this bill passed unanimously out of full committee. They got to work in a bipartisan manner to complete appropriations bills on time, consistent with the Fiscal Responsibility Act.

These appropriations bills renege on the agreement and risk an automatic, across-the-board cut with a CR, toward which we are clearly headed—or, worse, toward a government shutdown.

I will follow, Mr. Chairman, one of the first tenets that I learned as a legislator many years ago: Your word is your bond. I will stand by our veterans and our servicemembers by opposing this bill that deprives them of the services, care, and quality of life that they have earned and deserve.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Chair, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, I am honored to present the fiscal year 2024 military construction, veterans affairs, and related agencies appropriations bill to the House today. This bill is special because it supports our troops and their families and the Nation's veterans.

The bill provides $17.5 billion for military construction and family housing projects. This is less than the FY23 enacted amount. However, it is nearly $800 million above the President's request.

We focus this investment in the Pacific to deter China's aggressive and coercive actions. We also provide significant funding for new barracks and child development centers.

The bill fully funds veterans programs at the level requested by the President. It keeps our promises to veterans, and we do more to help veterans in the Pacific. We also ensure taxpayer funds will be used appropriately and effectively by increasing oversight of several programs.

I thank my subcommittee ranking member. Although she disagrees with this bill, she has been a joy to work with, and our partnership has been good.

I thank all the people who have worked on this bill and all of their families and the families of the veterans.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4366.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), the ranking member of the House Appropriations Committee.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to the military construction and veterans affairs appropriations bill, which falls short of our commitments and backtracks on our promises to our veterans, our servicemembers, and their families.

This bill cuts funding for critical military construction by over $1.5 billion compared to its current level. It is built on a house of cards that will crumble as this body and the American people come to realize the full scope of cuts the majority is pursuing.

This is not the only bill that supports programs and services that our veterans rely on. Republicans cannot credibly claim to fully fund veterans programs. The American people can clearly see how veterans are being treated when they look at the rest of the majority's domestic funding bills.

□ 1430

Make no mistake. If it were not for the Democrats, this bill would have decreased funding for veterans' medical care by $2 billion. In addition to that, the funding for the Honoring our PACT Act would not have been there. In 2024, they were going to underfund it. For 2025, they completely eliminate it.

We should not be in this position, and the global economy should never have been used as a bargaining chip to extract cuts to domestic spending. However, to prevent a catastrophic default, the President reached a deal with the Republican Speaker to lift the debt ceiling and to set spending levels. We have a path to fund the United States Government on time, a path that this Congress agreed to on a bipartisan basis, and we ought to take that path.

Instead, this bill offers cuts to vital programs our veterans, servicemembers, and their families depend on. It cuts $200 million in dedicated funding for PFAS remediation and cleanup. These chemicals do not easily break down in the environment. They are a source of groundwater contamination on military bases, which can lead to serious health problems. Failure to quickly clean up contaminated areas puts the surrounding communities, including military families and civilians, at risk.

This bill ignores the national security risk that will directly affect all of our bases at home and abroad—climate change. Additional dedicated funding for resilience projects is leaving America's servicemembers and veterans completely exposed in the line of fire.

Instead of responsibly funding our veterans in a bill palatable to both sides of the aisle, this bill is loaded up with hateful riders that have no business in appropriations language. Prohibitions on equity and inclusion programs and flags demonstrate grossly misplaced priorities, fighting culture wars, leaving our veterans, hardworking families, and the economy out to dry.

The bill places the Federal Government in the room with women and their doctors. By making it harder for veterans to access healthcare, we take a step closer toward a national abortion ban. Our veterans did not volunteer to serve this country and defend our freedom to have their freedom and their autonomy stripped by this Congress.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from California (Mr. VALADAO) is recognized and controls the remaining 26 minutes.

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON), the chairman of the Committee on the Budget, on which I have the honor of serving with him.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Chair, I am grateful to my appropriator colleagues for rightsizing the bureaucracy and reining in the wasteful and unnecessary spending after this government grew 40 percent during COVID. The taxpayers deserve fiduciaries who spend their money like it was our money. That is really the prevailing philosophy we should all embrace. I, again, commend the appropriators for the painstaking efforts to rein this in.

I support the bill, but I highlight in an amendment one of the most egregious and largest wasteful spending categories, and that is improper payments. The Federal Government wastefully and fraudulently spends taxpayer money at an alarming rate. In 2021, it was almost $300 billion. Last year, it was $245 billion.

Mr. Chairman, that is money you could spend on a soldier or a sailor or on a safety net or infrastructure. It is going nowhere. It is larger than the Departments of Energy, Commerce, and Justice. It is a third of our defense spending.

The VA is not the only problem. It is pervasive. At the VA, there is a long-term care category that has an improper payment rate of 47 percent. Think about that. Almost 50 cents on every dollar is wasted in this program. It is unconscionable, Mr. Chairman.

If you look across the board, the earned income tax credit, 30 cents on every dollar wasted, $18 billion. The Medicaid program wasted $80 billion last year. The child tax credit wasted $5 billion. The list goes on. If we are going to rein in spending, if we are going to save the country from a debt crisis, we have got to get our fiscal house in order and focus on improper payments. It is not right.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LOIS FRANKEL), a fierce advocate for our communities' veterans and a member of the Appropriations Committee.

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Chair, well, my, my, my, here we go again. The Republican attacks on access to legal abortion never end. Today, the target is women veterans, women who left their loved ones, trained hard, sometimes risked their lives to stand up for our freedom, and now it is time to stand up for theirs.

All women should have the freedom to make their own personal decision about when or whether to start or grow a family. This bill would undermine the current Biden policy that allows VA medical centers to provide an abortion when the life or the health of the pregnant veteran is in danger.

Republicans are willing to force women to wait until they are on death's door to receive the healthcare that they need. Really? This is how we thank veterans for their service?

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this bill.

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE), a member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Chairman, years of out-of-control government spending has fueled inflation and skyrocketed our Federal debt. It is far past time we prioritize those most important core functions of government as intended by our Founders in the Constitution.

The fiscal year 2024 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs bill does just that. It prioritizes programs for those most important: our Nation's veterans, and facilities for our men and women defending our country.

My, my, my, what do we hear from the other side? Complaints about not being able to fly certain flags at military bases, complaints about not being able to fund climate change bureaucracies in our veterans' facilities, complaints about actually not being able to use taxpayer dollars to fund abortion services.

This bill focuses on core government functions. It fully funds veterans' healthcare, veterans' benefits and VA programs. It ensures our veterans get the medical treatment and benefits they deserve. It provides funds to the agencies that ensure our military and veterans are appropriately honored in our cemeteries and battle monuments, and it prioritizes our Nation's Active Duty servicemembers and their families by providing nearly $800 million above the President's budget request for military construction and family housing. Let me repeat that: $800 million above the President's budget request.

We can and we must support our Nation's heroes who have sacrificed so much to defend our freedoms and protect our homeland. That is why we must pass this strong legislation and make clear that we stand with our brave men and women in uniform.

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

The gentlemen from Tennessee and California understand what kind of money really matters here. It is very nice to say that you are $800 million above the President's budget request.

The money that matters is where we are now and what Republicans are proposing to spend going forward. Republicans are cutting—which, of course, Mr. CLINE neglected to mention—military construction $1.5 billion below what we spend now. That is a cut by anyone's definition. They can play games with the language and the way they describe things, but there is no getting around that they are cutting $1.5 billion from military construction.

What does that mean? That might just sound like, oh, we will build a few less buildings, it is not going to be that bad. Understand that DOD has assessed that 30 percent of our military infrastructure around the world is in fair or poor condition. Many of us have traveled around the world to inspect military bases, and we talk to our troops and pledge to our servicemembers how much they mean to us and how we have their backs. I have had the opportunity to be shown places where our hangar doors are held together with wax and spit, particularly in places like Okinawa and other areas where there is a lot of erosion and metal rusts more quickly. I live in a coastal State, and I have a coastal district, so I understand what happens there when you are on the coast from the salt air. I watched a servicemember try to pull closed a hangar door that was jury-rigged with a coat hanger because they couldn't get the door closed the way it normally

should, and we did not provide them funding anywhere in the near future to ensure that we can keep billions of dollars' worth of military equipment safe.

Republicans are standing here and saying things that absolutely do not pass the straight-face test when they are trying to suggest that they are doing right by our servicemembers.

We have a retention problem in our military. We have people who have testified to the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee who are current servicemembers who talked to us about how they intended to spend their careers in the service, but because of the way they and their families felt treated, the decrepit housing that the military can't seem to get straight when it comes to dealing with mold and broken items and repairs that are necessary, they chose a different career path.

If we continue on the path that Republicans have proposed, then what that means is that we are going to lose servicemembers, like we are already losing. That is irresponsible and unacceptable.

Mr. Chairman, I will have more to say at a later time. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. GUEST), a member of the House Appropriations Committee.

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 4366, the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for FY 2024.

I am proud that this legislation fully funds programs to care for our Nation's heroes, and it ensures that our military infrastructure needs are met to address critical national security priorities. This bill focuses on the important work of these agencies while also preventing the radical woke policies of the Biden administration from distracting these departments from their primary responsibilities.

A recent example of these policies can be seen in my home State of Mississippi, where a VA facility chose to replace an American flag with an LGBTQ Pride flag.

The mission of the VA is to fulfill President Lincoln's promise, a promise to care for those who have served in our Nation's military, their families, their caregivers, and their survivors. The work and the message of the VA should not be divisive but, rather, respectful toward our veterans and consistent with the purpose for which the VA was created.

I am grateful that language is included in the bill to ensure that the only flags flown over VA facilities or national cemeteries are government, military, or POW/MIA flags.

Mr. Chair, I am proud to support this bill. We owe our veterans a debt of gratitude, not a political message.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. LEE), who represents tens of thousands of military servicemembers as well as veterans and is an incredible advocate on their behalf.

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Chairman, I rise today as a Representative from southern Nevada, where we have Creech Air Force Base, Nellis Air Force Base, and hundreds of thousands of veterans that call southern Nevada home. As their Representative, I have extreme disappointment with this bill that we have before us, the MILCON–VA bill.

□ 1445

As a member of the Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, I take great pride in our work. This traditionally has been bipartisan and laser-focused on the needs of our veterans, of our servicemembers, and their families, and on the military's construction requirements to meet global security challenges facing our Nation, not just today, but in the future.

Unfortunately, this bill is not a reflection of that MILCON-VA tradition of putting politics aside and putting our military, our servicemembers, our veterans, and our Nation first. Instead, this bill sacrifices our promises to veterans, our military readiness, and our national security, honestly, in favor of meeting the demands of a few extremist Republican politicians.

Instead of ensuring our Nation provides for Americans who have sacrificed to keep our Nation safe, this bill focuses on picking culture war fights, banning the VA from flying certain flags or banning them from taking steps to advance equal opportunity and health access for every veteran.

Instead of focusing on preparing our military to protect U.S. interests, the bill would prevent the VA from providing lifesaving reproductive healthcare to female veterans.

As my colleague just said, the mission of the VA should be respectful to our veterans. I say to every woman veteran who has put her life on the line for our freedom that we should show them the respect that they can make their own choice and be free to make their own choice for their own healthcare.

I want to be clear, as a woman who has undergone a D&C, that abortion care is healthcare. I will say that again. Abortion care is healthcare. Women who have put their lives on the line for our country, for our freedom, should have the ability to make that choice.

The policies that extremist politicians, in addition to that, have tacked on to this bill prevents the VA from providing that type of care, even in the case when a pregnancy is the result of rape, incest, or the life of the mother is at risk.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Nevada.

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Policies that extremist politicians have tacked on to this bill are offensive to men and women who serve our country, including my constituents at Creech and Nellis Air Force bases.

I am especially alarmed at the $1.5 billion in proposed cuts to military construction. I am supportive of being thoughtful and responsible with our Federal spending, but at a time when our Nation faces mounting security challenges across this globe, I cannot understand how we can stand here today and cut nearly 10 percent of funding that would ensure that our military bases are fully equipped to handle global threats.

This bill would increase the backlog of projects at bases likes Nellis and Creech, where I have heard directly from my airmen and airwomen working out of temporary, cramped, and outdated, unsafe facilities; and this, at a time when our military is already struggling with recruitment and retention.

Full military construction funding is key to enable that our servicemembers meet National Defense Strategy demands, so we must invest fully in critical facilities, like Nellis' communication support center and the Weapons School Campus.

We also need to support the mission-critical Reconnaissance Operations Training Facility and to repair the base's taxiway at Creech.

We call on our men and women in our military to make our Nation and keep our Nation safe, but this bill does not meet the demands of our servicemembers and, instead, abandons men and women who we should be supporting most in southern Nevada and beyond.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' and, instead, please let's get back to working together to get servicemembers and our veterans the resources that they need, that they have earned, and give them the respect and the freedom that they have fought for.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) is recognized and controls the time.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD), a member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. I thank the gentleman, the chairman, for yielding.

Mr. Chair, I rise in support of this fiscal year 2024 military construction and veterans affairs appropriations bill.

Despite some of the allegations from my friends on the other side of the aisle, this is a good bill. The budget process is not about how much you cut; it is about where you cut. That is what is important.

This bill is a good bill because it supports our veterans and our servicemembers. In fact, this bill fully funds President Biden's request for the VA and even exceeds the administration's request for military construction.

On top of that, the VA funding in this bill is $16.5 million more than the fiscal year 2023 enacted level—the enacted level. Let me repeat. This bill fully funds veterans' healthcare programs, period.

This includes keeping our promise that we just made to provide care to our toxic-exposed veterans, as we did last year through the Honoring our PACT Act.

I am also proud that we robustly funded military construction projects across the world, focusing on our barracks, our child development centers, to the tune of almost $800 million more than the administration's request.

This bill cuts wasteful spending, wasteful spending for programs that my constituents back home do not support, like critical race theory and DEI.

Now, they want to say that we have politicized the issue of abortion within this bill. The fact of the matter is, President Biden's administration, through rulemaking in DOD, put in this language—that is why we are taking it out because they put it in—that they were going to use taxpayer dollars to actually facilitate someone getting an abortion.

That is not what the taxpayers want. That is not what the Hyde amendment allows, and the partisanship that they referred to earlier is their partisanship.

This administration and almost every executive agency in this government now legislates by fiat. They pass rules, 100-page rules. Those aren't rules. That is legislation. That is law. We have got to stop that, and we are doing that in this bill.

I am very proud that in this bill we prohibit the VA from continuing to implement their abortion policy that they put in; it is nothing more than this administration's way of circumventing the Dobbs decision.

House Republicans are delivering on our promise to care for the men and women who have served this Nation.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. House Republicans, we are simply delivering on our promise to care for the men and women who serve this Nation.

I commend Chairwoman GRANGER and Chairman CARTER for having put this bill together in a fiscally responsible manner. Yes, we have made some cuts, but they were responsible cuts. They were cuts that needed to be made. We cut the waste so that we could help our men and women who serve this country in uniform. I urge support of this bill.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. DEAN).

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

I rise in opposition to H.R. 4366.

PFAS contamination is in my district, as in everyone else's district across this Nation. In my case, it is largely as a result of the legacy of firefighting foam used at what was Willow Grove Naval Air Base. My own brother worked there.

PFAS contamination, we know, is extremely dangerous, and I will say those who produced these chemicals for six decades have known of their danger and hid it for many, many years.

The brave men and women of our military were disproportionately highly exposed to rates of PFAS. More than 700 military bases have been contaminated with PFAS. The servicemembers that call these bases work or home have been continually exposed to these forever chemicals, as have their neighbors in the surrounding area.

We are still learning more and more about the health effects from this level of toxin; decreased fertility, increased risk of cancers, obesity, thyroid hormone disruption, just to name a few.

Congress and the White House have a responsibility to protect our current and future servicemembers from these toxins, as well as their neighbors. That is why the FY23 appropriations bill included an additional $200 million in dedicated funding for PFAS remediation and cleanup.

Unfortunately, this bill has no dedicated funding for PFAS and does not meet the President's funding request. Failing to address this widespread nationwide PFAS contamination on our military bases and the surrounding areas is failing our servicemembers.

Our military members stand up for us every single day. Today, we must stand up for them and all of our citizens by investing in PFAS research and remediation by rejecting this bill.

The Pennsylvania Constitution, article I, section 29, provides that we have a right to clean air, clean water, and the preservation of our natural aesthetic. Let's live up to that right.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN).

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4366, the fiscal year 2024 military construction and veteran affairs appropriations bill, which honors our veterans, supports our national security, and cuts wasteful government spending. I say again, it cuts wasteful government spending.

Last November, when the American people entrusted Republicans with the House majority, we made a commitment to a Nation that is safe. Today's legislation delivers on that commitment and ensures the Department of Defense has the resources and facilities it needs to protect our homeland from foreign adversaries.

H.R. 4366 provides nearly $800 million above the President's budget for military construction, including $80 million for the first phase of construction for the U.S. Army Cyber Center of Excellence Signal School at Fort Gordon.

Building a 21st century military is crucial to fielding threats in the ever-evolving cyber environment, and that starts with these critical investments being made at Fort Gordon.

Mr. Chairman, I urge a ''yes'' vote on H.R. 4366.

The CHAIR. The Chair would advise all Members we are in the Committee of the Whole.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. GREENE).

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, first I would like to acknowledge all the amazing women that serve in our Nation's military and the mothers that serve in our Nation's military.

But I will respond to something I heard a few minutes ago here, the pronouncement, the actual statement that abortion is women's healthcare.

I state for the record, abortion is not healthcare in any way. Abortion is the murder of the unborn child in a woman's womb. Abortion is defined as taking a life. It doesn't save a life. It kills a life.

Abortion methods are brutal, horrific, absolutely some of the worst things in today's times; ripping the limbs off an unborn baby, ripping its head off, killing it with chemicals inside of its mother's womb.

This is not something that taxpayers should have to ever pay for. This is something that honestly should not exist. Abortion is murder, and it is evil.

We should be supporting mothers in the military. We should be supporting women's actual healthcare, and that is not abortion.

□ 1500

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. EDWARDS). The gentlewoman from Florida has 8 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Texas has 15 minutes remaining.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. Chair, as the expression goes: Show me your budget, and I will show you what my values are.

It is very clear with the lollipop tree of culture war riders that this bill that funds the quality of life and the national readiness and security of the United States of America and the protection and quality of life of our military servicemembers, it is clear that because this bill cuts $1.5 billion below what we are currently funding in military construction, the Republicans have shown where their values are.

They can put all the lipstick on the pig that they have developed in this

bill that they want, but at the end of the day, they are still cutting $1.5 billion from military construction. That is cutting funding for airport hangars, for training centers, for childcare centers, for infrastructure that ensures that we can keep our servicemembers safe when they are serving overseas, while they are serving in the United States, and that is something that we have not done in modern times in this bill.

Why? Because generally the military construction, veterans affairs, appropriations bill is, on a bipartisan basis, written as a commitment that we make to take care of our servicemembers while they are serving in the military on Active Duty and to take care of our veterans when they transition to retirement and spend the rest of their lives as veterans.

This committee has a special responsibility. We are the only committee in the Congress that is responsible for the entire life cycle of an individual from when they start their service on Active Duty all the way through Active Duty and through their life as a veteran. We have a special responsibility to make sure that we are taking care of them, and cutting $1.5 billion is the opposite of that.

The values that our friends on the other side of the aisle have shown is very clear. What they were more interested in doing, and the priority that was at the top of their agenda, included riders that prevent all veterans from getting equal access to healthcare no matter where they live. What they want to do in this bill—and you will see in subsequent amendments that will be offered—is they want to take away women veterans' right, their ability to make their own reproductive healthcare decisions.

Furthermore, because veterans get their healthcare from the VA, it is essential that we do not discriminate against those veterans, those women veterans, no matter where they live; that they be able to get that access to healthcare whenever they need it to ensure that they can make their own reproductive healthcare decisions regardless of the State they live in.

We spent the bulk of our time in the subcommittee and the full committee debating riders that do everything from prohibiting VA from implementing diversity and equity policies so that all veterans, no matter their religion, their culture, their ethnicity, their sexual orientation, that all veterans are treated equally; that we can ensure that no one feels alienated when walking through the doors of the VA facility.

The Republicans zap any program, any policy related to treating veterans equally and making everyone feel welcome when they walk in that door.

It was a top priority for them to prohibit VA facilities from flying the Pride flag over VA's facilities. If that is one of their top priorities, it is no wonder that they are cutting a billion-and-a-half dollars out of military construction, because our friends on the other side of the aisle have their policies backwards when it comes to taking care of the people who have served our country and continue to serve our country.

They have given a license to discriminate against people who are LGBTQIA+ under the guise of religious liberty. They are preventing the Federal Government from adequately responding to that and from VA to provide healthcare services to everyone equally, and they are prohibiting access to gender-affirming care, which no matter what you might like to believe on the other side of the aisle, there are people who have served our country who deserve those services.

All veterans should feel welcomed, included, and cared for. The fact that they are cutting funding for PFAS forever chemical cleanup means that we are going to be causing cancer and severe illness—which people are already getting by being exposed to these forever chemicals. We are going to ensure, because of the Republican values that are reflected in this bill, cutting funding for PFAS forever chemicals, we are going to ensure that more people who served our country and who live nearby facilities that need to be cleaned up from these chemicals get sick and eventually die. That is on them.

There is enormous need for more funding to help make sure that we can do right by our veterans. This bill does the opposite, and I stand in opposition to it. I urge all Members to join me in voting against this bill so that we can go back to the drawing board.

We will likely go back to the drawing board, I am quite sure, as this bill is on a crash course with the Senate bill which does a much better job at living up to the values that we all should adhere to, and that is taking care of people who have served our country and are serving our country nobly now.

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

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

The Acting CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

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

The bill shall be considered as read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4366

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Army as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Army Corps of Engineers and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, and for construction and operation of facilities in support of the functions of the Commander in Chief, $1,517,455,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided*, That, of this amount, not to exceed $345,775,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, architect and engineer services, and host nation support, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Army determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, $162,900,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading ''Military Construction, Army'' in the report accompanying this Act, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, naval installations, facilities, and real property for the Navy and Marine Corps as currently authorized by law, including personnel in the Naval Facilities Engineering Command and other personal services necessary for the purposes of this appropriation, $4,477,961,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided*, That, of this amount, not to exceed $602,625,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Navy determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, $52,683,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading ''Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps'' in the report accompanying this Act, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, military installations, facilities, and real property for the Air Force as currently authorized by law, $2,439,614,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided*, That, of this amount, not to exceed $450,614,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Air Force determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, $30,300,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading ''Military Construction, Air Force'' in the report accompanying this Act, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, DEFENSE-WIDE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For acquisition, construction, installation, and equipment of temporary or permanent public works, installations, facilities, and real property for activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the

military departments), as currently authorized by law, $2,651,047,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided,* That such amounts of this appropriation as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense may be transferred to such appropriations of the Department of Defense available for military construction or family housing as the Secretary may designate, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes, and for the same time period, as the appropriation or fund to which transferred: *Provided further,* That, of the amount, not to exceed $304,045,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of Defense determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Army National Guard, and contributions therefor, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $369,261,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided,* That, of the amount, not to exceed $42,361,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Director of the Army National Guard determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further,* That of the amount made available under this heading, $19,075,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading ''Military Construction, Army National Guard'' in the report accompanying this Act, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR NATIONAL GUARD

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Air National Guard, and contributions therefor, as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $189,322,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided,* That, of the amount, not to exceed $36,200,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Director of the Air National Guard determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further,* That of the amount made available under this heading, $600,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading ''Military Construction, Air National Guard'' in the report accompanying this Act, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, ARMY RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Army Reserve as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $117,076,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided,* That, of the amount, not to exceed $23,389,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Chief of the Army Reserve determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, NAVY RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the reserve components of the Navy and Marine Corps as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $61,291,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided,* That, of the amount, not to exceed $6,495,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Secretary of the Navy determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE RESERVE

For construction, acquisition, expansion, rehabilitation, and conversion of facilities for the training and administration of the Air Force Reserve as authorized by chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $330,572,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided,* That, of the amount, not to exceed $12,146,000 shall be available for study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services, as authorized by law, unless the Chief of the Air Force Reserve determines that additional obligations are necessary for such purposes and notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the determination and the reasons therefor: *Provided further,* That of the amount made available under this heading, $29,000,000 shall be for the projects and activities, and in the amounts, specified in the table under the heading ''Military Construction, Air Force Reserve'' in the report accompanying this Act, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION SECURITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM

For the United States share of the cost of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Security Investment Program for the acquisition and construction of military facilities and installations (including international military headquarters) and for related expenses for the collective defense of the North Atlantic Treaty Area as authorized by section 2806 of title 10, United States Code, and Military Construction Authorization Acts, $293,434,000, to remain available until expended.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE ACCOUNT

For deposit into the Department of Defense Base Closure Account, established by section 2906(a) of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (10 U.S.C. 2687 note), $539,174,000, to remain available until expended.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, ARMY

For expenses of family housing for the Army for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, $304,895,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY

For expenses of family housing for the Army for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, $395,485,000.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Marine Corps for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, $277,142,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY AND MARINE CORPS

For expenses of family housing for the Navy and Marine Corps for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, $373,854,000.

FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE

For expenses of family housing for the Air Force for construction, including acquisition, replacement, addition, expansion, extension, and alteration, as authorized by law, $237,097,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE

For expenses of family housing for the Air Force for operation and maintenance, including debt payment, leasing, minor construction, principal and interest charges, and insurance premiums, as authorized by law, $324,386,000.

FAMILY HOUSING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE

For expenses of family housing for the activities and agencies of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments) for operation and maintenance, leasing, and minor construction, as authorized by law, $50,785,000.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

FAMILY HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND

For the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund, $6,611,000, to remain available until expended, for family housing initiatives undertaken pursuant to section 2883 of title 10, United States Code, providing alternative means of acquiring and improving military family housing and supporting facilities.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MILITARY UNACCOMPANIED HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND

For the Department of Defense Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund, $496,000, to remain available until expended, for unaccompanied housing initiatives undertaken pursuant to section 2883 of title 10, United States Code, providing alternative means of acquiring and improving military unaccompanied housing and supporting facilities.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SEC. 101. None of the funds made available in this title shall be expended for payments under a cost-plus-a-fixed-fee contract for construction, where cost estimates exceed $25,000, to be performed within the United States, except Alaska, without the specific approval in writing of the Secretary of Defense setting forth the reasons therefor.

SEC. 102. Funds made available in this title for construction shall be available for hire of passenger motor vehicles.

SEC. 103. Funds made available in this title for construction may be used for advances to the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, for the construction of access roads as authorized by section 210 of title 23, United States Code,

when projects authorized therein are certified as important to the national defense by the Secretary of Defense.

SEC. 104. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to begin construction of new bases in the United States for which specific appropriations have not been made.

SEC. 105. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used for purchase of land or land easements in excess of 100 percent of the value as determined by the Army Corps of Engineers or the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, except: (1) where there is a determination of value by a Federal court; (2) purchases negotiated by the Attorney General or the designee of the Attorney General; (3) where the estimated value is less than $25,000; or (4) as otherwise determined by the Secretary of Defense to be in the public interest.

SEC. 106. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used to: (1) acquire land; (2) provide for site preparation; or (3) install utilities for any family housing, except housing for which funds have been made available in annual Acts making appropriations for military construction.

SEC. 107. None of the funds made available in this title for minor construction may be used to transfer or relocate any activity from one base or installation to another, without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 108. None of the funds made available in this title may be used for the procurement of steel for any construction project or activity for which American steel producers, fabricators, and manufacturers have been denied the opportunity to compete for such steel procurement.

SEC. 109. None of the funds available to the Department of Defense for military construction or family housing during the current fiscal year may be used to pay real property taxes in any foreign nation.

SEC. 110. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to initiate a new installation overseas without prior notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 111. None of the funds made available in this title may be obligated for architect and engineer contracts estimated by the Government to exceed $500,000 for projects to be accomplished in Japan, in any North Atlantic Treaty Organization member country, or in countries bordering the Arabian Gulf, unless such contracts are awarded to United States firms or United States firms in joint venture with host nation firms.

SEC. 112. None of the funds made available in this title for military construction in the United States territories and possessions in the Pacific and on Kwajalein Atoll, or in countries bordering the Arabian Gulf, may be used to award any contract estimated by the Government to exceed $1,000,000 to a foreign contractor: *Provided*, That this section shall not be applicable to contract awards for which the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a United States contractor exceeds the lowest responsive and responsible bid of a foreign contractor by greater than 20 percent: *Provided further*, That this section shall not apply to contract awards for military construction on Kwajalein Atoll for which the lowest responsive and responsible bid is submitted by a Marshallese contractor.

SEC. 113. The Secretary of Defense shall inform the appropriate committees of both Houses of Congress, including the Committees on Appropriations, of plans and scope of any proposed military exercise involving United States personnel 30 days prior to its occurring, if amounts expended for construction, either temporary or permanent, are anticipated to exceed $100,000.

SEC. 114. Funds appropriated to the Department of Defense for construction in prior years shall be available for construction authorized for each such military department by the authorizations enacted into law during the current session of Congress.

SEC. 115. For military construction or family housing projects that are being completed with funds otherwise expired or lapsed for obligation, expired or lapsed funds may be used to pay the cost of associated supervision, inspection, overhead, engineering and design on those projects and on subsequent claims, if any.

SEC. 116. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any funds made available to a military department or defense agency for the construction of military projects may be obligated for a military construction project or contract, or for any portion of such a project or contract, at any time before the end of the fourth fiscal year after the fiscal year for which funds for such project were made available, if the funds obligated for such project: (1) are obligated from funds available for military construction projects; and (2) do not exceed the amount appropriated for such project, plus any amount by which the cost of such project is increased pursuant to law.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 117. Subject to 30 days prior notification, or 14 days for a notification provided in an electronic medium pursuant to sections 480 and 2883 of title 10, United States Code, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, such additional amounts as may be determined by the Secretary of Defense may be transferred to: (1) the Department of Defense Family Housing Improvement Fund from amounts appropriated for construction in ''Family Housing'' accounts, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same period of time as amounts appropriated directly to the Fund; or (2) the Department of Defense Military Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund from amounts appropriated for construction of military unaccompanied housing in ''Military Construction'' accounts, to be merged with and to be available for the same purposes and for the same period of time as amounts appropriated directly to the Fund: *Provided*, That appropriations made available to the Funds shall be available to cover the costs, as defined in section 502(5) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, of direct loans or loan guarantees issued by the Department of Defense pursuant to the provisions of subchapter IV of chapter 169 of title 10, United States Code, pertaining to alternative means of acquiring and improving military family housing, military unaccompanied housing, and supporting facilities.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 118. In addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense, amounts may be transferred from the Department of Defense Base Closure Account to the fund established by section 1013(d) of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 3374) to pay for expenses associated with the Homeowners Assistance Program incurred under 42 U.S.C. 3374(a)(1)(A). Any amounts transferred shall be merged with and be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the fund to which transferred.

SEC. 119. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds made available in this title for operation and maintenance of family housing shall be the exclusive source of funds for repair and maintenance of all family housing units, including general or flag officer quarters: *Provided*, That not more than $15,000 per unit may be spent annually for the maintenance and repair of any general or flag officer quarters without 30 days prior notification, or 14 days for a notification provided in an electronic medium pursuant to sections 480 and 2883 of title 10, United States Code, to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, except that an after-the-fact notification shall be submitted if the limitation is exceeded solely due to costs associated with environmental remediation that could not be reasonably anticipated at the time of the budget submission: *Provided further*, That the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) is to report annually to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress all operation and maintenance expenditures for each individual general or flag officer quarters for the prior fiscal year.

SEC. 120. Amounts contained in the Ford Island Improvement Account established by subsection (h) of section 2814 of title 10, United States Code, are appropriated and shall be available until expended for the purposes specified in subsection (i)(1) of such section or until transferred pursuant to subsection (i)(3) of such section.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 121. During the 5-year period after appropriations available in this Act to the Department of Defense for military construction and family housing operation and maintenance and construction have expired for obligation, upon a determination that such appropriations will not be necessary for the liquidation of obligations or for making authorized adjustments to such appropriations for obligations incurred during the period of availability of such appropriations, unobligated balances of such appropriations may be transferred into the appropriation ''Foreign Currency Fluctuations, Construction, Defense'', to be merged with and to be available for the same time period and for the same purposes as the appropriation to which transferred.

SEC. 122. Amounts appropriated or otherwise made available in an account funded under the headings in this title may be transferred among projects and activities within the account in accordance with the reprogramming guidelines for military construction and family housing construction contained in Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation 7000.14–R, Volume 3, Chapter 7, of March 2011, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 123. None of the funds made available in this title may be obligated or expended for planning and design and construction of projects at Arlington National Cemetery.

SEC. 124. For an additional amount for the accounts and in the amounts specified, to remain available until September 30, 2028:

''Military Construction, Army'', $47,700,000;

''Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps'', $689,409,000;

''Military Construction, Air Force'', $148,300,000;

''Military Construction, Defense-Wide'', $280,100,000;

''Military Construction, Army National Guard'', $26,800,000;

''Military Construction, Air National Guard'', $126,742,000;

''Military Construction, Army Reserve'', $40,000,000;

''Military Construction, Air Force Reserve'', $8,500,000; and

''Family Housing Construction, Air Force'', $27,000,000:

Provided, That such funds may only be obligated to carry out construction projects identified in the respective military department's unfunded priority list for fiscal year

2024 submitted to Congress: *Provided further,* That such projects are subject to authorization prior to obligation and expenditure of funds to carry out construction: *Provided further,* That not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the military department concerned, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.

SEC. 125. All amounts appropriated to the ''Department of Defense—Military Construction, Army'', ''Department of Defense—Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps'', ''Department of Defense—Military Construction, Air Force'', and ''Department of Defense—Military Construction, Defense-Wide'' accounts pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in a National Defense Authorization Act specified for fiscal year 2024 in the funding table in section 4601 of that Act shall be immediately available and allotted to contract for the full scope of authorized projects.

SEC. 126. Notwithstanding section 116 of this Act, funds made available in this Act or any available unobligated balances from prior appropriations Acts may be obligated before October 1, 2025, for fiscal year 2017, 2018, and 2019 military construction projects for which project authorization has not lapsed or for which authorization is extended for fiscal year 2024 by a National Defense Authorization Act: *Provided,* That no amounts may be obligated pursuant to this section from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 127. For the purposes of this Act, the term ''congressional defense committees'' means the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 128. For an additional amount for the accounts and in the amounts specified for planning and design and for construction improvements to Department of Defense laboratory facilities, to remain available until September 30, 2028:

''Military Construction, Army'', $30,000,000;

''Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps'', $30,000,000; and

''Military Construction, Air Force'', $30,000,000:

Provided, That not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the military department concerned, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section: *Provided further,* That the Secretary of the military department concerned may not obligate or expend any funds prior to approval by the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the expenditure plan required by this section.

SEC. 129. For an additional amount for ''Military Construction, Air Force'', $252,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028, for expenses incurred as a result of natural disasters: *Provided,* That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Air Force, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.

SEC. 130. For an additional amount for the accounts and in the amounts specified for planning and design, for child development centers, to remain available until September 30, 2028:

''Military Construction, Army'', $25,000,000;

''Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps'', $25,000,000; and

''Military Construction, Air Force'', $25,000,000:

Provided, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the military department concerned, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.

SEC. 131. For an additional amount for the accounts and amounts specified for planning and design, for barracks, to remain available until September 30, 2028:

''Military Construction Army'', $65,000,000;

''Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps'', $65,000,000; and

''Military Construction, Air Force'', $65,000,000:

Provided, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the military department concerned, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.

SEC. 132. For an additional amount for the accounts and in the amounts specified for unspecified minor construction for demolition, to remain available until September 30, 2028:

''Military Construction, Army'', $15,000,000;

''Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps'', $15,000,000;

''Military Construction, Air Force'', $15,000,000;

''Military Construction, Army National Guard'', $15,000,000;

''Military Construction, Air National Guard'', $15,000,000;

''Military Construction, Army Reserve'', $5,000,000;

''Military Construction, Navy Reserve'', $5,000,000; and

''Military Construction, Air Force Reserve'', $5,000,000:

Provided, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the military department concerned, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section: *Provided further,* That the Secretary of the military department concerned may not obligate or expend any funds prior to approval by the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the expenditure plan required by this section.

SEC. 133. For an additional amount for the accounts and in the amounts specified, to remain available until September 30, 2028:

''Military Construction, Army'', $122,210,000;

''Military Construction, Air Force'', $90,400,000;

''Military Construction, Army National Guard'', $134,881,000; and

''Military Construction, Army Reserve'', $23,000,000:

Provided, That funds may only be obligated to carry out cost to complete projects identified in the respective military department's unfunded priority list for fiscal year 2024 submitted to Congress: *Provided further,* That such projects are subject to authorization prior to obligation and expenditure funds to carry out construction: *Provided further,* That not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the military department concerned, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds under this section.

SEC. 134. For an additional amount for ''Military Construction, Navy and Marine Corps'', $50,000,000 to remain available until September 30, 2028, for planning and design for Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Program construction: *Provided,* That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Navy, or their designee, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress an expenditure plan for funds provided under this section.

SEC. 135. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out the closure or realignment of the United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

SEC. 136. (a) None of the funds made available by this Act for the Department of the Air Force, or any other Department and Agency, may be obligated or expended for the construction or modification of facilities for temporary or permanent use by the United States Space Command for headquarters operations unless, pursuant to subsection (b), the preferred location for permanent headquarters of the United States Space Command is selected or until the required report is submitted.

(b) In the event a permanent location for the headquarters is selected other than the preferred location as identified by the Department of the Air Force in January 2021, the Secretary of the Air Force shall submit to the congressional appropriations committees a report on the rationale for the selection of a permanent location for the headquarters of the United States Space Command.

(c) Subsection (a) shall not apply to any repair necessary to maintain facilities to protect personnel or property.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

COMPENSATION AND PENSIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the payment of compensation benefits to or on behalf of veterans and a pilot program for disability examinations as authorized by section 107 and chapters 11, 13, 18, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code; pension benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by chapters 15, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code; and burial benefits, the Reinstated Entitlement Program for Survivors, emergency and other officers' retirement pay, adjusted-service credits and certificates, payment of premiums due on commercial life insurance policies guaranteed under the provisions of title IV of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (50 U.S.C. App. 541 et seq.) and for other benefits as authorized by sections 107, 1312, 1977, and 2106, and chapters 23, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code, $4,655,879,000, which shall be in addition to funds previously appropriated under this heading that become available on October 1, 2023, to remain available until expended; and, in addition, $181,390,281,000, which shall become available on October 1, 2024, to remain available until expended: *Provided,* That not to exceed $22,109,000 of the amount made available for fiscal year 2025 under this heading shall be reimbursed to ''General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration'', and ''Information Technology Systems'' for necessary expenses in implementing the provisions of chapters 51, 53, and 55 of title 38, United States Code, the funding source for which is specifically provided as the ''Compensation and Pensions'' appropriation: *Provided further,* That such sums as may be earned on an actual qualifying patient basis, shall be reimbursed to ''Medical Care Collections Fund'' to augment the funding of individual medical facilities for nursing home care provided to pensioners as authorized.

READJUSTMENT BENEFITS

For the payment of readjustment and rehabilitation benefits to or on behalf of veterans as authorized by chapters 21, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 39, 41, 51, 53, 55, and 61 of title 38, United States Code, $11,523,134,000, which shall become available on October 1, 2024, to remain available until expended: *Provided,* That expenses for rehabilitation program services and assistance which the Secretary is authorized to provide under subsection (a) of section 3104 of title 38, United States Code, other than under paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (11) of that subsection, shall be charged to this account.

VETERANS INSURANCE AND INDEMNITIES

For military and naval insurance, national service life insurance, servicemen's indemnities, service-disabled veterans insurance, and veterans mortgage life insurance as authorized by chapters 19 and 21 of title 38, United States Code, $12,701,000, which shall be in addition to funds previously appropriated under this heading that become available on October 1, 2023, to remain available until expended; and in addition, $135,119,422, which shall become available on October 1, 2024, to remain available until expended.

VETERANS HOUSING BENEFIT PROGRAM FUND

For the cost of direct and guaranteed loans, such sums as may be necessary to carry out the program, as authorized by subchapters I through III of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code: *Provided,* That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further,* That, during fiscal year 2024, within the resources available, not to exceed $500,000 in gross obligations for direct loans are authorized for specially adapted housing loans.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, $316,742,419.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of direct loans, $78,337, as authorized by chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code: *Provided,* That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further,* That funds made available under this heading are available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed $2,026,000.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct loan program, $460,698, which may be paid to the appropriation for ''General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration''.

NATIVE AMERICAN VETERAN HOUSING LOAN PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For administrative expenses to carry out the direct loan program authorized by subchapter V of chapter 37 of title 38, United States Code, $2,718,546.

GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES, VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION

For necessary operating expenses of the Veterans Benefits Administration, not otherwise provided for, including hire of passenger motor vehicles, reimbursement of the General Services Administration for security guard services, and reimbursement of the Department of Defense for the cost of overseas employee mail, $3,899,000,000: *Provided,* That expenses for services and assistance authorized under paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (11) of section 3104(a) of title 38, United States Code, that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines are necessary to enable entitled veterans: (1) to the maximum extent feasible, to become employable and to obtain and maintain suitable employment; or (2) to achieve maximum independence in daily living, shall be charged to this account: *Provided further,* That, of the funds made available under this heading, not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2025.

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

MEDICAL SERVICES

For necessary expenses for furnishing, as authorized by law, inpatient and outpatient care and treatment to beneficiaries of the Department of Veterans Affairs and veterans described in section 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code, including care and treatment in facilities not under the jurisdiction of the Department, and including medical supplies and equipment, bioengineering services, food services, and salaries and expenses of healthcare employees hired under title 38, United States Code, assistance and support services for caregivers as authorized by section 1720G of title 38, United States Code, loan repayments authorized by section 604 of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 (Public Law 111–163; 124 Stat. 1174; 38 U.S.C. 7681 note), monthly assistance allowances authorized by section 322(d) of title 38, United States Code, grants authorized by section 521A of title 38, United States Code, and administrative expenses necessary to carry out sections 322(d) and 521A of title 38, United States Code, and hospital care and medical services authorized by section 1787 of title 38, United States Code; $71,000,000,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2024, and shall remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided,* That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2024, under this heading, $2,000,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2026: *Provided further,* That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall establish a priority for the provision of medical treatment for veterans who have service-connected disabilities, lower income, or have special needs: *Provided further,* That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall give priority funding for the provision of basic medical benefits to veterans in enrollment priority groups 1 through 6: *Provided further,* That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may authorize the dispensing of prescription drugs from Veterans Health Administration facilities to enrolled veterans with privately written prescriptions based on requirements established by the Secretary: *Provided further,* That the implementation of the program described in the previous proviso shall incur no additional cost to the Department of Veterans Affairs: *Provided further,* That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that sufficient amounts appropriated under this heading for medical supplies and equipment are available for the acquisition of prosthetics designed specifically for female veterans: *Provided further*, That nothing in section 2044(e)(1) of title 38, United States Code, may be construed as limiting amounts that may be made available under this heading for fiscal years 2024 and 2025 in this or prior Acts.

MEDICAL COMMUNITY CARE

For necessary expenses for furnishing health care to individuals pursuant to chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, at non-Department facilities, $20,382,000,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2024, and shall remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2024, under this heading, $2,000,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2026.

MEDICAL SUPPORT AND COMPLIANCE

For necessary expenses in the administration of the medical, hospital, nursing home, domiciliary, construction, supply, and research activities, as authorized by law; administrative expenses in support of capital policy activities; and administrative and legal expenses of the Department for collecting and recovering amounts owed the Department as authorized under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, and the Federal Medical Care Recovery Act (42 U.S.C. 2651 et seq.), $11,800,000,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2024, and shall remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided,* That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2024, under this heading, $350,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2026.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

For necessary expenses for the maintenance and operation of hospitals, nursing homes, domiciliary facilities, and other necessary facilities of the Veterans Health Administration; for administrative expenses in support of planning, design, project management, real property acquisition and disposition, construction, and renovation of any facility under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department; for oversight, engineering, and architectural activities not charged to project costs; for repairing, altering, improving, or providing facilities in the several hospitals and homes under the jurisdiction of the Department, not otherwise provided for, either by contract or by the hire of temporary employees and purchase of materials; for leases of facilities; and for laundry services; $9,400,000,000, plus reimbursements, shall become available on October 1, 2024, and shall remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided,* That, of the amount made available on October 1, 2024, under this heading, $500,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2026.

MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH

For necessary expenses in carrying out programs of medical and prosthetic research and development as authorized by chapter 73 of title 38, United States Code, $938,000,000, plus reimbursements, shall remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided,* That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that sufficient amounts appropriated under this heading are available for prosthetic research specifically for female veterans, and for toxic exposure research.

NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses of the National Cemetery Administration for operations and maintenance, not otherwise provided for, including uniforms or allowances therefor; cemeterial expenses as authorized by law; purchase of one passenger motor vehicle for use in cemeterial operations; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and repair, alteration or improvement of facilities under the jurisdiction of the National Cemetery Administration, $480,000,000, of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2025.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary operating expenses of the Department of Veterans Affairs, not otherwise provided for, including administrative expenses in support of Department-wide capital planning, management and policy activities, uniforms, or allowances therefor; not to exceed $25,000 for official reception and representation expenses; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and reimbursement of the General Services Administration for security guard services, $475,000,000, of which not to

exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided,* That funds provided under this heading may be transferred to ''General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration''.

BOARD OF VETERANS APPEALS

For necessary operating expenses of the Board of Veterans Appeals, $287,000,000 of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2025.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for information technology systems and telecommunications support, including developmental information systems and operational information systems; for pay and associated costs; and for the capital asset acquisition of information technology systems, including management and related contractual costs of said acquisitions, including contractual costs associated with operations authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, $6,401,000,000, plus reimbursements: *Provided,* That $1,606,977,000 shall be for pay and associated costs, of which not to exceed 3 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided further,* That $4,668,373,000 shall be for operations and maintenance, of which not to exceed 5 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided further,* That $125,650,000 shall be for information technology systems development, and shall remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided further,* That amounts made available for salaries and expenses, operations and maintenance, and information technology systems development may be transferred among the three subaccounts after the Secretary of Veterans Affairs requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued: *Provided further,* That amounts made available for the ''Information Technology Systems'' account for development may be transferred among projects or to newly defined projects: *Provided further,* That no project may be increased or decreased by more than $3,000,000 of cost prior to submitting a request to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress to make the transfer and an approval is issued, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed: *Provided further,* That the funds made available under this heading for information technology systems development shall be for the projects, and in the amounts, specified in the table entitled ''Information Technology Development Projects'' under this heading in the report accompanying this Act.

VETERANS ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD

For activities related to implementation, preparation, development, interface, management, rollout, and maintenance of a Veterans Electronic Health Record system, including contractual costs associated with operations authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, and salaries and expenses of employees hired under titles 5 and 38, United States Code, $1,863,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026: *Provided,* That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress quarterly reports detailing obligations, expenditures, and deployment implementation by facility, including any changes from the deployment plan or schedule: *Provided further,* That the funds provided in this account shall only be available to the Office of the Deputy Secretary, to be administered by that Office: *Provided further,* That 25 percent of the funds made available under this heading shall not be available until July 1, 2024, and are contingent upon the Secretary of Veterans Affairs—

(1) providing the Committees on Appropriations a report detailing the status of outstanding issues impacting the stability and usability of the new electronic health record system, including those that contributed to the October 13, 2022, deployment delay, along with a timeline and measurable metrics to resolve issues, no later than 60 days after enactment of this Act;

(2) certifying and detailing any changes to the full deployment schedule, no later than 60 days prior to July 1, 2024; and

(3) certifying in writing no later than 30 days prior to July 1, 2024, the following—

(A) the status of issues included in the report referenced in paragraph (1), including issues that have not been closed but have been suitably resolved or mitigated in a manner that will enhance provider productivity and minimize the potential for patient harm; and

(B) whether the system is stable, ready, and optimized for further deployment at VA sites.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, to include information technology, in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), $296,000,000, of which not to exceed 10 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2025.

CONSTRUCTION, MAJOR PROJECTS

For constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities, including parking projects, under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or for any of the purposes set forth in sections 316, 2404, 2406 and chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, not otherwise provided for, including planning, architectural and engineering services, construction management services, maintenance or guarantee period services costs associated with equipment guarantees provided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite utility and storm drainage system construction costs, and site acquisition, where the estimated cost of a project is more than the amount set forth in section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, or where funds for a project were made available in a previous major project appropriation, $881,000,000, of which $373,096,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2028, and of which $507,904,000 shall remain available until expended, of which $110,000,000 shall be available for seismic improvement projects and seismic program management activities, including for projects that would otherwise be funded by the Construction, Minor Projects, Medical Facilities or National Cemetery Administration accounts: *Provided,* That except for advance planning activities, including needs assessments which may or may not lead to capital investments, and other capital asset management related activities, including portfolio development and management activities, and planning, cost estimating, and design for major medical facility projects and major medical facility leases and investment strategy studies funded through the advance planning fund and the planning and design activities funded through the design fund, staffing expenses, and funds provided for the purchase, security, and maintenance of land for the National Cemetery Administration through the land acquisition line item, none of the funds made available under this heading shall be used for any project that has not been notified to Congress through the budgetary process or that has not been approved by the Congress through statute, joint resolution, or in the explanatory statement accompanying such Act and presented to the President at the time of enrollment: *Provided further,* That such sums as may be necessary shall be available to reimburse the ''General Administration'' account for payment of salaries and expenses of all Office of Construction and Facilities Management employees to support the full range of capital infrastructure services provided, including minor construction and leasing services: *Provided further,* That funds made available under this heading for fiscal year 2024, for each approved project shall be obligated: (1) by the awarding of a construction documents contract by September 30, 2024; and (2) by the awarding of a construction contract by September 30, 2025: *Provided further,* That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall promptly submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a written report on any approved major construction project for which obligations are not incurred within the time limitations established above: *Provided further,* That notwithstanding the requirements of section 8104(a) of title 38, United States Code, amounts made available under this heading for seismic improvement projects and seismic program management activities shall be available for the completion of both new and existing seismic projects of the Department.

CONSTRUCTION, MINOR PROJECTS

For constructing, altering, extending, and improving any of the facilities, including parking projects, under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs, including planning and assessments of needs which may lead to capital investments, architectural and engineering services, maintenance or guarantee period services costs associated with equipment guarantees provided under the project, services of claims analysts, offsite utility and storm drainage system construction costs, and site acquisition, or for any of the purposes set forth in sections 316, 2404, 2406 and chapter 81 of title 38, United States Code, not otherwise provided for, where the estimated cost of a project is equal to or less than the amount set forth in section 8104(a)(3)(A) of title 38, United States Code, $680,000,000, of which $612,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2028, and of which $68,000,000 shall remain available until expended, along with unobligated balances of previous ''Construction, Minor Projects'' appropriations which are hereby made available for any project where the estimated cost is equal to or less than the amount set forth in such section: *Provided,* That funds made available under this heading shall be for: (1) repairs to any of the nonmedical facilities under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department which are necessary because of loss or damage caused by any natural disaster or catastrophe; and (2) temporary measures necessary to prevent or to minimize further loss by such causes.

GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF STATE EXTENDED CARE FACILITIES

For grants to assist States to acquire or construct State nursing home and domiciliary facilities and to remodel, modify, or alter existing hospital, nursing home, and domiciliary facilities in State homes, for furnishing care to veterans as authorized by sections 8131 through 8137 of title 38, United States Code, $164,000,000, to remain available until expended.

GRANTS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VETERANS CEMETERIES

For grants to assist States and tribal organizations in establishing, expanding, or improving veterans cemeteries as authorized by section 2408 of title 38, United States Code, $60,000,000, to remain available until expended.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 201. Any appropriation for fiscal year 2024 for ''Compensation and Pensions'', ''Readjustment Benefits'', and ''Veterans Insurance and Indemnities'' may be transferred as necessary to any other of the mentioned appropriations: *Provided*, That, before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and such Committees issue an approval, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 202. Amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2024, in this or any other Act, under the ''Medical Services'', ''Medical Community Care'', ''Medical Support and Compliance'', and ''Medical Facilities'' accounts may be transferred among the accounts: *Provided*, That any transfers among the ''Medical Services'', ''Medical Community Care'', and ''Medical Support and Compliance'' accounts of 1 percent or less of the total amount appropriated to the account in this or any other Act may take place subject to notification from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of the amount and purpose of the transfer: *Provided further*, That any transfers among the ''Medical Services'', ''Medical Community Care'', and ''Medical Support and Compliance'' accounts in excess of 1 percent, or exceeding the cumulative 1 percent for the fiscal year, may take place only after the Secretary requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued: *Provided further*, That any transfers to or from the ''Medical Facilities'' account may take place only after the Secretary requests from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued.

SEC. 203. Appropriations available in this title for salaries and expenses shall be available for services authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; hire of passenger motor vehicles; lease of a facility or land or both; and uniforms or allowances therefore, as authorized by sections 5901 through 5902 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 204. No appropriations in this title (except the appropriations for ''Construction, Major Projects'', and ''Construction, Minor Projects'') shall be available for the purchase of any site for or toward the construction of any new hospital or home.

SEC. 205. No appropriations in this title shall be available for hospitalization or examination of any persons (except beneficiaries entitled to such hospitalization or examination under the laws providing such benefits to veterans, and persons receiving such treatment under sections 7901 through 7904 of title 5, United States Code, or the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.)), unless reimbursement of the cost of such hospitalization or examination is made to the ''Medical Services'' account at such rates as may be fixed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 206. Appropriations available in this title for ''Compensation and Pensions'', ''Readjustment Benefits'', and ''Veterans Insurance and Indemnities'' shall be available for payment of prior year accrued obligations required to be recorded by law against the corresponding prior year accounts within the last quarter of fiscal year 2023.

SEC. 207. Appropriations available in this title shall be available to pay prior year obligations of corresponding prior year appropriations accounts resulting from sections 3328(a), 3334, and 3712(a) of title 31, United States Code, except that if such obligations are from trust fund accounts they shall be payable only from ''Compensation and Pensions''.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 208. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during fiscal year 2024, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, from the National Service Life Insurance Fund under section 1920 of title 38, United States Code, the Veterans' Special Life Insurance Fund under section 1923 of title 38, United States Code, and the United States Government Life Insurance Fund under section 1955 of title 38, United States Code, reimburse the ''General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration'' and ''Information Technology Systems'' accounts for the cost of administration of the insurance programs financed through those accounts: *Provided*, That reimbursement shall be made only from the surplus earnings accumulated in such an insurance program during fiscal year 2024 that are available for dividends in that program after claims have been paid and actuarially determined reserves have been set aside: *Provided further*, That if the cost of administration of such an insurance program exceeds the amount of surplus earnings accumulated in that program, reimbursement shall be made only to the extent of such surplus earnings: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall determine the cost of administration for fiscal year 2024 which is properly allocable to the provision of each such insurance program and to the provision of any total disability income insurance included in that insurance program.

SEC. 209. Amounts deducted from enhanced-use lease proceeds to reimburse an account for expenses incurred by that account during a prior fiscal year for providing enhanced-use lease services shall be available until expended.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 210. Funds available in this title or funds for salaries and other administrative expenses shall also be available to reimburse the Office of Resolution Management, Diversity and Inclusion, the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication, and the Alternative Dispute Resolution function within the Office of Human Resources and Administration for all services provided at rates which will recover actual costs but not to exceed $86,481,000 for the Office of Resolution Management, Diversity and Inclusion, $6,960,000 for the Office of Employment Discrimination Complaint Adjudication, and $7,772,000 for the Alternative Dispute Resolution function within the Office of Human Resources and Administration: *Provided*, That payments may be made in advance for services to be furnished based on estimated costs: *Provided further*, That amounts received shall be credited to the ''General Administration'' and ''Information Technology Systems'' accounts for use by the office that provided the service.

SEC. 211. No funds of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall be available for hospital care, nursing home care, or medical services provided to any person under chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, for a non-service-connected disability described in section 1729(a)(2) of such title, unless that person has disclosed to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in such form as the Secretary may require, current, accurate third-party reimbursement information for purposes of section 1729 of such title: *Provided*, That the Secretary may recover, in the same manner as any other debt due the United States, the reasonable charges for such care or services from any person who does not make such disclosure as required: *Provided further*, That any amounts so recovered for care or services provided in a prior fiscal year may be obligated by the Secretary during the fiscal year in which amounts are received.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 212. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, proceeds or revenues derived from enhanced-use leasing activities (including disposal) may be deposited into the ''Construction, Major Projects'' and ''Construction, Minor Projects'' accounts and be used for construction (including site acquisition and disposition), alterations, and improvements of any medical facility under the jurisdiction or for the use of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Such sums as realized are in addition to the amount provided for in ''Construction, Major Projects'' and ''Construction, Minor Projects''.

SEC. 213. Amounts made available under ''Medical Services'' are available—

(1) for furnishing recreational facilities, supplies, and equipment; and

(2) for funeral expenses, burial expenses, and other expenses incidental to funerals and burials for beneficiaries receiving care in the Department.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 214. Such sums as may be deposited into the Medical Care Collections Fund pursuant to section 1729A of title 38, United States Code, may be transferred to the ''Medical Services'' and ''Medical Community Care'' accounts to remain available until expended for the purposes of these accounts.

SEC. 215. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may enter into agreements with Federally Qualified Health Centers in the State of Alaska and Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations which are party to the Alaska Native Health Compact with the Indian Health Service, to provide healthcare, including behavioral health and dental care, to veterans in rural Alaska. The Secretary shall require participating veterans and facilities to comply with all appropriate rules and regulations, as established by the Secretary. The term ''rural Alaska'' shall mean those lands which are not within the boundaries of the municipality of Anchorage or the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 216. Such sums as may be deposited into the Department of Veterans Affairs Capital Asset Fund pursuant to section 8118 of title 38, United States Code, may be transferred to the ''Construction, Major Projects'' and ''Construction, Minor Projects'' accounts, to remain available until expended for the purposes of these accounts.

SEC. 217. Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a report on the financial status of the Department of Veterans Affairs for the preceding quarter: *Provided*, That, at a minimum, the report shall include the direction contained in the paragraph entitled ''Quarterly reporting'', under the heading ''General Administration'' in the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 114–223.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 218. Amounts made available under the ''Medical Services'', ''Medical Community Care'', ''Medical Support and Compliance'', ''Medical Facilities'', ''General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration'', ''Board of Veterans Appeals'', ''General Administration'', and ''National Cemetery Administration'' accounts for fiscal year 2024 may be transferred to or from the ''Information Technology Systems'' account: *Provided*, That such transfers may not

result in a more than 10 percent aggregate increase in the total amount made available by this Act for the ''Information Technology Systems'' account: *Provided further*, That, before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and an approval is issued.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 219. Of the amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2024 for ''Medical Services'', ''Medical Community Care'', ''Medical Support and Compliance'', ''Medical Facilities'', ''Construction, Minor Projects'', and ''Information Technology Systems'', up to $430,532,000, plus reimbursements, may be transferred to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–84; 123 Stat. 2571) and may be used for operation of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 122 Stat. 4500): *Provided*, That additional funds may be transferred from accounts designated in this section to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund upon written notification by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That section 220 of title II of division J of Public Law 117–328 is repealed.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 220. Of the amounts appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs which become available on October 1, 2024, for ''Medical Services'', ''Medical Community Care'', ''Medical Support and Compliance'', and ''Medical Facilities'', up to $456,547,000, plus reimbursements, may be transferred to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–84; 123 Stat. 2571) and may be used for operation of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 122 Stat. 4500): *Provided*, That additional funds may be transferred from accounts designated in this section to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund upon written notification by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 221. Such sums as may be deposited into the Medical Care Collections Fund pursuant to section 1729A of title 38, United States Code, for healthcare provided at facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 122 Stat. 4500) shall also be available: (1) for transfer to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund, established by section 1704 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–84; 123 Stat. 2571); and (2) for operations of the facilities designated as combined Federal medical facilities as described by section 706 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Public Law 110–417; 122 Stat. 4500): *Provided*, That, notwithstanding section 1704(b)(3) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (Public Law 111–84; 123 Stat. 2573), amounts transferred to the Joint Department of Defense—Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Facility Demonstration Fund shall remain available until expended.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 222. Of the amounts available in this title for ''Medical Services'', ''Medical Community Care'', ''Medical Support and Compliance'', and ''Medical Facilities'', a minimum of $15,000,000 shall be transferred to the DOD–VA Health Care Sharing Incentive Fund, as authorized by section 8111(d) of title 38, United States Code, to remain available until expended, for any purpose authorized by section 8111 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 223. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of all bid savings in a major construction project that total at least $5,000,000, or 5 percent of the programmed amount of the project, whichever is less: *Provided*, That such notification shall occur within 14 days of a contract identifying the programmed amount: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress 14 days prior to the obligation of such bid savings and shall describe the anticipated use of such savings.

SEC. 224. None of the funds made available for ''Construction, Major Projects'' may be used for a project in excess of the scope specified for that project in the original justification data provided to the Congress as part of the request for appropriations unless the Secretary of Veterans Affairs receives approval from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 225. Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a quarterly report containing performance measures and data from each Veterans Benefits Administration Regional Office: *Provided*, That, at a minimum, the report shall include the direction contained in the section entitled ''Disability claims backlog'', under the heading ''General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration'' in the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 114–223: *Provided further*, That the report shall also include information on the number of appeals pending at the Veterans Benefits Administration as well as the Board of Veterans Appeals on a quarterly basis.

SEC. 226. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide written notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress 15 days prior to organizational changes which result in the transfer of 25 or more full-time equivalents from one organizational unit of the Department of Veterans Affairs to another.

SEC. 227. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall provide on a quarterly basis to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress notification of any single national outreach and awareness marketing campaign in which obligations exceed $1,000,000.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 228. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, upon determination that such action is necessary to address needs of the Veterans Health Administration, may transfer to the ''Medical Services'' account any discretionary appropriations made available for fiscal year 2024 in this title (except appropriations made to the ''General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration'' account) or any discretionary unobligated balances within the Department of Veterans Affairs, including those appropriated for fiscal year 2024, that were provided in advance by appropriations Acts: *Provided*, That transfers shall be made only with the approval of the Office of Management and Budget: *Provided further*, That the transfer authority provided in this section is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: *Provided further*, That no amounts may be transferred from amounts that were designated by Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: *Provided further*, That such authority to transfer may not be used unless for higher priority items, based on emergent healthcare requirements, than those for which originally appropriated and in no case where the item for which funds are requested has been denied by Congress: *Provided further*, That, upon determination that all or part of the funds transferred from an appropriation are not necessary, such amounts may be transferred back to that appropriation and shall be available for the same purposes as originally appropriated: *Provided further*, That before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and receive approval of that request.

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 229. Amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2024, under the ''Board of Veterans Appeals'' and the ''General Operating Expenses, Veterans Benefits Administration'' accounts may be transferred between such accounts: *Provided*, That before a transfer may take place, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to make the transfer and receive approval of that request.

SEC. 230. The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may not reprogram funds among major construction projects or programs if such instance of reprogramming will exceed $7,000,000, unless such reprogramming is approved by the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 231. (a) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall ensure that the toll-free suicide hotline under section 1720F(h) of title 38, United States Code—

(1) provides to individuals who contact the hotline immediate assistance from a trained professional; and

(2) adheres to all requirements of the American Association of Suicidology.

(b)(1) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enforce or otherwise carry out any Executive action that prohibits the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from appointing an individual to occupy a vacant civil service position, or establishing a new civil service position, at the Department of Veterans Affairs with respect to such a position relating to the hotline specified in subsection (a).

(2) In this subsection—

(A) the term ''civil service'' has the meaning given such term in section 2101(1) of title 5, United States Code; and

(B) the term ''Executive action'' includes—

(i) any Executive order, Presidential memorandum, or other action by the President; and

(ii) any agency policy, order, or other directive.

(c)(1) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct a study on the effectiveness of

the hotline specified in subsection (a) during the 5-year period beginning on January 1, 2016, based on an analysis of national suicide data and data collected from such hotline.

(2) At a minimum, the study required by paragraph (1) shall—

(A) determine the number of veterans who contact the hotline specified in subsection (a) and who receive follow up services from the hotline or mental health services from the Department of Veterans Affairs thereafter;

(B) determine the number of veterans who contact the hotline who are not referred to, or do not continue receiving, mental health care who commit suicide; and

(C) determine the number of veterans described in subparagraph (A) who commit or attempt suicide.

SEC. 232. Effective during the period beginning on October 1, 2018, and ending on January 1, 2025, none of the funds made available to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs by this or any other Act may be obligated or expended in contravention of the ''Veterans Health Administration Clinical Preventive Services Guidance Statement on the Veterans Health Administration's Screening for Breast Cancer Guidance'' published on May 10, 2017, as issued by the Veterans Health Administration National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.

SEC. 233. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs for the ''Medical Services'' account may be used to provide—

(1) fertility counseling and treatment using assisted reproductive technology to a covered veteran or the spouse of a covered veteran; or

(2) adoption reimbursement to a covered veteran.

(b) In this section:

(1) The term ''service-connected'' has the meaning given such term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) The term ''covered veteran'' means a veteran, as such term is defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code, who has a service-connected disability that results in the inability of the veteran to procreate without the use of fertility treatment.

(3) The term ''assisted reproductive technology'' means benefits relating to reproductive assistance provided to a member of the Armed Forces who incurs a serious injury or illness on active duty pursuant to section 1074(c)(4)(A) of title 10, United States Code, as described in the memorandum on the subject of ''Policy for Assisted Reproductive Services for the Benefit of Seriously or Severely Ill/Injured (Category II or III) Active Duty Service Members'' issued by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs on April 3, 2012, and the guidance issued to implement such policy, including any limitations on the amount of such benefits available to such a member except that—

(A) the time periods regarding embryo cryopreservation and storage set forth in part III(G) and in part IV(H) of such memorandum shall not apply; and

(B) such term includes embryo cryopreservation and storage without limitation on the duration of such cryopreservation and storage.

(4) The term ''adoption reimbursement'' means reimbursement for the adoption-related expenses for an adoption that is finalized after the date of the enactment of this Act under the same terms as apply under the adoption reimbursement program of the Department of Defense, as authorized in Department of Defense Instruction 1341.09, including the reimbursement limits and requirements set forth in such instruction.

(c) Amounts made available for the purposes specified in subsection (a) of this section are subject to the requirements for funds contained in section 508 of division H of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141).

SEC. 234. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act for the Department of Veterans Affairs may be used in a manner that is inconsistent with: (1) section 842 of the Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, the District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109–115; 119 Stat. 2506); or (2) section 8110(a)(5) of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 235. Section 842 of Public Law 109–115 shall not apply to conversion of an activity or function of the Veterans Health Administration, Veterans Benefits Administration, or National Cemetery Administration to contractor performance by a business concern that is at least 51 percent owned by one or more Indian Tribes as defined in section 5304(e) of title 25, United States Code, or one or more Native Hawaiian Organizations as defined in section 637(a)(15) of title 15, United States Code.

SEC. 236. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Labor, shall discontinue using Social Security account numbers to identify individuals in all information systems of the Department of Veterans Affairs as follows:

(1) For all veterans submitting to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs new claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary, not later than September 30, 2024.

(2) For all individuals not described in paragraph (1), not later than March 23, 2026.

(b) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may use a Social Security account number to identify an individual in an information system of the Department of Veterans Affairs if and only if the use of such number is required to obtain information the Secretary requires from an information system that is not under the jurisdiction of the Secretary.

(c) The matter in subsections (a) and (b) shall supersede section 238 of division F of Public Law 116–94.

SEC. 237. For funds provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs for each of fiscal year 2024 and 2025 for ''Medical Services'', section 239 of division A of Public Law 114–223 shall apply.

SEC. 238. None of the funds appropriated in this or prior appropriations Acts or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs may be used to transfer any amounts from the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation Fund to any other account within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 239. Of the funds provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs for each of fiscal year 2024 and fiscal year 2025 for ''Medical Services'', funds may be used in each year to carry out and expand the child care program authorized by section 205 of Public Law 111–163, notwithstanding subsection (e) of such section.

SEC. 240. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this title may be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into an agreement related to resolving a dispute or claim with an individual that would restrict in any way the individual from speaking to members of Congress or their staff on any topic not otherwise prohibited from disclosure by Federal law or required by Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or the conduct of foreign affairs.

SEC. 241. For funds provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs for each of fiscal year 2024 and 2025, section 258 of division A of Public Law 114–223 shall apply.

SEC. 242. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to deny an Inspector General funded under this Act timely access to any records, documents, or other materials available to the department or agency over which that Inspector General has responsibilities under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), or to prevent or impede the access of the Inspector General to such records, documents, or other materials, under any provision of law, except a provision of law that expressly refers to such Inspector General and expressly limits the right of access.

(b) A department or agency covered by this section shall provide its Inspector General access to all records, documents, and other materials in a timely manner.

(c) Each Inspector General shall ensure compliance with statutory limitations on disclosure relevant to the information provided by the establishment over which that Inspector General has responsibilities under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

(d) Each Inspector General covered by this section shall report to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives within 5 calendar days of any failure by any department or agency covered by this section to comply with this requirement.

SEC. 243. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used in a manner that would increase wait times for veterans who seek care at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SEC. 244. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act to the Veterans Health Administration may be used in fiscal year 2024 to convert any program which received specific purpose funds in fiscal year 2023 to a general purpose funded program unless the Secretary of Veterans Affairs submits written notification of any such proposal to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days prior to any such action and an approval is issued by the Committees.

SEC. 245. For funds provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs for each of fiscal year 2024 and 2025, section 248 of division A of Public Law 114–223 shall apply.

SEC. 246. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to conduct research commencing on or after October 1, 2019, that uses any canine, feline, or non-human primate unless the Secretary of Veterans Affairs approves such research specifically and in writing pursuant to subsection (b).

(b)(1) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may approve the conduct of research commencing on or after October 1, 2019, using canines, felines, or non-human primates if the Secretary determines that—

(A) the scientific objectives of the research can only be met by using such canines, felines, or non-human primates;

(B) such scientific objectives are directly related to an illness or injury that is combat-related; and

(C) the research is consistent with the revised Department of Veterans Affairs canine research policy document dated December 15, 2017, including any subsequent revisions to such document.

(2) The Secretary may not delegate the authority under this subsection.

(c) If the Secretary approves any new research pursuant to subsection (b), not later than 30 days before the commencement of such research, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and House of Representatives a report describing—

(1) the nature of the research to be conducted using canines, felines, or non-human primates;

(2) the date on which the Secretary approved the research;

(3) the justification for the determination of the Secretary that the scientific objectives of such research could only be met using canines, felines, or non-human primates;

(4) the frequency and duration of such research; and

(5) the protocols in place to ensure the necessity, safety, and efficacy of the research.

(d) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and biannually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to such Committees a report describing—

(1) any research being conducted by the Department of Veterans Affairs using canines, felines, or non-human primates as of the date of the submittal of the report;

(2) the circumstances under which such research was conducted using canines, felines, or non-human primates;

(3) the justification for using canines, felines, or non-human primates to conduct such research; and

(4) the protocols in place to ensure the necessity, safety, and efficacy of such research.

(e) The Department shall implement a plan under which the Secretary will eliminate or reduce the research conducted using canines, felines, or non-human primates by not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of Public Law 116–94.

SEC. 247. (a) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may use amounts appropriated or otherwise made available in this title to ensure that the ratio of veterans to full-time employment equivalents within any program of rehabilitation conducted under chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code, does not exceed 125 veterans to one full-time employment equivalent.

(b) Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the programs of rehabilitation conducted under chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code, including—

(1) an assessment of the veteran-to-staff ratio for each such program; and

(2) recommendations for such action as the Secretary considers necessary to reduce the veteran-to-staff ratio for each such program.

SEC. 248. Amounts made available for the ''Veterans Health Administration, Medical Community Care'' account in this or any other Act for fiscal years 2024 and 2025 may be used for expenses that would otherwise be payable from the Veterans Choice Fund established by section 802 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act, as amended (38 U.S.C. 1701 note).

SEC. 249. Obligations and expenditures applicable to the ''Medical Services'' account in fiscal years 2017 through 2019 for aid to state homes (as authorized by section 1741 of title 38, United States Code) shall remain in the ''Medical Community Care'' account for such fiscal years.

SEC. 250. Of the amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2024, in this or any other Act, under the ''Veterans Health Administration—Medical Services'', ''Veterans Health Administration—Medical Community Care'', ''Veterans Health Administration—Medical Support and Compliance'', and ''Veterans Health Administration—Medical Facilities'' accounts, $1,279,096,000 shall be made available for gender-specific care and programmatic efforts to deliver care for women veterans.

SEC. 251. Notwithstanding any other law, by no later than September 30, 2023, the Secretary shall commence construction of the Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Bakersfield, California in accordance with Lease No.36C10F20L0008.

SEC. 252. None of the funds made available in this Act shall be expended for monthly payments under Lease No. VA10112R0032, including section 11 of the lease, that exceed $223,166.67 unless required for maintenance and repairs or improvements related to the form, fit, or function of the facility that directly enhances the safety of veterans or improves healthcare services.

SEC. 253. Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a quarterly report on the status of the ''Veterans Medical Care and Health Fund'', established to execute section 8002 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117–2): *Provided*, That, at a minimum, the report shall include an update on obligations by program, project or activity and a plan for expending the remaining funds: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs must submit notification of any plans to reallocate funds from the current apportionment categories of ''Medical Services'', ''Medical Support and Compliance'', ''Medical Facilities'', ''Medical Community Care'', or ''Medical and Prosthetic Research'', including the amount and purpose of each reallocation to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress and such Committees issue an approval, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed.

SEC. 254. Any amounts transferred to the Secretary and administered by a corporation referred to in section 7364(b) of title 38, United States Code, between October 1, 2017 and September 30, 2018 for purposes of carrying out an order placed with the Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to section 1535 of title 31, United States Code, that are available for obligation pursuant to section 7364(b)(1) of title 38, United States Code, are to remain available for the liquidation of valid obligations incurred by such corporation during the period of performance of such order, provided that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines that such amounts need to remain available for such liquidation.

SEC. 255. Unobligated balances available under the headings ''Construction, Major Projects'' and ''Construction, Minor Projects'' may be obligated by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for a facility pursuant to section 2(e)(1) of the Communities Helping Invest through Property and Improvements Needed for Veterans Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–294; 38 U.S.C. 8103 note), as amended, to provide additional funds or to fund an escalation clause under such section of such Act: *Provided*, That before such unobligated balances are obligated pursuant to this section, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall request from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the authority to obligate such unobligated balances and such Committees issue an approval, or absent a response, a period of 30 days has elapsed: *Provided further*, That the request to obligate such unobligated balances must provide Congress notice that the entity described in section 2(a)(2) of Public Law 114–294, as amended, has exhausted available cost containment approaches as set forth in the agreement under section 2(c) of such Public Law.

SEC. 256. Of the unobligated balances available to the Department of Veterans Affairs from prior appropriations Acts, the following funds are hereby rescinded from the following accounts in the amounts specified:

''Veterans Health Administration—Medical Services'', $4,933,113,000;

''Veterans Health Administration—Medical Community Care'', $1,909,069,000; and

''Veterans Health Administration—Medical Facilities'', $250,515,000.

SEC. 257. Not later than 30 days after the date the funds become available, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations an expenditure plan for funds made available through the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (P.L. 118-5) for the Cost of War Toxic Exposures Fund for fiscal years 2024 and 2025.

SEC. 258. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to implement, administer, or otherwise carry out the Department of Veterans Affairs interim final rule published on September 9, 2022, or any successor to such rule, or to propose, promulgate, or implement any substantially similar rule or policy.

(b) None of the funds appropriated in this Act shall be expended for any abortion, including through a medical benefits package or health benefits program that includes coverage of abortion.

(c) The limitations established in subsection (b) shall not apply to an abortion—

(1) if the pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest; or

(2) in the case where a woman suffers from a physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness, including a life-endangering physical condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself, that would, as certified by a physician, place the woman in danger of death unless an abortion is performed.

SEC. 259. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for surgical procedures or hormone therapies for the purposes of gender affirming care.

SEC. 260. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to fly or display a flag over a facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs or a national cemetery other than the flag of the United States, the flag of a State, Territory, or District of Columbia, the flag of an Indian Tribal government, the flag of the Department, the flag of an Armed Force, or the POW/MIA flag.

TITLE III

RELATED AGENCIES

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, of the American Battle Monuments Commission, including the acquisition of land or interest in land in foreign countries; purchases and repair of uniforms for caretakers of national cemeteries and monuments outside of the United States and its territories and possessions; rent of office and garage space in foreign countries; purchase (one-for-one replacement basis only) and hire of passenger motor vehicles; not to exceed $15,000 for official reception and representation expenses; and insurance of official motor vehicles in foreign countries, when required by law of such countries, $158,630,000, to remain available until expended.

FOREIGN CURRENCY FLUCTUATIONS ACCOUNT

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, of the American Battle Monuments Commission, such sums as may be necessary, to remain available until expended, for purposes authorized by section 2109 of title 36, United States Code.

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for the operation of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims as authorized by sections 7251 through 7298 of title 38, United States Code, $47,200,000: *Provided*, That $3,385,000 shall be available for the purpose of providing financial assistance as described and in accordance with the process and reporting procedures set forth under this heading in Public Law 102–229.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—CIVIL

CEMETERIAL EXPENSES, ARMY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses for maintenance, operation, and improvement of Arlington National Cemetery and Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery, including the purchase or lease of passenger motor vehicles for replacement on a one-for-one basis only, and not to exceed $2,000 for official reception and representation expenses, $100,267,000, of which not to exceed $15,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2026. In addition, such sums as may be necessary for parking maintenance, repairs and replacement, to be derived from the ''Lease of Department of Defense Real Property for Defense Agencies'' account.

CONSTRUCTION

For necessary expenses for planning and design and construction at Arlington National Cemetery and Soldiers' and Airmen's Home National Cemetery, $88,600,000, to remain available until expended for planning and design and construction associated with the Southern Expansion project at Arlington National Cemetery.

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME

TRUST FUND

For expenses necessary for the Armed Forces Retirement Home to operate and maintain the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Washington, District of Columbia, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Gulfport, Mississippi, to be paid from funds available in the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund, $77,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, of which $8,940,000 shall remain available until expended for construction and renovation of the physical plants at the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Washington, District of Columbia, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home—Gulfport, Mississippi: *Provided,* That of the amounts made available under this heading from funds available in the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund, $25,000,000 shall be paid from the general fund of the Treasury to the Trust Fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

SEC. 301. Amounts deposited into the special account established under 10 U.S.C. 7727 are appropriated and shall be available until expended to support activities at the Army National Military Cemeteries.

TITLE IV

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 401. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 402. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for any program, project, or activity, when it is made known to the Federal entity or official to which the funds are made available that the program, project, or activity is not in compliance with any Federal law relating to risk assessment, the protection of private property rights, or unfunded mandates.

SEC. 403. All departments and agencies funded under this Act are encouraged, within the limits of the existing statutory authorities and funding, to expand their use of ''E-Commerce'' technologies and procedures in the conduct of their business practices and public service activities.

SEC. 404. Unless stated otherwise, all reports and notifications required by this Act shall be submitted to the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

SEC. 405. None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this or any other appropriations Act.

SEC. 406. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for a project or program named for an individual serving as a Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner of the United States House of Representatives.

SEC. 407. (a) Any agency receiving funds made available in this Act, shall, subject to subsections (b) and (c), post on the public Web site of that agency any report required to be submitted by the Congress in this or any other Act, upon the determination by the head of the agency that it shall serve the national interest.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to a report if—

(1) the public posting of the report compromises national security; or

(2) the report contains confidential or proprietary information.

(c) The head of the agency posting such report shall do so only after such report has been made available to the requesting Committee or Committees of Congress for no less than 30 days.

SEC. 408. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

SEC. 409. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used by an agency of the executive branch to pay for first-class travel by an employee of the agency in contravention of sections 301–10.122 through 301–10.124 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 410. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to execute a contract for goods or services, including construction services, where the contractor has not complied with Executive Order No. 12989.

SEC. 411. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of section 101(e)(8) of title 10, United States Code.

SEC. 412. (a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Defense in this Act may be used to construct, renovate, or expand any facility in the United States, its territories, or possessions to house any individual detained at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, for the purposes of detention or imprisonment in the custody or under the control of the Department of Defense.

(b) The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not apply to any modification of facilities at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

(c) An individual described in this subsection is any individual who, as of June 24, 2009, is located at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, and who—

(1) is not a citizen of the United States or a member of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(2) is—

(A) in the custody or under the effective control of the Department of Defense; or

(B) otherwise under detention at United States Naval Station, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

SEC. 413. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used in any way, directly or indirectly, to influence congressional action on any legislation or appropriation matter pending before Congress, other than to communicate to Members of Congress as described in 18 U.S.C. 1913.

SEC. 414. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be made available to implement, administer, apply, enforce, or carry out Executive Order 13985 of January 20, 2021 (86 Fed. Reg. 7009), Executive Order 14035 of June 25, 2021 (86 Fed. Reg. 34593), or Executive Order 14091 of February 16, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 10825).

SEC. 415. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out any program, project, or activity that promotes or advances Critical Race Theory or any concept associated with Critical Race Theory.

SEC. 416. (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 7 of title 1, United States Code, section 1738C of title 28, United States Code, or any other provision of law, none of the funds provided by this Act, or previous appropriations Acts, shall be used in whole or in part to take any discriminatory action against a person, wholly or partially, on the basis that such person speaks, or acts, in accordance with a sincerely held religious belief, or moral conviction, that marriage is, or should be recognized as, a union of one man and one woman.

(b) Discriminatory action defined.—As used in subsection (a), a discriminatory action means any action taken by the Federal Government to—

(1) alter in any way the Federal tax treatment of, or cause any tax, penalty, or payment to be assessed against, or deny, delay, or revoke an exemption from taxation under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 of, any person referred to in subsection (a);

(2) disallow a deduction for Federal tax purposes of any charitable contribution made to or by such person;

(3) withhold, reduce the amount or funding for, exclude, terminate, or otherwise make unavailable or deny, any Federal grant, contract, subcontract, cooperative agreement, guarantee, loan, scholarship, license, certification, accreditation, employment, or other similar position or status from or to such person;

(4) withhold, reduce, exclude, terminate, or otherwise make unavailable or deny, any entitlement or benefit under a Federal benefit program, including admission to, equal treatment in, or eligibility for a degree from an educational program, from or to such person; or

(5) withhold, reduce, exclude, terminate, or otherwise make unavailable or deny access or an entitlement to Federal property, facilities, educational institutions, speech fora (including traditional, limited, and nonpublic fora), or charitable fundraising campaigns from or to such person.

(c) Accreditation; Licensure; Certification.—The Federal Government shall consider accredited, licensed, or certified for purposes of Federal law any person that would be accredited, licensed, or certified, respectively, for such purposes but for a determination against such person wholly or partially on the basis that the person speaks, or acts, in accordance with a sincerely held religious belief or moral conviction described in subsection (a).

SEC. 417. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for any office, programs, or activity for the purposes of diversity, equity, and inclusion training or implementation.

SPENDING REDUCTION ACCOUNT

SEC. 418. $0.

This Act may be cited as the ''Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024''.

The Acting CHAIR. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived.

No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in House Report 118–158, amendments en bloc described in section 3 of House Resolution 614, and pro forma amendments described in section 4 of House Resolution 614.

Each amendment printed in House Report 118–158 may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by the Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to the amendment except as provided by section 4 of House Resolution 614, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or her designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of amendments printed in House Report 118–158 not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees, shall not be subject to amendment, except as provided by section 4 of House Resolution 614, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

During consideration of the bill for amendment, the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees may offer up to 10 pro forma amendments each at any point for the purpose of debate.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. RYAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 118–158.

Mr. RYAN. 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 2, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $103,000,000) (reduced by $103,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 614, the gentleman from New York (Mr. RYAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

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

Mr. Chair, I rise in support of my amendment, which increases Army construction funding by $103 million to address extensive flood damage at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

A few weeks ago on July 9, New York's Hudson Valley, along with other parts of the Northeast, was devastated by a once-in-a-millennium flood that saw nearly 10 inches of torrential rainfall arrive on the Hudson Valley in just a few hours, washing away homes of our military families, devastating roads, businesses in the surrounding community, and tragically costing the life of a young woman in the surrounding community just outside West Point.

My alma mater, the United States Military Academy at West Point, was hit particularly hard. I have been on the ground multiple times seeing the damage firsthand, along with colleagues from both sides of the aisle, to assess the extent of the damage. We have decimated roads, collapsed cliffside routes, compromising damage to barracks, bridges, and facilities critical to carrying out the vital mission of the United States Military Academy at West Point. In particular, I draw attention to the fact that all of the enlisted soldier barracks, serving hundreds of enlisted soldiers at the garrison have been completely destroyed. There is nowhere for these soldiers on post to live, causing a cascading effect and a real housing crunch across the post.

As of this moment, the cost estimates to rebuild are increasing each day, presently topping out at over $100 million. As we know, West Point serves a mission-critical role in our Nation's national security—the world's premier leadership institute, creating leaders and shaping the future of our Nation's Army. This institution made myself, many of my colleagues across the aisle, and many others of our Nation, into leaders. We cannot stand by during this time of need for such a critical national security resource.

Allowing West Point to be hamstrung by such significant damage imperils our military readiness, and we must ensure the institution has the resources it needs to urgently repair and rebuild and get back to their mission.

Mr. Chair, I urge the support of my colleagues throughout the Congress, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, I support the amendment, and I urge its adoption.

Mr. Chair, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I strongly support the gentleman's amendment and commend him for his efforts to address the severe flooding problems that have occurred in and around West Point.

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

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Chair, I thank my colleagues for the bipartisan support of this critical amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. RYAN).

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

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York will be postponed.

□ 1515

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 118–158.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chairman, 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 9, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $3,000,000)''.

Page 92, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $3,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 614, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chair, as we attempt to cut spending back to top-line FY 2022 levels, we must address the glaring $32.6 trillion debt.

We must commit in this Congress to significant spending cuts. If we don't, we will be mortgaging the futures of our children. We will perpetually hobble long-term economic growth by not only destroying our future borrowing power but by forcing our Treasury to dedicate much of its future spending to debt repayment rather than meeting the needs of the American people.

If we fail to tackle runaway spending now, we are compromising the well-being of future generations. Is that the legacy we want to leave behind? We have an obligation, a moral one, to ensure that we leave this country better off than we found it.

In an appropriations bill that is supposed to be focused on supporting our veterans and their families, we are sending $293 million—taxpayer dollars—abroad to support NATO. That is an increase of 33 percent from FY 2023.

There will be some who argue that the $293 million figure is a commitment that the United States made at the June 2022 NATO summit. While Congress has largely abdicated its role in foreign affairs to the executive branch, it was the intent of our Founding Fathers that this institution provide a robust check on the executive. It is why we have the power of the purse.

Ultimately, given Congress' massive spending habits, there needs to come a time when we say enough is enough, and that is the purpose for offering this amendment today. I am asking all of

my colleagues if they could spare just a 1 percent cut to NATO's Security Investment Program. That is just 1 percent.

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

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

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

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, the NATO Security Investment Program is NATO's military construction program. The U.S. contribution supports projects needed by the alliance and also supports U.S. strategy in the region. It does not finance other countries' construction costs, and the cost share is favorable to the United States.

The increase included in the bill this year is needed to reinvest in infrastructure in the region to deter Russia's aggression. Literally, this program is a concrete investment in deterrence.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment. I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I strongly oppose this amendment to cut the NATO Security Investment Program. It is hard to imagine a worse time for us to be cutting funding from our international obligations when Russia has illegally invaded Ukraine and our international obligations and cooperation are so essential in order to ensure that Ukraine can maintain its sovereignty and ensure that Russia is not allowed to be successful here and then repeat the same thing across the globe.

The program, also known as NSIP, is a core part of America's contribution toward shared territorial defense with its allies. Moreover, the projects that NSIP funds often are already aligned with U.S. European Command needs.

Our NSIP contributions often closely align with U.S. requirements, like projects for safety and runway upgrades at airfields that our planes use and fuel and dock improvements at ports that our ships use.

The program is experiencing a period of growth as the alliance seeks to address necessary deferred infrastructure needs. This amendment would cut funding for the program below the requested level, shortchanging America's commitment to its allies, and instead move it to the spending reduction account.

Military construction programs are already funded at $1.5 billion below the enacted level, as I have talked about, and this amendment is seeking to cut it further.

The United States contribution to NSIP, as a percentage of the overall program, is much smaller proportionally than the United States share of the alliance's gross national income. Simply put, our allies are more than paying their fair share in the Security Investment Program.

NSIP funding is necessary for NATO, and it is necessary for American national security. We should not jeopardize it with this amendment.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chairman, I have a great deal of respect for my colleagues, but let's talk about America's contribution. We have already spent roughly $42 billion on equipment and support for Ukraine in addition to these moneys.

When you think about NATO, our allies are supposed to hold up their fair share of the bargain, 2 percent. We are meeting our obligations, but only seven other countries meet their obligations. Keep in mind, it is supposed to be 2 percent. Luxembourg is at 0.62; Canada, 1.29; Turkey, 1.37; Norway, 1.57; Germany, 1.49; and France, 1.89.

Before we start talking about the United States of America doing its job and having to defend the rest of the world, how about our allies do their job and uphold their obligations? I am asking for only a 1 percent cut.

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

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

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chair, it is hard to justify sending hard-earned taxpayer dollars to NATO when most of our allies don't uphold their end of the bargain and when they look to us to be their defender and to fund their security.

Meanwhile, we have a porous border. Every community in this country is a border town because of fentanyl overdoses in the streets and trafficking run amuck. Yet, we are going to spend more money overseas. How about we secure our country and take care of our country, our people, our needs, and secure our border?

Mr. Chair, it is just a 1 percent cut. I encourage all of my colleagues to send a message to NATO and our allies to do their fair share.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES).

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MS. GREENE OF GEORGIA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 118–158.

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. 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 9, line 24, strike ''$293,434,000'' and insert ''$220,100,000''.

Page 92, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $73,334,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 614, the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. GREENE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Georgia.

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I rise today to ask the House to support my amendment No. 3, which will cut the $73 million increase in funding for the NATO Security Investment Program. This is simply keeping the NATO funding at the same level as last year's appropriations level. I think this is very important.

The United States overwhelmingly contributes more than our fair share to NATO for Europe's defense, and it is time for European countries to pay their dues.

While our own border is overrun by border-crossers and deadly, poisonous fentanyl daily, we continue to send hundreds of billions of dollars to NATO to defend Ukraine's democracy, even though they aren't even a NATO member nation.

Investing in NATO security is an America-last policy. All increases in funding should be investing in the United States of America's security and the defense of our own border.

President Trump was exactly right when he called on European nations to put the required minimum of 2 percent of their GDP toward NATO defense spending. Most NATO countries still don't meet that requirement, and the U.S. ends up paying for 70 percent of the alliance's defenses. This is outrageous. The American people do not like paying for other countries' defenses when our borders are overrun daily.

The current 2023 defense expenditure for NATO countries has the United States at $860 billion. The United States of America's military is not meant to be the world's police. As we find ourselves funding a war in Ukraine, when the United States' position should be pushing for peace, not paying for and not funding war and the death of innocent people, we should not increase our spending and increase the amount of funding by $73 million more to the NATO Security Investment Program.

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

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

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

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, my arguments are the same.

The NATO Security Investment Program is NATO's military construction program. The $73 million increase this year is needed to reinvest in infrastructure in the region to deter Russian aggression.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment. I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise in opposition to this grossly irresponsible amendment. This amendment would take a huge cut, $73 million, from the NATO Security Investment Program during a time when increased funding is essential for long-deferred projects.

Cutting funding for the NATO Security Investment Program is not only shortsighted from a national security perspective, but it isn't even sound long-term fiscal policy. These investments ensure a robust American and NATO presence to deter hostile nations and prevent even greater costs to American taxpayers down the road.

One only has to look at the news to understand that we have hostile nations that wish to do us and our allies harm. A $73 million cut from the NATO Security Investment Program would put us in more jeopardy alongside our allies.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine shows that international cooperation and strong alliances are as essential as ever. These projects are not America paying other countries' bills. In fact, America pays a proportionally small amount to the program compared to the size of our economy in relation to the rest of NATO.

□ 1530

Regardless of your stance on overall defense spending levels of various NATO countries, it is simply not true that the United States is paying more than its share of this direct contribution program.

These projects are agreed-upon NATO requirements and oftentimes have a direct benefit to supplement existing U.S. requirements. These sites include ones directly benefiting U.S. forces through the use of upgraded ports, airfields, and communications.

Our contributions to NATO represent only a small portion of overall defense spending, but the strength of the alliance is an outsized and irreplaceable part of American national security.

This amendment would not even reinvest the funding into other priorities, it simply cuts funding from the bill, shortchanging the military construction portion by over $73 million. It is irresponsible. It is dangerous.

Mr. Chair, I strongly urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY).

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chair, Americans are not fighting and dying in Ukraine, Ukrainians are. All they ask of the great country they admire and they want to emulate is that we help with equipment and training.

Putin benefits from this amendment. Putin, a sociopath, who is engaged in the most depraved behavior in our lifetime: killing innocent men and women, targeting hospitals, targeting schools, and showing no restraint.

This Congress must stand with Ukraine. This Congress can never be seen as Putin's enabler. That is what this amendment does. That is what is behind it.

The author of this amendment has already said she wants to give zero to Ukraine, so we know the motivation behind the amendment. Let's reject it.

Let's stand with Ukraine and make sure Putin gets that message loud and strong with a forceful voice here on the floor of the House of Representatives.

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

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Chair, perhaps my colleagues are confused. Ukraine is not a member of NATO. Ukraine has not been accepted into NATO. Why are they using defense of Ukraine for their argument for an additional $73 million increase for the NATO security investment program? That makes absolutely no sense.

If you want to talk about national security, Mr. Chair, let's talk about the American people's national security. My colleague across the aisle speaks of hostile nations and how they present a clear danger to America's national security. Well, you have to look no further than the southern border. The southern border is where hostile nations are invading our country every single day with poisonous fentanyl, which is murdering over 300 Americans a day.

If there is going to be an increase in funding for the defense of any nation, it should be the United States of America's border in defense of American lives.

Mr. Chair, I would like to add, my position and the position of most Americans is peace, not funding the murder and death in continued foreign wars, defending other countries' democracies while completely ignoring our own.

Mr. Chair, I ask the House to pass my amendment that keeps the spending level at the same level it was this previous appropriations bill—the same level. An increase in $73 million is another step towards funding world war III.

It is another step in United States aggression over a country that is not even a member of NATO in the name of a NATO security investment program. This is absolute madness. It is outrageous.

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

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. DUNCAN). The gentlewoman from Georgia has the only time remaining.

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. May I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman has 1 minute remaining.

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I will wrap this up. It is very simple. We are at $32 trillion in debt. There is no need to increase spending over the level that it was last year. Americans are already spending $860 billion for NATO for the defense of other nations. There is no reason to increase it by $73 million.

My amendment is very simple: It is asking to keep the appropriations level the same as it was this past year.

Mr. Chair, I ask the House to support my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Georgia will be postponed.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC OFFERED BY MR. CARTER OF TEXAS

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chair, pursuant to House Resolution 614, I offer amendments en bloc.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc consisting of amendment Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and 33, printed in House Report 118–158, offered by Mr. CARTER of Texas:

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MS. PETTERSEN OF COLORADO

Page 24, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $25,000,000) (reduced by $25,000,000)''.

Page 24, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $25,000,000) (reduced by $25,000,000)''.

Page 25, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $25,000,000) (reduced by $25,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MS. CARAVEO OF COLORADO

Page 33, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $2,000,000) (decreased by $2,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES OF TENNESSEE

Page 33, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000) (increased by $1,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. GOTTHEIMER OF NEW JERSEY

Page 34, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000) (increased by $1,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. GOTTHEIMER OF NEW JERSEY

Page 34, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000) (increased by $1,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MS. NORTON OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Page 34, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000) (increased by $1,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MS. ROSS OF NORTH CAROLINA

Page 34, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $10,000,000) (reduced by $10,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MR. ARRINGTON OF TEXAS

Page 35, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $10,000,000) (increased by $10,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 12 OFFERED BY MRS. BOEBERT OF COLORADO

Page 35, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $2,000,000) (increased by $2,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 13 OFFERED BY MS. CARAVEO OF COLORADO

Page 35, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $10,000,000) (decreased by $10,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 14 OFFERED BY MR. CARBAJAL OF CALIFORNIA

Page 35, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $5,000,000) (increased by $5,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MS. PEREZ OF WASHINGTON

Page 35, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000) increased by $1,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 16 OFFERED BY MR. HUDSON OF NORTH CAROLINA

Page 35, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $10,000,000) (increased by $10,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 17 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO OF NEW YORK

Page 35, line 12, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by 2,000,000) (increased by 2,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 18 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES OF TENNESSEE

Page 35, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000) (increased by $1,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 19 OFFERED BY MS. PETTERSEN OF COLORADO

Page 35, line 12, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $10,000,000) (increased by $10,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 20 OFFERED BY MS. ROSS OF NORTH CAROLINA

Page 35, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000) (reduced by $1,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 22 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES OF TENNESSEE

Page 36, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000) (increased by $1,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 30 OFFERED BY MR. GOTTHEIMER OF NEW JERSEY

Page 39, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000) (increased by $1,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 31 OFFERED BY MS. TLAIB OF MICHIGAN

Page 39, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $5,000,000)''.

Page 47, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $5,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 32 OFFERED BY MR. ZINKE OF MONTANA

Page 40, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $5,000,000)''.

Page 40, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $5,000,000)''.

Page 47, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $5,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 33 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO OF NEW YORK

Page 42, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by 1,000,000) (increased by 1,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 23 OFFERED BY MS. PEREZ OF WASHINGTON

Page 37, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000) (increased by $1,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 25 OFFERED BY MRS. BOEBERT OF COLORADO

Page 38, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $3,000,000)''.

Page 39, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $5,500,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 26 OFFERED BY MRS. BOEBERT OF COLORADO

Page 39, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $2,000,000)''.

Page 39, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $3,500,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 27 OFFERED BY MRS. BOEBERT OF COLORADO

Page 39, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $3,500,000)''.

Page 40, line 5, dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $2,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 28 OFFERED BY MRS. BOEBERT OF COLORADO

Page 39, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $3,500,000)''.

Page 48, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $2,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 29 OFFERED BY MRS. BOEBERT OF COLORADO

Page 39, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $3,500,000)''.

Page 47, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $2,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 614, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chairman, these are noncontroversial amendments and are supported by both sides.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this amendment. It includes 28 amendments: 2 bipartisan, 14 for Republicans, and 12 for Democrats. I am glad to see that we can at least come together around certain aspects of this bill to support our veteran servicemembers and their families and the leadership of colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

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

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. PEREZ), who is here as an advocate on behalf of her constituents serving in the military as well as our veterans.

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the amendments en bloc.

Following recent meetings with veterans in Lewis County, I am deeply concerned about a number of issues impacting constituent veterans who receive care through the VA Puget Sound Healthcare System.

First and foremost, veterans in Lewis County have seen their access to care reduced dramatically in recent years.

The 2021 closure of the Chehalis Community Based Outpatient Clinic cut many veterans off from nearby care. Travel times went from about 1 hour to more than 2 hours to get to a VA Puget Sound facility. Not just that, but the wait times are horrific. I am hearing from veterans that they are waiting at times over 6 hours on the phone for it to be answered.

In rural communities with sparse specialty and mental health care options to begin with, the closure of a full CBOC has put lifesaving care out of reach of our veterans.

I offered two amendments that are included in the amendments en bloc that will hold the VA accountable for protecting access to care for veterans in rural areas like mine in east Lewis County.

Amendment No. 15 would require the VA to submit a report to Congress on their efforts to ensure access to healthcare for veterans residing in geographic proximity to a Department of Veteran Affairs community-based outpatient clinic subject to closure.

Amendment No. 23 will require the VA to update Patient Experience Compare Data published on their public website to break down data by county. This would give our body and Americans valuable insight about how the patient experience with a medical center may differ based on location within the center's jurisdiction, not just the jurisdiction broadly. We can compare whether it is a rural issue or an issue with the center itself.

In return for their service to our country, we have made a promise to our veterans that we must uphold. It is our responsibility to ensure they have the access to healthcare necessary to lead a full and healthy life after their time in the armed services has ended.

Mr. Chair, I ask for support for these two amendments that will help increase transparency and hold the VA accountable for access to care for my constituents and other vets in rural areas.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), who is here to stand up to make sure that our veterans get access to legal care.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would allow the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to provide support to law school clinical programs and provide pro bono legal and support services to veterans, including assistance with disability claims and appeals and foreclosures. The House passed this amendment last year.

There are already at least 22 law schools that have clinics devoted to veterans' legal needs, including William and Mary Law School Veterans Benefits Clinic, which serves as a national model for this idea and was the first recipient of the ''best practice'' award for the VA.

There are many other law schools, such as the University of the District of Columbia's David A. Clarke School of Law that are interested in starting their own VA certified clinics. More needs to be done to sustain and increase the number of these programs.

I was a tenured professor of law and continued to teach a seminar after being elected to Congress. I saw the expert attention that clinical programs provide their clients.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, a concrete measure that would assist our veterans who put their lives on the line for this country.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I support the amendments en bloc, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER).

The en bloc amendments were agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair understands that amendment No. 21 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 24 OFFERED BY MR. BERGMAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 24 printed in House Report 118–158.

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Chairman, 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 38, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $20,000,000) (increased by $20,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 614, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BERGMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 1 minute.

Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of my amendment to H.R. 4366.

This amendment will ensure the VA conducts large-scale studies into the efficacy of drugs with FDA breakthrough therapy status to treat post-traumatic stress disorder through medication-assisted therapy trials.

□ 1545

Every day, roughly 20 veterans take their own life. This number has stayed high despite our best efforts here in Washington. Fortunately, new breakthrough therapies have offered significant help.

Under the Trump administration, the FDA granted breakthrough therapy status for MDMA-assisted therapy to treat PTSD. Since then, privately funded research has demonstrated clear, positive results in treating previously untreatable PTSD with little or no risk for patients.

This includes studies in cooperation with the VA, for instance, at the Bronx VA hospital.

Let me be clear. These trials are conducted with full FDA approval, under medical supervision, and in safe clinical environments.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Chair, I yield myself an additional 1 minute.

Additionally, Mr. Chair, because these medications are only ever administered directly in-person and in a clinical setting by medical professionals, there is no potential for misuse.

It is now time for the VA to do its part to expand research into these lifesaving therapies and refine best practices for our treatment for our veterans.

If psychedelic-assisted therapy can help treat a veteran's PTSD or prevent them from taking their own life, then we owe it to them to take an active role in researching these potentially lifesaving therapies.

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Chair, I also rise in strong support of the Bergman-Correa amendment.

This amendment will push the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the VA, to carry our large-scale studies into drugs like psilocybin, MDMA, and others which have been designated as breakthrough therapies by the Food and Drug Administration.

Why? It is because we owe it to our veterans.

Mr. Chair, what you have to do is listen to veterans' testimonies—veterans who have the invisible scars from the wounds they brought back from the battlefield—and their challenges, psychological challenges. Psilocybin promises up to 80 percent success after one treatment of a veteran's challenge, and, today, as the law stands, these veterans have to go outside the country to get treatment.

That is no way, Mr. Chair, to treat our veterans.

Let's take care of business. Let's make sure the VA takes these tests and studies and brings back data so that we can create a program that takes care of our veterans.

Veterans have fought for our freedom. It is time that we continue and step up to fulfill our moral obligation to take care of them, as well.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to join us in voting ''yes'' on this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Chair, I thank my colleague and partner, Representative CORREA, for his remarks.

We have both worked long and hard on the commitment to our veterans in so many different ways. This is just one more example of Congress doing the right thing for our veterans.

This amendment will unlock potential treatments that have been shown to actually cure post-traumatic stress disorder, something current medicine and modern psychology have been unable to do; give our veterans a chance to live a long, happy life that we all take for granted.

Mr. Chair, I strongly urge all our Members to vote for our men and women—our heroes—who have served in uniform and to support the Bergman-Correa amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BERGMAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 34 OFFERED BY MS. GREENE OF GEORGIA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 34 printed in House Report 118–158.

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, 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 52, beginning on line 18, strike ''the Office of Resolution Management, Diversity and Inclusion''.

Page 52, line 20, strike the comma.

Page 52, beginning on line 24, strike ''$86,481,000 for the Office of Resolution Management, Diversity and Inclusion,''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 614, the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. GREENE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman.

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, my amendment asks the House to support striking the funding for the Office of Resolution Management, Diversity and Inclusion.

The Office of Resolution Management, Diversity and Inclusion in the VA is charged with promoting woke DEI initiatives. My amendment would strike over $86 million of funding for this woke office which provides training for VA employees to teach them about their implicit bias.

Just for you to understand what implicit bias means, Mr. Chairman, because it was something I had to look up myself, implicit bias—this is ACORN—implicit bias refers to a person's unconscious attitudes about other communities that can affect their behavior to those members.

Unconscious attitudes? We are funding $86 million for people to be trained about things they feel that they don't know that they feel?

This makes absolutely no sense for the care of our great veterans.

Instead of spending millions of tax dollars on woke ideology, we should put that money toward making the VA

an agency that actually helps our heroes and our great veterans who served our military and our country and who desperately need good care.

When I am at home in my district and I speak to veterans there, that is what I hear them talk about to me constantly: is the care that they want to receive at the VA, but yet they are failed so many times?

Sick and injured veterans suffering with PTSD, depression, and mental illness and who are on the verge of suicide don't care if VA employees serving them have checked their White privilege. They just want to get the treatment that they need.

Just for some examples for the House to hear about the type of training that happens in this DEI department that is costing the American taxpayers $86 million, a few examples are managing gender diversity in the VA, managing implicit bias—remember those are feelings you don't know you have—valuing workforce diversity in the workplace inclusion; participating effective diversity and inclusion in the workplace for managers, supervisors, and team leaders; understanding micro behaviors in the VA work environment.

It is time to put $86 million to taking care of our veterans' healthcare needs. That is the right place to spend the money.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The VA strives to fairly represent and support the communities that it serves, and all veterans deserve equitable and fair access to the healthcare and benefits that they deserve. Diversity and inclusion foster a healthy workplace environment and promote equal opportunity through smart outreach, retention, and education.

Our veterans—despite the sponsor's denial of a more greatly diverse VA—increasingly are diverse themselves, and they deserve that.

The bill already rejected the budget request to fund the Office of Resolution Management, Diversity and Inclusion at the levels needed to support the department in 2024 and instead holds the office flat at the same funding level provided in 2023, and now this amendment seeks to eliminate the already inadequate funding in the bill entirely.

What is so threatening about the Office of Resolution Management, Diversity and Inclusion?

This office, among the many things it does, prevents harassment and discrimination problems.

I can't imagine why we wouldn't want to combat that, why we wouldn't to make sure that everybody is able to come to work or to be treated at the VA in an evenhanded and fair way.

It heads off costly legal problems for the VA and saves taxpayer money in the long term which I thought was something that our friends on the other side of the aisle are interested in.

I believe the real issue is that our friends on the other side of the aisle don't like the increasing diversity that is occurring in this country, and there is an effort underway as a result across all appropriations bills to excise that word and any policy related to it and to cut anything related to diversity regardless of the purpose and need of the office.

Mr. Chairman, this is an inherently discriminatory, unfair, and bigoted amendment. I urge my colleagues to oppose it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Chair, the great news for all of us here today is that the Constitution declared long ago that all of us are created equal. It is time that we started acknowledging that in all of our funding, in all of our departments, and all across America, and, as well, that our veterans are created equal. We don't have to spend $86 million on educating everyone on how different they are. It is time to start treating everyone equally.

As far as sexual harassment claims, private businesses all across the country are able to handle these without having special diversity, equity, and inclusion departments to handle sexual harassment. That is usually handled in human resources or among managers who can handle the situation.

Management has always been a problem in the VA. We do not need to fund $86 million creating a big, woke department that is actually already created. We should spend $86 million, again, toward helping our veterans. Our veterans have enough issues they face.

Not too long ago there was a tragic story in Georgia where one of our veterans committed suicide while waiting for the care in the waiting office at the VA. This should never ever happen.

This type of funding, $86 million, again, should not go towards educating people about gender and gender bias, educating people about their skin color, and educating people about how they think unconsciously without knowing how they think. These are the type of woke ideologies that divide and separate Americans and that veterans could care less about.

They care about the care that they will receive, they care about having their appointments, they care about their medical treatment, and they care about one another.

One of the things veterans care most about is the fact that they suffer with PTSD from all the foreign wars that they have been sent to and served in.

It is time we take better care of our veterans and stop dividing America with identity politics.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST).

Mr. MAST. Mr. Chairman, I would say this: There is an attempt to divide the military.

We see each other as brothers and sisters in arms. I come from the military, and I can tell you this, Mr. Chairman: We don't care in the VA and we didn't care on the battlefield if the person carrying us on or the person whom we are carrying off is Black or Brown or White. We do have grooming standards, but I would say otherwise we don't care about the length of their hair or other things.

The left fundamentally despises, in my opinion, that the military is this last bastion of best man, best woman for the job that exists in our country, and they are doing everything that they can in the VA and in the military alike to insert themselves and create division that otherwise does not exist there.

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

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

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Georgia will be postponed.

□ 1600

AMENDMENT NO. 35 OFFERED BY MR. BOST

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 35 printed in House Report 118–158.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. 419. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to report a determination under section 5502 of title 38, United States Code, and section 3.353 of title 38 of the Code of Federal Regulations, to the Department of Justice National Instant Criminal Background Check System established pursuant to section 103 of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (34 U.S.C. 40901).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 614, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. BOST. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment to H.R. 4366.

My amendment would prevent any funds under the act from being used to continue a VA current practice of sending a veteran's name to the FBI National Instant Criminal Background Check System, or the NICS list.

According to the VA rules, if a veteran or beneficiary is appointed a fiduciary to help manage their VA benefits, their name is automatically sent to the NICS list. VA sends the veteran's name without finding that veteran a danger to themselves or others, and this is not done in a court of law, not done by a judge, not done by any person with legal authority. It is only done by a VA bureaucrat.

A Federal employee currently has the right to take away a constitutional right of our veterans. The same veterans who protected our constitutional rights are now losing theirs because they need a bit of help managing their finances.

I have said this once, and I will say it again: Veterans should not be treated any differently from any other American citizen.

The mission of the VA is to care for those who have served. To me, it seems this practice is the opposite of caring for our veterans.

Veterans have told me that this practice is a barrier for them to seek healthcare. They are so afraid of losing their constitutional rights that they will not go to the VA for their healthcare or their benefits.

There were just under 15,000 individuals reported to NICS last fiscal year from the VA. This fiscal year, over 8,000 veterans have already been reported to the NICS so far. This practice must stop.

I am proud to have introduced my amendment that would prohibit the unlawful loss of a constitutional right of our veterans.

Madam Chair, I include in the RECORD letters of support for my amendment from The American Legion, Gun Owners of America, National Rifle Association, National Defense Committee, Vets 4 Vet Leadership, Veteran Warriors, and Catholic War Veterans.

THE AMERICAN LEGION,
July 20, 2023.

Hon. MIKE BOST,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

REPRESENTATIVE BOST: On behalf of the more than 1.6 million members of The American Legion, I am pleased to express support for amendment to H.R. 4366, the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. It is ironic that veterans, a community in which every member swore to uphold the Constitution of the United States, requires advocacy to maintain their constitutional right to bear arms. The American Legion believes that each veteran, regardless of disability, has the lawful right to possess firearms, unless deemed unfit by a judicial authority with the full benefit of due process. Any constitutional right should be protected with this same expectation of scrutiny.

The proposed amendment would prohibit the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) from sending information on veterans who are assisted by a fiduciary to the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), without a judicial ruling that they are a danger to themselves or others. As such, this amendment would prevent veterans from losing their Second Amendment right to purchase or own a firearm because they receive help managing their VA benefits.

Through American Legion Resolution No. 118: Amend Title 38, United States Code, to Clarify the Treatment of a Veteran as Adjudicated Mentally Incompetent for Certain Purposes, The American Legion urges Congress to pass legislation which would prohibit VA ''from transmitting in any form, findings about a veteran's mental status or ability to handle his or her own funds, to other agencies without the order or finding of a judge, magistrate, or other judicial authority of competent jurisdiction.'' The American Legion supports the proposed amendment. The American Legion sincerely appreciates your leadership on this issue and looks forward to working with you to secure the passage of this critical amendment.

For God & Country,

VINCENT J. ''JIM'' TROIOLA,
National Commander.

GUN OWNERS OF AMERICA,
July 18, 2023.

Hon. MIKE BOST,
Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BOST: Gun Owners of America is thankful to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs for its focus on the lost gun rights of a quarter of a million veterans with its legislative hearing on H.R. 705, the Veterans' 2nd Amendment Protection Act.

GOA exists to protect the constitutionally recognized right to keep and bear arms of all Americans. Because our veterans have taken up arms to defend this country, we strongly believe that the Department of Veterans Affairs must respect that right. Yet, since the Clinton Administration and the invention of the NICS background check system, the VA has used its ''fiduciary rule'' to disarm veterans as if they had been ''adjudicated as a mental defective'' by a court and were now prohibited from possessing firearms under federal law.

Veterans who have risked life and limb and now suffer from the psychological consequences related to their service should receive the best mental health care our nation has to offer. But VA gun control measures, such as this ''fiduciary rule'' to arbitrarily report veterans to the NICS database, pose major barriers to care for gun owning veterans who may need life-saving mental health treatment.

Sadly, veterans are disproportionately ''adjudicated'' as mental defectives by the federal government. As of 3 January 2023, 97.8 percent of active 18 U.S.C. §9221(g)(4) records in the NICS system submitted by the federal government are veterans. Of the 266,804 records submitted to NICS by federal agencies pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §922(g)(4), 261,168 records were submitted by the VA.

The procedure of turning a veteran who cannot manage his or her checkbook into a prohibited person begins when a VA bureaucrat requires a fiduciary to administer benefit payments. The VA only notifies the veteran once at the initiation of the fiduciary appointment process. If the VA does not receive a response within 60 days of the issuance of this notification, the VA makes a determination of competency based only on the evidence of record and the veteran's record is submitted to the NICS database. Thus, a veteran may lose the legal right to possess or obtain firearms without committing any crime, without the constitutional due process necessary for the deprivation of a right, and sometimes without the veteran's full knowledge or consent,

It is essential that Congress immediately pass the Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act to prohibit the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) from disarming any more veterans with its unconstitutional ''fiduciary rule'' process. Congress must also restore the Second Amendment rights of the veterans currently prohibited from possessing firearms because the VA has submitted their name to the FBI's background check system.

GOA fully endorses Chairman Bost's Amendment to H.R. 4366—to include the Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act to the Military, Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024.

In Liberty,

AIDAN JOHNSTON,
Director of Federal Affairs.

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA,
Washington, DC, July 19, 2023.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BOST: The National Rifle Association (NRA) applauds your amendment to H.R. 4366, to prevent the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) from stripping veterans' Second Amendment rights without due process.

For decades, VA has been using an entitlement program as a pretext to revoke a fundamental constitutional right from those it vows to serve. Under the current scheme, appointment of a fiduciary—a bureaucratic decision assessing a beneficiary's ability to handle personal finances—is treated as an ''adjudication'' of ''mental defectiveness.'' This results in the reporting of these veterans to the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System as disqualified from firearm ownership and acquisition, even though that finding does not involve a judge or a hearing to establish whether the individuals are dangerous to themselves or others.

No government bureaucrat should have the unilateral and arbitrary power to strip any American of their gun rights. Therefore, on behalf of millions of NRA members across the country—many of whom have served this great nation in uniform—the NRA fully supports this amendment as well as your companion legislation, H.R. 705, the Veterans' Second Amendment Protection Act.

Sincerely,

RANDY KOZUCH,
Executive Director, NRA–ILA.

JULY 26, 2023.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Speaker of the House.
Hon. STEVE SCALISE,
Majority Leader of the House.
Hon. JIM MCGOVERN,
Ranking Member, House Committee on Rules.
Hon. HAKEEM JEFFRIES,
Minority Leader of the House.
Hon. TOM COLE,
Chair, House Committee on Rules.

DEAR SPEAKER MCCARTHY, LEADERS JEFFRIES AND SCALISE, CHAIR COLE, AND REPRESENTATIVE MCGOVERN: We, the undersigned veteran and military serving organizations, endorse the inclusion in the House Committee on Rules' reported Rule on H.R. 4366, the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024, of the Rules Committee Amendment 23, Version 2—sponsored by Representative Bost of Illinois—to prohibit ''the VA from using funds to submit a beneficiary's name to the NICS list based on VA's appointment of a fiduciary.'' We also endorse the amendment's adoption by the House into the final House-passed version of the bill.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA's) Fiduciary program is a testament to the threat the unchecked regulatory powers of the Executive Branch can pose to the inalienable rights of the People, in this case, to the rights of disabled veterans to due

process under the law, and to keep and bear arms. From the Fiduciary program's placing the burden of proof on the veteran to prove they are competent (and not on the VA to prove the veteran is incompetent), to the lack of judicial oversight to the process (as is provided in similar incompetency determinations by the Social Security Administration), to the then Orwellian process by which the VA tattles to the Department of Justice that the veteran has problems balancing their checkbook, and therefore now somehow qualifies as a ''mental defective'' under the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act of 1993 and loses their right to keep and bear arms, all without any judicial action, this program is rife with threats to the liberty and property of the very men and women who sacrificed their physical well being in the defense of this country.

Furthermore, the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine found 55 percent of those Iraq and Afghanistan veterans needing mental health services did not seek VA care. The National Academies further stated a significant reason these veterans are not seeking these mental health care services is because of the fear they will lose their firearms, or other legal or administrative actions will be taken against them for seeking mental health care such as loss of security clearance, loss of child custody, and with 35 percent of those interviewed by the National Academy saying ''the potential of having their personal firearms taken away as an obstacle to use VA mental health services.'' And given the rate of increase in veteran suicides over the last 20 years is almost 240 percent higher for those veterans not in the VA's mental health care programs than those in it, such disincentives to seek VA mental health care, such as the Fiduciary Rule, appear to be increasing veteran suicide, not decreasing it.

While we believe the entire VA Fiduciary program must be fundamentally reformed to address the significant civil and legal right abuses the Fiduciary program itself represents for America's veterans, given the legislative process that will require, we believe the Fiscal Year 2024 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act should contain this prohibition on any funds being expended by the VA to involuntarily place any veteran into the Fiduciary program.

Very Respectfully,

NATIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEE.
VETS 4 VET LEADERSHIP.
VETERAN WARRIORS.
CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS.

Mr. BOST. Madam Chair, I thank Representatives ROSENDALE, HUDSON, DESJARLAIS, SELF, CAMMACK, HIGGINS, OGLES, MILLER, BOEBERT, VAN ORDEN, and KIGGANS for joining me on this amendment.

Madam Chair, I encourage all of my colleagues to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR (Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia). The gentlewoman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, during the process of applying for disability benefits, VA determines whether or not a beneficiary can manage their own financial affairs. If not, VA will assign them a fiduciary to protect the veteran.

VA will only determine an individual to be unable to manage his or her financial affairs after receipt of medical documentation or if a court of competent jurisdiction has already made that determination.

In assigning a fiduciary, VA must also report the beneficiary to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, the NICS system, as, under the law, they are adjudicated as mentally defective. This reporting prevents the beneficiary under Federal law from purchasing a firearm.

The program has a full due process system, and veterans can file an appeal. This is an example of generating a controversy where there is none.

The process of applying for disability benefits is entirely separate from the processes by which veterans receive VA healthcare. The Veterans Health Administration, which handles disability benefits, does not take away veterans' firearms.

However, by implying that VA bureaucrats are going to take guns away from veterans, this amendment not only does nothing to increase access to care but its very introduction seeks to dissuade veterans from even seeking healthcare that they have earned in the first place.

Moreover, this amendment deals with an authorizing issue and should not be debated on an appropriations bill. This is policy, not funding.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I am glad that was brought up, the claim that the bureaucrats do not do this. It is only the bureaucrats that recommend to the NICS list, and then the Department of Justice does this. They take away a right of a veteran where any other citizen in this United States would have to go before a court of law where they would be found to be a danger to themselves or others.

Yet, our VA, under the interpretation that they have made of an existing law, has decided that they will have a bureaucrat, without due process, take away the rights of our veterans. It is as simple as that.

When I came here to this House, I found this out. As a veteran, I was appalled. What bothers me more than anything is the number of veterans across the central part of this United States who choose not to seek VA help for the fear that they would lose that Second Amendment right. They fought for that right and every other right under this Constitution.

This needs to be straightened out. It is not gun control. It is not any issue like that. This is a veterans rights issue.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO), the distinguished ranking member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Chair, VA is required by law to transmit the names of the VA beneficiaries to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, which prevents them from buying a firearm, but let me make one thing abundantly clear. Under no circumstances has VA ever confiscated anyone's firearms.

Seeking mental health care from the Veterans Health Administration will not result in a veteran's firearms being taken away. VA does not have legal authority to do so. Only under a discrete set of circumstances for a very discrete population does the Veterans Health Administration report veterans to NICS.

Madam Chair, the stigma around seeking mental health care at VA is a real one. It is also a multifaceted problem we are trying to tackle. Partisan stunts like this amendment make that fight more difficult because it leads to misinformation about the fiduciary program, a program meant to protect vulnerable veterans and beneficiaries.

We had a legislative hearing on Representative BOST's bill on this topic, and it was abundantly clear that there were problems with that bill. My colleagues are attempting to go this route, through the appropriations process, which is harmful because it strips money from VA for political purposes.

Madam Chair, when we discussed this bill last week in the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, we also learned of a great deal of concern about due process, but let me be clear on this point. There are already six avenues for review and relief that beneficiaries can use to challenge VA's determinations and remove their names from the NICS list. However, those avenues are not widely used.

In fact, I would challenge the chairman to show me where there is any veteran with standing that would even take this case to the Federal court to challenge the whole process at VA.

There are six avenues of review and relief. There is due process. What is the problem that this amendment is really trying to address?

As I said in committee, Madam Chair, no one on our side of the aisle asserts that the fiduciary program is infallible. No policy or program is. However, any change to a program or policy must be evidence based and data driven.

In the case of VA's fiduciary program, a program designed to protect the most vulnerable veterans from both financial and physical harm, we must be especially careful not to put more veterans at risk.

Democrats are more than willing to have a debate on the merits of this program under those parameters, but this amendment is purely a political exercise that only seeks to put more veterans at risk by perpetuating stigma around mental health care, and it undermines the VA's efforts at suicide prevention.

Mr. BOST. Madam Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Chair, I will answer two quick questions.

The fact is that, no, the VA employee does not take the Second Amendment right and possess the guns. The Department of Justice does. They give the name to the Department of Justice.

Two, when the statement was made that I have a bill to try to deal with this, the ranking member was totally correct. I do because I am going to do everything I can to make sure that the rights of our veterans are not taken away.

It is time for us to stand up for our veterans and protect the constitutional rights that they fought to protect. No veteran should lose their Second Amendment right without due process of law.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Florida has 1 minute remaining.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, let me make clear that the Department of Veterans Affairs has robust due process policies and regulations in place for incompetency determinations and remind our colleagues that one of the three ways in which someone is denied an opportunity to possess a firearm is when they have been declared mentally incompetent.

There are very robust provisions in the processes at the VA to ensure that there is due process in place. On top of that, the VA has the ability to grant relief from disability in the event that clear and convincing evidence is presented that affirmatively, substantially, and specifically shows that the beneficiary is not likely to act in a manner dangerous to the public and that granting relief will not be contrary to the public interest.

That is the kind of safety measure that we want, to make sure that when a veteran has been declared mentally incompetent, Madam Chair, that they are not able to get access to a firearm.

Due process is important. Protecting the public and the individual is important, as well.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST).

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois will be postponed.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Chair, I rise as the designee of the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER).

Madam Chair, I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Chair, I yield to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. BOEBERT).

Mrs. BOEBERT. Madam Chair, I rise in favor of the en bloc amendment package, which includes six of my amendments that redirect funds from Biden's bloated bureaucracy to actually help our Nation's veterans.

Our men and women in uniform and our Nation's veterans put everything on the line to defend this great country and our freedoms. They deserve the best care that America has to offer.

Caring for our veterans should be a priority in our annual funding bills. That is why I drafted these amendments that transfer dollars from the Federal bureaucracy to provide additional resources for veterans, including veteran mental health programs, medical and prosthetic research, the Board of Veterans' Appeals to help reduce its backlog and process veterans claims more quickly, gravesites for veterans in areas where a veteran cannot be buried in a VA national cemetery, construction of State extended care facilities, the Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program, and veterans telehealth and rural health.

Don't believe the lies on the other side of the aisle. The Republican majority is committed to fully funding our veterans healthcare programs and funding veterans benefits and VA programs.

Earlier this year, they falsely claimed that the Limit, Save, Grow Act would cut veterans benefits, even though it didn't even mention veterans in the bill.

The White House and the leftists falsely tried to claim that this bill cut veterans benefits before it was even released. We didn't even have the text yet.

Let me say this again: This bill fully funds our veterans and even provides an increase of $1.5 billion above the discretionary funding level contained in the fiscal year 2023 bill drafted by Democrats.

The only thing this bill cuts is wasteful spending, and it ensures the Department can no longer be politicized by putting veterans and their needs above a rainbow flag or pronouns.

My support for our servicemembers does not end when their service is complete. I am committed to ensuring that our Nation's most precious resource, its sons and daughters and mothers and fathers who answered the call to serve in uniform receive the essential healthcare and benefits they have earned.

I applaud the committee for taking on this difficult task of prioritizing limited resources for our veterans.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of my amendments, as well as the underlying bill, which fully funds our veterans.

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

□ 1615

AMENDMENT NO. 36 OFFERED BY MR. MAST

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 36 printed in House Report 118–158.

Mr. MAST. Madam 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:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. 419. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs in this Act may be used to enforce Veterans Health Directive 1315 as it relates to—

(1) the policy stating that ''VHA providers are prohibited from completing forms or registering Veterans for participation in a State-approved marijuana program'';

(2) the directive for the ''Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management'' to ensure that ''medical facility Directors are aware that it is VHA policy for providers to assess Veteran use of marijuana but providers are prohibited from recommending, making referrals to or completing paperwork for Veteran participation in State marijuana programs''; and

(3) the directive for the ''VA Medical Facility Director'' to ensure that ''VA facility staff are aware of the following'' ''[t]he prohibition on recommending, making referrals to or completing forms and registering Veterans for participation in State-approved marijuana programs''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 614, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

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

I rise today in support of a bipartisan amendment to do something simple: give veterans access to every possible tool when it comes to the wounds of war, of which I am innately familiar.

The amendment is quite simple. It allows VA doctors in States with legal medical cannabis programs to discuss cannabis as a treatment option with their patients. I say this as clearly as I can: I have friends who are Rangers, Green Berets, and SEALs. I have seen pilots and every other job in the military sometimes find relief from the drugs, the narcotics that they have been prescribed in the VA or in the hospital. They find relief from both mental and physical wounds that they face.

However, what they face as well is a Department of Veterans Affairs that does not allow their primary care physicians, their post-deployment clinics to discuss the medical treatment options and work with them through the paperwork for those medical treatment options that are actually available in their States. If they are not working with their doctors to do that, then you have to ask yourself, who is it that they would be working with to do that for medical treatment that is legal in their State?

This amendment, again, would change that and make it the case that the Department of Veterans Affairs can assist those veterans for whom it is appropriate and recommended by their doctors that medical cannabis be a treatment option.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

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

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Chair, I understand the intent and that some States permit the use of marijuana. However, the VA doctors are required to comply with Federal law. This amendment does not address that. I don't want to put them in legal jeopardy. I believe this should be handled by the authorizing committee.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MAST. Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Chair, I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy and his leadership.

I am proud to lead this amendment with the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST), the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOYCE), and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) to inject some sanity into our medical marijuana approach.

Veterans in Oregon and across the country have shared powerful stories with me about how medical cannabis has saved their lives and given them relief from wounds of war seen and unseen. These veterans have also shared their fear about what would happen if they worked with the VA doctors to incorporate their cannabis use into their treatment plans.

The VA denies veterans access to this care option by preventing providers from completing forms in compliance with State medical marijuana programs. This is a shameful disservice to the men and women who put their lives on the line. The VA is forcing veterans to seek care outside the VA or self-medicate.

Our veterans are paying the price for Congress' failure to act. That is why I am proud to join Representative MAST in leading the Veterans Equal Access Act and why I call on my colleagues to support this amendment. Simple justice for our veterans.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Chair, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I think it is important to make clear that this debate is not about whether veterans in a State where it is legal can get access to marijuana. It is not even about whether doctors at the VA can communicate about those options with their patients because they can. VA already does that. We allowed that several years ago.

What it does do and what this debate is about is to ensure that because marijuana is still an illegal substance under Federal law, if we allow this amendment to pass, it would potentially put VA employees, healthcare providers and other VA employees at risk of DEA enforcement actions. That is not something that we can change with this amendment, no matter how much you might want to have this amendment move forward.

While some States might have legalized marijuana for medical purposes and allow physicians to prescribe it to patients, VA providers are still subject to Federal enforcement actions through the Drug Enforcement Administration. The VA has policies in place prohibiting physicians from completing forms, not from communicating with their patients, and they can't register veterans in a State medical marijuana program themselves. However, veterans certainly can register themselves to do that.

There is a concern that if legislation forced the VA to change or stop enforcing its policies, as this amendment is proposing, in the absence of systemic changes to Federal drug policy outside the VA that providers could be at risk of penalties or other legal action.

The proper place for this discussion, Madam Chair, is in the authorizing committee, which my colleague, the sponsor of the amendment serves on. Have a discussion and a debate over policy to change the Federal enforcement action risk that we would be placing VA employees in if this amendment moved forward. Move it to the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee and prohibit DEA enforcement action.

This debate is happening in the wrong bill on the wrong topic. I oppose the amendment for that reason, while separately not opposing the idea that there are legal ways that veterans are able to get access to cannabis and marijuana. However, we do have to make sure we can continue to allow VA employees to be protected from prosecution as a result of the potential impact that this amendment would have.

Mr. MAST. Madam Chair, may I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. MAST. Madam Chair, I yield myself 1 minute, just to point out that my colleague from Florida from the other side is quite literally wrong.

VHA Directive 1315 says this plainly: VHA providers are prohibited from completing forms or registering veterans for participation in State-approved marijuana programs. It says it very literally.

My colleague is saying that, no, doctors can talk to them about this, and they can deal with it. No, if a doctor can't help them with the forms and help them with registering and help them with the dosages and the amounts and everything that goes on with a very specific medical policy, then that is a pretty confusing conversation for somebody to have if they can't take it to that level.

Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOYCE).

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Madam Chair, I am proud to join my colleagues in leading this commonsense effort to help our country's veterans access medical treatment.

Research has shown that medical cannabis can be a safe and effective treatment in targeted pain management for PTSD which, unfortunately, impacts many of our veterans. Despite their efficiency, bureaucratic red tape continues to deny veterans these life-altering treatments. In States like Ohio and 37 others where it is legal, the Federal Government should not prevent a VA doctor from recommending medical cannabis as a viable treatment option if they believe it will help their patient.

As the son of a WWII veteran who was wounded and left for dead on the battlefield, I have seen firsthand the many challenges our Nation's heroes face when they return home. We should all resolve to help expand access to treatments for the medical challenges, both mental and physical, our veterans experience.

That is why I ask my colleagues to support this amendment to help eliminate barriers for alternative treatments and provide our veterans with the care they need to overcome the wounds of war.

Mr. MAST. Madam Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Again, I point out the merits of this: It is fact in the VA right now the cannabis policy is extremely confusing. It does very literally say VHA providers are prohibited from completing forms or registering veterans for participation in State-approved marijuana programs.

Those are conversations that you need to have with your primary care physician, nurse practitioners, and others. This is the reason that that policy needs to be changed. I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Chair, as Co-chair of the Congressional Cannabis Caucus, I rise in strong support of this bipartisan amendment No. 36, to the Fiscal Year 2024 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies bill. This amendment would help veterans participate in a legal state medical cannabis program, ensure services are not denied, or limit health care providers' ability to make appropriate recommendations of this treatment option for veterans.

Currently, VA physicians aren't allowed to complete medical forms relating to their patients' cannabis usage nor can they assist their patients in enrolling in medical cannabis programs.

This amendment would authorize VA physicians and other health care providers to provide recommendations and opinions regarding

the use of medical cannabis to veterans who live in states with existing medical programs.

Millions of American veterans suffer from post-traumatic stress and depression. Moreover, of the nearly one million veterans who receive opioids to treat painful conditions, more than half continue to consume beyond 90 days.

Time after time, data has revealed that the mortality rate from opiate overdoses among VA patients is nearly double the national average. In states where patients can legally access medical cannabis to treat painful conditions, often as a less addictive alternative, the hands of VA physicians should not be tied.

Cannabis is currently legal in most states and territories for medicinal or adult use and the VA health system must keep up. I am proud to co-lead this amendment and want to give a special thanks to my Cannabis Caucus Co-chairs, Representatives MAST, BLUMENAUER and JOYCE, for their partnership on enacting comprehensive cannabis reform.

I urge my colleagues to vote and support this bipartisan, common-sense amendment that would benefit our armed service members.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 37 OFFERED BY MR. ROSENDALE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 37 printed in House Report 118–158.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Madam 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:

Add at the end of the bill (before the spending reduction account) the following new section:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to enforce any COVID–19 mask mandates.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 614, the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ROSENDALE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montana.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment, amendment No. 37, which would prohibit the use of funds made available by this act from being used to enforce any COVID–19 mask mandates.

Our country sends young men and women overseas for long periods of time, away from their family and friends at great risk to their physical safety. When they come home and become veterans, sometimes the VA refuses them the care that they have earned and that they deserve. This is unacceptable.

I have heard from numerous veterans in my district who have been denied care over their unwillingness to wear a mask to protect them from a pandemic that has long been declared over, using a method that has long since been refuted.

Denying a veteran medical care over a personal decision is outrageous. We owe it to care for our Nation's heroes and to provide them with the best possible care, not stigmatize them over masking decisions.

The COVID–19 mask mandates are also unfair to the employees of the VA. Most employees want to provide veterans with world-class healthcare, not enforce arbitrary, unscientific rules. The VA did loosen its COVID–19 mask requirements recently. However, they left too much discretion to unelected bureaucrats. Again, the pandemic has long been over, and it is time to end all of the COVID–19 mandates.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, this amendment would prohibit the enforcement of any COVID–19 mask mandates. However, the VA has already relaxed mask mandates except in high-risk areas where patients could be put in danger by someone who has a respiratory infection.

For example, the VA continues to require masks near chemotherapy units, transplant units, and emergency rooms. In other words, this amendment would override safety precautions put in place for the VA's most at-risk patients.

It would block masking requirements near chemotherapy patients, whose immune systems have been brutally weakened by treatments to fight cancer. It would block masking requirements in the vicinity of surgery patients, where a dangerous respiratory virus could be deadly. It would block masking requirements near intensive care units filled with patients with severe, life-threatening illnesses.

This amendment is reckless, and it would endanger the lives of our most vulnerable patients at the VA. This amendment is not about a mask mandate at the office, it is not about a mask mandate at the grocery store. This amendment would block mask requirements at VA hospitals and healthcare facilities. How ludicrous could anything be?

□ 1630

It is astonishing that the gentleman would suggest that, in a hospital setting, around vulnerable individuals, particularly those that are extremely vulnerable, that we would be prohibiting a hospital from requiring people to wear masks so that people don't die of an illness contracted as a result of being exposed to someone who might be carrying germs that they are not aware of.

Our veterans have sacrificed so much for this country. It is our responsibility to protect their health, not to risk their lives for a political stunt.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Madam Chair, unfortunately the Representative is either mistaken or intentionally spreading false information. Any parts or portions of the facility that previously had mask mandates for immune deficiencies or any other reasons would not be impacted by this mandate. Only mandates that are a direct result of COVID–19 are prohibited.

Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas, (Mr. SELF).

Mr. SELF. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of Mr. ROSENDALE's amendment to remove mask mandates from our Veterans Affairs facilities.

Last April, President Joe Biden signed the Pandemic Is Over Act into law to decisively end the COVID–19 national emergency. Accordingly, hospitals and clinics across the country have rescinded their policies requiring visitors and patients to wear a mask.

However, VA clinics continue to enforce the so-called sensitive areas policy where patients must wear a mask while sitting in a meeting room waiting on his or her doctor. There is no reason for the VA to continue with this frivolous charade. Enough of the drama.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Chair, the medical center leadership, the leadership, will determine when it is appropriate to transition from standard to enhanced safety practices. This is the problem.

Bureaucrats are continuing to make decisions, not about sensitive areas, not about areas where we are prone to have immune deficiencies, but simply sensitive areas, and recommended national response by a team of subject matter experts due to future COVID–19 variants that threaten veteran staff and safety. This is not acceptable.

Again, COVID–19 is over. These mask mandates as a result of COVID–19 need to be eliminated.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance my time.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Madam Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Chair, this amendment simply eliminates use of funds by the VA for the implementation of any COVID–19 mandates and is long overdue. I ask my colleagues to support this amendment and restore the proper treatment of our veterans.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Extreme MAGA Republicans are once again trying to prevent people—trying to make sure that we have more people get sick rather than fewer.

In a hospital setting, with medical experts, neither of whom have spoken on this amendment today, it is imperative that we listen to medical experts.

When you are in an intensive care unit, when you are receiving chemotherapy, when you are in a medically risky situation, ensuring that the people around you that come in from the outside don't get you sick and potentially risk you severe illness and death, that is a responsible medical policy.

What Republicans are proposing is to make sure that the VA can't keep its patients safe. That is irresponsible, in the name of the extreme MAGA opposition to doing anything to ensure that people don't get COVID. The stunning irresponsibility is surprising, even for them.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ROSENDALE).

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Montana will be postponed.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Chair, as the designee of the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER), I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Chair, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO).

Mr. MOLINARO. Madam Chair, I will speak briefly to two amendments that were included in the MILCON appropriations bill.

Specifically, one, amendment 24 ensures the funding for Veterans Health Administration, it ensures that we are dedicated to assisting veterans with disabilities and those with mental health and substance abuse challenges. Of course, as a Nation, we owe a great deal of gratitude to these men and women, and regardless of whether these are emotional or physical scars, this amendment ensures that we continue to provide appropriate access.

Additionally, amendment 25 ensures funding for the VA electronic health records which, of course, is critically important to our veterans, that we continue to modernize the system to help transitioning veterans access and receive top-quality care at VA facilities.

At the same time, we need to ensure the safety and effectiveness of updating this program. The VA and Congress must work in lockstep to create a system that better serves our veterans and taxpayers.

Madam Chair, I thank my colleagues for consideration of these amendments.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 38 OFFERED BY MR. ROY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 38 printed in of House Report 118–158.

Mr. ROY. Madam 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:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. 419. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out VHA Directive 1193.01, ''Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccination Program for Veterans Health Administration Health Care Personnel''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 614, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ROY. Madam Chair, this amendment that I am offering prohibits any of the funding in the MILCON-VA appropriations bill from being used to carry out what I believe are unnecessary and unscientific COVID–19 vaccine mandates at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Now, there has been some confusion about this. Some people have said, oh, well, that is not really still going on. Well, I just got an email from the VA today saying, yes, it is.

There still are vaccine mandates that are being carried out at the VA and, to the best of my knowledge, it is the last remaining Federal vaccine mandate, and it needs to end.

Most Federal vaccine mandates ended in May of 2023, with the end of the public health emergency. The VA, though, was one of the few agencies to leave the mandate in place.

VHA Directive 1193.01, COVID–19 Vaccination Program for VHA Healthcare Personnel, outlines the policy and guidance for mandatory COVID–19 vaccination for Veterans Health Administration healthcare personnel is still in effect.

The mandate applies to EMS personnel, nurses, nursing assistants, physicians, technicians, therapists, phlebotomists, pharmacists, health professions trainees, clerical, dietary, environmental services, laundry, security, maintenance, engineering and facilities management, administrative, billing, and even volunteers.

If you want to volunteer at the VA, you better get a jab.

The COVID vax mandate is unnecessary. It hurts healthcare workers. I believe it hurts healthcare being provided to our veterans.

As of July 15, 2022, the VA had disciplined some 74 workers that we know of, some of whom were fired.

I do not believe the mandate is necessary to keep our veterans or the VA staff safe. The former CDC director has said that the vaccines can't do anything to prevent transmission.

This amendment is about ending COVID madness once and for all at the VA and making sure that anyone who wants to provide medical care to our great veterans can do so.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I really can't believe I have to say this out loud, but vaccines have been essential in reducing the severity of COVID.

I would note that VA's vaccine requirement currently applies specifically to healthcare personnel, who are the people most in danger of not only contracting, but spreading this disease, especially to the vulnerable patients that VA serves, many of whom are at high risk for the long-term effects of COVID.

Additionally, at its highest point during the pandemic, VA had over 15,000 staff unable to work due to either infection or exposure, with over 9,000 of those clinical staff. That has a significant impact on patient care, and I think we should all agree that no veteran should be turned away from care because there wasn't a provider available to treat them.

VA took extremely reasonable steps to protect its patients and its workforce, and we shouldn't be tying VA's hands when it comes to managing their workforce and pursuing workplace safety and protecting its patients.

It was a responsible decision to limit the vaccine requirement to care providers in clinical settings, and this amendment, if it passes, will ensure that more VA employees get sick, more of their patients will get sick, and there is a certainty that more people will die if we don't ensure that VA employees who treat patients are vaccinated. That is just common sense and should be understood based on the experience of the time we all spent battling the pandemic.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROY. Madam Chair, I would only respond to the gentlewoman from Florida when she said it only applies to healthcare personnel. I just rattled off an entire list of virtually every known possible human being and job that could apply at the VA, and a whole lot of them aren't, in fact, healthcare personnel.

I went through an entire list, including laundry, security, maintenance, engineering and facilities management, administrative, billing, even volunteers.

Instead, some of my colleagues have said, this doesn't apply to the VA. Like I said, we reached out to the VA and, sure enough, they replied today, yes, the vaccine mandate still applies.

Nevertheless, we get rid of the Medicaid. We get rid of the Medicare mandates. The private sector is out there. They can do what they want to do. The vaccine mandate has come and gone in terms of something that the American people believe we should tolerate.

They want to be able to move about without having the fear of losing their job, and we have people at the VA losing their job.

We have nurses that have given up their ability to practice. We have got it throughout our entire—we have members of our military that have been held up from being promoted and being able to advance. We have people at the VA. I have met with people who worked at the VA, some of whom who were facing losing their job. This should end. This madness should end.

That is what this amendment would do. It would ensure that no funding goes to continuing and perpetuating that mandate.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I think it is important to point out that it is not just healthcare providers that work in VA healthcare facilities. Maintenance workers work in VA healthcare facilities and interact with patients and they move back and forth throughout the facility.

Cafeteria workers, other people who are not healthcare professionals work in VA facilities in and around the most sensitive patients being provided with care in the most intense healthcare environments. They can infect people with COVID. They can infect healthcare providers who work at the VA who interact with patients even more closely, and they can infect patients directly.

It is a responsible policy to ensure that where there is a severely ill patient or someone who is extremely vulnerable and has their immunity lowered—as a breast cancer survivor, I can tell you that when you go through chemotherapy, which I did not, but I have obviously spent a lot of time on understanding what breast cancer patients and people who go through chemotherapy experience, your immunity is knocked out.

So we are going to prohibit people who work in VA healthcare facilities from wearing masks to ensure that someone who has had their immunity system knocked out from being protected from an individual who might have COVID, while they are at work? That is grossly irresponsible, and it would result, potentially, in people getting sick and dying from something other than what they are being treated for at the VA.

□ 1645

That is the height of irresponsibility, and I can't believe that our friends on the other side of the aisle would be willing to risk the life and health of VA patients with this irresponsible policy.

We have to make sure in a healthcare setting that people who interact with patients in any way are protecting the patients from getting sick, and that is why this amendment should be defeated.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY).

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 39 OFFERED BY MR. ROY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 39 printed in House Report 118–158.

Mr. ROY. Madam 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:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. 419. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to modify or remove any display of the Department of Veterans Affairs that bears the mission statement ''To fulfill President Lincoln's promise 'to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan' by serving and honoring the men and women who are America's veterans.' ''

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 614, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ROY. Madam Chair, I have an amendment that prohibits any of the MILCON-VA funding appropriated from being used to modify or remove any VA display of the original mission statement.

Now, just a quick second before I go there. I didn't reserve my time because I thought we were trying to move things along. I am going to say, as a cancer survivor, as someone who did have chemo, and as someone who was on Neulasta to deal with a weakened immune system, I was in a hospital, and I wasn't being forced to wear masks and wasn't being forced to take any shots. If I wanted to take the flu shot, I could.

We have a CDC Director who said that this vaccine doesn't do anything to help the spread from other people to you. That is the whole point.

We should get rid of the vaccine mandates, but on another note of craziness from this administration, on March 16, 2023, earlier this year, the VA announced it updated the 1959 mission statement from: ''To fulfill President Lincoln's promise: 'To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan' by serving and honoring the men and women who are America's veterans.''

Now, it is a gender-neutral version: ''To fulfill President Lincoln's promise to care for those who have served in our Nation's military and for their families, caregivers, and survivors.''

That is, it upends the quote that is directly from President Lincoln.

The original mission statement is posted in roughly 50 percent of the VA's facilities. The VA has been working through replacing them over the last couple of months by a directive. It is unclear how many displays are left.

The Trump administration resisted calls to change the motto and put an additional 140 plaques at national cemeteries bearing Lincoln's quote because it is a good quote. It is a historic quote.

The fact is, we should not use taxpayer dollars to allow this administration to unilaterally change the VA's historic motto and erase the words of President Lincoln in order to appease the radical left in advancing yet another one of their cultural revisionist efforts.

The VA's mission statement, established in 1959, appropriately used the words of President Lincoln in his Second Inaugural Address delivered on March 4, 1865: ''With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the Nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan.''

That quote obviously came from the timeframe in which we were concluding the Civil War, and it came a mere month, from my recollection of history, from when Abraham Lincoln was, in fact, assassinated.

The speech was in part the basis of the Department of Veterans Affairs' creation and declared mission.

The Department wants to continue to waste hard-earned taxpayer dollars to erase history and expunge Lincoln's words by replacing the VA's mission statement, all in an attempt to earn woke brownie points.

I am thankful, of course, for the millions of men and women who have served valiantly in our Armed Forces, but changing the VA motto is just virtue signaling. We should be focused on providing the quality care and benefits veterans have earned in a timely manner.

The average wait time for new primary care appointments within the 13 South Texas Veterans Health System facilities was 50 days; veterans seeking their first appointment locally at the new Pecan Valley clinic, an average of 98 days; the VA clinic in the district I represent, Kerrville, 23 days, and that is the shortest.

This amendment, like my other amendments, is about restoring VA focus, not advancing a political agenda out of step with the majority of Americans.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, in March of this year, VA announced it is updating its 1959 mission statement: ''To fulfill President Lincoln's promise to care for those who have served in our Nation's military and for their families, caregivers, and survivors,'' and that was a way to make VA a more inclusive and inviting place.

VA's previous mission statement read: ''To fulfill President Lincoln's promise: 'To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan.' ''

The VA is a place where all veterans should feel welcomed, included, and cared for, and the previous mission statement did not adequately reflect the true veteran population. Only men were really reflected in the statement.

Today, women are the fastest growing group of veterans, and it is about time that we are reflected in VA's mission statement.

I am pleased the VA made this important and monumental change, honoring the past by making sure that we continue to make reference to President Lincoln's words and honoring the spirit of President Lincoln's intent, but also making sure that we truly honor all of our Nation's veterans, not just the men who have served our country.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment because this is exclusionary, and we want to make sure that the VA continues to be a more inclusive place and recognizes all veterans who serve, not just those who are men.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROY. Madam Chair, I will reiterate the extent to which this motto came directly from a quote from President Lincoln at his Second Inaugural Address at a particularly important and historic moment in our Nation's history. That was the point.

The literal culmination of the Civil War had occurred almost around that exact date or was occurring shortly thereafter and shortly before the President was to be assassinated, I believe in April, a month after this speech. To go back and edit this and then go around changing the VA to pull out a quote directly from Lincoln just, again, shows a lack of focus on what the VA should be focused on.

That is the point of the amendment. Can we just get back to trying to figure out how to provide care and do what we said we are going to do for millions of veterans who are tired of waiting and having technological systems that aren't working properly so they have trouble getting in and out of care and being able to use care in the private sector? There are lots of things we need to be fixing at the VA, and this is certainly not one of them.

Madam Chair, I think that I have made the point. I think the amendment should be supported. I think we should get the VA focused on what the people of this country want us to focus on, supporting the care for veterans.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I think it is important to point out that the new motto still is reflective of President Lincoln's beliefs, and his promise is one that was developed after surveying veterans who receive care from the VA and their employees.

Perhaps we should listen to the veterans who are served by the VA and the people who work with them every single day about the need for a more inclusive motto. The more inclusive motto says, ''To fulfill President Lincoln's promise to care for those who have served in our Nation's military and for their families, caregivers, and survivors,'' making sure that the motto of the VA ensures that all patients who are served there, all employees who work there, all the surviving families who interact with the VA every single day understand that the motto applies to them and the more outdated motto that dates back to President Lincoln's time is no longer reflective of who is served at the VA.

This is 2023. It is hard to imagine that we are actually debating a motto on the floor of the House of Representatives and have a Member of Congress suggesting that that motto should remain exclusive of women instead of ensuring, as the motto voted on as a result of the surveys of VA employees and VA patients, is more reflective of who the VA treats today.

Madam Chair, I urge opposition to the gentleman's amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY).

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 40 OFFERED BY MR. ROY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 40 printed in House Report 118–158.

Mr. ROY. Madam 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:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. ____. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used to implement any of the following executive orders:

(1) Executive Order 13990, relating to Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science To Tackle the Climate Crisis.

(2) Executive Order 14008, relating to Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad.

(3) Section 6 of Executive Order 14013, relating to Rebuilding and Enhancing Programs To Resettle Refugees and Planning for the Impact of Climate Change on Migration.

(4) Executive Order 14030, relating to Climate-Related Financial Risk.

(5) Executive Order 14057, relating to Catalyzing Clean Energy Industries and Jobs Through Federal Sustainability.

(6) Executive Order 14082, relating to Implementation of the Energy and Infrastructure Provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022.

(7) Executive Order 14096, relating to Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 614, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ROY. Madam Chair, this amendment prohibits any of the funding in the MILCON-VA appropriations bill from being used to carry out President Biden's executive orders on climate change.

I was gratified to have offered a similar amendment and to see it adopted on the floor of the House with respect to the National Defense Authorization Act, the NDAA. We believe that the United States military should have a singular focus, and that is also true for the Veterans Administration. It should have a singular focus—ensuring our veterans have the care they need, not advancing the climate fetish that is making us beholden to China for our energy needs, undermining our national security, and undermining the very reason veterans put their lives on the line to defend this country.

In August 2021, the VA put forward a ''climate action plan,'' which includes indoctrinating VA employees with so-called climate literacy, pushing renewable energy consumption, sustainable buildings, and greenhouse gas emissions at VA facilities.

Now, VA is transitioning its fleet of over 22,000 vehicles to zero-emission vehicles. Mind you, our American public, who want to go about carrying out their jobs and their livelihoods, can't even afford vehicles anymore because we are clamping down on the ability of them to go purchase vehicles because we are limiting the production of the internal combustion engine so we can have battery-powered automobiles that are being produced with lithium and cobalt and things being mined in Africa while children are being exploited and the Chinese Communist Party is being empowered, all while China, by the way, has 1,100 coal-fired plants compared to our 250. They are building two a week while we are basically doing nothing to advance anything with respect to reliable energy.

Instead, we are putting all of our eggs in the unreliable energy basket, which makes us beholden to China, the Chinese Communist Party, and our enemies around the globe rather than exporting liquefied natural gas and making us stronger.

Again, the Veterans Administration ought to reflect the American people and our strength by focusing on its core mission—providing healthcare and benefits that are necessary for those who have served to defend our country.

□ 1700

My Democratic colleagues apparently think you can power a VA hospital on wind and solar alone. Of course, you cannot. It is not possible.

Anybody who looks at it looks at the data and sees on a windless, cloudy day, how are you powering a VA hospital? You are powering it with fossil fuels. You are powering it with what little nuclear power we have, given that we have been unable to build a nuclear plant, by far the most reliable non-CO_2-producing energy in the world. We haven't been able to do it since the 1970s because of the regulatory infrastructure in this country. It is absurd.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle go around ballyhooing about carbon dioxide, and the one reliable energy that you can do has been prevented by regulatory morass through the better part of my lifetime of 50 years.

Instead, they go around producing wind and solar, which as more information comes out about how horrific it has been for the planet, how horrific it is for children throughout this world mining those minerals, how empowering it is for our enemies, and here we are trying to turn the VA into essentially a promotion of the climate agenda for the radical left.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

Despite the wildfires, smoke-covered skies, life-threatening heat waves, and extreme weather we now face nearly every day in the United States, this amendment would hamstring our ability to address the accelerating threat of climate change.

The scientific consensus is clear, and we need to get serious about preventing further damage by transitioning to clean energy sources while also working to mitigate the costs we already bear today.

The Department of Defense has repeatedly recognized that climate change is a direct threat to the U.S. military's readiness, mission effectiveness, and resilience. From rising sea levels that can flood coastal installations to more frequent extreme weather events that can damage our military infrastructure, these climate-related effects put our security at risk.

Don't take my word for it. Just look at the news. Just yesterday, the news reported that the ocean temperature in south Florida was more than 100 degrees yesterday, 101.1 degrees to be specific, in Everglades National Park in Manatee Bay.

Do you know what happens at temperatures like that? At temperatures like that, we start seeing massive coral bleaching. Coral bleaching, high temperatures, sea level rise are not someday things in Florida. They are right now things.

In 2018, a Category 5 hurricane devastated Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida, necessitating billions of dollars to repair and rebuild. We can only mitigate against those costly scenarios if we can acknowledge that the changing climate and increasing extremes we must adapt to are real.

Further, climate change directly impacts the health of our most vulnerable veterans. Increases in extreme heat, extreme weather events, and disease pose a threat to those who have served, particularly those who are older or who have preexisting conditions and those who have respiratory conditions, which often older veterans do.

The policies targeted in this amendment provide a path to help us future-proof our military, incorporate climate risk analysis into military planning, enhance our energy security, address the health effects of climate change, and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels.

The gentleman from Texas might want to wish away or amend away global warming and climate change and its effects, but that simply isn't possible. This amendment would result in leaving our military woefully unprepared and our Nation on a path toward climate catastrophe in decades to come.

Madam Chair, I urge opposition to the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROY. Madam Chair, I just reiterate the extent to which we are turning over our national security to our enemies. Eighty percent of the solar panels installed in the United States come from Chinese firms. Seven of the top 10 wind technology turbine manufacturers are Chinese firms. China controls 77 percent of EV battery manufacturing.

The fact is, our national security is dependent upon our ability to produce and export liquefied natural gas and being able to use the God-given minerals that we have in this country, oil and gas, to be able to power the world.

There are almost a billion people on this planet who really have no access to electricity, some 3 billion who don't have access to reliable electricity and energy, and all we are doing is constraining the ability of the world to produce the energy necessary for human flourishing.

We are all committed to trying to help improve the environment. Governor DeSantis in Florida has made enormous strides in improving the Everglades in Florida and received notoriety for doing so.

In Texas, we have the most wind production of any State in the country, but you have to beg the question as to whether that is a good thing or a bad thing if you don't have enough fossil fuels to back up the wind and the solar.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle want to live in unicorn land and pretend that you don't need energy to power up the buildings in which we live in order to make us able to exist on this planet and actually have human flourishing in the face of weather and the conditions that we have to live through.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, it is astonishing to me that our friends on the other side of the aisle are fossil fuel warriors. I mean, that is what this is all about. This is about Big Oil and fossil fuel supporters and making sure that the coffers continue to be filled.

It is absolutely irresponsible. It is essential that we make sure that we are preparing and aggressively pursuing and making sure that we can stave off and mitigate the effects of global warming and climate change. These are not risks that are somewhere in the distant future. They are happening right now.

Madam Chair, in my own district, in neighborhoods in south Florida, during the king tides in particular, you have sunny day flooding because the sea level rise is nearly unstoppable at this point. That is costing us precious resources that we should be spending on other quality-of-life issues. Yet, the gentleman's amendment would further prevent us from being able to mitigate the effects of global warming and climate change. It is dangerous.

In particular, as it relates to our military, it puts our national security at risk and the health of our servicemembers at risk. We need to make sure that we can continue to aggressively pursue protecting our national security interests, which is why, on both sides, no matter who is in charge of the Department of Defense, the Department continues to pursue policies that will ensure that we can mitigate against global warming and climate change. They understand the risk to our servicemembers and to our safety.

Madam Chair, I urge my 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 gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY).

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 41 OFFERED BY MR. ZINKE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 41 printed in House Report 118–158.

Mr. ZINKE. Madam 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:

At the end of the bill (before the spending reduction account), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to administer, implement, or enforce Executive Order 14057 (dated December 8, 2021).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 614, the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ZINKE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montana.

Mr. ZINKE. Madam Chair, I rise today to ask my colleagues to support my amendment to ensure the Department of Defense has the flexibility and authority to supply adequate power to defend this country and win in battle.

It is ironic that we are here today, and I can't believe we are talking about it, but we are. The latest rule by the Biden administration to force the DOD to only use electricity for power and heating without backup, without any regard to situation, terrain, technology, or supply chain, is absurd.

Let's talk about energy security and what it looks like. The first 2 years of the Trump administration, we went from 8.7 million barrels a day to 12.5 million barrels a day. We went from being energy vulnerable and dependent upon our allies and potential adversaries to being energy independent and, in some places, dominant.

By the way, we lowered emissions. Do you know why? Because America does energy better, cleaner, and more efficient than any other country on the face of this planet.

Let's talk about the Biden administration and what this does. It puts our national security at risk.

First, let's talk about supply chains. In the EV world, where are the minerals mined? Who controls the minerals, the processing, the manufacturing? Who controls the solar cells, the components that make up the EV world? China.

It is ironic that the moment we become energy independent, we are now moving to more dependency on our allies and what could be our adversaries.

Secondly, let's look at the cost. How much does it cost in the world we live in? We are looking at budgets and savings and the future. What this does is it raises the cost of construction, and there is no answer to the supply chain. Just on mining critical minerals alone, it would take a 2,000 percent increase for 20 years to meet the energy demands of batteries today. Yet, this administration puts this rule in, and by the way, good luck mining in the United States. The only thing this administration is approving is gravel pits.

Let's talk about the environment and disposal. Where do 90 percent of the solar cells go today? To landfills across this great Nation. How about the turbine blades? How about the batteries? Where are the batteries going? How do we remove the toxins? Do you know what? There is no answer. There is no answer for the supply chain in the processing and manufacturing, and there is no answer for the disposal.

Madam Chair, I agree with the gentlewoman from Florida that our oceans are precious, absolutely precious. Ninety percent of the plastics in the ocean come from four rivers in China. I can go over a list of the environmental atrocities in China.

Madam Chair, I ask my colleagues to vote for America, vote for American energy, and stop this absurdity that is going to cost lives because we won't be able to power this country.

Do you think we are having problems now? Ask the United States Navy, which had to pull the fleet out of San Diego. Do you know why? They don't have shore power because the grid is not set up for it. We are dangerously moving toward vulnerability.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to this amendment.

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, this executive order is a whole-of-government approach for addressing climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and transitioning to clean energy and sustainable technologies. It ensures that we set responsible targets for how we invest our Federal dollars to incentivize the private sector to expand on these technologies, and it creates unionized jobs.

We cannot turn a blind eye to the extreme heat, flooding, and wildfires across this Nation. We are seeing the impacts of climate change in real time.

In south Florida, like I mentioned earlier, yesterday, we had a 101.1-degree registered temperature in the ocean around south Florida.

From California to Vermont and across Republican and Democratic districts, if we want to leave our planet better for our children and our grandchildren, then we must strategically invest in products that improve energy and water efficiency, reduce emissions, and generate clean energy.

We need a coordinated, government-wide approach to ensure that there is no duplication of effort or unnecessary red tape that disincentivizes public-private partnerships. This amendment prevents that.

The focus on elevating fossil fuels and thwarting the advancement of clean energy will not help this Nation build a strong economy for the future.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to defeat the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman has the only time remaining.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, at the appropriate time, I will offer a motion to recommit this bill back to committee. If the House rules permitted, I would have offered the motion with an important amendment to this bill.

My amendment strikes section 258, which prohibits funding for abortions and the implementation of the VA's interim final rule on access to reproductive healthcare. My Republican colleagues want to make abortion illegal nationwide.

□ 1715

Section 258 of this bill furthers that mission, putting women at risk and making it harder for veterans to access healthcare. Let's ensure that doesn't happen.

Madam Chair, I include in the RECORD the text of my amendment.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ of Florida moves to recommit the bill H.R. 4366 to the Committee on Appropriations with the following amendment:

Strike section 258.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I hope my colleagues will join me in voting for the motion to recommit, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ZINKE).

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Montana will be postponed.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Madam Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ZINKE) having assumed the chair, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4366) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1745

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HERN) at 5 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 614 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4366.

Will the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. VAN DUYNE) kindly take the chair.

□ 1746

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 further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4366) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, with Ms. VAN DUYNE (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 41 printed in House Report 118–158 offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ZINKE) had been postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in House Report 118–158 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 1 by Mr. RYAN of New York.

Amendment No. 2 by Mr. OGLES of Tennessee.

Amendment No. 3 by Ms. GREENE of Georgia.

Amendment No. 34 by Ms. GREENE of Georgia.

Amendment No. 35 by Mr. BOST of Illinois.

Amendment No. 37 by Mr. ROSENDALE of Montana.

Amendment No. 38 by Mr. ROY of Texas.

Amendment No. 39 by Mr. ROY of Texas.

Amendment No. 40 by Mr. ROY of Texas.

Amendment No. 41 by Mr. ZINKE of Montana.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. RYAN

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 1, printed in House Report 118–158 offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. RYAN), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 394, noes 19, not voting 27, as follows:

[Roll No. 369]

AYES—394

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Alford
Allen
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Auchincloss
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Balint
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bean (FL)
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Beyer
Bice
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NC)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bost
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Bucshon
Budzinski
Burgess
Bush
Calvert
Cammack
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carey
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Casar
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Ciscomani
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Comer
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Estes
Evans
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flood
Foster
Foushee
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, C. Scott
Frost
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garamendi
Garbarino
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Mike
Garcia, Robert
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gooden (TX)
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Greene (GA)
Grijalva
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harder (CA)
Harris
Harshbarger
Hayes
Higgins (LA)
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Horsford
Houchin
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jackson (TX)
Jackson Lee
Jacobs
James
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Kean (NJ)
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Kildee
Kiley
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
Lamborn
Landsman
Langworthy
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (CA)
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Letlow
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Lynch
Mace
Magaziner
Mann
Manning
Massie
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClellan
McCollum
McCormick
McGarvey
McGovern
McHenry
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Moran
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Moylan
Mullin
Murphy
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Nickel
Norcross
Norton
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Ogles
Omar
Owens
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Payne
Pelosi
Peltola
Pence
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Plaskett
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Quigley
Radewagen
Ramirez
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Ross
Rouzer
Ruppersberger
Rutherford
Ryan
Sablan
Salazar
Salinas
Santos
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Self
Sessions
Sherman
Sherrill
Slotkin
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Spartz
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Stewart
Strickland
Strong
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Tenney
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Turner
Underwood
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Orden
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NOES—19

Biggs
Buck
Burchett
Burlison
Clyde
Collins
Crane
Good (VA)
Gosar
Griffith
Grothman
Hern
Loudermilk
McClintock
Norman
Perry
Posey
Rosendale
Van Duyne

NOT VOTING—27

Arrington
Bergman
Bilirakis
Boebert
Brecheen
Case
Cloud
Donalds
Gallego
González-Colón
Huffman
Johnson (LA)
LaMalfa
Lesko
Malliotakis
Meuser
Mrvan
Nadler
Pascrell
Roy
Ruiz
Sánchez
Sewell
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Trone
Williams (NY)

□ 1806

Messrs. GOSAR, BURCHETT, GROTHMAN, and MCCLINTOCK changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

Mr. DUNCAN, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mses. TLAIB and SCANLON changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. ROY. Madam Chair, I unfortunately missed one rollcall vote today. Had I been present, I would have voted NO on rollcall No. 369.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 2, printed in House Report 118–158 offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 99, noes 327, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 370]

AYES—99

Aderholt
Alford
Babin
Banks
Bean (FL)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Buck
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Cammack
Carey
Carl
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Collins
Comer
Crane
Davidson
DesJarlais
Donalds
Duncan
Emmer
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Ferguson
Fitzgerald
Franklin, C. Scott
Fry
Gaetz
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Guest
Hageman
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Houchin
Hunt
Jackson (TX)
Johnson (LA)
Jordan
Kelly (MS)
LaHood
Langworthy
Lesko
Letlow
Loudermilk
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Mann
Massie
Mast
McClintock
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Mills
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Murphy
Nehls
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Ogles
Palmer
Perry
Posey
Rogers (AL)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Ruiz
Smith (MO)
Spartz
Steube
Strong
Tiffany
Timmons
Van Drew
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Zinke

NOES—327

Adams
Aguilar
Allen
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Auchincloss
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Balint
Barr
Barragán
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Bucshon
Budzinski
Bush
Calvert
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Ciscomani
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Duarte
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Feenstra
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flood
Foster
Foushee
Foxx
Frost
Fulcher
Gallagher
Garamendi
Garbarino
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Mike
Garcia, Robert
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Granger
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Grothman
Guthrie
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Hudson
Huizenga
Issa
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jackson Lee
Jacobs
James
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Joyce (PA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Kean (NJ)
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Kildee
Kiley
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Kustoff
LaLota
Lamborn
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (CA)
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Lucas
Lynch
Mace
Magaziner
Malliotakis
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClellan
McCollum
McCormick
McGarvey
McGovern
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Miller (OH)
Miller-Meeks
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Moran
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Moylan
Mrvan
Mullin
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Nickel
Norcross
Norton
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Owens
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Peltola
Pence
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Plaskett
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Quigley
Radewagen
Ramirez
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (KY)
Ross
Ruppersberger
Rutherford
Ryan
Sablan
Salazar
Salinas
Santos
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Self
Sessions
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Slotkin
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Stevens
Stewart
Strickland
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Tenney
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Turner
Underwood
Valadao
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym

NOT VOTING—14

Arrington
Frankel, Lois
Gallego
González-Colón
Huffman
Joyce (OH)
LaMalfa
McHenry
Meuser
Nadler
Sánchez
Sewell
Trone
Williams (NY)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. HERN) (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1810

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MS. GREENE OF GEORGIA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 3, printed in House Report 118–158 offered by the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. GREENE), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 83, noes 347, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 371]

AYES—83

Allen
Banks
Bean (FL)
Biggs
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Buck
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Cammack
Carey
Carl
Cline
Cloud
Collins
Comer
Crane
Davidson
Donalds
Duncan
Emmer
Estes
Fallon
Fitzgerald
Franklin, C. Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Greene (GA)
Hageman
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Houchin
Hunt
Jackson (TX)
Johnson (LA)
Jordan
Joyce (PA)
Langworthy
Lesko
Loudermilk
Luna
Luttrell
Mann
Massie
Mast
McClintock
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)
Mills
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Murphy
Nehls
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Ogles
Perry
Posey
Rosendale
Roy
Rutherford
Santos
Smith (MO)
Spartz
Steube
Strong
Tiffany
Timmons
Van Drew
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Zinke

NOES—347

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Alford
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Auchincloss
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Balint
Barr
Barragán
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Bucshon
Budzinski
Bush
Calvert
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Ciscomani
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Clyde
Cohen
Cole
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Duarte
Dunn (FL)

Edwards
Ellzey
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Ezell
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flood
Foster
Foushee
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Frost
Gallagher
Garamendi
Garbarino
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Mike
Garcia, Robert
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Hudson
Huizenga
Issa
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jackson Lee
Jacobs
James
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Joyce (OH)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Kean (NJ)
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Kildee
Kiley
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (CA)
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Letlow
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lynch
Mace
Magaziner
Malliotakis
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCarthy
McCaul
McClain
McClellan
McCollum
McCormick
McGarvey
McGovern
McHenry
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Miller (OH)
Miller-Meeks
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Moran
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Moylan
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newhouse
Nickel
Norcross
Norton
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Owens
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Peltola
Pence
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Pfluger
Phillips
Pingree
Plaskett
Pocan
Porter
Quigley
Radewagen
Ramirez
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Ross
Rouzer
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan
Sablan
Salazar
Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Self
Sessions
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Slotkin
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Stevens
Stewart
Strickland
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Tenney
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Turner
Underwood
Valadao
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym

NOT VOTING—10

Arrington
Babin
Gallego
González-Colón
Huffman
Meuser
Pressley
Sewell
Trone
Williams (NY)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1814

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 34 OFFERED BY MS. GREENE OF GEORGIA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 34, printed in House Report 118–158 offered by the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. GREENE), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 204, noes 227, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 372]

AYES—204

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

NOES—227

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

NOT VOTING—9

Gallego
González-Colón
Huffman
Johnson (LA)
Nunn (IA)
Perry
Sewell
Trone
Williams (NY)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1817

Mrs. RADEWAGEN changed her vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 35 OFFERED BY MR. BOST

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 35, printed in House Report 118–185 offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 228, noes 206, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 373]

AYES—228

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

NOES—206

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

NOT VOTING—6

Gallego
González-Colón
Huffman
Sewell
Trone
Williams (NY)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1821

Mr. MOSKOWITZ changed his vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 37 OFFERED BY MR. ROSENDALE

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 37, printed in House Report 118–158 offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ROSENDALE), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 223, noes 211, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 374]

AYES—223

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

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

NOES—211

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

NOT VOTING—6

Gallego
González-Colón
Huffman
Sewell
Trone
Williams (NY)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1824

Ms. LEE of Nevada changed her vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 38 OFFERED BY MR. ROY

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 38, printed in House Report 118–158 offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 224, noes 210, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 375]

AYES—224

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

NOES—210

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

NOT VOTING—6

Gallego
González-Colón
Huffman
Sewell
Trone
Williams (NY)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1827

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 39 OFFERED BY MR. ROY

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 39, printed in House Report 118–158 offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 221, noes 212, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 376]

AYES—221

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

NOES—212

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

NOT VOTING—7

Bice
Gallego
González-Colón
Huffman
Sewell
Trone
Williams (NY)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1830

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 40 OFFERED BY MR. ROY

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 40, printed in House Report 118–158 offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 220, noes 214, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 377]

AYES—220

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

Steil
Steube
Stewart
Strong
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NOES—214

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

NOT VOTING—6

Gallego
González-Colón
Huffman
Sewell
Trone
Williams (NY)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1833

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 41 OFFERED BY MR. ZINKE

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 41, printed in House Report 118–158 offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ZINKE), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This is a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 222, noes 212, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 378]

AYES—222

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

NOES—212

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

NOT VOTING—6

Gallego
González-Colón
Huffman
Sewell
Trone
Williams (NY)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1838

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR. There being no further amendment, under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MOLINARO) having assumed the chair, Mr. HERN, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4366) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 614, he reported the bill back to the House with sundry amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The amendments were agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Wasserman Schultz of Florida moves to recommit the bill H.R. 4366 to the Committee on Appropriations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

□ 1845

CONGRATULATING EVALYNN SANFORD

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate recent Camden County High School graduate Evalynn Sanford for winning a national championship in architectural drafting at the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Atlanta.

Sanford, who is 18 years young, captured the gold medal on Saturday, June 24, 2023. She faced nearly 50 other competitors from across the U.S. in the architectural drafting competition.

In August, she will graduate with an associate's degree in drafting technology from Coastal Pines Technical College.

Sanford has an impressive resume, already working as an intern at Charles W. Day Design, which is an architectural firm in Brunswick.

In addition to her award, Sanford earned $2,000 in scholarships, which she will put toward her next educational endeavor, a degree in architecture from the Savannah College of Art and Design.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Ms. Sanford on her championship and wish her the best of luck in all her future endeavors.

HONORING JOYCE HAMLETT

(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 in honor of a great American, and I want to say at this point in time: Well done, thy good and faithful servant.

I rise to recognize the Keeper of the Mace for the United States House of Representatives on this day, Joyce Hamlett, who has been a caretaker, a defender, a person who has kept this House in order, a person who knows the rules better than most Members and has also been a friend.

She has helped me with doctors, talked to me when I have been in bad shape, and kept me warm out in the hall. She is a consummate servant for this House.

For 35 years, she has given her life to the United States House of Representatives. I am deeply moved on this day, which is why I did my 1 minute from here, so I could address her and look her way and say: Well done, thy good and faithful servant.

There is no one who is more serious about the business of this House than Joyce Hamlett. She will be missed.

I know it is bittersweet for her, as well. I know she can't wait till she leaves, but as she thinks about it, it is not a happy day.

Let me wish her continued success. She has earned this retirement. She has earned this retirement, working with the Members that she has probably had come through this House. God bless her. I thank her, and may the Lord keep her.

COMMEMORATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CLINTON COUNTY FAIR

(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 commemorate the 50th anniversary of the historic Clinton County Fair.

For half a century, Clinton County has brought local artisans, talented agricultural professionals, and an eager community together, and I want to acknowledge and celebrate the fair's success.

With humble beginnings as a horse-and-pony roundup run on donated time in a horse ring near Pine Creek, Pennsylvania, the organizers of the small event had big aspirations. Turning the simple livestock show into a full-fledged agriculture extravaganza would be no small feat, accomplished through the hard work and gracious efforts of volunteers.

In the years to come, the determined fair committee and their community fought through the red tape and battled funding ordeals. After many years of hard work, they emerged with a fully-fledged fairground and all the resources to put on an impressive display of local agriculture.

Today's annual Clinton County Fair is a testament to the hard work, determination, and strong values that are essential to both rural communities and our Nation. By funneling resources into local agricultural economies, farmers and families alike reap the benefits of collective effort.

TRAGEDY IN CEDAR HILL, TEXAS

(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, most of you have probably never heard of Cedar Hill, Texas, but you know their story. A gunman walks into a hospital, which should be a place of healing, and instead inflicts immeasurable pain and trauma.

That is the story of Cedar Hill on July 25, 2023, a terrifying day for my constituents but an ordinary day for America, at least the America of today where guns are gods and people are pawns, the America where the gun lobby wins and we the people lose.

People lose their lives. They lose a sense of sanity. We all lose a sense of security.

Make no mistake, when the radical right wins, we the people lose our rights.

They have no clue what it means to be truly pro-life. If they did, they would write or at least support legislation that meets the moment, a moment full of death and destruction that is crying out for solutions and sanity.

THREAT OF CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY

(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, as we know, the Chinese Communist Party poses one of the greatest existential challenges of our time.

Under President Xi Jinping, the CCP has made its intentions perfectly clear:

supplant the post-World War II international order created by the U.S. and forge a new world order led by China.

Clearly, the Biden administration is distracted from that. Time and again, this administration has projected weakness on the world stage and gotten bogged down by policies that only serve to divide our people and other silliness.

We can't afford to drop the ball on this critical matter. We must get tough on China and restore American greatness on the world stage by projecting strength, not weakness.

The CCP is only becoming more and more aggressive. Here are a few examples.

First is the issue of exit bans placed by the CCP on American citizens, including some of my own constituents. This behavior by the CCP needs to stop. We must find solutions for this dire issue facing American citizens.

Second, I was pleased to support prohibiting the CCP from acquiring American farmland, frequently near important military installations.

Third, we must deter any threat to Taiwan as well as Japan.

SECOND CHANCE FOR JUSTICE

(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 grew up in Pacoima, California, a working-class neighborhood that was unjustly targeted by the justice system. It is a community that I am proud to currently represent.

There are kids like Jerome Dixon, who was wrongfully incarcerated as a child and locked up for 20 years because he was pressured into giving a false confession after 25 hours of interrogation without having an adult or a parent present with him. He spent 20 years of his life behind bars for a crime that he did not commit.

For over 25 years, I have worked to fix a broken system that has prioritized stuck-on-stupid incarceration over proven, effective rehabilitation. That is why, last week, I announced the ''Second Chance for Justice Package'' with my colleagues, Congresswoman KAMLAGER-DOVE and Senator CORY BOOKER.

These bills further invest in youth development and crime prevention programs. They will make our communities safer, reduce expenses for taxpayers, and demonstrate a real commitment to treating children with dignity.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting these commonsense bills. We owe our children a system that works with them, not one that is out to get them.

COMMEMORATING 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF EQUAL PAY ACT

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, this year, we recognize the 100th anniversary of the equal rights amendment. Today, I rise to commemorate, as well, the 60th anniversary of the Equal Pay Act of 1963.

Women in our Nation have made great progress in the fight for pay equality over the past six decades, but it is not nearly enough. We must close the gap.

Women in Ohio earn 79 cents for every dollar a man earns, and that is unacceptable. This pay gap has an impact on women's ability to excel in the workforce, pay for basic necessities, and build retirement savings for a successful future.

This pay disparity has remained relatively stable over the last 20 years, but this status quo will continue unless we work to close it. We must ensure equal compensation across the board and rightfully pay hardworking women their hard-earned dollars.

Women are invaluable members in every workplace and deserve equal compensation for equal work.

Let us prioritize closing the gender pay gap once and for all and lift up mothers, sisters, grandmothers, and daughters in our workforce.

TORNADO AT PFIZER FACILITY

(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, last week, a tornado ripped through Rocky Mount, North Carolina, severely damaging one of Pfizer's key facilities. We are grateful there were no fatalities, and we thank God for the first responders who ensured our community's safety.

Even during times of adversity, Pfizer's CEO, Dr. Albert Bourla, made an extraordinary commitment to continue operations in Rocky Mount, the heart of North Carolina's First Congressional District, guaranteeing job security for the employees at this site and contributing to our local economy.

The decision to stay and invest in Rocky Mount preserves the livelihoods of thousands of employees and sends a powerful message.

As the recovery process continues, I genuinely appreciate the vital role Pfizer plays not only in the Rocky Mount community but across the East, America, and the world.

Mr. Speaker, I say to the businesses and residents affected by this natural disaster, please know I will stand with you.

SALUTING JOYCE HAMLETT

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise today to salute our friend and patriot, Joyce Hamlett.

It is a surprise for some of us who wish that the news was not accurate, but I cannot miss an opportunity to call her a historic figure in this House.

Joyce made history as being named the custodian, the protector, of the mace. I can assure you, she handles this historic responsibility with grace, firmness, leadership, patriotism, and a love of country.

I do want to say that Joyce was a hero on January 6, 2021. It was Joyce's face that we looked at to get the original charge of getting to safety, of ensuring that the doors were closed. I heard her voice, and I saw her pointing, giving instructions to make sure that as Members finally discovered that we were under attack, we would be safe. She did not move to protect herself. She stood fast to ensure that Members had the right information to be able to be taken to or rush to safety.

Her family loves her. We don't realize that she has a wonderful responsibility of her grandchildren, and they have grown up under her. I have watched that happen.

Mr. Speaker, finally, let me say this: We will lose a great American. I hope as she goes in another direction, there will be others blessed by this grande dame, if you will, and this great American, a person who will always love this institution.

We will always love Joyce Hamlett and respect her for her service to the Nation.

God bless her, and God bless the United States of America.

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RELAYING INFORMATION TO OUR CONSTITUENTS OVER THE AUGUST RECESS

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, we are just 2 days away from the August district work period, and on Friday our colleagues will return home to our 435 districts across this great country.

I know on the Republican side everyone will be holding townhalls and roundtables, and they will meet with constituents and businessowners. They will be with the people that we represent here in the people's House. We have so much to relay to them.

This has been a busy 7 months in this Congress, and House Republicans have

passed a lot of important legislation. We are keeping our commitment to America that we ran on in the last election cycle.

Here is a short list: The Lower Energy Costs Act. We passed that and it unleashed American energy production.

The Secure the Border Act is the most comprehensive border security package ever passed by the United States Congress.

The Parents Bill of Rights Act ensures that parents have a seat at the table.

The National Defense Authorization Act that is full of important priorities and pushes back on radical leftist policy in our military.

There is so much more. I could spend the entire designated hour going through the list of major accomplishments.

The House Republicans also, by the way, ended the COVID–19 national emergency. We rescinded two backwards D.C. crime bills. We have conducted rigorous oversight of an administration that has played fast and loose with the rule of law.

Not long ago, discussion of the Hunter Biden laptop was literally blocked on social media—I mean, literally. We have a 155-page Federal court opinion in the landmark litigation, Missouri and Louisiana v. Biden. The court looked at volumes of evidence and deliberated for months and issued a preliminary injunction order explained in these 155 pages.

The court says that the facts show very clearly that the Biden administration and its agencies, including the DOJ, FBI, CDC, Department of Homeland Security, and others, were engaged in a whole-of-government censorship effort. They censored and silenced and suppressed the viewpoints of Conservatives, specifically online. They met routinely with the social media companies and told them to pull down voices and messages they disagreed with, so-called misinformation that none of them obviously can define. They blatantly violated the Constitution and the First Amendment.

The court said that if all of these allegations are true—and that is what the facts show—it is, arguably, the most massive attack on free speech in the history of the United States. That is what the court said, not Republicans. We have been on that and we have been investigating that.

News organizations just a few months ago called Members who dared to question the narrative about the Hunter Biden laptop as conspiracy theorists and extremists.

Thanks to the work of our various committees, not only has this information been verified, but we have uncovered a wealth of information not only linking Hunter Biden to illegal activities, but very likely the President himself.

We will take this time during the August work period to continue to share all these important facts with the American people. I am encouraged that people are following these developments and they are demanding accountability.

Mr. Speaker, we have a great lineup of Republican Members here tonight to speak during our hour.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. VAN ORDEN), my good friend and a former Navy SEAL.

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Mr. Speaker, this week the House will consider the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

As a former Navy SEAL and combat veteran, I am proud to support this legislation. It delivers on our promise for a safer Nation by providing the Department of Defense with the facilities they require and our promise to protect those that protected our Nation by fully funding the Veterans Affairs Department.

Additionally, it helps rectify two grievous wrongs that have been committed by the Department of Veterans Affairs. First, they are politicizing this appropriations process, and second, by trying to subvert the Constitution and remove veterans' Second Amendment rights.

As Republicans worked to responsibly raise the debt ceiling, the Department of Veterans Affairs told Americans in a press release that Republicans wanted to gut benefits for those that served our country. This was simply not factual.

When I returned to my district, I held a roundtable for my fellow veterans. At The American Legion in Sparta, Wisconsin, a 96-year-old Vietnam veteran named Don told me that he was terrified that he would be losing the benefits that he earned during his service.

The Department of Veterans Affairs are being fearmongers with Don and all of our veterans to score cheap political points, and that is unacceptable.

The Veterans Administration is subverting our vets' Second Amendment rights by sending the beneficiary's name to the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System, or NICS, whenever a fiduciary is appointed to help a beneficiary manage his VA benefits. If a veteran cannot balance their checkbook, they could potentially be barred from buying a weapon. As a result of this, many veterans have decided not to go to the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

In the Veterans' Affairs Committee hearing last week on Chairman BOST's bill, the Veterans Second Amendment Protection Act, a witness testified that as of December 2020, Federal agencies have contributed 263,225 records to the background check system, of which the Veterans Administration is responsible for 98.1 percent of the total number.

Mr. Speaker, I am a 100 percent service-connected disabled veteran. Make no mistake, the MILCON/VA appropriations bill fully funds veterans' healthcare, veterans' health benefit programs, and many other Veterans Administration programs to the tune of $800 million more than Joe Biden put in his budget request.

It eliminates the funding for the Veterans Administration Office of Public Affairs in direct response to their politically motivated false claims about budget cuts.

My number one priority when I entered this body is to prevent veteran suicide. Scaring veterans away from going to the Veterans' Affairs facilities is not forwarding that goal.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on the Democrat and the Republican side to support this bill.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. VAN ORDEN for his service to this country and for his expertise on this, it is greatly appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE).

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, for the first time in my entire tenure in Congress, the U.S. House of Representatives will be considering two appropriations bills this week that cut wasteful spending. Before the fact-checkers come after me, I will go ahead and say that I am sure it has been done before, but not in my time in Congress, which up until this year has been done under Democrat majority control.

Here are just a few of the wasteful Washington programs House Republicans are aiming to cut in the appropriations process this week. In the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies appropriations bill for fiscal year 2024, House Republicans prohibit using funds to promote or advance critical race theory. No taxpayer dollars should have ever been spent on this harmful, divisive and anti-American theory.

The bill prohibits the Biden administration from implementing, administering, or enforcing any of President Biden's executive orders on diversity, equity, and inclusion. The executive branch should be focused on hiring our country's best and brightest, not on checking a certain box.

The bill even rescinds billions in funds, like $1 billion for rural clean energy programs created in the Inflation Reduction Act on Green New Deal climate initiatives.

Not only are these bills cutting wasteful Washington spending, but they are also advancing many conservative principles Tennesseans can be proud to support, such as: ending mail-order chemical abortion, directing the USDA Secretary to take action to prohibit the purchase of agricultural land by those associated with China, Russia, North Korea, or Iran, or even prohibiting funds for the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

Mr. Speaker, all in all, I believe these are good provisions in these two bills. House Republicans are doing the good work on behalf of the American people to responsibly fund the Federal Government, cut wasteful spending, and return the focus of our government back

to where priorities should lie and not the woke initiatives of Green New Deal Democrats.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, he made some great points.

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

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt about it, wokeness is destroying America. The proof is all around us. It has managed to seep into our schools, businesses, publications, and nearly every other nook and cranny of our great society. Even our military is prioritizing diversity and inclusion over strength and readiness.

Schools are teaching critical race theory and revisionist history over truth and fact, brainwashing our kids with a leftist doctrine on what to think instead of how to think and formulate ideas for themselves.

Agendas to defund and demonize police officers are hindering police departments' ability to hire new personnel and to protect their communities.

Radical climate change policies are decimating our energy sector. The foolish push for electric vehicles is increasing our dependency on an enemy like Communist China.

Liberal judges are refusing to prosecute violent criminals and enabling this tsunami of a crime wave that is washing over our Nation.

The continued exploitation of programs like humanitarian parole is worsening the border crisis and allowing millions of illegal aliens to enter the country on the taxpayers' dime and making it more likely that we will be hit with another terrorist attack like 9/11, or even worse. The list goes on.

The fact remains that the left's woke policies plague our Nation, and we must find a remedy before the damage done becomes permanent.

By using common sense—and merely putting American interests first—many of the policies in the two appropriations bills that are currently being debated and voted on this week work to eliminate these woke and disastrous policies. Unsurprisingly, my Democrat colleagues across the aisle strongly oppose these commonsense policies and changes.

The American people know better. No longer should we fund the Wuhan lab responsible for unleashing COVID–19 into the world. No longer should we allow those with ties to the Communist Chinese Party, Russia, North Korea, or Iran to purchase U.S. farmland.

No longer should Federal funds be used by the Defense Department to enforce critical race theory and other DEI policies and sidetracking our military from its primary mission to destroy our enemies and keep us free.

These are just a few of the ways that House Republicans are prioritizing the Nation's needs over a political agenda that throws merit and ability out the window.

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We must remain steadfast in our mission to loosen this disastrous grip that wokeness has had on America for far too long. Our national security, our food security, our energy security, our overall sovereignty, and our national survival depend on it.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. BABIN. He is right. That woke agenda has had a corrosive effect on the culture. Today I was reading a new Gallup poll, only 18 percent of 18- to 34-year-olds are now extremely proud to be an American. It is just shocking. That is the result. Ideas have consequences.

Mr. Speaker, we will go from Texas all the way up to New York.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY).

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman JOHNSON for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, as we consider H.R. 4368, the agriculture appropriations bill, I will shed light on a critical issue that impacts the lives of millions of Americans and has the potential to transform our rural communities for the better, and that is expansion of rural broadband.

In an era defined by information and technology, access to reliable, high-speed internet has become a fundamental necessity. It empowers individuals, educates our youth, grows businesses, and connects us to the world at large.

While urban areas have experienced the benefit of a connected world, our rural communities have been left behind in the digital divide. Due to the lack of adequate broadband infrastructure, these communities face countless barriers to accessing the same opportunities and resources as their urban counterparts.

By investing in rural broadband, we can bridge this divide and unleash the full potential to our rural communities. It provides economic empowerment by opening doors to new markets and allowing small businesses in rural areas to thrive and compete globally. It encourages innovation, creates new job opportunities, and revives local economies.

It also provides our children in rural areas who are often left behind with new opportunities for education, and it enables lifelong learning for adults, offering access to online courses and vocational training.

As we saw during the pandemic, reliable internet will allow rural residents to access essential telemedicine opportunities with their doctors.

This is just a small picture of the life-changing effects of rural broadband. It is not just a matter of convenience. It is an investment in our collective future. It is a commitment to empowering all Americans equally, regardless of where they live, with the tools that they need to succeed in an increasingly interconnected world.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support the fiscal year 24 agriculture appropriations bill that includes these critical investments to take rural development and rural broadband to the next level.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his very important points. It is hard to be connected at all if we don't have broadband. It is related to health, education, and every aspect of our lives now.

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Mr. JOHNSON, and I appreciate his leading this, once again, as we communicate with the American folks about the good things we are getting done around here. That is important. The communication and the openness of the House to the people is a critical element and something we were missing for about 2½ years around here. The COVID disaster that hit this country was exacerbated by government action.

Indeed, overreaction has cost us so much economically and so much to the goodwill and the mental state of many of our people. Look at the damage that was done to our schoolchildren as they lost basically 2 years out of their lives. I think that will be damage that was done to a generation, and I don't know how quickly they are going to recover.

Nevertheless, we here, the Republicans in the majority of the U.S. House, have worked toward restoring peoples' faith in the government by allowing them to participate and opening the House gallery once again. I can have people from my district here tonight. That right would not have been seen just not that many months ago.

Our committee process is open to the people instead of being done by Zoom or some other effect. Indeed, that is very important because there is nothing like being in the room with people to have our witnesses there and have Members be able to look at each other and have a dialogue across the way instead of on the internet with the distractions there.

So we opened the House and are bringing it back to the people and open to the people. Through tours people are able to see their Capitol and just be amazed by what the Founders had in mind when we feel the history here and what it is about.

We have worked on important policy this year, the Lower Energy Costs Act. Now, I can't even describe how important energy is to our economy, our way of life, and for our culture. All of our forms of energy have made us competitive and strong around the world.

It has helped us win World War II, and it has helped us become the most competitive and strongest economy ever until we see the damage being done currently by the Biden administration stopping pipelines and stopping traditional forms of energy driven by oil and gas.

Yes, there is always going to be a place for oil and gas.

When we look at energy projections around the world, it is only going to go up in all the other countries except for the ones that are hamstringing themselves with this Paris accord business.

So energy is the cornerstone of a strong economy, our way of life, and our culture. Oil and gas are part of that. We need to continue cultivating nuclear energy and the new technologies coming with that. It doesn't have to be a scary thing: Oh, nuclear waste, oh, it is going to have a meltdown. No. Nonsense. These are things that can continue to be improved on if we have the will to do it.

Congress needs to move in helping to fund this type of research, and also the permitting process needs to be streamlined so that these projects can move forward.

As we know, windmills and the solar panels don't work all the time. We have to wait for the wind to blow, the sun to come up, or the clouds to go away in order to have those forms of energy.

As far as nuclear power and hydroelectric, right now they are trying to tear down dams because of dubious environmental regulations in my district.

Oil and natural gas are cornerstones that we can rely on 24/7 as base-load power. So what we are seeing is forced conversion to electric vehicles and electric stoves. They are taking away our gas stove. Look how mad people are going to be at home when they have to cook in ways that don't fit how they like or what they are used to or what is efficient.

The latest crazy thing is banning gas generators. It seems the Biden administration is just copying the craziest in my home State of California.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what is a generator for?

It is for making electricity and generating electricity.

Mr. Speaker, how do you generate electricity?

Mr. Speaker, you don't use other electricity to generate electricity. It has to come from a different source, whether it is going to be hydropower—again, what I listed—or a personal generator. It is going to be either gas, diesel, or hooked up to your propane tank.

It is absurd what is going on. We need to continue to have an energy policy that helps Americans and helps us thrive. House Republicans are going to keep fighting for that because it makes sense and makes us stronger.

I appreciate the time to help remind people this is where things really come from, where our economy comes from, our freedom, and our basic lifestyle.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend. There is so much wisdom coming out of California that I will stay with the theme.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. OBERNOLTE), who is one of the most intelligent and thoughtful Members of the Congress.

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Louisiana for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I will talk for a few minutes tonight about a critically important bill that we are debating on the House floor this week. It is one of the must-pass bills for us this year, the appropriations bills for military construction and funding for the Veterans Affairs. MILCON–VA we call it.

This will establish funding levels for these critically important programs for the next fiscal year.

The job of crafting this legislation was particularly problematic this year because many people have heard about our commitment to fiscal responsibility and about the dire consequences of our inability to reduce Federal spending.

Our deficit this year will be almost 6 percent of our gross domestic product—6 percent of everything our country makes just in deficit spending. Our national debt this year will be the highest it has ever been in the history of our country, and it is going to get even worse if we don't get this problem under control.

In fact, the Congressional Budget Office in their 30-year projection says that 30 years from now at the rate we are going, our national debt in current dollars will exceed $1 million for every American household.

That is clearly an unsustainable fiscal trajectory for our country.

So the Appropriations Committee had the nearly impossible task this year of honoring our commitment to our veterans and fully funding the Veterans Affairs and our veterans health programs while at the same time honoring our commitment to cut wasteful government spending and our commitment to fiscal responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to say that our colleagues in the Appropriations Committee have pulled off that seemingly impossible task.

The bill we are considering this week fully funds both the VA and our veterans healthcare programs. In fact, it funds both of those programs at levels hundreds of millions of dollars more than the levels requested by the President because that is what is required to meet our commitments to our servicemen and -women.

Yet, at the same time, it makes very meaningful reductions in wasteful government spending on other nonessential programs.

It also accomplishes some things I am particularly excited about. It funds a program to modernize medical records at the VA. It also funds the expansion of the Arlington National Cemetery which is something that I think is a meaningful honoring of the promise that we have made to our veterans to be able to be buried at Arlington if they so choose.

This program is an incredible demonstration of the commitment that the folks in this Chamber have to honoring our promise to our military servicemen and -women.

Mr. Speaker, I urge everyone to support it and to thank our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee for their hard work on this.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend. He never uses notes when he speaks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS), who is a good Southern gentleman.

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the fiscal year 2024 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

Specifically, I will highlight the work that this legislation does to rein in wasteful Washington spending while strengthening our rural communities and protecting our food supply.

Georgia is the number one State for poultry, and this bill reins in harmful regulations that dictate how poultry and livestock producers raise and market their animals.

This bill also prevents the purchase of land by foreign adversaries. Let me repeat that. This bill will prevent the purchase of land—U.S. land—by foreign adversaries, countries like China, Russia, North Korea, and Iran.

Let's take China for instance. China owns 384,000 acres of American agricultural land. As a matter of fact, they have even got land that is close to one of our air bases in North Dakota. That poses a national security threat, not just that, but a food supply threat.

Finally, this year's Agriculture Appropriations bill reins in Washington spending and D.C. bureaucracy by directing the USDA to focus State hiring efforts on assisting rural communities and producers.

So with that, and my colleagues in the House, as we continue to discuss and debate this appropriation bill this week, let's focus on our commitment to the American people and protect our agriculture industry.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for speaking about very important priorities for Louisiana, as well.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS).

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding to me.

This week or very soon we will be voting in support of H.R. 4368, the fiscal year 2023 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

Supporting Iowa's farmers and rural communities is especially important as one in five Iowans work in the agricultural industry. This bill has many highlights that do just that. It continues very critical investment in agricultural research, rural broadband, and animal and plant health programs. It prevents the purchase of agricultural land by foreign adversaries and directs the USDA to focus hiring efforts on State and county offices to assist producers and rural communities.

Additionally, it reins in harmful regulations that dictate how poultry and

livestock producers raise and market their animals. That is especially important to Iowa due to the fact that we are the number one hog producer in the country and in the top ten producers for both cattle and turkey.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Another bill that we have taken up is H.R. 4366, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies bill.

The Department of Veterans Affairs' mission, as listed on their website, is to fulfill President Lincoln's promise to care for those who have served in our Nation's military and for their families, caregivers, and survivors.

As a 24-year military veteran and a family of military veterans, that mission is one that I wholeheartedly agree with, and I understand the importance the VA has for so many former servicemembers in our Nation.

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Very importantly, this bill provides $299.496 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs. It fully funds the healthcare programs, fully funds veterans benefits and VA programs, and also includes funding for electronic health record modernization initiatives.

Most importantly, what I would like to point out is, in contrast to what the Secretary of the VA said earlier this year when he politicized the VA by sending emails to veterans service organizations, saying that the Republicans were going to cut funding, this cuts no funding to veterans or veterans benefits. That still remains on the VA's website and should be removed, and an apology should be issued.

The appropriations bill that the House Republicans passed this week fully funds the VA and prohibits the use of funds for anything that is not beneficial to running a smooth and efficient Department.

Veterans in my district are experiencing enough struggles accessing care from the VA. The President's politicization of the Department is not alleviating those concerns.

We did the right thing by passing this bill, and I am proud of the Republicans for both cutting spending and fully funding our veterans benefits.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. MILLER-MEEKS for clarifying the record, for her expertise, and for 24 years in the U.S. Army as a nurse and a doctor. I really appreciate her good word on that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY), who is overqualified to be serving in Congress, one of the brightest we have.

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of prioritizing veterans in our Federal budget by fully funding VA programs, fully funding healthcare for veterans, and fully funding veterans benefits. The veterans funding bill before us this week accomplishes each of these three objectives.

First, the bill fully funds VA programs. It actually increases the VA budget by $18 billion over last year's funding level. In concrete terms, this means more tax dollars spent on critical care for veterans, including fully funding care for vets exposed to Agent Orange, burn pits, and other environmental toxins while serving our Nation.

The bill also provides the necessary funds to revamp and enhance the effectiveness of the suicide hotline for veterans and provides funds for the electronic health modernization initiative, which will ensure a seamless transition between receiving care at a DOD facility while on Active Duty and receiving care at a VA facility after discharge from the military.

Second, the bill fully funds healthcare for veterans, and $138 billion is allocated to address the healthcare needs of our retired servicemen and -women, including over $20 billion for veterans to receive quality care at non-VA facilities.

Finally, the bill fully funds veterans benefits. Mr. Speaker, $181 billion is allocated to ensure that every benefit that was promised, every commitment that was made, is fulfilled by the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, we have an obligation to ensure our veterans receive the care they need and the benefits they have earned. Today's bill achieves exactly that by prioritizing veterans in the budget, and as a result, it has my support.

PLUMAS BROADBAND PROJECT

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4368, which directly benefits my constituents in Plumas County by funding a critical high-speed broadband project in the A–15 corridor and Valley Ranch communities in eastern Plumas County.

In the 21st century, access to the internet is essential. It is essential for students to participate in online learning and access educational resources, for patients to receive needed telemedicine services, for workers to find job opportunities and engage in remote work, and for citizens to engage in open dialogue and participate in our representative democracy.

Too often, our rural communities are neglected and lack the basic telecom services necessary in today's economy and society.

That is why I prioritized funding rural broadband for my constituents in the Federal budget, and I am proud to report that a project I submitted to provide $4.2 million in funding to the Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative is included in the funding bill that will be voted on by the House this week.

This funding will enable the Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative to construct middle- and last-mile fiber-optic networks to provide high-speed internet to rural residents in the Valley Ranch and A–15 corridor communities in eastern Plumas County.

Rural households will finally be able to participate in online education, telemedicine, and remote employment opportunities that are out of reach for too many today.

Emergency personnel who are dependent upon internet-based communications will be able to communicate with one another to strengthen emergency response services.

Perhaps most importantly, high-speed broadband service will attract new residents, homeowners, and businesses to the region to continue to ensure the vitality of Plumas County for many years to come.

Ensuring our households are equipped with high-speed internet is imperative for an increasingly technological society. Leaving behind those in rural communities is a detriment not just to our local economies but it is also a disservice to our youth and the vitality of their education.

Today's bill is an important step forward in addressing the existing gap in broadband services for my Plumas County constituents, and it will have direct, tangible benefits on their lives. For that reason, I support H.R. 4368.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to have had so many of our colleagues here tonight to share not only about these important appropriations bills but also to recount some of the many really important legislative victories and oversight responsibilities that we have fulfilled here in the first 7 months of this Congress.

As I said in the opening, when we all go home now for this August district work period, we have a very important story to tell the American people.

We will continue to share the facts. We will continue to encourage them by the good work being done here.

The other thing we have to do, of course, is to continue to defend and support their faith in our institutions because, right now, faith in those institutions is at an all-time low.

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

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

HONORING MIKE WILLIAMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to recognize an incredible, longtime labor leader in Florida, a man who spent so much of his life to improve the lives of working families throughout the Sunshine State, and a man I call a dear friend.

Robert Michael Williams, or, as we knew him, Mike Williams, was born on October 27, 1950, in McIntosh, Florida, to Bob and Martha Williams. Mike's father worked in the paper mills and relocated his family to work in North Carolina and St. Marys, Georgia, where

Mike graduated from Camden County High School in 1968.

Mike lettered in football and basketball during all 4 years of high school. He was a pretty tall guy. He excelled in academics, represented his school at Boys State, participated in debate club, and, in his senior year, served as the student council president and ''Mr. CCHS,'' along with several other superlatives.

After attending Georgia Tech and Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College for a brief time, Mike packed his acoustic guitar, backpacked Europe, and then returned home only to head west to Colorado.

To support himself, Mike worked several different jobs, reflecting, ''I worked many temporary jobs in the service and construction industries, living paycheck to paycheck.''

Mike returned to Florida and began his career as a construction electrician with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, otherwise known as IBEW, Local 177 in Jacksonville. During his time at the local, he chased work for years, traveling around the country in a travel trailer.

For Mike, holding a union card meant having dignity and respect on the job, a living wage, healthcare, retirement benefits, education, and training opportunities.

Mike learned early on in his career that, for far too long, far too many middle-class families had difficulty with basic workplace rights and that those rights remained out of reach as they struggled to pay rent, put food on the table, and seek medical attention.

''Becoming a member of the union meant finally having my hard work pay off by creating an opportunity for achieving personal goals and being able to provide for my family the way I wanted to. And it meant having the opportunity to achieve the American Dream, a dream that so many want to take away today.''

After working his trade for 15 years, Mike decided to take on leadership roles with his union by running for and being elected to become the business manager of his local.

Eight years later, Mike went on to serve as president of the Florida Building Trades Council, increasing the presence of the Florida building trades during the legislative session in Tallahassee and building a powerful voice for construction trades statewide.

Mike understood the impact a voice on the job can make on the lives of working people, but it wasn't until his trip to Colombia with the AFL–CIO Solidarity Center that he understood the global imperative of worker solidarity.

During the trip, Mike witnessed the damage both corporate and government forces could inflict on the rights of workers and the dangers of living in a state lacking the institutions to help combat these abuses.

He saw violence and hatred directed at those who were trying to organize for better living conditions and to make a better life for their families. The trip solidified Mike's commitment to fight for all working people.

In 2009, he was elected president of the Florida AFL–CIO. During his term, the Florida AFL–CIO expanded its powerful legislative and political advocacy by introducing Working Families Lobby Corps, a program where union members travel to Tallahassee daily during the legislative session and directly engage with their lawmakers.

This program continues to be a central force in building coalitions between labor and community organizations. His efforts are still thriving and carry on the vision that he saw for all working families.

Mike also extended the vision of labor to represent all workers by fostering new alliances with community, immigrant, and faith-based groups. To enact that vision, Mike spearheaded the creation of Fight for Florida to communicate the labor movement's message to the broader public.

Fight for Florida started as a website and blog that evolved to engage people and content creators outside of union membership on social and economic justice issues with the primary focus of informing the public that the work the Florida AFL–CIO does is for every working family.

As a Florida native, Mike understood the impacts that hurricanes can have on our communities and residents. Mike was hugely instrumental in organizing and participating in hurricane relief efforts in Florida and for other neighbors in the Southeast. He coordinated with various entities, including the Teamsters, to move goods, as well as FEMA and the national AFL–CIO to supply and staff these efforts, often traveling to the affected areas himself to distribute ice, water, food, formula, and diapers.

Later in his tenure as president, the AFL–CIO appointed Mike to their Racial Justice Task Force Advisory Committee, joining other union leaders from across the country to help combat racism in the ranks of union members and their locals.

As someone born in the South who attended segregated schools, as a southern White gentleman, this left a profound impact on him, reinvigorating his resolve for equality and justice for working people facing hardships due to discrimination.

□ 1945

Mike leaves behind his loving partner, Jeanette ''Jet'' Netwal; daughters, Amanda Williams of Saukville, Wisconsin, and Suzanne Williams of Asheville, North Carolina; grandchildren, Zane Tinney, Ethan Williams, and Hailey Wilson; sisters, Jane Buffkin of Locust Grove, Georgia; and Beth (Tom) Mason of Riverview, Florida; brother, Mike (Laurie) Williams of St. Petersburg, Florida; and many nieces and nephews.

Beyond his dedication to fighting for the rights of working families, Mike was a man of diverse passions. Whether strumming his guitar or relaxing on his beloved boat, a 1985 Chris Craft Constellation, he found solace and joy in the simple pleasures in life, almost always wearing one of his iconic tropical, Florida T-shirts and button-down shirt.

Joined by his loving partner Jet, he cherished precious moments watching the mesmerizing Florida sunsets and embarking on unforgettable road trips. Never failing to advocate for his fellow union members, Mike often visited picket lines and organizational efforts in support of those in need. His absence reverberates through the labor community in Florida, as his unwavering commitment inspired a generation to carry forth his legacy and fight tirelessly for the rights of working families in Florida and beyond.

Mike will be sorely missed, but his transformative impact will continue to shine brightly and guide us in the pursuit of a fairer and more just society.

Mr. Speaker, I had the honor of serving nearly 10 years in Tallahassee, both in the State house and State senate, and Mike and I worked on a lot of battles together. We worked to help those who served our State in administrative capacities. We worked for first responders like our cops, firefighters, and EMTs, our teachers, and so many other civil servants to protect pensions so that they can retire in dignity. We fought for better pay, better benefits, and for safer working conditions throughout the Sunshine State.

When I got here to Washington in 2017, I made sure to always remember our roots, and I would go back to visit them every year in Tallahassee during session. Some years were good. Some years not so much. However, we always fought side by side to improve progress.

I remember so many issues starting to happen while we were here in Congress that we would work on together. When the SunRail was being expanded and plans were made to expand it, as well as Brightline, a high-speed rail coming from Miami to Orlando, and when we worked on Amtrak issues together, I remember being the first one to sit in his office and let him know that high-speed rail was coming to Florida and how we needed to make it safe and economical, and make sure that people were being paid fairly and had the opportunity to unionize should they want to.

Then, Mr. Speaker, after a tough couple of years, Mike got to see President Biden sworn into office after 4 years of tough situations with labor. He saw us have the most productive session in 50 years. We passed giant laws out of this very Chamber: The American Rescue Plan, the infrastructure law, the CHIPS Act, the PACT Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act.

We got to talk about so many of those issues, but particularly for him as an electrician, as an IBEW guy, as a building trades guy, the infrastructure

law was of particular importance to him.

A generation of so many Americans, from sea to shining sea, will have work to do to upgrade America, to make sure all of our bridges, all of our roads, all of our highways, all of our water systems, all of our utility systems—which Mike would be most particularly proud about—as well as rural broadband and so many other areas. So many jobs, such a way to invest in the future. There are also a lot of clean energy projects coming to Florida and around our Nation to help boost solar, wind, nuclear, hydro, so many areas he cared deeply about. The CHIPS Act, which is bringing a record number of manufacturing starts in our Nation. In fact, we have seen a doubling, year over year, of new advanced manufacturing centers coming across the Nation.

The good news, Mr. Speaker, it takes thousands, hundreds of thousands of construction workers to help make these visions for our country a reality.

Mike always remembered our veterans. We have so many members of the AFL–CIO who served in the military. I remember getting to talk to him proudly about when we passed the PACT Act, helping so many veterans coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan, those facing terrible injuries from burn pits, and the veterans from Vietnam who still weren't getting their benefits, finally done in this critical landmark legislation to help our veterans.

Of course, he definitely had a smile as President Biden talked about these major laws and that they are going to provide good-paying union jobs. Of course, this is a fight now for the next generation.

I am going to miss him, Mr. Speaker, and I know so many of my colleagues will as well.

I also have some remarks from Representative WASSERMAN SCHULTZ that I will read into the RECORD:

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

Starting as an apprentice, he became an electrician, working the 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 Jacksonville 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, with a contagious smile, he told it to you straight 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.

May his memory be a blessing.

Mr. Speaker, I had lunch with him just in April, when I was there for legislative session. We talked about how he was looking forward to doing his summer boating that he would do every year. He would go all the way up the East Coast and then through the Great Lakes, down the Mississippi, and back out around. Other times he would go to the Keys or to the Bahamas or to other areas.

I am deeply saddened that he lost his life doing something he loved, but he got to see so much and meant so much to so many folks on my team and throughout the State legislature and the Congress.

Mike, I pray for you, and I hope you rest in peace. God bless your family.

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

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, we have a few issues that ought to be debated on the floor and brought to the attention of the news media to help them with articles that would educate the American public a little bit on issues of importance.

I haven't spoken on Ukraine lately, but I will point out that Congress has not received a briefing on what is going on in Ukraine since December. That is way too long to go on the first significant land war in Europe in over 70 years. I ask the Biden administration to send its officials over to allow Members of Congress to at least get their opinion as far as what is going on.

As I have said before, this war should not be that difficult to end. Ukraine has the second lowest birthrate in the world. The Ukrainians, who have such a shortage of young people, should be especially ready to end this war. The Russians also have a low birthrate, and even prior to the war a lot of young Russians were emigrating.

Over 2 years ago, before the war started, I was in San Diego, and in the San Diego sector the Border Patrol and the immigration folks told me during the prior 2 weeks or month or whatever, in that segment, only in the San Diego segment, the second largest nationality to be crossing into America was Russian. You have two countries with shortages of people. It should be ripe for reaching some sort of settlement.

I think the United States is perceived to be, maybe rightfully so, overly partisan in this war, but somehow we should be prodding the Israelis or Turks or French or somebody to reach a conclusion here, for one, on humanitarian terms. I mean, for whatever reason, it is hard to find exact numbers of people who died in this war. I am old enough to remember the Vietnam war. They could give you the number of Americans who died right down to the individual digit, but for some reason you get wildly different numbers on the number of people who have died in this conflict.

However, either way, there are a significant number of people dying, and the Biden administration should be looking for a way to wrap it up. It wasn't that long ago that we seemed to have good relations with both of these countries. The longer it drags on, the more we drive Russia into the arms of China, which isn't in anybody's best interests, and it is a little frustrating that we are not getting a rationalization by the Biden administration why we wouldn't try to end this. The American press maybe ought to spend a little bit of time asking the Biden administration whether they feel there is any end to this war.

In any event, I call on the Biden administration to give us a new update in the auditorium, and I call on the press corps to start asking, is there any time when we are going to end this war.

The next issue I think I should bring up, because they keep talking about it on the news without giving us any new information, is the transgender situation. Usually when we talk about it, we talk about it with regard to biological men going into the women's locker room or biological men competing in women's sports.

However, I think a more significant question is: Why are there apparently more transgender people now than during the rest of my life? It seems to me the Europeans have reached the conclusion that one of the reasons for this wave of transgenderism is, people keep talking about it on TV and in academic settings. The more one talks about it, the more people begin to think that this is perhaps the route they should go.

I talked to someone about a month ago, 6 weeks ago, who, I guess I will call a recovering transgender, a woman, who now regrets it. She had the surgery, breasts removed at age 15, the whole ball of wax. It is not something that would have occurred to her, but she found something on the internet which informed her that maybe the reason she was unhappy is that she really was a boy. She went down the path. She went to the gender reassignment doctors, who apparently make a living on this. They talked her into the idea that, yes, the reason she was an unhappy little 13-year-old girl is because she was really a boy. She went through testosterone treatments, puberty blockers, and eventually even had her breasts cut out, which is a true tragedy, and now she regrets it.

□ 2000

I think the thing we ought to take out of it—and I have read this in another places, as well—people who are—

nobody should ever be mean or that sort of thing, but people who are overly solicitous or overly accepting of this transgender lifestyle wind up encouraging more people, other people to adapt this lifestyle.

Every study out there shows these people wind up very, very, very unhappy and miserable, and sometimes even wind up committing suicide. So I would hope that the American press corps would put a new narrative out there rather than just persuading people that this is all a positive development.

They ought to take about where people wind up who wind up going through the surgery. They ought to spend a little bit of time talking about why it appears there are so many more transgender people today than there were 30 years ago, and the answer is obvious. It is presented favorably as a lifestyle for a lot of young people, and when it is presented favorably, a number of young people get on the internet, read about it, decide to adapt this lifestyle, which is obviously only going to lead to misery and which does lead into misery.

I would ask the press corps to be a little bit more open-minded or publish a little bit more as to why we seem to have more transgenders than the pass. Is it like the Europeans have discovered, a matter of the more we talk about it the more we have people like this.

Maybe then we will realize that the goal should not be to have dramatic surgeries on young people's bodies. The goal should be on pushing this kind of to the side and not have so many people adapt the transgender lifestyle in the first place.

The next topic I am going to take up, which we haven't taken up this session, but I think should be taken up next session or sometime in the near future because it has such a big influence on America is that of the breakdown of the family and the lack of fathers in homes, which is bad, not only for the children, but it is bad for the father, as well.

In the 1960s, in which I think it was maybe the biggest domestic policy blunder in this country's history, under Lyndon Johnson, tons of money was aimed at families with children, but because the percent of poverty was determined by your income level as a practical matter, this money was conditioned upon not having a man in the household.

In other words, if you had mother and father both working in the household, by definition, they were not in poverty. But if father was somewhere else and mother was alone, say, with two or three kids, and mother did not have a job, she was considered in poverty.

This program said that if you are in poverty, or the programs, the Great Society, as it was called then—they should have called it the war on marriage—under the war on marriage, people who did not get married were given free housing at the time. So then they dialed back a little, given a check. They were given free food. They could be given free education. They would be given free medical care and given all these free things.

Basically what they did is they set up the family without a dad as a self-contained unit. Only 7 percent of the births in the United States at the beginning of the sixties were born without a mother and a father in the home. Now, we are over 40 percent.

I think, well, there are parents of all backgrounds doing yeoman's work, doing a tremendous job raising their children, and we don't want to denigrate them at all.

But the statistics would show that whether you are looking at crime rates or educational achievement, depression, children, in general, are happier with both parents in the home because not everybody is up to raising kids in that environment.

You would have to be blind not to realize the reason we have gone from 7 percent to over 40 percent is the great society and all these programs in which to get benefits, or you do get benefits if both parents are not around, and almost always that means the man is not around.

Other programs like earned income tax credit, which was, I think, not a very good program thought up by the Republicans and Jack Kemp, were also conditioned upon getting the check. You don't want to have two parents working in the household.

I would hope that we would do a subcommittee or something on this problem, get back to the good old days where depression and youth suicide was less than it is today, drug use a fraction of what it is today and, in order to do that, we have to change the incentives that were put into place by Lyndon Johnson.

This, by the way, was known by the end of the 1960s. I hate to cite this study because it is so overcited, but Patrick Moynihan, by the late sixties, had pointed out what a disaster it was to have incentives in which the father wasn't in the home. So this is not new things I am talking about today.

We knew this was a mistake by 1967, by 1968, by 1969, but Congress, either because they did not have the will, or because there is a radical element that Black Lives Matter represents, in which an element, a Marxist element wants to get rid of what they call the western prescribed nuclear family, and this is certainly a way to do it, but, for whatever reason, we have not adequately changed incentives in the 1960s.

Made a little think to the right direction under Newt Gingrich and Bill Clinton in the 1990s, but since then it has all been downhill. I think we have to ask ourselves, was it a good idea to do all we could to set up the single parent as the sole parent in a child's life.

I realize this is little bit different than a divorce situation, a little bit different than a widow situation, but there is no question there has been a dramatic decrease in the number of men in children's lives beginning in the 1960s.

I want to point to something else, too, about this issue that a lot of times people don't take into account. This is something that George Gilder, who was a great sociologist—he is still alive today—but he wrote a book called ''Wealth and Poverty'' in 1980. At the time Ronald Reagan was sworn in, the book received a lot of positive press at that time. It has now been forgotten.

What Gilder pointed out is not only are two parents important for the child but it is also important for the man because a lot of times the man's self-worth comes from—just like the woman's self-worth—comes from raising children. It is the most important thing in life.

As a result of all these welfare programs in the 1960s, you have a lot of families without men in the household; the man had no purpose. This is why I think you see so much crime lately, so much drug abuse, because I think a lot of these men who were supposed to get self-worth out of children have kind of been kicked out of their home. If they actually did try to work and support their family, they may be materially less well off, or their children would be materially less well off than if dad wasn't around at all.

Like I said, that goes for all the different benefits. There is a benefit called section 42 housing in which people taking advantage of section 42 housing, not only do you have to be in poverty to get it, but section 42 housing is frequently superior in quality to what people who are not on government programs get.

Because section 42 housing is usually very new housing because the government pays for so much of the housing or to build the housing, people build section 42 low-income housing nicer than regular old apartments that are being built now; but that would be an example of a bad program that has bad results.

The next topic that I would like to take up, the final topic, which I seem to address every week, but I think we should address again, because every one of these appropriation bills that comes before this place is subject to debate, either on this floor or in the Rules Committee, with regard to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

This country has, for the last 50 years, at least with regard to universities—it looks like it is going to end or to a degree end because of a recent court decision. For 50 years, we have had programs designed to hire people or promote people or fire people or let people into colleges and universities or give businesses government contracts based on people's race and gender too.

There are two rationalizations for this, but the press never spends any time determining whether these rationalizations are right or wrong. One

rationalization is that certain groups of people were discriminated against all the way back to slavery days, and, more recently, Jim Crow, that sort of thing.

The other rationalization is that in a workplace setting, diversity is a good thing and that we should, therefore, force or mandate businesses to hire people based on where their ancestors came from 200 years ago.

First of all, the idea that we owe people something—when you look at the people who are beneficiaries of these programs, many of them do not have any ancestors who were in America prior to the institution of these programs.

If somebody, say, who is Black from Jamaica immigrates to the United States in 1965, after Jim Crow ended, well after slavery, is there any reason why that person should receive preference?

Recently, the Biden administration has tried to give preferences to what they call North African or Middle Eastern people. So if I come here from Egypt or Syria or Algeria today, and I am not even a citizen, according to the Biden administration, we should make sure—kind of weigh in on companies, universities I think they would like to weigh in on admissions, and make sure we give preferences to people from Algeria or Syria who are not even in this country yet.

I don't know why we don't have that debate. We also ought to have a debate whether we ought to add a new so-called minority group of North Africans and Middle Easterners.

With regard to diversity, I think we also have a problem. I guess the idea behind diversity is a pure racist would say that someone's view of the world or the way they tackle a job is going to be dependent upon where their great-great-great-great-grandparents came from.

Now, I reject that idea. The idea that if I were to—I am not—but the idea that if I had a great-grandparent who was born in Peru, I would have a different view of the world than my next-door neighbor whose great-grandparents were from Germany. That is kind of a racist thing on its face, but that is what the diversity argument boils down to, that we should look at people, not on their viewpoint today, not on their personal experiences to this point in life.

If we have two people who both grew up in Chevy Chase, Maryland, in houses next to each other, and one was one-quarter Mexican and one wasn't Mexican, that they would carry different viewpoints into the workplace, and it was important to get both viewpoints, even though, perhaps the person from Latin America had never been to a Latin American country in their life.

But the idea behind this program—and, by the way, you self-identify as to what your group is—the idea behind the program is it is important to get the viewpoint of somebody whose grandfather or great-grandfather happened to be from a different country. Again, even though in the case, say, of a Latin American, people would not even know that that is true.

But this is a rationalization used for these rather high-handed programs that, as a practical matter, causes both the government people who are hiring and the businesses who do business with the government to hire based on ancestry.

□ 2015

I want to point out that I was actually talking to somebody from India today—of Indian ancestry. He wondered about this program because he was from India, and in India there are many different subgroups that sometimes don't get along. He thought the United States was alone in that we got along so well and it was such a wonderful thing we have going here, why in the world with us getting along so well would we try to duplicate countries like Nigeria or Sri Lanka or Iraq? Why would we try to duplicate what they are doing in other countries where the elections are contests between ethnic groups? These diversity, equity, and inclusion programs are designed to cause people not to view themselves as an American but view themselves as a Cuban American or a Mexican American or an Asian American or a Pacific Islander.

In other words, they are going to view themselves when they vote and at other times as a representative of where their ancestors came from perhaps even decades, if not, centuries ago.

I am afraid one of the reasons for these programs I ran across recently, I heard of someone who—I don't really like the phrase, but would today be considered by people who are proponents of these programs as a person of color—and this person, because they were from south of the border, their employer, once they asked them where their ancestry was—before I was in an elected position, the places that I worked, we never asked people where their ancestry was, but nowadays we ask them—and this large employer decided to hold breakout groups of people based on their ethnicity.

We are going to have the Black group meet over there and the Hispanic group meet over there and the Asian group meet over there, and what happened is the diversity consultant—an occupation which shouldn't exist in America, by the way—the diversity consultant tried to tell this person that they were put upon and how they should think because they had an ancestor from south of the border.

Now think how ridiculous that is. This person, who was just a fine, regular American never viewed themselves any different from anybody else, is being told because of where their ancestors came from, south of the border, that they ought to have certain beliefs, including certain political beliefs, which I think is the reason why the Biden administration is pushing this sort of thing.

They want to tell people that if you are from Mexico or you are from Colombia or you are from Nigeria or you are from India that you are put upon and that you ought to have certain political beliefs.

It is better to cut this thing right away. We have a shortage of people, workers in this country. The idea that we have people going to college to be diversity experts is appalling. I am glad my colleagues again and again are trying to take these diversity, equity, and inclusion bureaucrats out of the Federal bureaucracy, but there are way too many of them in the bureaucracy of individual big businesses around the country. It is the wimps who run these big businesses who feel that they have to kowtow to the diversity lobby, the special interest group, and they are instituting these programs by themselves.

I think it is time we had a public discussion here as to whether this whole diversity, equity, inclusion thing makes any sense. I can go through topics that should be brought up by talk show hosts, by service clubs, what have you.

Should we identify people by where their ancestors came from? If they self-identify, should we be identifying people by where their great-grandmother or great-grandfather came from? That is an interesting question.

If we are going to give preferences based upon where your great-great-grandfather is from, should we see if there is any true diversity there before you say you should take my contract ahead of the other guy's contract or you should hire me ahead of the other guy? Tell us what you bring to the table because your great-great-grandmother was from Mexico. How do you think different than the other guy?

Let's have that discussion. We are not having that discussion.

Should you, again, be able to self-identify? If I am seven-eighths German and one-eighth Mexican, is it right that on the form I can put down that I am a Mexican and I should be able to say I bring the view of Mexican Americans to my engineering firm?

They can also talk about, in certain jobs, what is the benefit of diversity? If we are talking about an engineering job, is the way I engineer the building of a bridge any different because I am one-quarter Mexican? That doesn't make any sense, but that is the position of the people who push these programs.

Let's have a discussion on that. Another discussion is, before we get this divisiveness going on forever, how long is this going to happen? This began in earnest—I think under JOHN KENNEDY, but it really began in earnest under Lyndon Johnson in 1965 and at the time I am sure nobody in a million years dreamed that we would still have this stuff almost 67 years later.

Should we have a discussion? How long are we going to do this? Again, let's have a discussion. If part of this is supposed to be a way to make up for past sins, why are we giving benefits here to people who may not even be citizens yet? Why are we giving benefits to people who just moved here from Syria? Should that be considered a different sort of person subject to benefits?

Let's have a discussion there.

In any event, I hope as we write more and more about the Supreme Court case and preferences in college admissions, I hope people begin to ask some of these questions as to whether or not they make any sense at all whatsoever.

I leave here hoping that our news media and this Congress spend a little more time updating themselves on what is going on in Ukraine. I hope they spend a little bit more time wondering as to whether we have this transgender crisis even a little bit. Just because we talk about it, if we weren't talking about it so much, we would have a fraction of the number of transgenders in the first place.

I think we should spend some time looking at the premise that the diversity, equity, and inclusion is built upon and answering questions like, should we be adding Egyptians and Syrians to the mix? Should I be able to label myself a minority if I am one-quarter a minority? Should I be able to label myself picked upon if my parents have given me $5 million?

These are questions that should be asked on the diversity level. I think we should be asking is it time to stop government programs which have resulted in an increase in fatherlessness from 7 to 40 percent, programs I think which hurt people, and particularly hurt men, have been around since the 1960s. There is no reason for these programs to continue forever.

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

WE HAVE MUCH TO GAIN FROM OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH BRAZIL, BUT WE STILL NEED TO ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. SANTOS) for 30 minutes.

Mr. SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to address an issue that we can no longer ignore.

The Chinese Communist Party has manifested all over South America, and, most importantly, overpowering the United States in every single one of those relationships.

Today, I will be talking about Brazil, the largest economy in South America, the 10th-largest economy in the world, and the 4th-largest food producer in the world.

We have much to gain from our relationship with Brazil, but we still need to act.

Now, the CCP has seized its opportunity to assert its dominance. China is the largest trading partner of Brazil, Chile, Peru, and Uruguay, and the second-largest trading partner for many other countries.

According to the American Enterprise Institute's China Global Investment Tracker, Chinese entities invested a total of $148 billion in Latin America and the Caribbean countries between 2005 and 2022, with Brazil accounting for 44 percent of those investments, a total of $66 billion.

Energy projects accounted for 62 percent of the investments and metal mining accounted for 21 percent.

The database also shows that the Chinese construction projects in Latin America and Caribbean countries were valued at $68.6 billion over the same period, mainly in the energy, 50 percent, and transportation, which is another 30 percent—in those two respective sectors.

The CCP has metastasized to the extent that it influenced the 2022 Presidential elections in Brazil and successfully reinstated a convicted criminal into the Presidency.

We must remember that China has even gone so far as to support a veto of a 2019 U.S.-backed resolution in the United Nations calling for free and fair Presidential elections globally.

Luisa Inacio Lula da Silva, also known as Lula, is the current occupier of the Presidency as a direct result of the CCP's successful attempt to destabilize Brazil.

Let's be clear: The honest Lula, is a man deemed unelectable by the Brazilian courts due to his conviction for his involvement in one of the most significant political corruption scandals in Brazil's history, which subsequently led to the demise of the country's economy.

In doing so, he has weaponized the judicial system in Brazil to launch an assault like never before, prosecuting political opponents, silencing the media, and targeting everyday civilians.

Lula has shielded himself behind the nation's highest court, with his ally, Justice Alexandre de Moraes, granting his every wish.

You see, most Americans are quick to judge Brazil as a third-world country and pass up its value as an ally. This is only the beginning of the end for Brazil, our once great ally.

I want to make sure that the American people understand that value; however, being the first Brazilian American to serve in Congress, I hope and hold that Brazil will stand firm.

When Americans fought in World War II, Brazil was the only South American country to send troops; 50,000 men from Brazil fought alongside U.S. ally troops.

I present that fighting spirit on the House floor today, Mr. Speaker. I want to stress that Brazil's population yearns for a capitalist market similar to ours and appreciates our world-leading example for democracy.

Today, Brazilians suffer high inflation, arbitrary laws, and absolute devastation regarding infrastructure and healthcare.

I am calling on my colleagues to urge President Biden to suspend all foreign aid to Brazil until a review is conducted via the United Nations to assess the humanitarian crimes taking place under the power of Lula's tyrannical regime.

While we have an arrest warrant for Nicolas Maduro, the murderous Venezuelan dictator, it should come as no surprise that Lula parades him and hosts him with official visits legitimizing him while undermining us.

With this kind of egregious behavior as an elected official, it is only natural that we ask why Lula would align with some of the world's most monstrous dictators presently in the crosshairs of U.S. sanctions or conflicts.

□ 2030

Brazil is not the only country impacted by China's election interference. The Maduro regime has become reliant on China for disinformation campaigns and social control programs, including ID cards that serve as scorecards of Venezuelan citizens loyal to the regime.

When we examine who funds Venezuela, it is none other than China through their insidious and smoke-and-mirror charade toward world domination that the CCP has titled the Belt and Road Initiative, aka the BRI, a lending gambit that grants China's over 140 allied countries billions of dollars under the pretense of economic integration and interconnected development.

It is only a matter of time before Lula leads Brazil down the same path.

This is the perfect example of the kind of destabilization the CCP is known for, preying on countries via unsustainable and corrupt lending while ignoring global labor and environmental standards for their own economic gain.

The CCP will stop at nothing to reach their goal of world domination, and as time goes on, we have fewer opportunities to preserve Brazil's achievability and viability as our number one trade partner and ally.

Lula is nothing more than a repressive and destructive tyrant who aligns with underhanded puppeteers to make his case for power.

Lula is actively parroting CCP propaganda, saying we are prolonging the Ukraine-Russia conflict for commercial gain, undermining us at every single turn, not to mention the BRICS agreement created under Lula's direction by former impeached President Dilma Rousseff, whose main goal today is to undermine and replace the U.S. dollar as the global currency.

Mr. Speaker, as the first Brazilian American elected to this Chamber, I urge my colleagues to assist Brazil in restoring democracy and to stop legitimizing the Lula regime today. We must

ensure that an honorable and bona fide government can be installed and lead the country forward out of the clutches of the CCP.

This serves a great benefit to us Americans, all of us in this body, all of us in this country, to keep a good relationship with our fellow ally, Brazil.

(English translation of the statement made in Portuguese is as follows:)

To my Brazilian friends, be strong. We are together in this fight.

A meus amigos brasileiros, forga Brasil. Estamos juntos nessa luta.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York will provide the Clerk a translation of his remarks.

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, July 27, 2023, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the second quarter of 2023, pursuant to Public Law 95–384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO SWEDEN, EXPENDED BETWEEN JUNE 15 AND JUNE 18, 2023

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Nathaniel Moran	6/16	6/18	Sweden		1,419.00		(3)				1,419.00
Hon. Jim Costa	6/16	6/18	Sweden		1,419.00		(3)				1,419.00
Hon. Bill Huizenga	6/16	6/18	Sweden		1,419.00		(3)				1,419.00
Hon. Andy Barr	6/16	6/18	Sweden		1,419.00		(3)				1,419.00
Hon. Barry Moore	6/16	6/18	Sweden		1,419.00		(3)				1,419.00
Hon. Victoria Spartz	6/16	6/18	Sweden		1,419.00		(3)				1,419.00
Hon. Sydney Kamlager-Dove	6/16	6/18	Sweden		1,419.00		(3)				1,419.00
Hon. Ben Cline	6/16	6/18	Sweden		1,419.00		(3)				1,419.00
Hon. Ed Case	6/16	6/18	Sweden		1,419.00		(3)				1,419.00
Hon. Amata Radewagen	6/16	6/18	Sweden		1,419.00		(3)				1,419.00
Phillip Bednarczyk	6/16	6/18	Sweden		1,419.00		(3)				1,419.00
Dwayne Clark	6/16	6/18	Sweden		1,419.00		(3)				1,419.00
Committee Total											17,028.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

HON. KEVIN McCARTHY, July 18, 2023.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2023

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN, July 11, 2023.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC–1469. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Credit-Related Information Sharing in Organized Wholesale Electric Markets [Docket No.: RM22-13-000; Order No.: 895] received June 28, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–1470. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department and Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Transport and Commuter Category Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1647; Project Identifier AD-2022-01379-T; Amendment 39-22438; AD 2023-10-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1471. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0434; Project Identifier 91-NM-255-AD; Amendment 39-22450; AD 92-02-14 R1] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1472. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Honda Aircraft Company LLC Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1204; Project Identifier AD-2023-00340-A; Amendment 39-22448; AD 2023-11-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1473. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; Lakeland, FL [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0588; Airspace Docket No.: 23-ASO-10] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1474. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1312; Project Identifier AD-2022-00551-T; Amendemt 39-22420; AD 2023-08-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1475. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Van Horn, TX [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0642; Airspace Docket No.: 23-ASW-8] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1476. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; MHI RJ Aviation ULC (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0167; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-00762-T; Amendment 39-22425; AD 2023-09-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64)

received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1477. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0018; Project Identifier AD-2022-00883-R; Amendment 39-22430; AD 2023-09-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1478. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1410; Project Identifier AD-2022-00198-T; Amendment 39-22427; AD 2023-09-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1479. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Engine Alliance Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1205; Project Identifier AD-2023-00441-E; Amendment 39-22452; AD 2023-11-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1480. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1055; Project Identifier AD-2023-00583-T; Amendment 39-22445; AD 2023-10-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1481. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0171; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01266-T; Amendment 39-22428; AD 2023-09-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1482. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1660; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01268-T; Amendment 39-22447; AD 2023-11-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1483. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1417; Project Identifier AD-2022-00731-T; Amendment 39-22419; AD 2023-08-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1484. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Leonardo S.p.a. Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1049; Project Identifier AD-2023-00591-R; Amendment 39-22441; AD 2023-10-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1485. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0428; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01250-T; Amendment 39-22442; AD 2023-10-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1486. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1491; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-00924-T; Amendment 39-22424; AD 2023-09-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1487. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; ATR — GIE Avions de Transport Régional Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0431; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01277-T; Amendment 39-22444; AD 2023-10-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1488. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0936; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00135-T; Amendment 39-22426; AD 2023-09-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1489. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; MHI RJ Aviation ULC (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0422; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01067-T; Amendment 39 -22439; AD 2023-10-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1490. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0165; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01003-T; Amendment 39-22434; AD 2023-09-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1491. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0170; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-00974-T; Amendment 39-22431; AD 2023-09-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1492. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Embraer S.A. (Type Certificate Previously Held by Yabora Industria Aeronautica S.A.; Embraer S.A.) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1045; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01209-T; Amendment 39-22437; AD 2023-10-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1493. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; CFM International, S.A. Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0653; Project Identifier AD-2023-00280-E; Amendment 39-22429; AD 2023-09-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1494. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31488; Amdt. No.: 4062] received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1495. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31487; Amdt. No.: 4061] received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1496. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31485; Amdt. No.: 4059] received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1497. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31486; Amdt. No.: 4060] received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–1498. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pilatus Aircraft Ltd. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0421; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01360-A; Amendment 39-22435; AD 2023-09-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 18, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk

for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. RESCHENTHALER: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 614. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4366) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 9) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to 'Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Lesser Prairie-Chicken; Threatened Status With Section 4(d) Rule for the Northern Distinct Population Segment and Endangered Status for the Southern Distinct Population Segment'; and providing for consideration of the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 24) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Northern Long-Eared Bat'' (Rept. 118–158). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. PALLONE (for himself, Mr. NEAL, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia):

H.R. 4895. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to expand the drug price negotiation program, 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 Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. ESTES, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Ms. SEWELL):

H.R. 4896. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Small Business, 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. CHU (for herself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. ROSS, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. MFUME, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. MENG, Mr. POCAN, Ms. OMAR, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. CASAR):

H.R. 4897. A bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to promulgate an occupational safety and health standard to protect workers from heat-related injuries and illnesses; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ALLRED (for himself and Mr. CONNOLLY):

H.R. 4898. A bill to establish the Office of Press Freedom, to create press freedom curriculum at the National Foreign Affairs Training Center, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. BEATTY (for herself, Mr. CAREY, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. CASE, Mr. CARSON, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 4899. A bill to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to discount FHA single-family mortgage insurance premium payments for first-time homebuyers who complete a financial literacy housing counseling program; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BOWMAN (for himself, Ms. BUSH, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CASAR, Ms. CHU, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FROST, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MENG, Mr. MFUME, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. TORRES of New York, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ):

H.R. 4900. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prohibit institutions of higher education participating in Federal student assistance programs from giving preferential treatment in the admissions process to legacy students or donors; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. BUSH (for herself, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. POCAN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. TONKO, and Mr. NADLER):

H.R. 4901. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve reproductive health care of individuals with disabilities; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. CARAVEO (for herself and Mr. LATURNER):

H.R. 4902. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to establish a groundwater conservation easement program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. COURTNEY (for himself, Mr. HIMES, Ms. MACE, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 4903. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require reporting of certain accidents resulting in serious physical injuries or death at institutions of higher education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. FEENSTRA (for himself, Mr. BABIN, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. SELF, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. DESJARLAIS, and Mr. STEUBE):

H.R. 4904. A bill to establish certain funds to construct and maintain physical barriers along the southern international border of the United States and award grants to certain organizations addressing the fentanyl crisis; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on 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. FITZPATRICK (for himself and Ms. LEE of Nevada):

H.R. 4905. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the Public Health Service Act, and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to promote group health plan price transparency; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, 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. FITZPATRICK (for himself and Mr. DELUZIO):

H.R. 4906. A bill to amend titles 38 and 5, United States Code, to ensure that certain employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs are subject to the same removal, demotion, and suspension policies as other employees of the Federal Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, 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 Mr. FROST (for himself and Mr. GOMEZ):

H.R. 4907. A bill to prohibit owners of covered dwelling units from assessing or collecting certain fees from tenants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 4908. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to make eligible airport-related projects and port development projects eligible for approval under State environmental laws and regulations instead of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER (for himself and Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER):

H.R. 4909. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to improve diet quality and nutrition security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 4910. A bill to amend section 230 of the Communications Act of 1934 to provide that such section has no effect on certain laws relating to controlled substances and drugs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HARDER of California:

H.R. 4911. A bill to provide for the establishment of a pilot program to provide grants to community mental health centers for the placement of social workers with law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina:

H.R. 4912. A bill to require the evaluation of certain criteria relating to locations for deployment of successor radar systems of the National Weather Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina:

H.R. 4913. A bill to establish in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration a program to improve precipitation forecasts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Ms. JAYAPAL (for herself, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. BERA, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. CHU, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. UNDERWOOD, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ):

H.R. 4914. A bill to provide for research and improvement of cardiovascular health among the South Asian population of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio (for himself, Ms. ROSS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Ms. ESCOBAR):

H.R. 4915. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to codify the program of the Office of Small Business Programs of the Department of Defense known as Project Spectrum, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE (for herself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. IVEY, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. BEYER, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TRONE, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. TITUS, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. HUFFMAN):

H.R. 4916. A bill to amend the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 to repeal restrictions on onshore wind and solar; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. KILDEE (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. PASCRELL, and Ms. MACE):

H.R. 4917. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide no-cost coverage for PFAS testing under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KIM of New Jersey:

H.R. 4918. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide grants to medical and other health profession schools to expand or develop education and training programs for substance use prevention and treatment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. NADLER, Ms. OMAR, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Mr. RASKIN):

H.R. 4919. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a wealth tax, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ:

H.R. 4920. A bill to provide for cost-share waivers for projects carried out in response to wildland fires caused by certain Government actions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. LUNA (for herself and Mr. MOORE of Alabama):

H.R. 4921. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to include information relating to certain questionnaire on forms to apply for disability or pension benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. LUNA (for herself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. CARL, and Mr. DUNN of Florida):

H.R. 4922. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to enhance protections against the importation, and transport between States, of injurious species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:

H.R. 4923. A bill to allow certain veterans to use high occupancy vehicle lanes, including toll lanes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. MANNING:

H.R. 4924. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to allow for periodic automatic reenrollment under qualified automatic contribution arrangements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MASSIE:

H.R. 4925. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the termination of certain retirement benefits for Members of Congress, except the right to continue participating in the Thrift Savings Plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, 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 Mr. MASSIE:

H.R. 4926. A bill to allow Members of Congress to opt out of the Federal Employees Retirement System, and allow Members who opt out of the Federal Employees Retirement System to continue to participate in the Thrift Savings Plan; to the Committee on House Administration, 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 Mrs. MCCLAIN (for herself, Mr. BABIN, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. FALLON, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, and Mr. NORMAN):

H.R. 4927. A bill to require ByteDance to divest itself of certain assets, and to require the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States to review certain business relationships between ByteDance and United States businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself and Ms. MACE):

H.R. 4928. A bill to provide for clarification and limitations with respect to the exercise of national security powers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MENG (for herself, Mr. ISSA, Ms. SHERRILL, and Mr. GARBARINO):

H.R. 4929. A bill to require the Secretary of State to submit a report on security threats in Lebanon, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin:

H.R. 4930. A bill to provide grants for the conduct of demonstration projects designed to provide education and training for eligible individuals to enter and follow a career pathway in the field of pregnancy, childbirth, or post-partum, under the health profession opportunity grant program under section 2008 of the Social Security Act; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MORELLE (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BOWMAN, and Mr. KEATING):

H.R. 4931. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to change certain Federal Pell Grant requirements for certain students with disabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. NADLER (for himself and Mr. CORREA):

H.R. 4932. A bill to prohibit agreements between employers that directly restrict the current or future employment of any employee; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. NAPOLITANO (for herself, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. KILMER, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. TRONE, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. CHU, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. POCAN, and Ms. TOKUDA):

H.R. 4933. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to modify the loan repayment program for the substance use disorder treatment workforce to relieve workforce shortages; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 4934. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a standardized training curriculum for military vehicle operations; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa (for himself and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina):

H.R. 4935. A bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to adjust the period during which amounts transferred by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to the account for customer education initiatives and non-awards expenses shall remain available, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ (for herself, Ms. ROSS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. NORTON, Mr. TONKO, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. IVEY, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. BEYER, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr.

TRONE, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. ESPAILLAT, and Mrs. FOUSHEE):

H.R. 4936. A bill to amend the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 to repeal restrictions on offshore wind leasing; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. PANETTA (for himself and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 4937. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the limitation on the estate tax valuation of certain real property used in farming or other trades or businesses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. PETTERSEN:

H.R. 4938. A bill to amend the Securities Act of 1934 to require country-by-country reporting; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. PFLUGER (for himself and Mr. CUELLAR):

H.R. 4939. A bill to authorize livestock producers and their employees to take crested caracaras in order to prevent the death of or injury or destruction to livestock, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. PINGREE (for herself and Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana):

H.R. 4940. A bill to amend the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to support the commercial fishing industry; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. KEATING, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 4941. A bill to amend title V of the Public Health Service Act to establish within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration a Center for Unhoused Individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SCHNEIDER (for himself, Mr. BACON, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. WILD, Mr. POCAN, Mr. CORREA, Ms. ROSS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. COSTA, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. BERA, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. STANTON, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. FOXX, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. KILMER, Ms. PETTERSEN, Mr. VASQUEZ, Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. COLE, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER):

H.R. 4942. A bill to provide incentives to physicians to practice in rural and medically underserved communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SCHOLTEN (for herself, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. THANEDAR, and Mrs. HAYES):

H.R. 4943. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to streamline applications from farmers to be vendors under certain nutrition programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. STEFANIK (for herself and Mr. NORCROSS):

H.R. 4944. A bill to restore certain nonmonetary Federal benefits to remarried surviving spouses of members of the Armed Forces who die while serving on active duty, to provide student loan deferment for dislocated military spouses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committees on Veterans' Affairs, Oversight and Accountability, 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 Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. FINSTAD, and Mr. KILMER):

H.R. 4945. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to raise public awareness for skilled trade programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. TONKO (for himself and Mr. HUIZENGA):

H.R. 4946. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to eliminate the 190-day lifetime limit on inpatient psychiatric hospital services under the Medicare Program; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. TORRES of New York (for himself, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. SOTO, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. ESPAILLAT):

H.R. 4947. A bill to modify the conditions for the termination of an oversight board, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. TRAHAN (for herself and Ms. CLARKE of New York):

H.R. 4948. A bill to establish name, image, and likeness rights for college athletes at institutions of higher education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SOTO (for himself, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mrs. PELTOLA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Ms. BONAMICI, and Mrs. LUNA):

H.R. 4949. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish a grant program to facilitate the training and employment of veterans for certain conservation activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. TRONE (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Ms. KUSTER):

H.R. 4950. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to encourage appropriate prescribing under Medicaid for victims of opioid overdose; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. VAN DREW (for himself, Mr. NADLER, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. LALOTA, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. RYAN, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. SANTOS, Ms. MENG, Mr. ROY, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, and Mr. GARBARINO):

H.R. 4951. A bill to make technical corrections relating to the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WITTMAN (for himself, Mr. KHANNA, and Mr. MILLS):

H.R. 4952. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to establish the Office of Strategic Capital in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. DELUZIO (for himself, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. EVANS, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. WILD, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, and Mr. ZINKE):

H. Con. Res. 60. Concurrent resolution calling for the immediate release of Marc Fogel, a United States citizen and teacher, who was given an unjust and disproportionate criminal sentence by the Government of the Russian Federation in June 2022; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK (for herself, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. LIEU, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. FROST, Mr. EVANS, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Ms. BROWN):

H. Res. 615. A resolution condemning revisionist education and revisionist history as it relates to the African-American experience; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CROW (for himself, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. WILD, and Mr. WALTZ):

H. Res. 616. A resolution expressing support for the people of Afghanistan, condemning the Taliban's assault on human rights and the specific targeting of women, girls, and members of religious and ethnic minorities, and expressing support for any Afghans who assisted in the United States mission in Afghanistan; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself and Mrs. DINGELL):

H. Res. 617. A resolution recognizing the importance of independent living for individuals with disabilities made possible by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and calling for further action to strengthen home and community living for individuals with disabilities; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Judiciary, Energy and Commerce, 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 Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE (for herself, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. FROST, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. CARSON, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. BROWN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Ms. BUSH, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GOMEZ, and Ms. ADAMS):

H. Res. 618. A resolution recognizing August 11, 2023, as the 50th anniversary of hip-hop; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. McCOLLUM (for herself, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. CALVERT, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. CARSON, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. NORTON, Ms. TITUS, Ms. ROSS, and Mr. ALLRED):

H. Res. 619. A resolution expressing support for July to be designated as ''Disability Pride Month''; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. WILLIAMS of New York (for himself and Ms. TOKUDA):

H. Res. 620. A resolution a resolution seeking justice for the Japanese citizens abducted by North Korea; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Mrs. BOEBERT:

H.R. 4776.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18 of the Constitution, in that the legislation ''is necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers'' and ''other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof,'' including the powers of the President specified in Article II of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Prohibits the use of federal funds made available to the Department of Homeland Security to establish a Disinformation Governance Board.

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 4895.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: [The Congress shall have power] To regulate Commerce with Foreign Nations, and among several States, and with the Indian Tribes

The single subject of this legislation is:

Drug pricing

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 4896.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes.

By Ms. CHU:

H.R. 4897.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To direct the Secretary of Labor to promulgate an occupational safety and health standard to protect workers from heat-related injuries and illnesses.

By Mr. ALLRED:

H.R. 4898.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 4, clause 1

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill establishes the Office of Press Freedom to advance the protection and well-being of members of the press abroad and to engage with foreign governments and global press freedom organizations concerning freedom of the press and of expression, appointment of Ambassador-at-Large for Press Freedom, a press freedom curriculum, and aGAO report on

By Mrs. BEATTY:

H.R. 4899.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Housing

By Mr. BOWMAN:

H.R. 4900.

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:

Admissions practices at institutions of higher education

By Ms. BUSH:

H.R. 4901.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section I, Article 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill establishes various grants and related programs that address sexual and reproductive health care for individuals with disabilities.

By Ms. CARAVEO:

H.R. 4902.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Constitutional Authority—Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. I, Sec. 8, Clause 18)

The single subject of this legislation is:

Establish groundwater conservation easement program

By Mr. COURTNEY:

H.R. 4903.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require reporting of certain accidents resulting in serious physical injuries or death at institutions of higher education

By Mr. FEENSTRA:

H.R. 4904.

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:

Establishes certain funds to construct and maintain physical barriers along the southern international border of the United States and award grants to certain organizations addressing the fentanyl crisis.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 4905.

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:

Requires health insurance plans to make personalized pricing information available to enrollees, and to post machine-readable files containing in-network negotiated rates, prescription drug prices, and out of-network allowed amounts and billed charges.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 4906.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII, Clause XVIII of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Veterans Affairs

By Mr. FROST:

H.R. 4907.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and 18 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To prohibit owners of covered dwellings from assessing or collecting certain fees from tenants, and for other purposes.

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 4908.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Transportation and Public Works

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER:

H.R. 4909.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all laws that shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Agriculture

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 4910.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The single subject of this legislation is:

Reforms Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act to better prevent the illegal sale of drugs on big tech platforms.

By Mr. HARDER of California:

H.R. 4911.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution, Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill provides for the establishment of a pilot program to provide grants to community mental health centers for the placement of social workers with law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes.

By Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina:

H.R. 4912.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Weather Radar

By Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina:

H.R. 4913.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Establishes program to improve precipitation forecasting

By Ms. JAYAPAL:

H.R. 4914.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Health

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio:

H.R. 4915.

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:

Authorizes Project Spectrum within the Office of Small Business Programs of the Department of Defense.

By Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE:

H.R. 4916.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Repealing restrictions on renewable energy development on public lands.

By Mr. KILDEE:
H.R. 4917.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide no-cost coverage for PFAS testing under the Medicare program.

By Mr. KIM of New Jersey:
H.R. 4918.
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:
Health

By Ms. LEE of California:
H.R. 4919.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution
The single subject of this legislation is:
This bill creates a self-adjusting wealth tax that is determined based off the median household wealth as determined by the U.S. Treasury.

By Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ:
H.R. 4920.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Agriculture

By Mrs. LUNA:
H.R. 4921.
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:
Streamline the process of veteran disability claims so veterans can get their much-deserved benefits in a quicker fashion.

By Mrs. LUNA:
H.R. 4922.
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:
Address loopholes in the Lacey Act that need to be addressed including a 2017 D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals decision and granting U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with emergency designation authority of potentially injurious species.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:
H.R. 4923.
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:
To allow certain veterans to use high occupancy vehicle lanes, including toll lanes.

By Ms. MANNING:
H.R. 4924.
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:
permitting employers to re-enroll employees in retirement plans.

By Mr. MASSIE:
H.R. 4925.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Fiscal Reform

By Mr. MASSIE:
H.R. 4926.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Fiscal Reform

By Mrs. MCCLAIN:
H.R. 4927.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
CFIUS overseeing the sale of ByteDance's TikTok and the destruction of ByteDance's American data.

By Mr. MCGOVERN:
H.R. 4928.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, Clause 3, Clause 11, Clause 14, and Clause 18
The single subject of this legislation is:
Reforms war powers, the National Emergencies Reform Act, and arms exports.

By Ms. MENG:
H.R. 4929.
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:
Lebanon

By Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin:
H.R. 4930.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
The single subject of this legislation is:
This bill provides funding for, and requires the Department of Health and Human Services to award, grants for demonstration projects to train tow-income individuals to work in the field of pregnancy or childbirth. Grantees must be located in a state that recognizes doulas or midwives as health care providers and that allows payment for their services in the Medicaid program.

By Mr. MORELLE:
H.R. 4931.
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 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.
The single subject of this legislation is:
The single subject of this bill is disability.

By Mr. NADLER:
H.R. 4932.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Labor and Employment

By Mrs. NAPOLITANO:
H.R. 4933.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1
The single subject of this legislation is:
Mental Health

By Mr. NEGUSE:
H.R. 4934.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
To direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a standardized training curriculum for military vehicle operations.

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa:
H.R. 4935.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution
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 Goverment of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.
The single subject of this legislation is:
To amend the Commodity Exchange Act to adjust the period during which amounts transferred by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to the account for customer education initiatives and non-awards expenses

By Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ:
H.R. 4936.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Repealing restrictions on offshore wind leasing.

By Mr. PANETTA:
H.R. 4937.
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:
Tax

By M8. PETTERSEN:
H.R. 4938.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1
The single subject of this legislation is:
Finance

By Mr. PFLUGER:
H.R. 4939.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
To authorize livestock producers and their employees to take crested caracaras in order to prevent the death of or injury or destruction to livestock, and for other purposes

By Ms. PINGREE:
H.R. 4940.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I
The single subject of this legislation is:
Fishing credit

By Mr. SCHIFF:
H.R. 4941.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constiution
The single subject of this legislation is:
Public Health

By Mr. SCHNEIDER:
H.R. 4942.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Health

By Ms. SCHOLTEN:
H.R. 4943.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Under Article 1, 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:
Nutrition

By Ms. STEFANIK:
H.R. 4944.
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:
To defer loans for certain military spouses and restore non-monetary benefits to surviving spouses.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania:
H.R. 4945.
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 raise public awareness for skilled trade programs.

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 4946.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The single subject of this legislation is:

healthcare

By Mr. TORRES of New York:

H.R. 4947.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Puerto Rico Financial Oversight Board

By Mrs. TRAHAN:

H.R. 4948.

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:

College Athletics

By Mr. SOTO:

H.R. 4949.

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:

Veteran conservation grant training program.

By Mr. TRONE:

H.R. 4950.

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:

To establish additional requirements for state Medicaid drug-use review programs for individuals who experience opioid-related overdoses.

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 4951.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18—The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States. or in any Department or Officer thereof

The single subject of this legislation is:

Makes technical corrections relating to the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act.

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 4952.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Authorizes the aformentioned office to identify and invest in entities to accelerate the reserach, development, and procurement of assets vital to national security.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 11: Ms. WEXTON, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 146: Mr. CLOUD.

H.R. 199: Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 343: Mr. PALMER.

H.R. 431: Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 491: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon and Mr. NORCROSS.

H.R. 496: Mr. CISCOMANI.

H.R. 536: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER and Ms. BUDZINSKI.

H.R. 537: Mr. MCCLINTOCK and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.

H.R. 549: Ms. STEVENS and Mr. HUIZENGA.

H.R. 592: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 594: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI and Ms. TOKUDA.

H.R. 608: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 765: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.

H.R. 770: Mr. NORCROSS.

H.R. 793: Mr. FALLON.

H.R. 807: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 830: Ms. WEXTON.

H.R. 866: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 936: Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. HERN, and Mr. ESTES.

H.R. 987: Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, and Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 995: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey.

H.R. 1024: Mr. IVEY.

H.R. 1045: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.

H.R. 1062: Mr. LAWLER and Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 1074: Mr. BANKS and Mr. LAMALFA.

H.R. 1078: Mr. ALLRED.

H.R. 1097: Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 1122: Mr. HERN.

H.R. 1150: Ms. ROSS.

H.R. 1199: Ms. WEXTON.

H.R. 1235: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.

H.R. 1269: Mr. MRVAN.

H.R. 1277: Mr. CROW.

H.R. 1302: Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 1321: Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. LEVIN, and Ms. PORTER.

H.R. 1385: Ms. PETTERSEN and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H.R. 1388: Mr. ALLRED, Ms. TITUS, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 1488: Mr. MFUME, Mr. COHEN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 1502: Mr. MOLINARO.

H.R. 1522: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.

H.R. 1555: Mr. CORREA, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. LIEU, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. WATERS, Mr. ISSA, Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. BERA, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. PELOSI, and Mrs. STEEL.

H.R. 1610: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 1634: Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 1637: Mr. DOGGETT and Ms. TOKUDA.

H.R. 1638: Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 1685: Ms. PLASKETT.

H.R. 1741: Mr. EVANS.

H.R. 1752: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida and Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 1767: Mr. VARGAS and Mr. DELUZIO.

H.R. 1776: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey.

H.R. 1788: Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. VAN DREW, and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H.R. 1794: Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 1822: Ms. SALAZAR.

H.R. 1831: Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. NORCROSS, and Mrs. TRAHAN.

H.R. 1834: Ms. MANNING.

H.R. 1886: Mr. MOONEY.

H.R. 2402: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 2412: Mr. ALLRED and Ms. BALINT.

H.R. 2434: Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Mr. SMITH of Missouri.

H.R. 2439: Mr. MOSKOWITZ.

H.R. 2480: Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. SOTO, and Ms. TOKUDA.

H.R. 2493: Mr. GOOD of Virginia.

H.R. 2667: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 2669: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.

H.R. 2682: Ms. SCHOLTEN.

H.R. 2685: Mr. GALLEGO.

H.R. 2700: Mr. CARL.

H.R. 2742: Mr. BENTZ.

H.R. 2766: Mr. YAKYM.

H.R. 2800: Mr. ARMSTRONG.

H.R. 2814: Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.

H.R. 2826: Mr. BUCK.

H.R. 2878: Ms. LEE of Florida.

H.R. 2880: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.

H.R. 2891: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 2918: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 2923: Mr. BOST.

H.R. 2955: Mr. VALADAO and Ms. LETLOW.

H.R. 2966: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 3008: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.

H.R. 3019: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 3031: Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 3032: Mrs. FISCHBACH.

H.R. 3080: Mr. KEATING and Ms. ROSS.

H.R. 3108: Mr. COSTA.

H.R. 3139: Ms. PETTERSEN and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.

H.R. 3152: Mr. MORELLE, Ms. PETTERSEN, Mr. PASCRELL, and Mr. HUIZENGA.

H.R. 3161: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.

H.R. 3184: Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 3216: Mr. VASQUEZ.

H.R. 3238: Mr. GARAMENDI, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, and Ms. ROSS.

H.R. 3240: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 3253: Ms. PLASKETT.

H.R. 3263: Mr. THANEDAR.

H.R. 3264: Mr. MAGAZINER.

H.R. 3312: Ms. ROSS.

H.R. 3381: Mr. WENSTRUP.

H.R. 3413: Ms. WEXTON and Ms. STEFANIK.

H.R. 3519: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.

H.R. 3520: Mr. MILLS.

H.R. 3539: Ms. BUDZINSKI and Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina.

H.R. 3548: Mr. ALLRED.

H.R. 3554: Mr. LANGWORTHY.

H.R. 3561: Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. SANTOS, and Ms. SALINAS.

H.R. 3583: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 3601: Ms. TOKUDA and Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 3608: Ms. ESHOO, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mrs. TORRES of California.

H.R. 3611: Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 3625: Mr. MAGAZINER.

H.R. 3646: Mr. MAGAZINER and Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 3656: Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 3680: Mr. MULLIN.

H.R. 3718: Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 3726: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 3774: Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. JAMES, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. TRONE, Mr. CARL, and Mr. NORMAN.

H.R. 3793: Mr. PETERS and Mr. SARBANES.

H.R. 3828: Mr. MOLINARO.

H.R. 3836: Ms. PETTERSEN.

H.R. 3852: Mr. GIMENEZ.

H.R. 3859: Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 3875: Mr. TRONE, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. SOTO, and Ms. TOKUDA.

H.R. 3879: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 3882: Mr. CARL, Mr. STRONG, and Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.

H.R. 3887: Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.

H.R. 3904: Mr. BOST.

H.R. 3922: Mr. NUNN of Iowa and Mr. MOYLAN.

H.R. 3946: Ms. ROSS.

H.R. 3955: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 3965: Ms. TOKUDA and Mr. ALLRED.

H.R. 4007: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 4010: Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 4037: Mr. NORCROSS.

H.R. 4039: Mr. COSTA.

H.R. 4077: Mrs. PELTOLA and Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 4124: Mrs. HARSHBARGER.

H.R. 4132: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.

H.R. 4149: Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 4153: Ms. SÁNCHEZ.

H.R. 4227: Mr. ALLRED.

H.R. 4241: Ms. TOKUDA.

H.R. 4263: Mr. ALLRED, Mr. BACON, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 4278: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 4281: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 4335: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 4392: Mrs. FLETCHER and Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 4393: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois and Ms. SALINAS.
H.R. 4456: Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 4468: Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. LESKO, and Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 4483: Mr. KEATING and Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 4531: Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. PENCE, and Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.
H.R. 4572: Ms. MATSUI, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Mrs. TRAHAN.
H.R. 4581: Mr. LAWLER, Mr. CASE, and Ms. MACE.
H.R. 4596: Mr. NEWHOUSE and Mr. LAMALFA.
H.R. 4610: Mr. CUELLAR.
H.R. 4615: Mr. BRECHEEN.
H.R. 4621: Mr. ALLRED and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 4635: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 4661: Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 4700: Mrs. RADEWAGEN.
H.R. 4707: Mr. ROSENDALE.
H.R. 4709: Ms. PETTERSEN.
H.R. 4710: Mr. BRECHEEN and Mr. WENSTRUP.
H.R. 4713: Ms. DE LA CRUZ and Mr. STEUBE.
H.R. 4715: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina and Mr. MCCORMICK.
H.R. 4721: Mrs. HOUCHIN.
H.R. 4724: Mr. NEHLS and Mr. CARTER of Georgia.
H.R. 4726: Mr. ARMSTRONG.
H.R. 4729: Mr. ALLRED.
H.R. 4736: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. MANN, and Mr. SORENSEN.
H.R. 4739: Mr. BERGMAN.
H.R. 4741: Mr. KEATING and Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 4744: Mr. DUNCAN and Ms. MACE.
H.R. 4750: Ms. SCANLON, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. CHU, Ms. MENG, Ms. TOKUDA, and Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 4752: Mr. KHANNA and Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 4757: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. MAST.
H.R. 4776: Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. MANN, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. HERN, and Mr. BRECHEEN.
H.R. 4782: Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 4792: Mr. IVEY.
H.R. 4812: Mr. GALLEGO.
H.R. 4815: Mr. SCHIFF and Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 4829: Ms. TOKUDA and Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 4831: Mr. DUARTE.
H.R. 4838: Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 4842: Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mr. MOOLENAAR.
H.R. 4851: Mrs. FLETCHER, Mrs. TRAHAN, and Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 4852: Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 4860: Mr. ISSA and Mr. JACKSON of Texas.
H.R. 4869: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. POSEY, Mr. BABIN, and Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 4870: Mr. RASKIN.
H.R. 4894: Mr. STEIL.
H. Con. Res. 42: Mr. CARSON.
H. Con. Res. 59: Mr. NEGUSE.
H. Res. 77: Mr. PASCRELL.
H. Res. 269: Mr. COHEN.
H. Res. 434: Mr. ALLRED.
H. Res. 451: Mr. MOONEY.
H. Res. 561: Mr. MRVAN and Ms. KUSTER.
H. Res. 584: Ms. PORTER and Ms. TOKUDA.
H. Res. 609: Mr. LALOTA, Mr. MOLINARO, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. GARBARINO, and Mr. WILLIAMS of New York.

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Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 169 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 2023 No. 129

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

PRAYER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's opening prayer will be offered by Rev. Dr. Richard Gibbons of the First Presbyterian Church of Greenville, SC.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us join our hearts and minds together as we pray.

Gracious God and loving Heavenly Father, in seeking Your presence today, we recognize that You are eternal in nature, infinite in love, holy in every aspect of Your being, yet immanent in grace.

Today, we ask that You would refresh and renew each Senator, stimulating and sustaining within them nobility of character, focused wisdom, inspired direction, and a profound dependency on You as they seek to serve these United States.

Grant to this upper Chamber the tender touch of Your Holy Spirit, equipping each lawmaker with thoughtful, measured, prescient leadership, capable of prolific solutions equal to the demands of the 21st century.

As Senators and their staff move toward the end of this legislative session and they are weary or perhaps frustrated, nourish within them a unified and energized focus on national priorities, compassionately supporting communities in need, inspiring new generations of civic leaders, and modeling for each one credibility, integrity, and authenticity as we seek to be ''one nation under God.''

Father, we bring our prayers to You through the Name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. The Biden administration has been working overtime to sell the American people a fantasy. The President would like working families who struggled under 2 years of soaring inflation to believe their refrain that ''Bidenomics is working for America.''

The White House Press Secretary declared recently that ''people are feeling better about their personal finances.'' If only that were true. Unfortunately, the American people have too many reasons to believe their financial outlook is worse today—worse—than when the President took office.

According to a survey conducted last month, just 24 percent of voters say the American economy is on the right track; less than a third buy the claim that this administration's policies are bringing costs down for working families; and just 22 percent think inflation is getting any better.

No matter how many ways the administration officials spin the numbers, folks who work for a living and manage a family budget know that Bidenomics has made their lives harder. They know that prices have risen 16.6 percent since the President took office because they feel it every time they pay their bills. Energy prices, for example, are 38 percent higher than they were in January of 2021, and groceries are 20 percent more expensive.

In Washington State, one man reported recently that soaring rent had forced him to move, take on a longer commute, spend more on gas, and put his goal of homeownership on hold.

In Illinois, one woman told a reporter recently that she had paid $90 for groceries that would feed her family of three for 3 days. They might have to start visiting food pantries. ''You have no choice but to sacrifice,'' she said.

So look at it this way: During the first terms of the last four administrations before this one, year-on-year inflation never cracked 4 percent. Under President Biden, it happened 26 times. To borrow the President's own phrase, that is Bidenomics in action.

As one top Democratic economist put it last year, ''This is Biden's inflation and he needs to own it.''

So it is fitting that the President finally slapped his name on our current economic situation. He is right to take credit. Working families wouldn't be in this mess if he hadn't spent his first few months in office cramming $2 trillion in leftwing spending down the throat of our economy. So owning the runaway inflation Washington Democrats helped produce is one thing, but it is about time they focused on fixing it.

PRIME MINISTER GIORGIA MELONI

Mr. MCCONNELL. Now, on a different matter, tomorrow, Prime Minister Meloni of Italy will visit Washington for a series of meetings. I look forward to welcoming her to the Capitol at an important time for our two countries' friendship and for Italy's role in the transatlantic alliance.

Prime Minister Meloni took office as Europe faced its first large-scale land war in decades and Italy faced the increasing economic vulnerabilities of reliance on China. By all accounts, she has addressed these challenges head-on.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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The Prime Minister has repeatedly asserted Italy's commitment to helping Ukraine beat Russian aggression and rebuild its economy. Importantly, like some leaders, she has done so with refreshing clarity to the Italian people about their own country's concrete interest in helping Ukraine defend itself.

Earlier this spring, in an address to the Italian Senate, Prime Minister Meloni summed up the reality. She said:

> We are also sending [arms] to the Ukrainians to prevent the possibility of having to use them ourselves one day. We are sending arms to Ukraine also to keep the war far away from the rest of Europe and our home.

Not vaguely defining philanthropy; just cold, hard investments in our own security.

At the NATO summit in Vilnius earlier this month, Italy's leader rightly declared:

> Our freedom has a cost. . . . [W]hat is invested in defence comes back tenfold, a hundredfold, in terms of our ability to defend our national interests.

Secretary General Stoltenberg has recognized the Prime Minister's ''strong, personal commitment to NATO, [and] to our trans-Atlantic alliance.''

And the Italian Government has expressed its intention to accelerate progress toward the alliance's 2-percent defense spending program. I hope and expect to see Italy and all NATO allies meet this goal.

This shift in Italy's approach to defense and security policy reflects what allies have recognized across Europe: that the long holiday from history is over, and their investments and hard power are overdue.

But as Prime Minister Meloni meets with President Biden tomorrow, it is important to remember that our shared interests extend beyond Europe. Italy is rightly concerned about growing instability, terrorism, and migration flows in Africa—yet another area where Russian and Chinese influence has played a corrosive and threatening role. America has a shared interest in keeping pressure on the global terrorist resurgence that has followed the disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan.

I am also encouraged that the Italian government is unraveling its involvement with China's so-called Belt and Road Initiative, another indication our European allies are taking steps to protect themselves against China's economic force.

So if we are serious about competition with the PRC, we need to work more closely with allies and partners who share our interest in preserving a world of free and fair trade and secure supply chains.

I am hopeful that President Biden and Prime Minister Meloni have a productive meeting tomorrow. I look forward to discussing our two nations' common challenges and priorities with her directly.

In the meantime, I am hopeful our colleagues will continue to work diligently to provide for common defense and equip America and our allies to meet and deter common threats.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, today, the Senate will continue making progress on the NDAA, one of the most important bills of the year and something that for more than six decades has passed with bipartisan support.

Yesterday, we adopted two important amendments to the NDAA, adding to the Senate's work on outcompeting the Chinese Government. Both amendments—one by Senators CORNYN and CASEY and one by Senators ROUNDS and TESTER—passed overwhelmingly, with 91 ''yes'' votes each. It is not often that 91 Senators can unite on a single measure, let alone two measures. So to see us unite on outcompeting the Chinese Government was an important demonstration that this issue remains broadly bipartisan and something we will continue working on throughout the year.

This morning, we will hold another vote on an amendment by Senators WARNOCK and BUDD halting the harassment of our servicemembers by debt collectors. I hope this will also enjoy broad support.

Last night, we sent out a hotline with a number of additional amendments. I am hopeful we can lock in an agreement soon to begin voting on some of them.

Since last Wednesday, the Senate has voted on eight amendments here on the floor and adopted seven more by voice vote. This is how the process should work.

Finally, I will also keep working with the Republican leader, Chair REED, and Ranking Member WICKER on a second managers' package that will have more accomplishments both sides can embrace, and I appreciate the cooperation and good faith of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

I have said repeatedly that the NDAA is an opportunity for the Senate to show we can work on the biggest issues facing our country through bipartisanship, cooperation, and honest debate. That is what we have seen play out so far this year on the floor—bipartisanship. The NDAA process in this Chamber is a welcome departure from the contentious, chaotic, and partisan race to the bottom we saw in the House.

As I have also said, if we continue embracing bipartisanship, we will finish our work on the NDAA before the start of the August State work period. We wish to finish the NDAA as soon as we can. There is no reason for delay. We aren't quite there yet—there is still some more work to be done—but we are close.

I thank my colleagues for their cooperation, and the Senate will continue working on the NDAA until the job is done.

(Mr. BENNET assumed the Chair.)

INFLATION REDUCTION ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on the IRA anniversary—when we passed the Inflation Reduction Act last year, I said here on the floor that it would endure as one of the defining legislative feats of the 21st century. Just 1 year later, the IRA is paying huge dividends for the American people, for our economy, and for our environment.

The Republicans claimed the IRA would make inflation worse. One of our Republican colleagues claimed the IRA would cut jobs and fuel inflation. But since we passed the IRA, inflation has gone not up but down. We are lowering costs day by day for the American people with the passage of this legislation. Inflation is now half of what it was a few years ago.

Across the board, costs are coming down for the American family. For the first time ever, we made it possible for Medicare to negotiate the price of prescription drugs, helping Americans save at the pharmacy. Because of the IRA, vaccines are free for Medicare beneficiaries, and a cap on out-of-pocket drug spending—no senior will have to pay more than $2,000 a year for drugs—is coming very soon.

What a relief for people, lowering costs on one of the things that bothered them the most—the high cost of prescription drugs. That is what we Democrats are doing, while over there in the House, the Republicans are just racing to the bottom.

We also capped the price of insulin for seniors on Medicare to $35 a month, spurring major companies like Eli Lilly and Novo Nordisk to follow suit. Millions of people who buy their health insurance on the ACA exchanges are now saving hundreds—hundreds—of dollars each month.

Indeed, we are lowering costs. That is what we promised to do.

On top of these savings, I also said the Inflation Reduction Act would kick-start the era of affordable clean energy and create countless good-paying, green jobs. The Inflation Reduction Act has done just that too.

From the new wind turbine facilities in New York to the solar facilities in Arizona, the IRA is paving the way for America to lead in clean energy manufacturing. Eighty new clean energy

manufacturing facilities have been announced across the country, employing thousands and thousands of people—and not just in junky, low-wage jobs but in good, high-pay, high-skill jobs, with training to boot. Again, these new facilities mean even more good-paying jobs for years to come in construction, manufacturing, clean energy, and so much more.

As the new jobs are being created, wage growth continues to go up. It is now exceeding inflation. So the amount brought home in your paycheck has gone up more than the cost of goods has gone up. That is a new thing. It only happened in the last few years.

The policies that we have passed here in the Senate—that Democrats have passed here in the Senate, frankly—are making a huge difference. Of course, we are only getting started. As we continue implementing the IRA, the American people will see more evidence of the Democratic agenda working for them.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on AI, finally, with so much going on in the Senate, I want to remind my colleagues that today we will hold our third all-Senate briefing on artificial intelligence. Our presenters are Rick Stevens from the Department of Energy's Argonne National Lab, Dr. Sethuraman ''Panch'' Panchanathan from the National Science Foundation, and Dr. Kathleen Fisher from the Information Innovation Office at DARPA. Finally, our moderator will be Dr. Jose-Marie Griffiths, member, National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence, and president of Dakota State University. It is a broad range of presenters.

The last few briefings were well-attended. I know people are busy today, but please try to make the time. And the Q-and-A was surprisingly very direct. We got a lot of answers and learned a lot.

So I look forward to seeing my colleagues at the briefing for what surely will be an illuminating, important discussion, and I thank everyone for their good work.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 2226, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2226) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Schumer (for Reed/Wicker) amendment No. 935, in the nature of a substitute.

Schumer amendment No. 936 (to amendment No. 935), to add an effective date.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

S. 2226

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, last week, we saw an important step to recognize the legacy of our nuclear weapons program and live up to our obligations to the people and communities still touched by that work. And, no, I am not talking about a movie. The new release may focus on part of the story, but there is another important chapter I will not let us overlook or forget, one that takes place in my home State of Washington, one that is not over yet. That is Hanford, where men and women in my State are diligently now doing the hard, dangerous work of cleaning up one of the most hazardous nuclear waste sites on the planet.

As some of my colleagues may know, during World War II, the Federal Government established the Hanford Site in Central Washington State to produce the plutonium our Nation needed for nuclear weapons. Hanford wasn't just where they made the plutonium; it is also where they left 177 tanks, 56 million gallons of highly toxic radioactive waste. For decades now, workers have been doing the critically important work and very dangerous work of cleaning up that site.

I have fought for decades to make sure the Federal Government lives up to its moral and legal obligation to support our Hanford workers and clean up the Hanford Site, and I am still fighting to make sure we live up to those obligations today. That is why I meet regularly with workers from Hanford to hear about the challenges they are facing and the help they need. It is exactly why I have been pushing so hard to get my Beryllium Testing Fairness Act passed, and I was thrilled that the Senate voted overwhelmingly last week—96 to 2—to add this to the annual Defense bill.

My legislation makes sure that workers are getting support to deal with one of the most dangerous threats they face at Hanford—beryllium exposure. This is a serious health risk that can cause severe respiratory disease, irreversible scarring of the lungs, and lung cancer.

Now, Congress passed legislation in 2000 providing care to those who have made incredible sacrifices by working on our nuclear arsenal. I fought to make sure this covered the medical costs for those with chronic beryllium disease and provided cash benefits to people who have been diagnosed with that disease. But here is the thing: Not everyone who needs those critical medical benefits for beryllium exposure can get them today. That is because the diagnostic standard is outdated and out of line with current science.

Right now, to qualify for advanced medical monitoring, you have to show an abnormal blood test. But if your blood test is borderline for beryllium sensitization, that doesn't count toward your diagnosis at all—even when you are plainly experiencing the effects of beryllium exposure or even if it is your third such borderline result. That is not right, and by the way, it is not consistent with today's science.

Workers in America who are cleaning up one of the most toxic and radioactive nuclear sites on the planet should not have to jump through cumbersome and unnecessary hoops and have the care they need delayed or denied all because the standard is outdated. That is why my bill will update that statute and bring it in line with an OSHA rule that was finalized actually under the last administration so that three borderline tests count as conclusive and more workers can get the care they need.

Let me take a step back to make clear why this policy matters. Less than a year ago, when I met with Hanford workers to talk about my bill and to hear their stories, I heard from one worker whose name was Tina. She talked about her friends and neighbors, people who power the work at Hanford. She talked about how a colleague's mom got beryllium disease, and then she retired. After many years of working at the site, she is now not chasing her grandkids around. She can't. She doesn't have the lung capacity to run around and play with her grandchildren. It is heartbreaking, and it is not an uncommon story in the Tri-Cities. That is why this bill matters.

Yes, it is technical. Yes, it may not seem like a big difference if you are not involved in this kind of work day to day. But this bill will make sure we don't lose precious time getting workers the support they need to manage this awful disease.

I am glad we are on track to get this passed into law now, and there is a lot more I want to get done to make sure we are living up to the obligation to take care of those workers. But this is meaningful, important progress. They may not be telling the stories of these workers on the silver screen yet, but as long as I am in the Senate, you can bet their voices will be heard in the Halls of our Nation's Capitol.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, in 1793, in his annual address to Congress, George Washington noted:

> If we desire to avoid insult, we must be able to repel it; if we desire to secure peace, one of the most powerful instruments of our rising prosperity, it must be known that we are at all times ready for war.

Or in the words of another President nearly 200 years later:

> We maintain the peace through our strength; weakness only invites aggression.

The United States has a well-deserved reputation for strength, and aggressors think twice before tangling with the U.S. military. But strength has to be maintained, and we have not done a good job, or good-enough job, of that lately.

Five years ago, the bipartisan National Defense Strategy Commission released a report warning that our readiness had eroded to the point where we might struggle to win a war against a major power like China. While we have made some progress since then at rebuilding our readiness, we are still a long way from where we need to be.

Recent U.S. war games envisioning a United States-China conflict following an attack on Taiwan have had grim results, showing enormous military and economic costs on both sides. One news story on these war games noted:

> And while the ultimate outcome in these exercises is not always clear—the U.S. does better in some than others—the cost is [clear]. In every exercise the U.S. uses up all its long-range air-to-surface missiles in a few days, with a substantial portion of its planes destroyed on the ground.

Let me just repeat that last line:

> In every exercise the U.S. uses up all its long-range air-to-surface missiles in a few days, with a substantial portion of its planes destroyed on the ground.

I don't need to tell anyone that that is a profoundly concerning position for us to be in. China is growing increasingly aggressive in the Indo-Pacific and has also adopted an increasingly aggressive posture toward the United States, and it is investing heavily in its military.

If we want to deter China aggression, we have to ensure that our military is strong enough to make China want to avoid challenging us. We can't accomplish that if we would run out of key munitions in a few days of combat.

While China has to be a major focus when it comes to our defense policy, it is far from the only threat out there. Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine is all the reminder that we need that Russia is not a peaceful nation. North Korea launched two missiles just this Monday. Iran continues to pursue its aggressive nuclear agenda, threaten Israel, and attempt to seize ships in the Persian Gulf. And the list goes on; which brings me to this year's National Defense Authorization Act, which the Senate expects to wrap up this week.

I am pleased to report that this year's NDAA makes real progress on the readiness front. It bolsters our security posture in the Indo-Pacific and deepens our ties with Taiwan. It rejects the President's dangerous plan to shrink the U.S. Navy and authorizes investment in new ships. It also contains multiple measures to increase our supply of munitions, including the addition of six critical munitions to the Pentagon's multiyear procurement program.

Two of these munitions—Tomahawk missiles and MK–48 torpedoes—play an important role in our ability to deter China.

On the European front, the bill invests in Russia deterrence by continuing support for Ukraine in its fight against Russian aggression, and it bolsters oversight to ensure U.S. funding is being used appropriately.

The NDAA also holds NATO members accountable for investing in their own defense by prioritizing our links with partners who meet the commitment to spend 2 percent of their GDP on defense.

This year's bill also ensures that our military keeps its focus on defense and not divisive Democratic social initiatives by limiting so-called diversity, equity, and inclusion bureaucracy.

Above all, I am proud to report that this year's bill authorizes full funding for the next steps of the B–21 mission—the Air Force's new long-range strategic bomber which will revolutionize our long-range strike capabilities and be hosted at South Dakota's own Ellsworth Air Force Base.

I have said it before, and I will say it again: If we don't get national security right, the rest is conversation. If there is one area in which we can't fail, it is providing for the defense of our Nation.

This year's National Defense Authorization Act is not sufficient to address all of our Nation's readiness issues, but it makes an important down payment on boosting our preparedness. And I look forward to supporting it later this week.

I hope that we will continue to have a robust amendment process so that other important ideas can be considered and all Members have a chance to make their voices heard. And I hope that Congress will continue to make investing in our military a top priority.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, on Monday, President Biden's Department of Justice filed suit against my State, Texas, over our efforts to secure our border. Of the 2,000-mile southern border, Texas has a 1,200-mile border with Mexico; and, of course, that has been the epicenter of the humanitarian and public safety crisis that we have seen get nothing but worse over the last 2 years.

It is almost laughable, if it wasn't so serious. The administration filed suit over what it called humanitarian concerns, which is more than a little ironic. This is the same administration whose policies have ushered in an unprecedented humanitarian and public security crisis at the southern border.

I have talked previously about the 300,000 children—unaccompanied children—who have been placed with sponsors in the interior of the United States by the Biden administration during the last 2½ years and the fact that the administration has lost track of at least 85,000 of those 300,000 children. When they were contacted or attempted to be contacted by the Office of Refugee Resettlement and Health and Human Services, 30 days after they were placed with a sponsor, there was no answer and no followup by the administration.

This is the same administration that turned a blind eye when countless young migrants were being exploited on American soil. The New York Times has run two investigative pieces pointing out that, essentially, the administration doesn't know where any of these 300,000 unaccompanied children are—whether they are going to school, whether they are getting their healthcare attended to, whether they are being recruited into gangs or sexually abused or otherwise neglected. They don't know, and, apparently, they don't care because, if they did care, then they would make the effort to find out and do something about it.

Vice President HARRIS was designated as the administration's border czar during this unprecedented crisis, which has taken a devastating toll on migrants, law enforcement, and border communities, and it has affected every city in the country, from New York to Washington, DC, to Chicago. Every State, in a sense, has been affected by the border crisis and has become a border State in that sense.

Vice President HARRIS, despite her effort to do anything to address this crisis at the border, has had the audacity to criticize Governor Abbott's actions as ''inhumane,'' ''outrageous,'' and ''un-American.'' Of course, she can't be bothered to actually go to the border and find out what is happening there on her own.

Now, there are a lot of misconceptions about the border. People who haven't been there haven't learned for themselves or from the experts at Border Patrol and the nongovernmental organizations that do their best to try to take care of these people. Vice President HARRIS simply hasn't bothered to learn, yet she has the audacity to criticize Governor Abbott for doing what he has to do because of the failure of the Biden administration to do its job. The unavoidable reality is we wouldn't be in this situation if it

weren't for President Biden abdicating his responsibilities.

This is an international border, as we all know. That, by definition, is the Federal Government's responsibility, but the Biden administration has simply, as I said, abdicated its responsibilities, with tragic consequences. Unlike President Biden, Governor Abbott took action. His constituents—my constituents—30 million Texans, insisted upon it, and he put measures in place to try to deter migrants from attempting the dangerous journey from their home across the border into the United States.

We know, particularly now with temperatures in the triple digits, that migrants face a brutal environment: heat, dangerous waters, treacherous terrain. And, sadly, many migrants do not survive the journey.

Does President Biden understand that, last year alone, at least 748 people died making their way across the southern border?

I know he has never been to Brooks County, which is the location of one of the interior checkpoints where the coyotes will drive people up from the stash houses along the border, short of the checkpoint, and tell the migrants, ''Get out of the vehicle, and here is a gallon jug of water''—and maybe a candy bar—''and meet me on the top side, on the north side of the border checkpoint,'' in order to evade the interior checkpoints.

Well, Brooks County had so many migrants who died under those circumstances, making that trek around the checkpoint, that they didn't have the money to actually bury the bodies, and so we actually had to try to provide some additional resources to help them do that.

Again, the hypocrisy of the Biden administration complaining about the State trying to do its best to deal with a vacuum when it comes to Federal responsibility is absolutely ridiculous. So 748 people, we know, died trying to come across the southern border, and they are complaining about efforts to try to deter or dissuade people from making that dangerous trip in the first place. That is what Governor Abbott is trying to do and being criticized by the very people who are not doing their job.

If the President is unhappy with the actions Texas has taken, there is a clear solution: Do your job. If the President and his administration did their job, there would be no need for the State to use its resources and its tax dollars to do the job that the Federal Government should be doing. Until then, Governor Abbott has every right to use the powers available to him to keep our State safe, to protect our citizens. That is his right as an elected head of a sovereign State.

I want to make a point of thanking all the countless Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers as well as the National Guardsmen from Texas, the Department of Public Safety, and others who have been deployed to the border for their tireless work to protect our State and our country. They deserve our commendation and our appreciation, not criticism, particularly when it is so misguided and unfair.

The Biden administration may not appreciate the efforts of the State of Texas, but the vast majority of us see, understand, and are grateful for everything Texas guards, local law enforcement, DPS, and others are doing to keep our country safe.

S. 2226

Mr. President, on another matter, the Senate is in the process of fulfilling one of its most important responsibilities, and that is protecting the safety and security of our Nation by advancing the National Defense Authorization Act.

I want to commend Senator REED and Senator WICKER, the chairman and ranking member of the Armed Services Committee, for their leadership on this bill and for maintaining the bipartisan process that has historically guided this legislation.

Congress has managed to overcome partisan differences to pass a Defense authorization bill for each of the past 62 years. That is quite an accomplishment, and I hope we can build on that record of success again this year.

Our colleagues on the Armed Services Committee compiled a strong bill, and I am glad the Senate now has an opportunity to try to improve it further by offering and voting on various amendments.

Yesterday evening, the Senate adopted a bipartisan amendment I introduced with Senator CASEY, the Senator from Pennsylvania, to strengthen our ability to counter threats from China. It does this by providing greater visibility into certain investments American entities are making in China and other countries of concern. Our amendment received overwhelming bipartisan support. It passed by a vote of 91 to 6, which is incredibly rare these days.

I want to express my gratitude to Senator CASEY and all of our colleagues who worked together—particularly on the Banking Committee and others—and thank them for supporting this amendment and working with us to overcome this initial hurdle.

We know when this bill goes to conference with the House of Representatives, there will be other discussions about this topic, but it is important that we have a strong vote on this outbound investment transparency provision because we need to know what American companies are doing to help grow the economy of our chief competitor on the planet, which is using that strong economy, by the way, to arm itself and threaten its neighbors in the region. We need to know—and this legislation will allow us to know—exactly what is going on so we can consider whether other policy provisions are necessary.

We know the House passed its own version of the NDAA last month, but it didn't include any provisions on this outbound investment issue. So I am confident in the coming weeks Members of the House and the Senate will need to iron out the differences between our two versions. And it is absolutely critical that this outbound investment transparency that the Senate so enthusiastically supported be part of that final conference report.

We all know the Chinese Communist Party has become increasingly aggressive in its efforts to gain power and influence. Through intellectual property theft, forced technology transfers, and predatory lending practices like the Belt and Road Initiative, China has grown its economic power and is using these same methods to pursue global military dominance.

In China, there is no bright line separating the military and civilian sectors. This is part of an intentional strategy known as Military-Civil Fusion, which promotes the development of dual-use technologies. In other words, it can used in the private sector, and it can be used by the People's Liberation Army.

In short, the Chinese Communist Party is investing in technologies that bolster both its military strength and its economic power. And unfortunately, many American entities are fueling the success of Chinese Military-Civil Fusion, maybe even without knowing really what they are doing.

In testimony before the Senate Intelligence Committee, an open hearing—an unusual open hearing—I heard some concerning figures that illustrate just how big this problem is.

At the end of 2020, U.S. investments in Chinese companies had a total market value of $2.3 trillion. That is foreign investments from the United States into the People's Republic of China worth $2.3 trillion in 2020. That included $21 billion in semiconductors, $54 billion to Chinese military companies, and a whopping $221 billion in artificial intelligence.

There has been a lot of discussion here in the Senate and in Washington, DC, about what is the future of artificial intelligence. Well, American companies have been investing a lot of money in China and helping them develop their artificial intelligence capabilities. And we know this authoritarian country, under the leadership of President Xi, does not have benign intentions. We need to be very careful about exactly how much and in what sectors the American business community is investing in China when they are our No. 1 global competitor.

Intentionally or not, American companies are bankrolling the Chinese Communist Party's military rise. They are pouring huge amounts of capital into capabilities that could be used against the United States and certainly against our allies.

These few data points are deeply concerning. But the truth is, these are just a few pieces of the puzzle. We can't see the full picture, but we need to.

Currently, there are no requirements for companies to report billion-dollar investments in Chinese companies. The full extent of U.S. investments could be much larger and more concerning, but we simply don't have the information.

That is exactly why Senator CASEY and I offered this amendment and why the Senate adopted it so overwhelmingly, 91 to 6. A strong bipartisan support for this amendment is evidence that this bill strengthens our national security without impacting the free market. We are not interested in decoupling from China, as some people have advocated. And I think Secretary Blinken and Secretary Yellen, who have used the word ''derisking''—it is an appropriate use of that term. We are trying to derisk our economies in our two countries so, hopefully, it will never come to any open conflict.

We want to make sure that we are strong enough to deter China from ever even thinking about invading Taiwan, for example.

But as our colleagues know, the requirement of providing notice of U.S.-based investments in China does not apply to every investment under the Sun—the one we just voted on. It is a highly targeted amendment and only applies to sensitive technologies like semiconductors, artificial intelligence, and hypersonics.

These are the technologies and capabilities that pose the greatest national security risk to the United States of America. And to be clear, it does not stop investments from happening or interfere with other investments by American companies in the People's Republic of China. It simply requires companies or other entities to share information about investments in certain technologies.

This is all about transparency. It will help the United States see and understand the threats from China and other countries of concern so we can act accordingly.

Some of our colleagues said: Well, we need to do more. I agree. But I think this is an important first step. And certainly when we say politics is the art of the possible, this is what is possible now. And I would hope, with additional information that is generated from these transparency measures, we can make a decision at some later point whether different policy needs to be applied. But for now, this represents an important first step.

The reality is, things like sanctions to restrictions, to an outright ban on investments don't have the political support on both sides of the aisle in both Chambers that they need in order to become law. So rather than adopt an all-or-nothing approach, which will end up leaving us with nothing, we decided to again engage in the art of the possible. And this amendment demonstrates that that is achievable.

The outbound investment provision promotes our national security, protects the free market, and it provides much greater visibility into the threats posed by our most formidable potential adversaries. Outbound investment transparency is absolutely crucial to our ability to understand what is happening in China and to counter any threats.

I urge my colleagues in the Senate and the House as well to fight to preserve this language during the conference process.

But, in closing, let me just again thank Chairman REED and Ranking Member WICKER and all of our colleagues on the Armed Services Committee for all the work that has gone into this bill so far. I know we are not through. We are going to have a number of votes today and tomorrow. But they provided us a strong foundation and a strong base to build on. And I am glad those of us who are not on the Armed Services Committee have a chance to offer our suggestions and improve the bill by the amendment process.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I will be joined shortly by Senator MORAN, who is the ranking Republican on the Veterans' Committee, and Senator BLUMENTHAL, who has always been such a strong leader on many issues related to veterans. We are here to talk about an amendment that is before the Senate this week on the National Defense Authorization Act. This is our moment. This is our moment.

I came to the floor last night and spoke on this, and I am here again. And I am here not just on behalf of all the cosponsors of this important amendment, which includes Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM, who is the lead Republican on the amendment as well as, of course, the ranking Republican, the highest Republican on the Senate Judiciary Committee; Senator COONS; Senator MORAN; Senator BLUMENTHAL; Senator MURKOWSKI; Senator SHAHEEN; Senator WICKER, who I note is the ranking Republican on the Armed Services Committee; Senator DURBIN, the chair of the Judiciary Committee; Senator TILLIS; and Senator MULLIN.

Of course, this bill is supported by many, many other Senators—in fact, the majority of the U.S. Senate, which sounds to me like when you have the numbers, you should be able to have a vote, and that is what I am asking for today.

I am pushing this because this is our moment. We have had 2 years to show the world whether or not we are going to stand with those who stood with us. For 2 years, we have worked on this bill. Our colleagues have had plenty of time to look at it. They have had input. It was introduced last year.

But you know who else is watching? Our military is watching. Every single one of the Senators in this Chamber have been approached by a member of our military, whether it is on Veterans Day, whether it is on Memorial Day, whether it is just walking down the street. Those who served in Afghanistan have come to us and said: Hey, I wouldn't be here today if this guy hadn't stood with me on the battlefield or if this interpreter hadn't helped me out or if this guy had not put his family on the line to gather intelligence.

And they have all asked us the same thing, and that is to not leave these courageous Afghans, who stood with our military, in limbo. We did not leave the Hmong and the Vietnamese who came over to our country. After that withdrawal and evacuation, we did not leave them in limbo. They were given a legal status, which allowed them to work, which allowed them to pursue citizenship at some point. I know because I have the biggest population of Hmong, next to California, in my State.

What do they do now, generations later? They are police officers. They are firefighters. They are teachers. They are elected officials. They are pillars of our communities.

That is what we do. That is what we did when so many Cubans came over to this country. We didn't just leave them in limbo. We included them in the fabric of life of our country, and we are the richer for it.

But this, these Afghans—so many of them vouched for by the top leaders in our military—they took bullets for us, literally, and we must stand by them.

The decision we make right now of whether we live up to the covenant we made to our Afghan allies is going to reverberate militarily and diplomatically for longer than any of us will serve in this body because the next time we are in a conflict and we ask people to serve and to put themselves at risk and put their families at risk, do you think they are not going to hear that 80,000 people are in complete limbo if we don't do something about this?

This bill strengthens our national security. And I will give you a long list of generals in a moment, very famous leaders in our military who support this bill. It does right by our Afghans who worked alongside our troops. And it shows the world that when the United States of America makes a promise, when we make a covenant, that we keep it.

Nearly 80,000 Afghans who sought refuge in our country after that evacuation are in limbo. They are in our country. Let me repeat this. They are here now. So we can choose to have some order here and have a vetting process, which is why so many of my more conservative colleagues are supporting this bill, are on this bill—because right now that process isn't in place. So this will allow us to vet people and then create some order so that

they have a provisional status in this country and they don't worry that they are going to be sent back to live under the rule of the Taliban, which certainly so many of them would be killed. Among them were brave translators, humanitarian workers, courageous members of the Afghan military who stood shoulder to shoulder with our troops.

We were right to help these people come to the United States. And now it falls on us to uphold the covenant we made to them and help provide them with the stability and the security they need to rebuild their lives here. We may have disagreements—of course we do; our country does on Afghanistan—but those need to be put aside right now to talk about what we are going to do about the covenant that we made to these people.

The bipartisan Afghan Adjustment Act creates a more thorough system, as I noted, for our Afghan allies to apply for permanent legal status. It requires that applicants go through vetting that is just as vigorous as the vetting they would have gone through if they came to the United States as a refugee, a standard that eight former Trump and George W. Bush administration national security officials have called the gold standard of vetting. Remember, there is no vetting right now. This is the way you get the vetting. Senator GRAHAM and I worked closely with Senator MORAN and others in this Chamber and the Department of Defense to make sure that the bill's vetting provisions met that gold standard.

In addition, our legislation updates a Special Immigrant Visa Program, also known as SIV, to include groups that should never have been excluded from the program in the first place, including members of the Female Tactical Team of Afghanistan, who had our troops' backs as they pursued missions hunting down ISIS combatants on unforgiving terrain and freeing prisoners from the grips of the Taliban.

The entire purpose of the Special Immigration Visa Program is to provide permanent residency to those who have supported the United States abroad. And it is clear to anyone that looks at this that these brave women should qualify.

The Afghan Adjustment Act is supported by a bipartisan group of Senators, as I just noted—11 cosponsors with many others that have pledged their support. Many others. And it has earned the backing of more than 60 organizations, including the Veterans of Foreign Wars—that is the VFW—and the American Legion.

This bill is a top priority for these two leading veterans groups. They have contacted, literally, every Senator about the importance of passing this bill. And I hope people will listen.

Who else is this supported by? Some of our Nation's most revered military leaders, including Admirals Mike Mullen, William McRaven, James Stavridis, and Generals Richard Myers of the Air Force, Joseph Dunford from the Marine Corps, and Stan McChrystal from the Army.

We can decide that the thoughts of these military leaders aren't important to us. We can decide they don't know what they are doing. I think it is kind of the opposite, that maybe we should be listening to them when they tell us this must happen.

Here are some of the stories:

Mahnaz, a commander of the Afghan National Army's Female Tactical Platoon, who worked closely with our military to facilitate conversations between our soldiers and the Afghan women they crossed paths with in the field.

Ahmad, a pilot whose helicopter was shot down, not once, but twice. Ahmad is in legal limbo. Speaking of his work with our troops, he said:

> In the face of danger, we were united, we were relentless, we were resilient.

Another pilot who wants his name not known because he is in fear of what will happen to his family who are still back in Afghanistan, he spent 10 years helping American soldiers identify Taliban positions in the mountains of Afghanistan. He said his job was to ''capture the bad guys like al-Qaida and Taliban.''

Or there is Nangialy, an Afghan interpreter who put his life on the line to support our troops. Why? To use his words:

> Same goal, same target, and same achievement.

A helicopter fighter pilot who also asked that his name not be revealed, who worked with our troops to combat the Taliban in remote areas of Afghanistan for 8 years—8 years—all the while thinking there was a covenant that he was going to be able to come to this country and people were going to protect him if needed. He survived being shot in the face by flying bullets.

There is the story of Reggie, another Afghan interpreter. Remember, being an interpreter in Afghanistan wasn't a desk job. You weren't sitting in a conference room whispering to your boss what the words were of someone whose language you don't understand. This meant working shoulder to shoulder with our troops while they were on foreign soil. Where the troops went, the interpreter went. If the troops got ambushed by bullets, the interpreter got ambushed by bullets. If the troops got bombed, the interpreter got bombed. That is a risk Reggie took every day.

On August 8, 2012, Reggie was working on patrol with a group of servicemembers including Army CPT Florent Groberg. Suddenly, a suicide bomber approached. Groberg acted fast and protected other members of his unit by shoving the bomber aside. But the vest still detonated, leaving Groberg and Reggie bloody and fighting for every breath. The explosion left Reggie with 23 pieces of shrapnel lodged in his own body. But even still, he used the energy he had to go to Groberg's aid and help him stop the bleeding.

To this day, as a result of the attack, Reggie has problems with his left ear and can't control some of his body. That is what he sacrificed for our troops. That is the depth of his covenant.

Reggie and Captain Groberg survived that attack, but, tragically, several men did not. One of the men we lost that day was U.S. Air Force Maj. Walter David Gray. He left behind his kids and his wife Heather. In August 2021, 9 years after the attack, Heather learned from an NPR reporter that Reggie was being targeted by the Taliban in Afghanistan. She wrote about that experience in an essay for the Dallas Morning News. These are her words:

> Turmoil is a good way to describe the emotions I felt when I listened to the radio interview. It was Reggie in Afghanistan . . . describing his service as a linguist to our military and the danger his family was in if they didn't get out.

She went on:

> Reggie served with my husband, Maj. Walter David Gray, in the Air Force and was with him when David and three others were killed by suicide bombers in the Kunar Province on August 8, 2012. After listening, I called my friend Captain Florent Groberg who . . . confirmed that the man we were hearing on the radio was indeed ''our guy.''
>
> With that confirmation, my family spun into action, working with others, both stateside and in Afghanistan, to get Reggie, his wife, and their four young children through the gauntlet outside [the] airport and onto a military plane.

It would be nearly November before Reggie's family was resettled in Ft. Worth where the brother lives.

Heather's story continues. She wrote:

> My family traveled 4 hours to Ft. Worth to meet them . . . As we worked alongside each other assembling furniture, Reggie showed me scars from the battle that killed my husband. As he recounted stories of the many battles in which he fought alongside our servicemembers, a car backfired outside and he instinctively lowered to the floor . . . A few weeks later, I brought my current husband and kids up to spend Thanksgiving with Reggie's family. Despite the language barrier and our different religions and cultures, we celebrated as one big family, because that is what we are.

Reggie is among the Afghan allies who need Congress to pass the Afghan Adjustment Act.

She added this:

> Every time we see Reggie, he reminds my children that their father died a hero.

This story of these Afghans has too many heroes to even keep track of, and it is our job now to stand to their level, to simply pass this amendment so they are put out of legal limbo—an amendment that is cosponsored with conservative Republican Senators; an amendment cosponsored by the lead Republican on the Veterans Committee, on the Armed Services Committee, and on the Committee on the Judiciary.

I know my colleague Senator MORAN is here and is ready to speak soon. I welcome him here. I also saw Senator BLUMENTHAL. I have more words when they have completed their remarks, including the important letters we have

seen from the leading veterans groups, the leading military generals—some of whose names I have read—including the support that we have gotten from those that served in Afghanistan in our own military.

I thank Senator MORAN and his leadership on the PACT Act and so many other bills for being here.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I appreciate the comments that I heard this morning from Senator KLOBUCHAR and appreciate her leadership and efforts to see that the Afghan Adjustment Act becomes law. I think I am followed by my colleague on the Veterans Committee, Senator BLUMENTHAL from Connecticut.

This has been a bipartisan effort to make certain that legislation was drafted, introduced, and that lives were protected and changed. From my perspective, one of the saddest days—or few days—of my time as a U.S. Senator was when the United States withdrew from Afghanistan—not necessarily the withdrawal but the manner in which it occurred and the number of people—some Americans, many of them Afghans who helped Americans during our time in Afghanistan—who were left behind and the manner in which those who were able to escape, what they had to endure in many instances to do so.

As we approach the second anniversary of this disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan, many of those Afghans who escaped to the United States now face—continue to face—uncertainty in their lives—uncertainty as their original parole status is set to expire soon. Most of that status for their legal presence in the United States expires 2 years from their arrival to the United States. And in many instances, that is now the month of August 2023.

I joined my colleague Senator KLOBUCHAR in introducing the Afghan Adjustment Act to make certain that Afghans who sought refuge in the United States are able to apply for a permanent legal residency after undergoing additional vetting.

This amendment, this legislation, is now an amendment pending on the National Defense Authorization Act. I hope we are able to have a vote on this amendment—that it is included, the vote occurs, and I hope that vote is successful.

This amendment establishes a pathway for Afghan partners to begin a more certain and, perhaps, new life.

The rushed and chaotic withdrawal created a potential loophole for bad actors to be admitted to the United States. So if you are interested in our national security—which I know we all are—this amendment establishes a critical vetting process to reduce the threats to that national security. Failing to pass this amendment, failing for this bill to become law, means that none of the refugees will undergo the necessary additional vetting. Undergoing that vetting then can create the opportunity for certainty in the lives of those Afghan refugees who are here.

For two decades, countless Afghans stood by our servicemembers and risked their lives and their families' lives to support our troops in Afghanistan. This withdrawal and the current circumstance resulted in more than 1,000 contacts with my office asking for help in getting someone out of Afghanistan, someone who served side by side with a soldier from Fort Riley—our hometown pastor's daughter and husband—missionaries, Christian missionaries in Afghanistan—looking for help to get out of Afghanistan—those people who are Christians in that country.

The vast majority of people who are in this uncertain stage were people who, either through our domestic operations, our opportunity to try to stabilize Afghanistan, or our military—they are the ones who are now living a life of uncertainty and potential return or removal from the United States.

Under the present regulations, our Afghan allies admitted under temporary humanitarian status can only attain permanent legal status through our overburdened, nonworking, dysfunctional, asylum system or the long-winded special immigrant visa process. As a result, thousands face this troubling uncertainty as they strive to create a new life here.

Recently, in the town we live in, Manhattan, KS, a block party was created to host Afghan residents of our community. It was pleasing to see the Afghan culture celebrated, and it was pleasing to see the community support their new neighbors.

It is always a good thing to see when people come together. The practical help offered to our Afghans is priceless, but all that community support and assistance will do little good if we don't pass the opportunities that the Afghan Adjustment Act provides these individuals.

The amendment before us today will help provide certainty to many of our Afghan partners and work to help other Afghan partners who are stranded in other countries. So we have the challenge of Afghans in the United States who soon will have no legal status, and we have those who are still trying to get out of Afghanistan. And, finally, we have those who have escaped Afghanistan to another country but can't yet migrate any further. Those people are stranded. They need our assistance.

We also need to make sure that our vetting requirements protect our national security. This legislation does both. It protects our national security and increases our opportunity to treat individuals—human beings—in a humanitarian way.

I thank Senator KLOBUCHAR for her invitation for me to join her here today in this bipartisan effort. Senator KLOBUCHAR mentioned a number of veterans organizations and veterans who endorsed this legislation and, thus, this amendment.

This issue was brought to me most directly by the Iraqi and Afghan veterans of America who support this legislation and who brought information and encouragement to me to help see that this legislation is passed. But it is also supported by Blue Star Families, by the American Legion, the VFW, and many other veterans and veterans organizations.

Those who served our country—those Americans who served our country—care about those who helped save their lives in Afghanistan, and they would like to see the U.S. Senate take the steps that we are asking be taken today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I am honored to follow my colleague from Kansas and engage in this bipartisan colloquy for a measure that truly has bipartisan support. My thanks to Senator KLOBUCHAR for her leadership as well. And I am going to be followed by Senator COONS, who has dedicated himself to civil rights and liberties around the world.

This issue is one that rises above politics. Every so often in this body, we are able to rise above politics, never often enough for many of us. But here is an opportunity to put down a marker, to make a statement, to show with our votes that a great Nation keeps promises. America is the greatest Nation in the history of the world. We need to keep our promises. And I know about those promises, not only as a member of the Armed Services Committee who has visited Afghanistan several times but also as a father. My two sons served during this period of time. My oldest son Matthew was an infantry officer in the Marine Corps, in Helmand Province. My second son is a Navy SEAL. And let me just put it very bluntly: As a dad, as a public official, as an American citizen, I want Americans who are deployed overseas to be helped by people in the country that we are fighting to serve. Not only in America and our self-interest here, but also abroad when our troops are deployed and put in harm's way, they depend on exactly the kind of Afghan allies whom we promised we would not abandon.

And if we want to count on those kinds of allies all around the world—not only in Afghanistan and Iraq and that part of the world, but in Africa, in South America—we need to keep our promises. If we lose that credibility and trust, our troops will be in danger. Our sons and daughters will be at risk when they depend on those interpreters, the guards, the guides, the security aides, and all of the kinds of allies that we enlist—Afghan allies—who put their lives on the line and now have targets on their backs if they were ever to return.

It is bad enough that many of those allies are still in Afghanistan and at risk of torture and murder, but we need

to keep faith with the Afghan refugees who have come to this country. I want to salute the veterans, as did my colleague Senator MORAN. They have been heroes in this fight. Their championing this cause has made a tremendous difference, and I thank them for recognizing that there is a moral imperative here. That is the reason that our promise needs to be kept.

And I will just close—and there is much more that I could say, but I know colleagues would like to comment, as well, in the limited time we have—by saying that these families, these Afghan refugees, are coming to this country, and they are flourishing here. They are contributing to their communities. They have jobs that matter. They are learning our language. They are imparting to our people the rich cultural heritage that they bring with them, the tastes and the colors of their country, as well as their incredible history. They are enriching the United States of America. We need to keep them here, and we need to give them the security and sense of permanency that is essential for them to continue to flourish.

They can't have jobs, they can't put their children in schools, and they can't keep housing if they are in limbo. So as a practical matter, we must move. We should have done it last session. We have the opportunity now. It is an obligation. Let's vote on this amendment to enable our Afghan allies to stay in this country as they deserve and need to do.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, just about 2 years ago, roughly 76,000 Afghans—those who served alongside American forces during two decades of conflict—and their families were evacuated here to the United States on military planes and given 2 years of humanitarian parole. The Biden administration has worked to extend that parole, but we have to ask ourselves: To what end?

These are our allies, those who served and fought alongside our troops, those who supported our mission and our engagement in Afghanistan and who worked an incredible array of jobs—interpreters, medics, security guards, mechanics, intelligence officers, journalists, bomb technicians, and pilots.

And I know that today one family in Newark, DE, is waiting urgently to hear that we have taken up and passed this amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act. The head of household served as a bomb technician, as an EOD specialist in the Afghan forces, and I had the chance to have the blessing of meeting the mother of a Delaware soldier whose life he saved.

I have heard over and over from our veterans, from our veterans' families, from Afghans and from their families that we have to pass this bill so that they have certainty, so that the strengths and talents that they have brought to our country they can use to put down roots and to have a foundation on which to build a family in peace in our Nation.

An interpreter—an Afghan interpreter—now living in North Carolina has said:

> Permanent residency is linked to everything. What will happen [to my family] if our status fails? How will I provide for my family [in this new country]?

Another interpreter living now in Nebraska describes their current situation as being ''trapped like in a prison.''

This uncertainty, this lack of clear status, harms the ability of our Afghan partners and friends to advance their careers, to put down roots, to start their new lives here in America with confidence. This uncertainty must end.

These are folks who believe in the promise of America and who came here confident we would keep our word. On my phone, I was just looking a moment ago at a family celebration that I joined with Sher and Shkira in Newark, DE. I don't want to give more details on them, other than to say that I remember that they and their children are waiting and watching to see what we will do here in the Senate.

I want to thank my colleagues Senators KLOBUCHAR, MORAN, and BLUMENTHAL and many others—Senators GRAHAM, SHAHEEN, MURKOWSKI, DURBIN, WICKER, and TILLIS—who have been cosponsors of this bill from the last Congress. It also has support from the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, Blue Star Families, the American Legion, and many other veterans groups; and from some of the most prominent leaders in the American military: Mike Mullen, Jim Stavridis, Stan McChrystal, William McRaven. Forgive me for skipping their titles and ranks, but some of the most respected leaders in our military have endorsed this legislation.

If you are worried, as some of our colleagues have said, that the folks brought here by the American military were not thoroughly vetted, this is the way to address it. It requires in-person interviews, oversight, and consultations that will ensure that everyone currently here comes back in for one more in-person interview, vetting, and clearing.

It also expands the opportunities for SIV visas for Afghan combatants. It helps those still stuck in a hell outside our country. That would allow families to be reunited.

At the end of the day, I just have to thank two people and make one plea. I have to thank the family in Delaware who continues to inspire me and push me to support Senator KLOBUCHAR in her tireless work to get this bill the vote it deserves. I want to thank my colleague Senator KLOBUCHAR for hearing the voices of American veterans, for hearing the voices of Afghans now in our country who deserve legal status, and I join her in demanding a vote on this amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Thank you very much to Senator COONS for his strong words and for focusing on what matters here, which is the people of our own country, the military and those who support them, who believe that this situation is simply untenable, that these Afghans who have stood with us risk, at any moment, being deported—not right now because of an order that President Biden has in place.

But that is not the only problem about uncertainty. The problem is they can't go on with their lives as has happened with past evacuees—after Cuba, I noted; after Vietnam. They are part of the fabric of life in the United States of America now.

So let's hear what some of these security experts have to say. I am going to read a portion of a letter that a group of them sent to congressional leadership.

They said this. These aren't my words. This is theirs:

> The bipartisan Afghan Adjustment Act honors our nation's commitment to its wartime allies by providing a path to permanent status for Afghan evacuees. It also ensures that these evacuees are properly and scrupulously vetted prior to considering them for such status.
>
> The status quo leaves tens of thousands of evacuees in legal limbo while failing to put to rest security concerns raised in the Office of Inspector General reports.

So we can just pretend that report doesn't exist. We can just do nothing. How can that be the answer?

(Mr. HICKENLOOPER assumed the Chair.)

How can the answer be to just put our heads in the sand while they put their lives at risk for us in the sands of Afghanistan? That is why we have to vote on this amendment.

They go on to say—the security experts who worked for a number of Republican and Democratic Presidents: ''No action is not an option—we urge you to pass the Afghan Adjustment Act.''

I want to repeat that last point: ''No action is not an option.''

Here is another letter of support from the former Ambassadors to Afghanistan. Eight former U.S. Ambassadors—think about this: They actually served in Afghanistan, and a number of us—probably nearly everyone in this Chamber who was around during that time, which is many of us, has visited with these Ambassadors during one President or another. These Ambassadors served under Presidents George W. Bush, Barack Obama, Donald Trump, and Joe Biden. Each has an intimate understanding of the stakes for getting this right.

They wrote together:

> We are a group of retired Ambassadors, all of whom served as Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Afghanistan, who have dedicated our professional lives to furthering America's interests in the world. We are writing today because we are convinced that

the Afghan Adjustment Act furthers those interests. The need is urgent and time is short. . . . Without the Afghan Adjustment Act, the task of American diplomacy will be much more difficult. . . . [I]n the future our allies will be less likely to support the U.S. missions if they see that our Afghan partners are abandoned. In diplomacy, our words will have lost meaning. . . . We urge you to pass the Afghan Adjustment Act without delay.

I have spoken a lot about the Afghan stories today, as have my colleagues—Senator COONS, Senator BLUMENTHAL, and Senator MORAN—because this is all personal for those of us who meet with our military and hear the stories of those who saved their lives and who put their lives on the line. But this is also about U.S. interests abroad and the bigger story of our national security, about keeping our covenants when we make promises, about expecting other people in other lands in future conflicts to be willing to put themselves and their families at risk to stand with our soldiers. Who is going to want to do that again if they hear that we made promises over decades, and then, when those brave people came to our country, we left them in legal limbo?

You heard the sad, tragic story out of Virginia a few weeks ago where an Afghan who had served as an interpreter, who was working two jobs—in legal limbo—was murdered as a Lyft driver in the middle of the night. Those are the stories.

If people see that brinksmanship in Congress outweighs the promises we made overseas, how can we lead?

Finally, I want to share some words from a group of more than three dozen of our Nation's most esteemed military leaders, including Gen. Joseph Dunford, U.S. Marine Corps; Admiral Mike Mullen, U.S. Navy; Gen. Richard Myers, U.S. Air Force; Admiral Jim Stavridis, U.S. Navy; GEN Peter Chiarelli, U.S. Army; GEN Stan McChrystal, U.S. Army; GEN David McKiernan, U.S. Army; Admiral William McRaven, U.S. Navy; GEN Austin Miller, U.S. Army; GEN John Nicholson, Jr., U.S. Army; GEN M. David Rodriguez, U.S. Army; GEN Curtis Scaparrotti, U.S. Army; GEN Raymond A. Thomas III, U.S. Army; GEN Joseph Votel, U.S. Army; and Gen. Mark Welsh, U.S. Air Force.

I read the complete list last night, and I will do it again because that gives you a sense of the kind of people I think we should be listening to. Maybe it is worth my colleagues'—a minute of their time to sit back and look at the people who are supporting this bill who lead our military or have led our military. They have been resolute in their support for the Afghan Adjustment Act, and the letter they sent to congressional leadership makes that clear.

In their words—these are their words, not mine:

If Congress fails to enact the [Afghan Adjustment Act], the United States will be less secure.

Let's read that again.

If Congress fails to enact the [Afghan Adjustment Act] the United States will be less secure.

My colleague Senator MORAN outlined why. It is about the fact that there is no vetting in place, and this puts the vetting in place. Most importantly, it is about the fact that to keep our Nation's leadership and to be true to our covenant, we have to be true to our word.

Finally, we have the stories of people who, if allowed to flourish in this country, will go on to do great things. So it is on us.

This is what else they wrote:

Potential allies will remember what happens now with our Afghan allies. If we claim to support the troops and want to enable their success in wartime, we must keep our commitments today. The [Afghan Adjustment Act] will go a long way.

Additionally, without the fixes—

These are their words—

applied by the Afghan Adjustment Act, our immigration system will be less capable, not more capable, of properly processing and vetting applicants. The enhancements that the Afghan Adjustment Act adds to the security screening process of those who were evacuated are of critical importance to our national security.

Mr. President, this is a harrowing warning from our military's top brass.

Without the Afghan Adjustment Act, our soldiers will face new obstacles in finding allies on the battlefield, because in the past, we kept our covenants. We kept them. We kept them no matter if the Congress was Democratic or Republican or the President was Democrat or Republican. We kept our commitments.

All I am asking is that we have a vote—along with my colleagues—on this amendment. And I will repeat: the leading Republicans on Judiciary, Armed Services, and the Veterans' Committee—Senator MORAN, who is here today—are cosponsors of this amendment and are asking for a vote. We have Senator DURBIN, the chair of the Judiciary Committee, asking for a vote. We have dozens and dozens of Senators who want to get this done. We need this vote. We have Republicans, Democrats, military and veterans groups, national security leaders, retired U.S. Ambassadors to Afghanistan, and flag officers all on the same page. They are not debating the nuances of every little word because that bill has been out there now for 2 years.

We have strengthened it vastly in response to our colleagues. We have made changes to it, and it is ready to go, just like our Afghan allies have been ready to go because they have been here for nearly 2 years, waiting for us to keep our covenants—ones who have taken bullets to the face, ones who have lost legs. They are in our country waiting for us to keep our covenant.

Until we get this done, we are essentially asking our allies—those who took shrapnel across the body, those who took bullets to their faces—to rebuild their lives on top of a trapdoor that could fall out from under them at any second. Without the Afghan Adjustment Act, all of it—their jobs, their homes, their safety, their families—could disappear.

By including this amendment in the NDAA, we can strengthen the national security of our country by making our vetting program more thorough. You heard Senator MORAN talk about that. It was a huge issue with Senator GRAHAM, and we worked together to build the gold standard, which, as I mentioned, has been supported by leaders under every single one of the last four Presidents.

So let's put aside the politics and distraction. Let's do what is right for our national security, for our global reputation, and for Afghan allies who shed blood alongside our troops on the battlefield.

This Defense bill is about what? No. 1 and foremost, our Nation's security. So ask yourselves, those in the Gallery who have been listening for the past hour to our colleagues on both sides of the aisle who support this bill, does this amendment support our national security? Of course it does. The top ranks, those who were in charge in Afghanistan, have told us that it does.

No. 2, this bill that we are voting on this week and all the series of amendments—it should set a moral example for the world. That is what the United States did through World War I and through World War II. We set a moral example for the world. That is what this amendment does too. It sets a moral example for the world.

No. 3, we must show people everywhere that when America makes a promise, when America makes a covenant, it must be kept.

The Afghan adjustment amendment advances all those objectives.

I am asking my colleagues simply for a vote. If they want to vote against it, it is fine. They can vote against the generals and the VFW and the American Legion. They all have differences. That is fine. But why would we deny those who took bullets for us even the ability to have a vote in what should be and has been called the Nation's greatest deliberative body?

Let's be as great as we are supposed to be, which means standing by our values and showing the world that our word, that America's covenant, matters.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

AMENDMENT NO. 199

Mr. WARNOCK. Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 199 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Georgia [Mr. WARNOCK] proposes an amendment numbered 199.

The amendment (No. 199) is as follows:

(Purpose: To provide enhanced protection against debt collector harassment of members of the Armed Forces)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

DIVISION _____FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES FOR SERVICEMEMBERS

SEC. _____01. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the ''Fair Debt Collection Practices for Servicemembers Act''.

SEC. _____02. ENHANCED PROTECTION AGAINST DEBT COLLECTOR HARASSMENT OF SERVICEMEMBERS.

(a) COMMUNICATION IN CONNECTION WITH DEBT COLLECTION.—Section 805 of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (15 U.S.C. 1692c) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) COMMUNICATIONS CONCERNING SERVICEMEMBER DEBTS.—

''(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term 'covered member' means—

''(A) a covered member or a dependent as defined in section 987(i) of title 10, United States Code; and

''(B)(i) an individual who was separated, discharged, or released from duty described in such section 987(i)(1), but only during the 365-day period beginning on the date of separation, discharge, or release; or

''(ii) a person, with respect to an individual described in clause (i), described in subparagraph (A), (D), (E), or (I) of section 1072(2) of title 10, United States Code.

''(2) PROHIBITIONS.—A debt collector may not, in connection with the collection of any debt of a covered member—

''(A) threaten to have the covered member reduced in rank;

''(B) threaten to have the covered member's security clearance revoked; or

''(C) threaten to have the covered member prosecuted under chapter 47 of title 10, United States Code (the Uniform Code of Military Justice).''.

(b) UNFAIR PRACTICES.—Section 808 of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (15 U.S.C. 1692f) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(9) The representation to any covered member (as defined under section 805(e)(1)) that failure to cooperate with a debt collector will result in—

''(A) a reduction in rank of the covered member;

''(B) a revocation of the covered member's security clearance; or

''(C) prosecution under chapter 47 of title 10, United States Code (the Uniform Code of Military Justice).''.

SEC. _____03. GAO STUDY.

The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study and submit a report to Congress on the impact of this division on—

(1) the timely delivery of information to a covered member (as defined in section 805(e) of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, as added by this division);

(2) military readiness; and

(3) national security, including the extent to which covered members with security clearances would be impacted by uncollected debt.

Mr. WARNOCK. Mr. President, servicemembers report being harassed by predatory debt collectors at a higher rate than the civilian population. Predatory and unscrupulous debt collectors send messages to commanding officers with their private financial information, all in an effort to harass our men and women in uniform—the best among us standing up for us. They harass servicemembers by threatening rank reduction—the debt collectors—revocation of security clearance, or punishment under the military justice code.

These threats cannot be carried out by the debt collectors, and these practices are manipulative, and they undermine our national security by distracting our servicemembers from focusing on their mission and caring for their families. In fact, a 2014 Army Reserve review found that the second leading contributing factor to servicemember suicide was financial stress.

This amendment reinforces the existing protections provided to all Americans but especially those who are putting their lives on the line to protect all of our families and our communities by restricting predatory debt collection practices aimed specifically at our servicemembers.

This bipartisan amendment costs nothing. It has broad support among the Nation's military and veteran community. They believe, as I do, that debt collectors should not be able to weaponize servicemembers' services. It even has the support—listen—the support of reputable and responsible debt collectors themselves, the very industry it would affect.

I want to thank Senators BUDD, CORNYN, TILLIS, LUMMIS, and BROWN for their partnership on this, and I look forward to the support of my colleagues in passing this bipartisan amendment to protect our Nation's servicemembers.

I yield back the balance of my time.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 199

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Mr. WARNOCK. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 95, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 198 Leg.]

YEAS—95

Baldwin	Cassidy	Grassley
Barrasso	Collins	Hagerty
Bennet	Coons	Hassan
Blackburn	Cornyn	Hawley
Blumenthal	Cortez Masto	Heinrich
Booker	Cotton	Hickenlooper
Boozman	Cramer	Hirono
Braun	Crapo	Hoeven
Britt	Cruz	Hyde-Smith
Brown	Daines	Johnson
Budd	Duckworth	Kaine
Cantwell	Ernst	Kelly
Capito	Feinstein	Kennedy
Cardin	Fischer	King
Carper	Gillibrand	Klobuchar
Casey	Graham	Lankford
Lee	Peters	Smith
Luján	Reed	Stabenow
Lummis	Ricketts	Sullivan
Manchin	Risch	Tester
Markey	Romney	Thune
Marshall	Rosen	Tillis
McConnell	Rounds	Tuberville
Menendez	Rubio	Van Hollen
Merkley	Sanders	Vance
Moran	Schatz	Warner
Mullin	Schmitt	Warnock
Murkowski	Schumer	Warren
Murphy	Scott (FL)	Welch
Murray	Scott (SC)	Wyden
Ossoff	Shaheen	Young
Padilla	Sinema	

NAYS—2

Paul	Wicker

NOT VOTING—3

Durbin	Fetterman	Whitehouse

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The yeas are 95, the nays are 2.

Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 199) was agreed to.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m. today.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:12 p.m. recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. ROSEN).

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

CHINA

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, earlier this month, the Chinese Communist Party's relentless propaganda efforts rose to the forefront of international discussion yet again. China's authoritarian government squashes opposition at home without hesitation, but its censorship and propaganda spreads far beyond China's borders.

The CCP uses an array of insidious means to push its messages across national boundaries. Concerns that the CCP's influence is seeping into Hollywood continues to grow. This issue flared up once again this month. Why? Well, in a word, ''Barbie.'' You heard me right. A movie about a plastic doll is the last place you would expect national security questions to arise, but it has.

One trailer for the ''Barbie'' movie depicted a cartoon map of the title character's world travels. On the map is a roughly drawn continent of Asia, but it might be more than just a cartoon character's doodle. The map includes a dotted line extending out from the east shore of China.

Well, that line is curiously similar to what is known as the nine-dash line. Everyone in the defense space is familiar with this line. It is a Chinese-drawn boundary in the South China Sea. China uses this boundary to claim ownership of maritime territory, even

though the United Nations International Court of Justice rejected its claims on that territory in 2016.

The country's neighbors, including Vietnam and the Philippines, they certainly contest these claims as well. China appeals to this false boundary when its naval presence creeps into new areas of the South China Sea, and it intimidates boats, fishermen, and others from neighboring countries who cross that invisible line.

Now, ''Barbie,'' the movie, it is a great movie. Americans loved it this past weekend, but the ''Barbie'' movie, well, it treads a little too closely to depicting what looks like the nine-dash line. Hollywood needs to become aware of the ways that the CCP tends to push its propaganda. Use of the line is a trigger for geopolitical sensitivities, including its likeness on a map, even as part of a child-like drawing, that has real global ramifications.

Now, you may say: Oh, come on, it is just a movie. But Vietnam's authorities banned ''Barbie'' from playing in theaters because of its offensive, alleged depiction of the nine-dash line. And members of the Philippines Government, they raised concerns as well, eventually deciding to blur the map line in showings across their country.

Despite the ''Barbie'' movie's content, allegations of Chinese propaganda in Hollywood are not child's play. China continues to take advantage of our unprecedented global media network to do real damage. It is no accident that China is financing some of the biggest films, and China runs the second largest box office in the world, second only to North America.

When a movie doesn't play in China, Hollywood loses literally billions of dollars. Remember the controversy around ''Top Gun's'' sequel last year? The Department of Defense, they worked with Paramount Pictures to make that movie happen, but when ''Top Gun: Maverick's'' first trailer was released in 2019, viewers noticed that the Japanese and Taiwanese flags that were on Tom Cruise's bomber jacket, well, they had been replaced in an attempt to appease China.

The studio wisely reversed course on that decision after a public outcry, but that is not where the CCP's influence ended. The film made no mentions or even implications of the United States' primary adversary, and that is China. Any movie related to our national defense that doesn't bring up China, well, it must be set in an alternative universe because that is the biggest defense challenge facing our country. This isn't a conspiracy theory.

The Presiding Officer is on the Senate Armed Services Committee, and we know well China's strategy. The defense world is well aware that China maintains a well-oiled propaganda machine that is enmeshed in our modern media.

So you may say: Oh, come on, it is just a movie. No, this is a serious problem, so serious that it is one our government should address. We can't allow our Federal Agencies to help elevate messages that support the CCP's goals, and we certainly cannot involve our own Defense Department and taxpayer dollars in entertainment projects that are beholden to Chinese propaganda.

As a senior member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I have successfully secured language in the last two National Defense Authorization Acts to prevent our government's Department of Defense from participating in entertainment projects with ties to the CCP.

Thanks to our persistent efforts, the Department of Defense recently released new regulations around how the Department of Defense can provide assistance to entertainment projects. Pursuant to these NDAA provisions, the Department is now prohibited from assisting with entertainment projects that censor the content of the project in a material manner to advance the national interest of the People's Republic of China.

It is my hope that this new policy will ensure that taxpayer dollars are never involved in anti-American messaging efforts as well as send a clear signal to the CCP that we will no longer turn a blind eye to its propaganda efforts. This is just one example of the many provisions in this year's NDAA that stand up to China and advance our national security.

I encourage my Senate colleagues to vote yes on the NDAA so that we can deliver a strong package that keeps China in line.

I yield the floor.

RECESS UNTIL 4 P.M. TODAY

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The junior Senator from Nevada.

Ms. ROSEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to recess until 4 p.m.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 2:55 p.m., recessed until 4:01 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. MURPHY).

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 4470

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I will shortly ask for unanimous consent to pass bipartisan legislation to extend the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program, also known as CFATS. This critical counterterrorism program was created in the wake of September 11 and the Oklahoma City bombing to ensure that common chemicals could not be stolen or weaponized by terrorists and used in an attack.

Now the program is set to expire on July 27, tomorrow, and we simply cannot let that happen. There are approximately 3,300 facilities across the United States that participate in this program. These facilities support a range of industries, from chemical manufacturing and distribution to agriculture and food production, paint and coatings operations, and healthcare and pharmaceuticals. In their everyday work, these facilities use materials that, in the wrong hands, can be turned into dangerous weapons. Because these types of industrial or commercially available materials are common and offer a simple pathway to weaponization, terrorists are more likely to try to use them.

By participating in the CFATS Program, facilities work with the Department of Homeland Security to develop a plan to ensure potentially hazardous material is secure. I introduced bipartisan legislation, along with Senators Capito, Carper, and Lankford, to extend this important counterterrorism program for 5 years. The 5-year extension provides regulatory certainty and the stability for the companies and groups that participate in the program, ensuring that they can keep these important safeguards in place for longer.

Companies including Dow, BASF, Lubrizol, and Brenntag North America, along with organizations like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the American Chemistry Council, the National Association of Chemical Distributors, the American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers, the Agricultural Retailers Association, and the Fertilizer Institute—all of them support extending this vital national security program for another 5 years.

However, last night, the House passed a 2-year extension with overwhelming bipartisan support. More than 400 Members of the U.S. House voted to extend the program. And while I believe passing a longer extension to provide more certainty for companies and for the DHS would be better, the program will expire tomorrow, and if we do not pass legislation to extend it, our national security could be at risk.

If this body allows this program to expire, the 3,300 facilities will no longer be required to maintain security measures and any new high-risk facilities will not be required to invest in additional security. The Department of Homeland Security will no longer be able to assess whether facilities are high risk or share information about specific terrorist threats connected to chemical facilities. The high-risk chemical facilities would no longer be able to screen individuals who have access to sensitive areas against the Terrorist Screening Database, which is a critical way to ensure that we are keeping these substances from getting into the wrong hands.

Since it was created, CFATS has been extended with bipartisan support four times. We cannot let this vital program expire. We must take urgent action to pass this 2-year extension

that just passed overwhelmingly through the U.S. House and keep the American people safe from harm.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4470, which was received from the House, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I rise today to object to the quick passage of H.R. 4470, which seeks to extend the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program.

How could anybody be against that? I am actually for it. We should have terrorism standards. But—you know what—we always had these before 9/11. How did it work before the government got involved?

Well, companies had to insure things. If you had a $100-million electric plant and it was at risk for sabotage or a fire or a disruption to the community, you had insurance, and insurance required that you have a fence. I mean, these things happen. It is not as if safety for our utilities and public chemical plants didn't exist before 9/11. So there are ways that the marketplace would take care of this.

This measure, though, which would reauthorize this regulatory program for another 2 years, I think is being rushed through the Senate without due consideration or, really, any consideration at all. The Homeland Security Committee has jurisdiction over the program, yet we have not had any hearings to discuss this program or its effectiveness.

This is part of the problem of government is we tend to reauthorize things without ever examining whether they work, what works, what doesn't work. Some programs might need more money; some programs might need less money. And we might ask ourselves: Do we have any money?

We are $31 trillion, $32 trillion in debt. We borrow about $1 trillion every year. It is easy to be for stuff. Everybody has got something good. Everybody is for something, but where does the money come from? We haven't really had any hearing to discuss this program or its effectiveness since the last time it was authorized, nor has the committee considered any legislation to reform the program.

This program is a regulatory program. It is hundreds of regulations, and it was established to prevent the misuse of hazardous chemicals. But it also fails to understand that every company has a self-incentive to protect hazardous chemicals that is built into the nature of the way they do business.

Facilities that store certain quantities of designated chemicals of interest, though, under this legislation, must undergo a risk assessment inspection every 2 years.

If it is not reauthorized? It has been going on for 20 years. My guess is that the vast majority, if not all, of the utilities and chemical plants in this country have undergone this. My guess is, if the program didn't exist, they would still all have fences and barbed wire and protections against terrorism because they want to protect their investment.

The requirement, though, through government places a burden on business, impeding their potential growth and creating unsurmountable barriers to entry for those who find the regulatory compliance too cumbersome and expensive to even attempt to break into the sector.

This is why, a lot of times, big businesses like regulations. Regulations become a formidable barrier to new companies coming into the business. Why not have a ton of regulations, sort of like banks. All the banking regulations—guess who likes the banking regulations: the big banks, because they can hire more compliance officers. Your local bank in your town can't afford to do it. So the local bank gets gobbled up by the bigger bank because of regulatory burden.

The monetary resources required to implement and maintain these standards are substantial, and the cost implications impact not just private companies but also the Department of Homeland Security.

The United States is trillions of dollars in debt. We cannot continue to just pour money into nonessential government programs. We should have a discussion of what are the private incentives for people to protect their chemical plants, to protect their utilities. There is a long history of this. In fact, it was the history of our country until fairly recently.

The Department of Homeland Security has a consistent track record of creating duplicative programs. Over the past 12 years, the Government Accountability Office—the GAO—has documented over 1,100 cases of duplicative programs created by Congress.

Everybody has a great idea—we are going to fix this—but they don't ever take time to look up and find out that somebody had the idea 3 years before, and they already created a program to fix this. So sometimes we have as many as 80 different programs to fix a problem that has already been fixed previously 80 times.

It should come as no surprise to any of us that our government has grown into a $6.5 trillion leviathan, and this body seems more interested in passing bills than understanding the contents of the bills, the programs, or whether the programs are working.

We saved, though, over $550 billion by removing just half of GAO's identified duplicative programs. Five hundred and fifty billion dollars was saved by taking the time to find out that we already have other programs doing what the new program proposes to do.

I have already expressed a number of concerns about this program, but what should alarm us the most about this reauthorization is that GAO already found much of this program to be duplicative of other Agencies in a report from 2021. That is why I will be introducing and attaching to this bill and letting the bill go, frankly, if we can agree today to attach a small bill, but I think it could have profound implications over government.

This is called the Duplication Scoring Act. What would happen is, every time someone gets a genius idea how they are going to fix your life or fix your business with another law, there would have to be a duplication score, and government would come forward and say ''Well, we have 32 programs that already do the same thing'' or ''We have 32 programs that aren't working that do the same thing.'' It would be what a government should normally do before creating a new program—find out if we already have existing programs.

So I will be asking consent to pass this bill. I will let the program continue, even though I think it has many problems, if we will add a duplication scoring system to all programs in government so we can review whether they already exist and are working. This program would be produced for each bill.

I think all of us can agree that there is no point in passing a bill that already exists in another fashion or already has Agencies that do the same job. Before we unknowingly pass a thousand more of these duplicative, fragmented programs, I urge my colleagues to support my amendment, which would continue the program, allow it to be reauthorized, but at the same time begin having a duplication score on every new proposal.

So I would ask the Senate to modify the current request; that my amendment, which is at the desk, be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the Senator's request?

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan is recognized.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I fully appreciate Senator PAUL's commitment to making government more efficient. I was pleased that my committee advanced his bill earlier this year, but, as I noted at the time of our passing it out of committee, the bill requires additional work before it is ready to be passed by the full Senate.

We have heard from several committees that have concerns about the potential impacts of the legislation. I hope that we can continue working over the summer to try to address those concerns and find a path forward for this legislation.

However, the Chemical Facilities Anti-Terrorism Standards Program is

set to expire tomorrow. We urgently need to pass this bipartisan 2-year extension now. If we do not, chemical facilities that are at risk of being exploited by terrorists will no longer be able to implement critical security measures, including ensuring that individuals in the terrorist screening database do not have access to restricted areas in these facilities, and the Department of Homeland Security will no longer be able to assess or share information about terrorist threats related to these facilities.

Our national security is on the line, and we cannot let this program expire over a completely unrelated bill about the inside workings of Congress.

I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard to the modification.

Is there objection to the original request?

Mr. PAUL. I object, Mr. President. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Ohio.

TRIBUTE TO SHARON COHEN

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Sharon Cohen, who retires this week from the Senate Dining Room. Over her almost three decades here, Ms. Cohen has left a lasting impression on a number of my colleagues and guests who have visited the dining room, including my children and grandchildren and the whole Senate dining team.

Ms. Cohen has seen Senators come and go from this building. She has been here longer than most of my colleagues. She has been here longer than I have. I always look forward to seeing Ms. Cohen. She is always welcoming. She is always gracious. She makes an effort to get to know not just every Senator but every guest who comes through the doors regardless of whom they walked in with, regardless of their political affiliation.

In a place where at times relationships can be tested and debate can be intense, Ms. Cohen always made Senate dining a welcoming place. It is clear to anyone who has met Ms. Cohen that she cares deeply for the people in her life—her family, her colleagues, her guests. She seems to always be thinking about what is best for others.

Among her colleagues, Ms. Cohen is known for being steady and reliable and, most importantly, for her generous spirit. She is always helping whomever she can, however she can. She never asks for anything in return. Her colleagues shared that they don't think they have ever met anyone who works harder than she, and when she finishes her work, she helps everyone who needs it. She is a team player. She is a hard worker.

Maybe most important, she has made a difference for so many people. Maybe all of us, my colleagues and I, can learn from that.

The workers in these jobs often don't get a lot of recognition. They are too often ignored. Yet they are every bit as important to the Senate as the people on the Senate floor.

She brings a dignity to this job—the same kind of dignity as a carpenter who is proud of her work or a sheet metal worker who is proud of his work or someone who works in manufacturing, someone who works in a veterans hospital, someone who provides home care—because all work has dignity, as she understands.

Ms. Cohen is a treasured member of staff and of this institution. As her colleagues shared, they are sad to see her leave. While they know things will not be the same without her, they share Ms. Cohen's excitement for her next chapter. In retirement, she plans to spend time with her daughter and help care for her granddaughter.

I know she will be missed by the Senate dining team. I know we will all miss seeing her. And I appreciate not just her work but the work of all people who serve in this body in all kinds of capacities.

Ms. Cohen, thank you. I wish you a long, joyous retirement spent with your granddaughter. Congratulations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

S. 2226

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, as we move forward with the National Defense Authorization Act, I want to say a little bit about why it is so important that we get this done.

Over the last several months, the administration and all of us in the Senate—with particular thanks to Chair REED and Ranking Member WICKER—have worked hard to deliver a bill that will keep our country safe.

There is a lot in this bill, and we all know about some of the big stuff. This year's NDAA will better position us to deter conflict in the Indo-Pacific, strengthen our cyber security capabilities, help us acquire next-gen microelectronics to keep our military competitive, extend our security assistance to Ukraine, and authorize other programs that support our national defense.

These are all reasons that I support this legislation, but I want to highlight a couple of provisions that are just as important and are focused on taking care of the people who serve our country—civilian and military—and underscore the need for accountability. People are the glue that holds everything together, and they are why we have a strong national defense. Some of these provisions are included in this bill, but others we are still working on to include in the final package.

One provision we worked to secure in this bill deals directly with the State of Hawaii. When the Department of the Navy's Red Hill bulk fuel storage facility leaked jet fuel into the water system on the island of Oahu, many were exposed to contaminated water. Although we are on a path to defuel and permanently close the facility, we still do not have an accurate accounting of those affected.

This year's Defense authorization includes my bill establishing a registry to track and collect health data from those who were exposed to the fuel leak. This is a meaningful step to continue to deliver resources to community members, servicemembers, and military families and monitor long-term health concerns. This leak should have never happened, but now we need to do everything we can to help those who have been impacted.

A key provision we are still working to include in the final package will help us to better protect the most vulnerable among us—kids. In 2018, the Department of Defense's internet network was ranked 19th out of almost 3,000 nationwide networks in the amount of peer-to-peer child pornography shared—19th out of 3,000. The ranking remains shocking and unacceptable, but it was not entirely unexpected. A 2006 investigation by Federal law enforcement officials found that 5,000 individuals—5,000 individuals, including hundreds affiliated with the Department of Defense—subscribed to websites that contained child sexual abuse images and videos.

Out of those 5,000 people, 80 percent of them were not investigated—80 percent of them were not investigated. That is because the military lacked the capacity and the resources needed to follow up on leads, coordinate with local and Federal law enforcement, and prosecute the criminals.

So Senator MURKOWSKI and I went to work and authored a bill that would give the DOD the tools that they needed to address this problem. The END Network Abuse Act received bipartisan support and was included in the 2020 Defense bill, clearing the way for DOD to act. But it is almost 4 years later, and the DOD has been maddeningly slow to implement this law.

This cannot wait any further. My amendment would simply compel the Department of Defense to implement this law immediately. We cannot afford to let another day, another month, another 4 years go by without addressing this matter. The stakes are too high, and we already have a Federal law.

While these provisions aren't the most attractive to cable news—they are not leading the headlines or national papers—they directly impact our greatest national security asset: our people. Talking about our national defense priorities means nothing if we neglect to support the people who make it possible. We have to continue to honor our commitment to care for them, whether it is through quality healthcare, protecting the most vulnerable, or keeping ourselves accountable to those who serve. Our job in Congress is to deliver for them, and that means passing a final bill.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. President, on a different but related topic, later today, some of my colleagues, including Chair REED and Senator KELLY, will speak on the critical topic of our military promotions

and the crisis currently caused by their delay here in the Senate by the obstruction of a few Republican Senators.

For example, for the first time in over 100 years, we have an Acting Commandant of the Marine Corps. The service that is reorganizing to better compete in the Indo-Pacific—the region that we all say we need to prioritize—has no confirmed head. General Smith, the nominee and Acting Commandant, is a decorated servicemember, and there is no reason to delay his confirmation.

More than 250 career military promotions are being held up—250 career military promotions are being held up. This is hitting the morale of the forces, and it is causing a backlog in the chain of command. If Senator TUBERVILLE wants to have a debate, let us debate on the floor. But to penalize the Armed Forces of the United States of America in this way is an abuse of the power of advice and consent.

Let's just be really clear. We don't vote on flag and general officer promotions. That is done in what they call a wrapup script, right? At the end of some evening, the leader or his designee reads a script and says, ''I ask that nominations numbered,'' and then he lists them or she lists them. And then all of those one stars become two stars and three stars become four stars and you have a new Commandant of the Marine Corps and the pack fleet commander moves from one star to two stars, whatever it is.

It is perfunctory because we are not in the position of making individual judgments. We don't have the time or the expertise to make individual judgments about 250 flag and general officers, the people who oversee every service branch.

So the idea that we should sit here and burn up postcloture time and turn the Senate into the personnel committee for the Department of Defense is antithetical to the idea of advice and consent. And, yes, every Senator has enormous power. I could probably block the Defense bill this week if I wanted to. But I won't. You know why? Because I am not a maniac; because I understand that when you vest someone through your voters with this kind of power, you have to be very careful how you exercise it.

In my 11-odd years, I blocked one or two things. And when I block something, people know I am serious. I have never—and I know no one of the current 100 Senators besides Senator TUBERVILLE and no one else before him—I have never seen this in my life.

This is a breaking of the Department of Defense, and this is a breaking of the basic understanding that, hey, we are going to vest each other with the kind of authority that is pretty enormous, right? But in exchange, you have to use that power wisely. In exchange, you have to use that power wisely.

Senator TUBERVILLE is mad about an abortion issue, and so he is preventing all of these general and flag officers from getting their promotions. It is bad for morale; it is bad for the chain of command; and it is also bad for these individual families.

You have people who have to make basic choices: real estate decisions. Am I renting a condo or not? Where am I living? I am not even sure. Where should I enroll my kids in school? I don't know. My whole life depends on when Senator TUBERVILLE decides that this craziness is over.

It has to end. It is bad for the country; it is bad for the Senate; and it is bad for the U.S. Armed Forces.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FEDERAL RESERVE

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, earlier this year, the public confidence in the banking system was shaken by a series of significant bank failures. To put it simply, these banks failed to account for interest rate increases while leaning on a deposit base that was almost entirely uninsured. That is a textbook case of mismanagement.

It is critical that faith be restored in our Nation's banks and their regulators. But before policymakers clamor to write stricter banking regulations, an independent review board should be appointed to thoroughly probe the failure of Silicon Valley Bank and the response of the Federal Reserve Bank.

Many questions still remain unanswered. Silicon Valley Bank was quickly deemed systemically important because of its size, but the ensuing failure of a larger bank was not. The sale was dragged out for weeks out of fear that certain banks would grow too large, only for the largest bank in the country to turn around and purchase the next bank failure.

In my opinion, all parties involved had a role in this failure: bank executives, examiners, and regulators. The bank failed to both accurately leverage their position and react to rising interest rates. Examiners failed to require changes in either the bank's policy or subsequent actions. Regulators failed by arbitrarily guaranteeing all funds against loss, creating an unlimited market insecurity by forcing taxpayers and customers to now question the safety of their deposits. The administration failed by furthering a culture of government intervention that props up certain too-big-to-fail institutions.

Meaningful oversight requires objectivity and must hold all parties accountable without having a predetermined regulatory agenda in mind. To restore public confidence, the next step, in my view, would be to hire an outside investigative group to conduct a review of the Federal Reserve Bank's response. Conflicts of interest inherently arise when a singular member of the Board prepares a self-investigation.

This comprehensive review must be done by a party uninvolved in the failure of Silicon Valley Bank and/or uninvolved in the Federal response. This would better ensure that the outcome of this investigation would be impartial, helping put to bed doubts that the Fed's review only served as a stamp of approval on the Fed's policies.

The Fed's own internal review found significant negligence by both management and regulators. The public needs insight into the reasoning and conversations of regulators, the White House, and bank management involved in the response.

Silicon Valley Bank and the banks that subsequently failed were specialized to do business with a unique financial sector. Any reform regulators push now must be narrowly tailored to those circumstances to avoid collateral damage to small and midsized banks that consistently operate responsibly. Stricter capital requirements will push lending out of the regulated banking sector and into the nonbanks and money market funds, none of which are subject to the regulations of the Fed for banks, as the Fed regulates banks.

The banking turmoil was a result of a rapidly changing interest rate environment, the speed at which money can move, and the limitations of banks to adjust as quickly as the market can. Understanding the context and reason behind the response is absolutely necessary for ensuring future bank failures have a smooth and fair resolution with a minimal impact upon American taxpayers.

An independent review of the Silicon Valley Bank collapse is necessary to get a nonpartisan, less biased assessment that gives Americans confidence in our banking system and policymakers better ability to ensure our financial system remains the strongest in the world.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, as we know, President Biden has been talking the last 30 to 60 days about Bidenomics. I think it would be fair to say that because so many Americans are struggling to support their families, President Biden is struggling to explain what he means by ''Bidenomics.''

I think most fairminded Americans, based on the, what, year and a half and a few months that President Biden has been President, understand what Bidenomics is because they understand, at this juncture, what President Biden believes in, not only what he believes in, what he has done.

Bidenomics, to most fairminded Americans, is bigger government. Bidenomics is higher taxes. Bidenomics is more regulation.

Bidenomics is more spending. Bidenomics is more debt. Bidenomics is also inflation.

Let me say that again. First and foremost, Bidenomics is inflation. President Biden's inflation—history, I believe, will demonstrate this—is a cancer on the American dream. It is a cancer on the American dream.

Since President Biden has been President, electricity is up 24 percent. There is your Bidenomics. Gas, gasoline—I will quote you from Louisiana—is up 65 percent. Eggs are up 39 percent. Potato chips are up 25 percent. Bread is up 26 percent. Coffee costs 30 percent more, thanks to President Biden's inflation and Bidenomics. Rice is up 29 percent. Flour is up 25 percent. Milk is up 18 percent; ice cream, 18 percent; chicken, 23 percent. I could keep going.

Let me give you a few statistics to put those numbers in context. The median household income in my State of Louisiana is $53,571. The median household income of an American family, nationwide, is $70,784. So in Louisiana, the median household income—not individual income, household income—is about $54,000. The median income throughout America is about $71,000.

In my State, Bidenomics and President Biden's inflation is costing my people—the average family in Louisiana—an additional $757 a month—not a year, a month. That is $9,084 a year.

So imagine, in Louisiana, if you are at the median household income of $54,000 a year—that is you, a spouse, and children—and, all of a sudden, in the past year-and-a-half, under Bidenomics, you have got to come out of pocket an extra $9,000 a year. You are making $54,000 a year to support the family, and now, all of a sudden, you have got to come out—you have to find—an extra $9,000 just to tread water. Where are you going to get that money?

Maybe you saved up a little money from the stimulus checks, but that is probably gone. Maybe you have a savings account that you set aside, but that is probably gone now too. Maybe you have got a couple of credit cards, but you have maxed those out. Maybe you have a dream of sending your children to college and you have a college fund, but you have already had to dip into that. And there is no end in sight.

Now, that is the experience of the people in my State, from Bidenomics, and I think that is the experience across America. That is why I say that inflation—President Biden's inflation—has been a cancer on the American dream. And I can tell you that in Louisiana my people are getting really good at barely getting by, and there is no end in sight.

Now, I am pleased to be able to say that the rate of inflation has been coming down, and I hope it keeps coming down. Our last inflation numbers showed that. You will see them reported in the media. Inflation is now at 3 percent. That is sort of accurate. It is at 3 percent, but the reason it is at 3 percent is primarily because of the fall in the price of gasoline. Gasoline is still high, but the price of oil has come down because our economy and the world economy are so weak. So there is less demand for it.

But more important than overall inflation is what we call core inflation. That is what most economists look at. It would be core inflation because core—C-O-R-E—inflation looks at inflation without looking at energy or food, because energy and food can both be very volatile. Core inflation is at 4.8 percent, and it has been very sticky, still way over the Federal Reserve's targeted 2 percent.

But it has been coming down, and that is good news. But what does that mean? All it means is that the rate of increase in inflation has been slowing.

When you have inflation, let's say at 8 percent, and you get it down to 6 percent, that means that you have reduced the rate of increase of the prices. The economists call that disinflation. That doesn't mean that prices are going down. It just means that prices aren't rising as rapidly.

And if we can get core inflation down to 2 percent, that does not mean these high prices that I just quoted are going to go down. That would be deflation.

I regret to tell you, Mr. President—and I think you know what I am saying is accurate—these high prices are permanent. We are going to be stuck with a 24-percent increase in electricity. Even if we can get inflation down to zero percent, these high prices that have been caused by Bidenomics are permanent.

We are going to be stuck with coffee up 30 percent. I am not going to reread the list. That is why I say that inflation, the major product of Bidenomics, has been a cancer on the American dream.

Now, my people in Louisiana need every dollar they can get right now. The average family making $54,000 a year is now having to find an additional $9,000 a year, and that is not going to change. Their only hope is that it doesn't get worse.

So I want to call the attention of my people to tax refunds. A lot of my people get tax refunds. They get money back. They have money withheld from their paycheck, and, oftentimes, it is too much. And the State of Louisiana and the Federal Government owe them money in the form of a tax refund.

And sometimes my people in Louisiana are busy earning a living. They get up every day. They go to work. They obey the law. They pay their taxes. They try to teach their children morals. They try to do the right thing for their children. They get busy, and, sometimes, people forget to claim their tax refunds.

So I am here today, No. 1, to try to explain Bidenomics and tell the people of Louisiana and the people of America that I am sorry they are having to go through this. But, No. 2, I understand that every dollar counts. And please, please, please, check and see if you are due a tax refund.

For example, now, start with the State. The State of Louisiana is holding almost $12 million—$11,574,249—that is owed in tax refunds to the people of Louisiana. So 15,461 people are owed tax refunds, and they haven't claimed it. The average refund is about $750. You need to claim it, I say to my people. You need to claim it by August 28. If you don't claim it by August 28, you won't lose it. The money will be transferred to the Treasury Department and become part of what is called the Unclaimed Property Program, and then you just have to fill out more paperwork to get your money.

So if you think you have a tax refund due from the State of Louisiana, go get it by August 28. It is worth checking. All you have got to do is go to the department of revenue website: revenue.louisiana.gov—revenue.louisiana.gov.

Now, also, my department of revenue—thank you for doing this—just sent out letters to every one of these 15,461 people to whom the State owes a tax refund. Our department of revenue sent them a letter. Please open that letter and don't throw it away. This includes individuals and women and businessmen. All you have to do is open that letter. There is a voucher in there. You fill it out and send it back into the department of revenue, and you will get your money. So please do that. You earned it.

Now, at the Federal level, it is a little more complicated, to no one's surprise—at the Federal level. I tried to get the information from the IRS about how much is owed to my people in terms of Federal income tax refunds. You won't faint with surprise when I say it is hard to get them on the phone. And when we did get them on the phone, they said: We can't give you that information. If we told you, we would have to kill you.

So I went back and did some research. The most recent numbers I have are from 2019. In 2019, tax refunds in the amount of $22 million were owed to the people in Louisiana. These are Federal income tax refunds. This is 2019 now. I don't know what the current number is because the IRS won't tell me. But based on 2019 numbers, it is anywhere from $22 to $25 million, and based on 2019 numbers, about 22,000 Louisianians are owed Federal income tax refunds on top of the State income tax refunds.

And I want to encourage them to check to see if they have a Federal income tax refund. Here is what you need to do. You can call them if you like, but lots of luck. Go to www.irs.gov/refunds—www.irs.gov/refunds—and you can check to see if the IRS owes you a tax refund.

You are going to need your Social Security number, of course, or your taxpayer ID number. You are going to need your filing status. They want you

to tell them the exact amount of your refund. They have all that information, but they want you to tell it to them. Just don't argue with them. Just go ahead and do it, based off your tax return.

And you can make a claim there, online, and give them a reasonable amount of time, and you can get a check from the Federal Government as well.

I used to be the tax collector in Louisiana, and I can tell you that, for a variety of reasons, a lot of people—not just Louisianians but all across America—forget to claim their State income tax refund and/or their Federal income tax refund. So I hope they will take advantage of this.

I am sorry. I just want to say to them that I am sorry that the Federal Government has let them down. I am embarrassed about Bidenomics. I am sorry about this inflation. It is a cancer on the American dream. I am afraid it is going to be with us awhile. I hope I am wrong. But if we succeed in getting that rate of inflation down to 2 percent, that doesn't mean prices are going to go down. I wish I could sit here and tell you that. These higher prices are coming. What we are trying to do is just stop the increase and stop the crisis from going up so fast. So I hope you will take advantage of this information, not just in Louisiana but all across America, and go claim your tax refunds if you are owed.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The Senator from Vermont.

S. 2226

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, the Senate is now debating an $886 billion Defense authorization bill, and unless there are major changes to that bill, I intend to vote against it. Let me take a few minutes to explain why.

I think everybody in our country knows that we face enormous crises.

As a result of climate change, our planet is experiencing unprecedented and rising temperatures. Along with the rest of the world, we need to make major investments to transform our energy system away from fossil fuels and into energy efficiency and sustainable energy. If we do not do that—not only America but China and countries all over the world—the planet we are leaving our kids and future generations will become increasingly unhealthy and precarious. In fact, there are some who wonder whether the planet will continue to exist in years to come unless we move aggressively on this existential threat.

But it is not only climate change. Our healthcare system is broken, and it is dysfunctional—not a secret. Most Americans know that. While the insurance companies and the drug companies make hundreds of billions of dollars in profits, 85 million Americans are uninsured or underinsured. Unbelievably, our life expectancy, which is already lower than most major countries, is declining. Today, we have a massive shortage of doctors, nurses, mental health practitioners, and dentists—something that the committee I chair, the HELP Committee, is trying to address. But it is a reality today that our healthcare system is broken and dysfunctional.

Our educational system is teetering.

While we have one of the highest rates of childhood poverty of almost any major country, millions of parents in Vermont, Nevada, and all over this country are unable to find affordable and quality childcare. It is a major, major crisis which is only going to become worse as a result of the cliff that the childcare folks are going to be experiencing in a few months.

But it is not just childcare. When we talk about education, we should appreciate that the number of our young people who graduate from college today is falling further and further behind other countries. In other words, we need to have the best educated country on Earth in order to compete internationally. Yet other countries are seeing a greater percentage of their young people graduating college. One of the reasons is the high cost of college. Many young people do not want to go $50,000 or $100,000 in debt to get a college or graduate school degree. Today, we have 45 million Americans who are struggling under the weight of student debt—something that President Biden, I, and others have been trying to deal with.

But it is not only climate. It is not only healthcare. It is not only education. Today, all over this country, we are seeing a massive crisis in terms of low-income and affordable housing. While gentrification is causing rents to soar in many parts of our country, some 600,000 Americans are homeless. A few blocks away from right here in the Nation's Capital, there are people sleeping out in the streets. And we have some 18 million people who are spending more than half of their limited incomes on housing.

So that is what the country faces. We have a planetary crisis in terms of climate change. Our healthcare system is broken and dysfunctional. Our educational system is teetering. Our housing stock is totally inadequate. These are just some of the crises facing our country.

What is very clear, I think, to the American people and many people here in the Senate and those in the House is that we are not addressing those crises. We don't have any pretense—we are not addressing those crises. When is the last time the Presiding Officer has heard a serious debate here about how we address climate change, how we build up affordable housing, how we reform the healthcare system? It is not taking place. We are not addressing this. So that is one political reality that exists here in the Nation's Capital.

But there is another reality, and that is the reality of the Pentagon and military spending, and that is a whole other story. Every year, with seemingly little regard for the strategic picture facing our country, this body, the House and the Senate, votes to increase the military budget. It just happens. We don't worry about people sleeping on the street. We don't worry about people who don't have any healthcare. We don't worry about people who can't afford prescription drugs. Every year, the military budget—hey, more money.

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are over. Tens of thousands of American troops have returned home. Yet the Pentagon's budget continues to go up. Every year, despite sometimes very contentious partisan fights on all manner of things—you name it, big fights going on—Congress somehow comes together very quietly, with little debate, to vote for the one thing they agree on, and that is more and more money for the Pentagon.

Right now, despite all of the enormous needs facing working families in this country, over half of the Federal discretionary budget goes to the military. Got it? Over half of the Federal discretionary budget goes to the military.

I support a strong military. People don't have to convince me why we need a strong military. But I will oppose this legislation, this Defense authorization bill, for four major reasons.

First, more military spending right now is unnecessary. The United States remains the world's dominant military power and is in no danger of losing that position. Alone, we account for roughly 40 percent of global military spending. This comes despite the end of the war in Afghanistan and despite the fact that the United States now spends more on the military than the next 10 countries combined, most of which are our allies. We spend more than the next 10 countries combined, most of which are our allies. Last year, we spent more than 3 times what China is spending on the military, and more than 10 times what Russia spent.

While this year's National Defense Authorization Act would merely match the Pentagon's recordbreaking request, in most recent years, Congress has seen fit to give the Department of Defense more money than it even asks for. Imagine that. The 85 million people who are uninsured—we don't help them. People can't afford the high cost of prescription drugs—hardly doing anything on that. People sleeping out on the streets—can't do that. Kids can't afford to go to college—can't do that. But we have, year after year, given the Pentagon more money than they have even requested, requiring them to submit ''wish lists'' of items to Congress; in other words, tell us what more you need.

The Pentagon is routinely given so much taxpayer money that it literally doesn't know what to do with all the money Congress has thrown at them. According to the Government Accountability Office, the GAO, over an 11-year

period, the Pentagon returned an astonishing $128 billion in excess funds to the Treasury. In other words, we gave them so much money that they couldn't even spend it, and they had to return some of it.

So that is reason No. 1 why I oppose this legislation.

No. 2, the Pentagon cannot keep track of the dollars it already has, leading to massive waste, fraud, and abuse in the sprawling military-industrial complex. The Pentagon accounts for about two-thirds of all Federal contracting activity, obligating more money every year than all civilian Federal Agencies combined. Yet the Department of Defense remains the only major Federal Agency that cannot pass an independent audit more than 30 years after Congress required them to do so.

So we are throwing hundreds and hundreds of billions of dollars into the Pentagon. Thirty years ago, Congress said: We want an audit; we want to know what is going on—a reasonable request. It has only been 30 years, and we still have not gotten an independent audit.

Last year, the Department of Defense was unable to account for over half of its assets, which are in excess of $3 trillion, or roughly 78 percent of what the entire Federal Government owns. The Government Accountability Office, the GAO, reports that the Department of Defense still cannot accurately track its finances or capture and post transactions to the current accounts.

Each year, auditors find billions of dollars in the Pentagon's proverbial couch cushions—just money lying around, you know, that pops up here and there. In fiscal 2022, Navy auditors found $4.4 billion in untracked inventory—couldn't find it, but there was $4.4 billion—while Air Force auditors identified $5.2 billion worth of variances in its general ledger.

These problems are why Senator GRASSLEY and I have again introduced our Audit the Pentagon Act, with a number of cosponsors, which would force the Pentagon to get serious about their shortcomings by reducing by 1 percent the budget of any DOD component that cannot pass an audit. I don't think that is an unreasonable request.

A meaningful effort to address this waste should be undertaken before Congress throws more money at the Pentagon. Yet this absolutely necessary oversight is again missing from this bill. So it doesn't matter. Next year, we will learn that tens and tens of billions of dollars can't be accounted for. So what is the problem?

In June, the GAO found that in the preceding year, 1 single year, DOD's largest acquisition programs had seen cost estimates rise by $37 billion. It goes on and on and on. They come up with an estimate for a weapons system, and then they say: Oh, sorry, it turns out it is going to cost a lot more than we told you. This comes after decades in which we spent more than $2 trillion on ill-considered wars, in my view, in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Somehow, despite this incredible record of waste and fraud, the military-industrial complex escapes meaningful scrutiny.

The third point I want to make in opposition is that much of this additional military spending will go to line the pockets of hugely profitable defense contractors. It is corporate welfare by a different name. Almost half of the Pentagon budget goes to private contractors, some of whom are exploiting their monopoly positions and the trust granted them by the United States to line their pockets. Repeated investigations by the DOD inspector general, the GAO, and CBS News have uncovered numerous instances of contractors massively overcharging the Department of Defense, helping boost these companies' profit margins to nearly 40 percent and sometimes as high as over 4,000 percent, while costing U.S. taxpayers hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars. TransDigm, Lockheed Martin, Boeing, and Raytheon are among the offenders, dramatically overcharging taxpayers, while reaping enormous profits, seeing their stock prices soar, and handing out massive executive compensation packages.

Just one example, Lockheed Martin received $46 billion in unclassified Federal contracts last year, returned $11 billion to shareholders through dividends and stock buybacks, and paid its CEO $25 million. These companies are fully reliant on the U.S. taxpayer, yet their CEOs make over 100 times more than the Secretary of Defense and 500 percent more than the average newly enlisted servicemember.

TransDigm, the company behind the over 4,000-percent markup on spare parts, touted $3.1 billion in profits on $5.4 billion of net sales, almost boasting to investors about just how fully it was fleecing the taxpayers.

Indeed, over the past two decades, major defense contractors have paid billions of dollars in fines or related settlements for fraud or misconduct. Almost every major defense contractor has had to pay fines for fraud or misconduct. Just the other day—people may have seen it in the papers—the consulting firm of Booz Allen Hamilton was fined $377 million for overcharging the Defense Department. Yet these contracts never dry up.

That is why I introduced an amendment to this year's NDAA to require the Secretary of Defense to produce an updated report on defense contractor fraud. That amendment was not included in what we will be voting on.

Here is maybe the major point that I want to make: If the pandemic, the COVID pandemic, has taught us anything—and let us not forget for one minute that that pandemic cost us over 1 million lives—it is that national security relies on much more than just a strong military.

It is funny, as chairman of the HELP Committee, a couple of months ago, we had those people who are responsible for protecting this country against future pandemics before us. And the question that everybody asked them, Democrat and Republican, is: Hey, are we prepared for the next pandemic that is likely to come? Without exception, the leaders of the government Agencies whose job is to protect us for the next pandemic said: No, we are not prepared.

By the way, there are some right now who want to take money away from the Centers for Disease Control in this particular bill.

The point is that when you lose over 1 million people to a pandemic and when the scientists tell us there is a good chance that another one may come, that is a national security issue.

True security—if we are really looking at what true security is about—it means everything that we can do to improve the lives of ordinary Americans.

True security is that we address the crisis of a declining life expectancy. The gap between the lifespan of the wealthy and the working class is over 10 years. If you are working class in this country, you are going to die 10 years shorter than the wealthy. Is that not an issue of national security? Do we not want to make sure that all of our people, whether they are rich or poor or middle class, have the right to live full and productive and healthy lives? I think so. That is called national security.

National security has to do with the issue of education for our kids. How are we secure if our young people, from childcare to graduate school, are not getting the quality of education?

There are millions of children who today, in America, as we speak, are food insecure. There are days that go by when they are hungry. How do we talk about national security and not talk about the crisis of childhood hunger, not to mention childhood poverty in general?

How do we talk about national security when people are sleeping out on the street?

How do we, in any sense of the word, talk about national security without understanding the weather in Texas, in the southwest, is now hitting record-breaking levels? People are dying from the heat. Oceans are getting hotter. We are looking at drought. We are looking at extreme weather disturbances. My own State, just several weeks ago, experienced the worst natural disaster, torrential rainfalls that we haven't seen since 1927. That is national security. Whether people get forced out of their homes because of flooding, die from heat stroke—that is called national security.

This body—the Senate—could decide to have one or two fewer ballistic missile submarines, saving almost $15 billion over the next decade. And we could put that money—and it would go a long way—toward housing the homeless or feeding the 5 million children in this

country who are food insecure. Instead, day after day, here in Washington, many of my colleagues tell the American people that we just don't have the money. We can't do what every other major country on Earth does—guarantee healthcare to all people; we can't provide affordable housing; we can't provide affordable childcare; we can't provide nutrition to kids in America who are hungry. We just can't afford to do any of those things. But come to the military budget and all the lobbyists around here from the defense contractors, my God, we can't stop throwing money at them.

So what I would say is that the time is long overdue for our country to get our national priorities right, and one small step forward would be to say no to this very bloated and wasteful military budget and start reordering our priorities so that we pay attention to the needs of the middle class and working class and low-income people rather than just defense contractors.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, this is the 289th time that I have come to the Senate floor with my increasingly battered ''Time to Wake Up'' chart, to stir this Chamber to act on climate change.

Since 2016, I have been talking about the zettajoule. The zettajoule is the measure of how much fossil fuel emissions are heating up our oceans. In this season of extreme, record-smashing heat touching all 50 States, it is wild that elected representatives in Washington still choose to insulate themselves from reality, a reality measured in zettajoules.

A zettajoule is a number almost beyond comprehension in its size. One joule—J-O-U-L-E—is our standard unit of energy, and it applies to heat energy. A zettajoule is 1 joule with 21 zeros behind it. It is a truly massive number.

In a 2019 ''Time to Wake Up'' speech, I reported that more than nine zettajoules of heat energy was being added to the ocean annually. Since then, I have come to the floor with an updated number. Our oceans are absorbing around 14 zettajoules of excess heat every year.

Let's put that in context. The total energy consumption of all humankind amounts to about one-half of a zettajoule of energy per year. That means that for the fossil fuel component of that one-half of a zettajoule of energy, we pay the price of 14 added zettajoules of heat into the ocean every year.

Said another way, we load into our Earth's oceans every year nearly 30 times the entire energy use of the entire species on the entire planet. That is a big magnification.

If this is the zettajoules of excess heat absorbed into the oceans every year, that dot is the average annual energy consumption of the human species on the planet. For the price of the fossil fuel component of that, mankind's entire energy consumption in zettajoules, we suffer that load of heat energy going into the oceans.

That is a bit hard to comprehend, so consider one other unit of measure: the energy released by the detonation of the nuclear bomb America dropped on Hiroshima. In Hiroshima bomb terms, last year the ocean absorbed the equivalent of seven Hiroshima bombs detonating every second in the ocean. Every second of every day for the entire year, seven nuclear detonations' worth of heat into our oceans—per second.

This unfathomable amount of heat has been somewhat offset by La Nina, the cool phase of a recurring climate pattern called the El Nino Southern Oscillation, or ENSO. That is the acronym for the El Nino Southern Oscillation. The ENSO cycle consists of variations in sea surface temperature, rainfall, surface air pressure, and atmosphere circulation located over the Pacific Ocean near the Equator. And in that oscillation, La Nina is the name for the cooling period.

Well, in June, we left La Nina and moved into an El Nino period. El Nino is the warmer side of the ENSO cycle. We saw it raise temperatures in previous cycles in 1998 and 2016. All those zettajoules of excess heat being dumped into the Earth's oceans, and now we are headed into the warming part of the cycle. Watch for more heat records to fall.

One major consequence for us of hotter oceans is stronger hurricane activity. Hurricanes are powered up more by hotter water as they move over the Atlantic. This June, sea surface temperatures in the North Atlantic Ocean are the hottest in 170 years—the hottest in 170 years—9 whole degrees Fahrenheit above normal.

This is what is considered by science an ''extreme'' oceanic heat wave. And certain parts of the ocean are reaching the rare designation called ''beyond extreme.'' That is actually happening. On a scale from 1 to 5, the North Atlantic's heat is either category 4 or category 5, depending on where you are.

Bring it home to Florida. Water temperatures in Florida have hit records reaching as high as 101 degrees. That is not the air temperature, that is the ocean temperature. That is actually the recommended temperature for a hot tub. Indeed, that is the midpoint of the Jacuzzi Company's recommended range for its hot tub temperatures for healthy adults.

Now, doctors recommend that children under the age of 5 avoid hot tubs over 95 degrees, and pregnant women are advised to stay out of water once it gets much above 100 degrees. So the ocean off Florida is almost too hot for many humans.

''Almost too hot for humans'' means definitely too hot for many ocean creatures, particularly ocean corals. Coral reefs matter because they support a quarter of all known marine species.

Florida has the largest coral reef ecosystem in the continental United States, the third largest living barrier coral reef in the world. If you don't care about creatures and only care about money, well, Florida's protected waters contribute billions of tourism dollars to the Florida economy.

All of that is in jeopardy in this heat. According to NOAA, when temperatures reach 1 degree Celsius or about 2 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than normal, corals cross what is called their bleaching threshold. That is where they turn white as they evulse the living creatures that keep them alive, and that is a step on the way to death.

That is bad news, considering the temperatures around Florida have been running 5 degrees above normal. And the longer this goes on, the more trouble corals will have recovering.

We hear sometimes about 100-year or even 500-year storms. These are storms that are so extreme they are expected to occur only once every 100 or 500 years. Well, scientists have put this Florida heat wave off the charts. Ben Kirtman is the director of the Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Studies at the University of Miami. He said:

> If you just wrote a statistical model and said what are the chances of this level of warming, it would be 1 in 250,000 years.

Not 1 in 100 years, not 1 in 500 years, 1 in 250,000 years. If that is not a warning that it is time to wake up, I do not know what is.

Ultrarare weather events are not so rare anymore in this climate-changed world. This is not just happening in the United States, it is worldwide. This summer, most of the oceans on planet Earth have at least a 70-percent chance of experiencing what are called marine heat wave conditions.

The effects of marine heat waves read like Biblical plagues: decreased oxygen, dead zones, fish die-offs. And then come the weather effects: droughts in some places and increasingly deadly and dangerous storms in others because our oceans drive our weather on this planet.

Over the course of a weekend last month, thousands of dead fish washed up along the Texas gulf coast.

They died of lack of oxygen. Warm water holds much less oxygen than cold water. The ocean, through heat, becomes anoxic, and this slaughter results.

Again, if you don't care about creatures and only care about money, in the United States last year alone, there were 18 separate billion-dollar weather and climate disasters, exceeding $175 billion in total cost and, by the way, costing nearly 500 Americans their lives.

Aside from those sudden disasters, comes the slow and insidious changes ocean warming brings, like the accelerating creep of sea level rise across

your coast and mine. As ocean temperatures increase, two things happen: 1, ice in the Arctic and Antarctic melts, adding water to the ocean; and, 2, seawater expands—remember those zettajoules. Combined, the effects of melting ice sheets and expanding seawater volume increases sea levels along our coasts. That slow creep of sea level rise is not as slow as it used to be. The ocean rose more than twice as fast this decade as it did the previous decade. Last year, it set a new record high.

The news gets worse. There is a centuries-long time lag in the natural systems causing sea level rise, meaning we are only seeing the leading edge of what we have caused. Even if we stopped emitting greenhouse gases today, ocean levels would continue to rise for decades.

NOAA has predicted that the acceleration will continue; that sea level rise along the U.S. coastline will rise 10 to 12 inches just over the next 30 years, as much as the entire rise measured over the last century.

One way to help deal with this is through the National Coastal Resilience Fund, a grant program that restores, increases, and strengthens natural infrastructure to protect coastal communities and to protect habitats for fish and wildlife. The fund invests in conservation projects that restore or expand our natural protections: coastal marshes and wetlands, dunes and beach systems, oyster and coral reefs, coastal forests, rivers and flood plains, and barrier islands that minimize the impacts of storms and sea level rise, as well as other dangerous events like lost fisheries from ocean warming.

This program is so direly needed that it is vastly oversubscribed. In 2022, over $600 million of projects went unfunded because there simply wasn't enough money in the program. Nearly half a billion dollars in unfunded protections for vulnerable coastal communities requesting Federal assistance.

I will give you one example of where this program is important. In 2019, the fund awarded $1 million to the Alaskan Native village of Shaktoolik to restore coastal dune habitat and to construct a natural storm surge berm. Well, last year, along came Typhoon Merbok and devastated parts of the Alaskan coastline. Shaktoolik was at the epicenter of the typhoon. The berm successfully protected the community from devastating coastal flooding. As one resident noted, ''The berm saved our lives.'' That is the value of resiliency, planning, and investment.

But more than just brace ourselves for the baked-in effects of fossil fuel emissions poisoning our planet, we need to head off climate change at the oil spigot. That means taking on the fossil fuel industry's increasingly desperate lies and its well-funded political juggernaut that does such evil in this building. We know how to solve this problem; we just don't do it, because fossil fuel fingers creep through so many corners of the Capitol.

In the time it took me to deliver this speech, around 6,000 Hiroshima bombs of excess heat energy were put into our oceans. Every day, it is getting worse. We completely underestimate how bad things are going to get—completely. Even people who care about climate change and believe that it is real and aren't in tow to the fossil fuel industry and its dark money, they still completely underestimate how bad this is going to get. And the tragedy is, it has always been preventable simply by moving to a productive, economically valuable, clean energy future and stopping our indulgence of fossil fuel pollution and obstruction. If what is going on with climate change heat going into our oceans is not enough to wake us up, I do not know what will. It is certainly—certainly—time to wake up.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I would like to go through some of the materials that would ordinarily be in the evening wrap-up, but nobody watching should think we are in evening wrap-up. We are still expecting a great number of votes this evening when everything gets worked out.

RECRUIT AND RETAIN ACT

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 86, S. 546.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 546) to amend the Omnibus Crime control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize law enforcement agencies to use COPS grants for recruitment activities, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on the Judiciary with an amendment, as follows:

(The part of the bill intended to be stricken is in boldfaced brackets, and the part of the bill intended to be inserted is in italic.)

S. 546

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 ''Recruit and Retain Act''.

SEC. 2. IMPROVING COPS GRANTS FOR POLICE HIRING PURPOSES.

(a) GRANT USE EXPANSION.—Section 1701(b) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381(b)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (5) through (23) as paragraphs (6) through (24), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

''(5) to support hiring activities by law enforcement agencies experiencing declines in officer recruitment applications by reducing application-related fees, such as fees for background checks, psychological evaluations, and testing**[.]**''.

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 1701(b)(23) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381(b)(23)) is amended by striking ''(21)'' and inserting ''(22)''.

SEC. 3. ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.

Section 1701 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (i) through (n) as subsections (j) through (o), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (h) the following:

''(i) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Not more than 2 percent of a grant made for the hiring or rehiring of additional career law enforcement officers may be used for costs incurred to administer such grant.''.

SEC. 4. PIPELINE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.

Section 1701 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381) is amended by inserting after subsection (o) the following:

''(p) COPS PIPELINE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.—

''(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'eligible entity' means a law enforcement agency in partnership with not less than 1 educational institution, which may include 1 or any combination of the following:

''(A) An elementary school.

''(B) A secondary school.

''(C) An institution of higher education.

''(D) A Hispanic-serving institution.

''(E) A historically Black college or university.

''(F) A Tribal college.

''(2) GRANTS.—The Attorney General shall award competitive grants to eligible entities for recruiting activities that—

''(A) support substantial student engagement for the exploration of potential future career opportunities in law enforcement;

''(B) strengthen recruitment by law enforcement agencies experiencing a decline in recruits, or high rates of resignations or retirements;

''(C) enhance community interactions between local youth and law enforcement agencies that are designed to increase recruiting; and

''(D) otherwise improve the outcomes of local law enforcement recruitment through activities such as dedicated programming for students, work-based learning opportunities, project-based learning, mentoring, community liaisons, career or job fairs, work site visits, job shadowing, apprenticeships, or skills-based internships.

''(3) FUNDING.—Of the amounts made available to carry out this part for a fiscal year, the Attorney General may use not more than $3,000,000 to carry out this subsection.''.

SEC. 5. COPS GRANT GUIDANCE FOR AGENCIES OPERATING BELOW BUDGETED STRENGTH.

Section 1704 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10384) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) GUIDANCE FOR UNDERSTAFFED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) COVERED APPLICANT.—The term 'covered applicant' means an applicant for a hiring grant under this part seeking funding for a law enforcement agency operating below the budgeted strength of the law enforcement agency.

''(B) BUDGETED STRENGTH.—The term 'budgeted strength' means the employment of the maximum number of sworn law enforcement officers the budget of a law enforcement agency allows the agency to employ.

''(2) PROCEDURES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall establish consistent procedures for covered applicants, including guidance that—

''(A) clarifies that covered applicants remain eligible for funding under this part; and

''(B) enables covered applicants to attest that the funding from a grant awarded under this part is not being used by the law enforcement agency to supplant State or local funds, as described in subsection (a).

''(3) PAPERWORK REDUCTION.—In developing the procedures and guidance under paragraph (2), the Attorney General shall take measures to reduce paperwork requirements for grants to covered applicants.''.

SEC. 6. STUDY ON POLICE RECRUITMENT.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study to consider the comprehensive effects of recruitment and attrition rates on Federal, State, Tribal, and local law enforcement agencies in the United States, to identify—

(A) the primary reasons that law enforcement officers—

(i) join law enforcement agencies; and

(ii) resign or retire from law enforcement agencies;

(B) how the reasons described in subparagraph (A) may have changed over time;

(C) the effects of recruitment and attrition on public safety;

(D) the effects of electronic media on recruitment efforts;

(E) barriers to the recruitment and retention of Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers; and

(F) recommendations for potential ways to address barriers to the recruitment and retention of law enforcement officers, including the barriers identified in subparagraph (E).

(2) REPRESENTATIVE CROSS-SECTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall endeavor to ensure accurate representation of law enforcement agencies in the study conducted pursuant to paragraph (1) by surveying a broad cross-section of law enforcement agencies—

(i) from various regions of the United States;

(ii) of different sizes; and

(iii) from rural, suburban, and urban jurisdictions.

(B) METHODS DESCRIPTION.—The study conducted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include in the report under subsection (b) a description of the methods used to identify a representative sample of law enforcement agencies.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 540 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report containing the study conducted under subsection (a); and

(2) make the report submitted under paragraph (1) publicly available online.

(c) CONFIDENTIALITY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall ensure that the study conducted under subsection (a) protects the privacy of participating law enforcement agencies.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I further ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. I know of no further debate on the bill, as amended.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 546), as amended, was passed, as follows:

S. 546

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 ''Recruit and Retain Act''.

SEC. 2. IMPROVING COPS GRANTS FOR POLICE HIRING PURPOSES.

(a) GRANT USE EXPANSION.—Section 1701(b) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381(b)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (5) through (23) as paragraphs (6) through (24), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

''(5) to support hiring activities by law enforcement agencies experiencing declines in officer recruitment applications by reducing application-related fees, such as fees for background checks, psychological evaluations, and testing;''.

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 1701(b)(23) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381(b)(23)) is amended by striking ''(21)'' and inserting ''(22)''.

SEC. 3. ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.

Section 1701 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (i) through (n) as subsections (j) through (o), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (h) the following:

''(i) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Not more than 2 percent of a grant made for the hiring or rehiring of additional career law enforcement officers may be used for costs incurred to administer such grant.''.

SEC. 4. PIPELINE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.

Section 1701 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381) is amended by inserting after subsection (o) the following:

''(p) COPS PIPELINE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.—

''(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'eligible entity' means a law enforcement agency in partnership with not less than 1 educational institution, which may include 1 or any combination of the following:

''(A) An elementary school.

''(B) A secondary school.

''(C) An institution of higher education.

''(D) A Hispanic-serving institution.

''(E) A historically Black college or university.

''(F) A Tribal college.

''(2) GRANTS.—The Attorney General shall award competitive grants to eligible entities for recruiting activities that—

''(A) support substantial student engagement for the exploration of potential future career opportunities in law enforcement;

''(B) strengthen recruitment by law enforcement agencies experiencing a decline in recruits, or high rates of resignations or retirements;

''(C) enhance community interactions between local youth and law enforcement agencies that are designed to increase recruiting; and

''(D) otherwise improve the outcomes of local law enforcement recruitment through activities such as dedicated programming for students, work-based learning opportunities, project-based learning, mentoring, community liaisons, career or job fairs, work site visits, job shadowing, apprenticeships, or skills-based internships.

''(3) FUNDING.—Of the amounts made available to carry out this part for a fiscal year, the Attorney General may use not more than $3,000,000 to carry out this subsection.''.

SEC. 5. COPS GRANT GUIDANCE FOR AGENCIES OPERATING BELOW BUDGETED STRENGTH.

Section 1704 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10384) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(d) GUIDANCE FOR UNDERSTAFFED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) COVERED APPLICANT.—The term 'covered applicant' means an applicant for a hiring grant under this part seeking funding for a law enforcement agency operating below the budgeted strength of the law enforcement agency.

''(B) BUDGETED STRENGTH.—The term 'budgeted strength' means the employment of the maximum number of sworn law enforcement officers the budget of a law enforcement agency allows the agency to employ.

''(2) PROCEDURES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall establish consistent procedures for covered applicants, including guidance that—

''(A) clarifies that covered applicants remain eligible for funding under this part; and

''(B) enables covered applicants to attest that the funding from a grant awarded under this part is not being used by the law enforcement agency to supplant State or local funds, as described in subsection (a).

''(3) PAPERWORK REDUCTION.—In developing the procedures and guidance under paragraph (2), the Attorney General shall take measures to reduce paperwork requirements for grants to covered applicants.''.

SEC. 6. STUDY ON POLICE RECRUITMENT.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study to consider the comprehensive effects of recruitment and attrition rates on Federal, State, Tribal, and local law enforcement agencies in the United States, to identify—

(A) the primary reasons that law enforcement officers—

(i) join law enforcement agencies; and

(ii) resign or retire from law enforcement agencies;

(B) how the reasons described in subparagraph (A) may have changed over time;

(C) the effects of recruitment and attrition on public safety;

(D) the effects of electronic media on recruitment efforts;

(E) barriers to the recruitment and retention of Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers; and

(F) recommendations for potential ways to address barriers to the recruitment and retention of law enforcement officers, including the barriers identified in subparagraph (E).

(2) REPRESENTATIVE CROSS-SECTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall endeavor to ensure accurate representation of law enforcement agencies in the study conducted pursuant to paragraph (1) by surveying a broad cross-section of law enforcement agencies—

(i) from various regions of the United States;

(ii) of different sizes; and

(iii) from rural, suburban, and urban jurisdictions.

(B) METHODS DESCRIPTION.—The study conducted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include in the report under subsection (b) a description of the methods used to identify a representative sample of law enforcement agencies.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 540 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report containing the study conducted under subsection (a); and

(2) make the report submitted under paragraph (1) publicly available online.

(c) CONFIDENTIALITY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall ensure that the study conducted under subsection (a) protects the privacy of participating law enforcement agencies.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

STRONG COMMUNITIES ACT OF 2023

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 87, S. 994.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 994) to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide that COPS grants funds may be used for local law enforcement recruits to attend schools or academies if the recruits agree to serve in precincts of law enforcement agencies in their communities.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on the Judiciary, with amendments, as follows:

(The parts of the bill intended to be stricken are in boldfaced brackets and the parts of the bill intended to be inserted are in italic.)

S. 994

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 ''Strong Communities Act of 2023''.

SEC. 2. STRONG COMMUNITIES PROGRAM.

Section 1701 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381) is amended **—**

[(1) by redesignating subsection (m) as subsection (n); and

[(2) by **[**inserting after subsection (l)**]** *adding at the end* the following:

''(**[**m**]***o*) COPS STRONG COMMUNITIES PROGRAM.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means—

''(i) an institution of higher education, as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001), that, in coordination or through an agreement with a local law enforcement agency, offers a law enforcement training program; or

''(ii) a local law enforcement agency that offers a law enforcement training program.

''(B) LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.—The term 'local law enforcement agency' means an agency of a State, unit of local government, or Indian Tribe that is authorized by law or by a government agency to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of any violation of criminal law.

''(2) GRANTS.—The Attorney General may use amounts otherwise appropriated to carry out this section for a fiscal year (beginning with fiscal year 2023) to make competitive grants to local law enforcement agencies to be used for officers and recruits to attend law enforcement training programs at eligible entities if the officers and recruits agree to serve in law enforcement agencies in their communities.

''(3) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a grant through a local law enforcement agency under this subsection, each officer or recruit described in paragraph (2) shall—

''(A) serve as a full-time law enforcement officer for a total of not fewer than 4 years during the 8-year period beginning on the date on which the officer or recruit completes a law enforcement training program for which the officer or recruit receives benefits;

''(B) complete the service described in subparagraph (A) in a local law enforcement agency located within—

''(i) 7 miles of the residence of the officer or recruit where the officer or recruit has resided for not fewer than 5 years; or

''(ii) if the officer or recruit resides in a county with fewer than 150,000 residents, within 20 miles of the residence of the officer or recruit where the officer or recruit has resided for not fewer than 5 years; and

''(C) submit to the eligible entity providing a law enforcement training program to the officer or recruit evidence of employment of the officer or recruit in the form of a certification by the chief administrative officer of the local law enforcement agency where the officer or recruit is employed.

''(4) REPAYMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If an officer or recruit does not complete the service described in paragraph (3), the officer or recruit shall submit to the local law enforcement agency an amount equal to any benefits the officer or recruit received through the local law enforcement agency under this subsection.

''(B) REGULATIONS.—The Attorney General shall promulgate regulations that establish categories of extenuating circumstances under which an officer or recruit may be excused from repayment under subparagraph (A).''.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I further ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendments be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendments were agreed to.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I know of no further debate on the bill, as amended.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 994), as amended, was passed, as follows:

S. 994

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 ''Strong Communities Act of 2023''.

SEC. 2. STRONG COMMUNITIES PROGRAM.

Section 1701 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10381) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(o) COPS STRONG COMMUNITIES PROGRAM.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means—

''(i) an institution of higher education, as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001), that, in coordination or through an agreement with a local law enforcement agency, offers a law enforcement training program; or

''(ii) a local law enforcement agency that offers a law enforcement training program.

''(B) LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.—The term 'local law enforcement agency' means an agency of a State, unit of local government, or Indian Tribe that is authorized by law or by a government agency to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of any violation of criminal law.

''(2) GRANTS.—The Attorney General may use amounts otherwise appropriated to carry out this section for a fiscal year (beginning with fiscal year 2023) to make competitive grants to local law enforcement agencies to be used for officers and recruits to attend law enforcement training programs at eligible entities if the officers and recruits agree to serve in law enforcement agencies in their communities.

''(3) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a grant through a local law enforcement agency under this subsection, each officer or recruit described in paragraph (2) shall—

''(A) serve as a full-time law enforcement officer for a total of not fewer than 4 years during the 8-year period beginning on the date on which the officer or recruit completes a law enforcement training program for which the officer or recruit receives benefits;

''(B) complete the service described in subparagraph (A) in a local law enforcement agency located within—

''(i) 7 miles of the residence of the officer or recruit where the officer or recruit has resided for not fewer than 5 years; or

''(ii) if the officer or recruit resides in a county with fewer than 150,000 residents, within 20 miles of the residence of the officer or recruit where the officer or recruit has resided for not fewer than 5 years; and

''(C) submit to the eligible entity providing a law enforcement training program to the officer or recruit evidence of employment of the officer or recruit in the form of a certification by the chief administrative officer of the local law enforcement agency where the officer or recruit is employed.

''(4) REPAYMENT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If an officer or recruit does not complete the service described in paragraph (3), the officer or recruit shall submit to the local law enforcement agency an amount equal to any benefits the officer or recruit received through the local law enforcement agency under this subsection.

''(B) REGULATIONS.—The Attorney General shall promulgate regulations that establish categories of extenuating circumstances under which an officer or recruit may be excused from repayment under subparagraph (A).''.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2023

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 88, S. 1387.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1387) to reauthorize the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program Authorization Act of 2018, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on the Judiciary with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Project Safe Neighborhoods Reauthorization Act of 2023''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Launched in 2001, the Project Safe Neighborhoods program is a nationwide initiative that brings together Federal, State, local, and Tribal law enforcement officials, prosecutors, community leaders, and other stakeholders to identify the most pressing crime problems in a community and work collaboratively to address those problems.

(2) The Project Safe Neighborhoods program—

(A) operates in all 94 Federal judicial districts throughout the 50 States and territories of the United States; and

(B) implements 4 key components to successfully reduce violent crime in communities, including community engagement, prevention and intervention, focused and strategic enforcement, and accountability.

SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 2 of the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program Authorization Act of 2018 (34 U.S.C. 60701) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) as paragraphs (2), (4), and (5), respectively;

(2) by inserting before paragraph (2), as so redesignated, the following:

''(1) the term 'crime analyst' means an individual employed by a law enforcement agency for the purpose of separating information into key components and contributing to plans of action to understand, mitigate, and neutralize criminal threats;''; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (2), as so redesignated, the following:

''(3) the term 'law enforcement assistant' means an individual employed by a law enforcement agency or a prosecuting agency for the purpose of aiding law enforcement officers in investigative or administrative duties;''.

(b) USE OF FUNDS.—Section 4(b) of the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program Authorization Act of 2018 (34 U.S.C. 60703(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) hiring crime analysts to assist with violent crime reduction efforts;

''(6) the cost of overtime for law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and law enforcement assistants that assist with the Program; and

''(7) purchasing, implementing, and using technology to assist with violent crime reduction efforts.''.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 6 of the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program Authorization Act of 2018 (34 U.S.C. 60705) is amended by striking ''fiscal years 2019 through 2021'' and inserting ''fiscal years 2024 through 2028''.

SEC. 4. TASK FORCE SUPPORT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Officer Ella Grace French and Sergeant Jim Smith Task Force Support Act of 2023''.

(b) AMENDMENT.—Section 4(b) of the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program Authorization Act of 2018 (34 U.S.C. 60703(b)), as amended by section 3(b), is amended—

(1) in paragraph (6), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(8) support for multi-jurisdictional task forces.''.

SEC. 5. TRANSPARENCY.

Not less frequently than annually, the Attorney General shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report that details, for each area in which the Project Safe Neighborhoods Block Grant Program operates and with respect to the 1-year period preceding the date of the report—

(1) how the area spent funds under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Block Grant Program;

(2) the community outreach efforts performed in the area; and

(3) the number and a description of the violent crime offenses committed in the area, including murder, non-negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I further ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I know of no further debate on the bill, as amended.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 1387), as amended, was passed.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

MISSING CHILDREN'S ASSISTANCE REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2023

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 2051 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2051) to reauthorize the Missing Children's Assistance Act, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I know of no further debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 2051) was passed, as follows:

S. 2051

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 ''Missing Children's Assistance Reauthorization Act of 2023''.

SEC. 2. MISSING CHILDREN'S ASSISTANCE ACT AMENDMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—Section 403 of the Missing Children's Assistance Act (34 U.S.C. 11292) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) the term 'child sexual abuse material' has the meaning given the term 'child pornography' in section 2256 of title 18, United States Code;

''(6) the term 'child sexual exploitation' means the sexual victimization or abuse of a child;

''(7) the term 'sexting' means sending and receiving messages containing sexually explicit, nude, or partially nude images by cell phone or messaging application;

''(8) the term 'sextortion'—

''(A) means sexual exploitation in which coercion, a threat, or blackmail, is used to cause a child to—

''(i) provide child sexual abuse material; or

''(ii) agree to engage in sexual activity; and

''(B) may involve a threat to publicly disclose nude or sexual images of a child if the child does not comply with a demand to—

''(i) engage in conduct described in clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A); or

''(ii) provide financial payment; and

''(9) the term 'sexually exploited child' means a child who has been victimized by any form of sexual exploitation, including—

''(A) the live-streaming, production, distribution, or possession of child sexual abuse material;

''(B) enticement for sexual abuse;

''(C) sexual molestation or abuse;

''(D) sextortion; and

''(E) child sex trafficking.''.

(2) DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATOR.—Section 404 of the Missing Children's Assistance Act (34 U.S.C. 11293) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(6)(E), by striking ''the tipline established'' and inserting ''the CyberTipline established''; and

(B) in subsection (b)(1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in clause (i)—

(aa) by striking ''hotline by which'' and inserting ''call center to which''; and

(bb) by striking ''individuals may report'' and all that follows and inserting ''individuals may—

''(I) report child sexual exploitation and the location of any missing child; and

''(II) request information pertaining to procedures necessary to reunite such child with such child's parent;'';

(II) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii); and

(III) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

''(ii) manage the AMBER Alert Secondary Distribution Program; and'';

(ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking ''with their families'' and inserting ''with their parents'';

(iii) in subparagraph (F), by striking ''to families'' and inserting ''to parents'';

(iv) by striking subparagraph (G) and inserting the following:

''(G) provide technical assistance and case-related resources, including—

''(i) referrals to—

''(I) child-serving professionals involved in helping to recover missing and exploited children; and

''(II) law enforcement officers in their efforts to identify, locate, and recover missing and exploited children; and

''(ii) searching public records databases and publicly accessible open source data to—

''(I) locate and identify potential abductors and offenders involved in attempted or actual abductions; and

''(II) identify, locate, and recover abducted children;'';

(v) in subparagraph (H), by inserting ''on long-term missing child cases'' after ''techniques to assist'';

(vi) by striking subparagraph (I) and inserting the following:

''(I) provide training, technical assistance, and information to—

''(i) nongovernmental organizations with respect to procedures and resources to conduct background checks on individuals working with children; and

''(ii) law enforcement agencies with respect to identifying and locating noncompliant sex offenders;'';

(vii) in subparagraph (J), by striking ''with their families'' and inserting ''with their parents'';

(viii) in subparagraph (K)—

(I) in clause (i)—

(aa) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking ''tipline'' and inserting ''CyberTipline'';

(bb) in subclause (I)—

(AA) in item (aa), by striking ''child pornography'' and inserting ''child sexual abuse material''; and

(BB) in item (ee), by striking ''extra-familial''; and

(cc) in subclause (II)—

(AA) by striking ''tipline'' and inserting ''CyberTipline''; and

(BB) by adding ''and'' at the end;

(II) in clause (ii)—

(aa) by striking ''child pornography'' and inserting ''child sexual abuse material'';

(bb) by inserting ''and'' after ''other sexual crimes''; and

(cc) by striking ''; and'' at the end and inserting '', including by providing information on legal remedies available to such victims;''; and

(III) by striking clause (iii);

(ix) by redesignating subparagraphs (L) through (O) as subparagraphs (M) through (P), respectively;

(x) by inserting after subparagraph (K) the following:

''(L) provide support services, consultation, and assistance to missing and sexually exploited children, parents, their families, and child-serving professionals on—

''(i) recovery support, including counseling recommendations and community support;

''(ii) family and peer support;

''(iii) the removal of child sexual abuse material and sexually exploitive content depicting children from the internet, including by facilitating requests to providers (as defined in section 2258E of title 18, United States Code) to remove visual depictions of victims that—

''(I) constitute or are associated with child sexual abuse material; or

''(II) do not constitute child sexual abuse material but are sexually suggestive;'';

(xi) in subparagraph (M), as so redesignated—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting ''educational'' before ''information to families'';

(II) in clause (i)—

(aa) by striking ''child abduction and'' and inserting ''missing children and child''; and

(bb) by adding ''and'' at the end; and

(III) by striking clauses (ii) and (iii) and inserting the following:

''(ii) internet safety, including tips and strategies to promote safety for children using technology (including social media) and reduce risk relating to—

''(I) cyberbullying;

''(II) child sex trafficking;

''(III) youth-produced child sexual abuse material or sexting;

''(IV) sextortion; and

''(V) online enticement;'';

(xii) in subparagraph (N), as so redesignated, by inserting ''and preventing child sexual exploitation'' after ''recovering such children'';

(xiii) by striking subparagraph (O), as so redesignated, and inserting the following:

''(O) assist the efforts of law enforcement agencies and State child welfare agencies to—

''(i) coordinate on the reporting, documentation, and resolution of cases involving children missing from a State child welfare system; and

''(ii) respond to foster children missing from a State child welfare system; and''; and

(xiv) in subparagraph (P), as so redesignated, by inserting ''and recovery support services'' after ''technical assistance''.

(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 409(a) of the Missing Children's Assistance Act (34 U.S.C. 11297(a)) is amended by striking ''$40,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2014 through 2023, up to $32,200,000'' and inserting ''$49,300,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028, up to $41,500,000''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall take effect on October 1, 2023.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING THE EFFORTS OF THE COAST GUARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MARITIME BORDER SECURITY

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration and that the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 166.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 166) honoring the efforts of the Coast Guard for excellence in maritime border security.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; that the Cruz amendment to the preamble, which is at the desk, be considered and agreed to; that the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider to be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 166) was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 1066) to the preamble was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble)

In the third whereas clause, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), strike ''through'' and insert ''executing Coast Guard missions across the world, including the''.

In the third whereas clause, in paragraph (1), strike ''15,000'' and insert ''17,000''.

In the third whereas clause, in paragraph (2), strike ''6,300'' and insert ''6,000 at sea''.

In the third whereas clause, in paragraph (2), strike ''100'' and insert ''90''.

In the third whereas clause, in paragraph (3), strike ''interdicted approximately 12,500 illegal immigrants'' and insert ''conducted approximately 12,500 migrant interdictions''.

In the third whereas clause, in paragraph (3), strike ''150'' and insert ''over 350''.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 166

Whereas, since 1790, the Coast Guard has safeguarded the people of the United States and promoted national security, border security, and economic prosperity in a complex and evolving maritime environment;

Whereas the over 50,000 members of the Coast Guard—

(1) operate a multi-mission, interoperable fleet of 259 cutters, 200 fixed and rotary-wing aircraft, and over 1,600 boats;

(2) operate 9 Coast Guard Districts and 37 sectors located at strategic ports throughout the country;

(3) exercise operational control of surface and air assets vested in 2 Coast Guard geographical Areas, the Pacific and the Atlantic; and

(4) provide maritime safety and security along more than 95,000 miles of coastline of the United States, Great Lakes, inland waterways, 4,500,000 square miles of exclusive economic zone of the United States, and on the high seas;

Whereas, in fiscal year 2022, executing Coast Guard missions across the world, including the protection of the maritime borders of the United States, the Coast Guard—

(1) interdicted over 330,000 pounds of cocaine, over 60,000 pounds of marijuana, and over 17,000 pounds of other narcotics;

(2) conducted over 6,000 at sea boardings of United States fishing vessels and interdicted approximately 90 foreign fishing incursions; and

(3) conducted approximately 12,500 migrant interdictions, an increase of over 350 percent from 2021; and

Whereas, through selfless and dedicated service, the Coast Guard and Coast Guardsmen have remained ''Always Ready'' to promote the highest level of maritime border security, ensuring the United States and the people of the United States are safeguarded from complex and evolving maritime threats: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) is grateful to the men and women who proudly serve in the Coast Guard to protect

the people of the United States by ensuring the highest level of maritime border security; and

(2) congratulates the Coast Guard on exemplary service and dedication to the United States.

OBSERVING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and that the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 288.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 288) observing the 150th anniversary of Vanderbilt University.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 288) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of July 11, 2023, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions, introduced earlier today: S. Res. 313, S. Res. 314, S. Res. 315, and S. Res. 317.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions, en bloc.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, in two criminal cases pending in Federal district court in the District of Columbia and arising out of the events of January 6, 2021, the prosecution has requested testimony from a Senate witness.

In these cases, brought against Mark Sahady and Leo Brent Bozell IV, trials are expected to commence on August 21, 2023, and September 6, 2023, respectively, and the prosecution has requested testimony from Daniel Schwager, formerly counsel to the Secretary of the Senate, concerning his knowledge and observations of the process and constitutional and legal bases for Congress's counting of the electoral college votes. Senate Secretary Berry would like to cooperate with these requests by providing relevant testimony in these trials from Mr. Schwager.

In keeping with the rules and practices of the Senate, these resolutions would authorize the production of relevant testimony from Mr. Schwager, with representation by the Senate Legal Counsel.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

HONORING THE LIFE OF LOWELL PALMER WEICKER, JR., FORMER SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Lastly, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 316, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 316) honoring the life of Lowell Palmer Weicker, Jr., former Senator for the State of Connecticut.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 316) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REED. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024—Continued

With that, I would yield to the majority leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HASSAN). The majority leader.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order to call up the following amendments to S. 2226: Cruz, 421; Wicker, 1055; Paul, 438; Barrasso, 999; Sanders, 1030; Cardin, 705; Marshall, 874; Gillibrand, 1065; Kennedy, 1034; Hawley, 1058; and Menendez, 638; further, that with respect to the amendments listed above, at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate vote on the amendments in the order listed, with no further amendments or motions in order, and with 60 affirmative votes required for adoption, and that there be 2 minutes equally divided prior to each vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the substitute amendment No. 935 to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Reed substitute amendment No. 935 to Calendar No. 119, S. 2226, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Raphael G. Warnock, Angus S. King, Jr., Sherrod Brown, Tim Kaine, Tina Smith, Mark Kelly, Debbie Stabenow, Jon Tester, Jeanne Shaheen, Catherine Cortez Masto, Joe Manchin III, Richard J. Durbin, Chris Van Hollen, Alex Padilla, Gary C. Peters.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to S. 2226 to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Calendar No. 119, S. 2226, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Raphael G. Warnock, Angus S. King, Jr., Sherrod Brown, Tim Kaine, Tina Smith, Mark Kelly, Debbie Stabenow, Jon Tester, Jeanne Shaheen, Catherine Cortez Masto, Joe Manchin III, Richard J. Durbin, Chris Van Hollen, Alex Padilla, Gary C. Peters.

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, July 26, be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, for the information of Senators, we will begin a series of three rollcall votes at 8 p.m. this evening.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

AMENDMENT NO. 421

Mr. CRUZ. I call up my amendment No. 421, and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Texas [Mr. CRUZ] proposes an amendment numbered 421 to amendment No. 935.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To provide remedies to members of the Armed Forces discharged or subject to adverse action under the COVID–19 vaccine mandate)

At the appropriate place in title V, insert the following:

SEC. ___. REMEDIES FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES DISCHARGED OR SUBJECT TO ADVERSE ACTION UNDER THE COVID–19 VACCINE MANDATE.

(a) LIMITATION ON IMPOSITION OF NEW MANDATE.—The Secretary of Defense may not issue any COVID–19 vaccine mandate as a replacement for the mandate rescinded under section 525 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 absent a further act of Congress expressly authorizing a replacement mandate.

(b) REMEDIES.—Section 736 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117–81; 10 U.S.C. 1161 note prec.) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**TO OBEY LAWFUL ORDER TO RECEIVE**'' and inserting ''**TO RECEIVE**'';

(2) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking ''a lawful order'' and inserting ''an order''; and

(B) by striking ''shall be'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''shall be an honorable discharge.'';

(3) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (e); and

(4) by inserting after subsection (a) the following new subsections:

''(b) PROHIBITION ON ADVERSE ACTION.—The Secretary of Defense may not take any adverse action against a covered member based solely on the refusal of such member to receive a vaccine for COVID–19.

''(c) REMEDIES AVAILABLE FOR A COVERED MEMBER DISCHARGED OR SUBJECT TO ADVERSE ACTION BASED ON COVID–19 STATUS.—At the election of a covered member discharged or subject to adverse action based on the member's COVID–19 vaccination status, and upon application through a process established by the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary shall—

''(1) adjust to 'honorable discharge' the status of the member if—

''(A) the member was separated from the Armed Forces based solely on the failure of the member to obey an order to receive a vaccine for COVID–19; and

''(B) the discharge status of the member would have been an 'honorable discharge' but for the refusal to obtain such vaccine;

''(2) reinstate the member to service at the highest grade held by the member immediately prior to the involuntary separation, allowing, however, for any reduction in rank that was not related to the member's COVID–19 vaccination status, with an effective date of reinstatement as of the date of involuntary separation;

''(3) for any member who was subject to any adverse action other than involuntary separation based solely on the member's COVID–19 vaccination status—

''(A) restore the member to the highest grade held prior to such adverse action, allowing, however, for any reduction in rank that was not related to the member's COVID–19 vaccination status, with an effective date of reinstatement as of the date of involuntary separation; and

''(B) compensate such member for any pay and benefits lost as a result of such adverse action;

''(4) expunge from the service record of the member any adverse action, to include nonpunitive adverse action and involuntary separation, as well as any reference to any such adverse action, based solely on COVID–19 vaccination status; and

''(5) include the time of involuntary separation of the member reinstated under paragraph (2) in the computation of the retired or retainer pay of the member.

''(d) RETENTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF UNVACCINATED MEMBERS.—The Secretary of Defense shall—

''(1) make every effort to retain covered members who are not vaccinated against COVID–19 and provide such members with professional development, promotion and leadership opportunities, and consideration equal to that of their peers;

''(2) only consider the COVID–19 vaccination status of a covered member in making deployment, assignment, and other operational decisions where—

''(A) the law or regulations of a foreign country require covered members to be vaccinated against COVID–19 in order to enter that country; and

''(B) the covered member's presence in that foreign country is necessary in order to perform their assigned role; and

''(3) for purposes of deployments, assignments, and operations described in paragraph (2), create a process to provide COVID–19 vaccination exemptions to covered members with—

''(A) a natural immunity to COVID–19;

''(B) an underlying health condition that would make COVID–19 vaccination a greater risk to that individual than the general population; or

''(C) sincerely held religious beliefs in conflict with receiving the COVID–19 vaccination.

''(e) APPLICABILITY OF REMEDIES CONTAINED IN THIS SECTION.—The prohibitions and remedies described in this section shall apply to covered members regardless of whether or not they sought an accommodation to any Department of Defense COVID–19 vaccination policy on any grounds.''.

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, last December, Marine Gen. David Berger stated the obvious, that the Department of Defense's COVID vaccine mandate hurt recruiting and hurt retention.

For several weeks now, our Democratic colleagues have been saying that military readiness is suffering due to promotion delays. Well, I have good news for my colleagues. My amendment will help address these problems.

While last year's NDAA, quite rightly, repealed the vaccine mandate prospectively, problems caused by the mandate persist, including concerning recruiting, retention, and readiness.

According to reports, the Biden administration dismissed over 8,400 military servicemembers who had vaccine concerns. DOD routinely denied religious accommodation requests, violating the rights of servicemembers protected by the Constitution and RFRA.

DOD gave over 80 percent of these servicemembers a ''general discharge,'' causing them to lose GI benefits and, in some cases, VA benefits, even those were benefits earned through honorable service.

My amendment rights these wrongs. It will allow servicemembers dismissed over the vaccine mandate to seek reinstatement or a change in their discharge status. It restores lost GI and VA benefits.

According to media reports, the DOD is already contemplating all of these actions, but I believe the Senate should lead to address these issues. They have ended the vaccine mandate, and it is not fair to the over 8,000 service men and women dismissed for a policy DOD no longer believes is necessary. I urge Members to support my amendment.

Mr. REED. Madam President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Madam President, I oppose the amendment because one of the fundamental aspects of the military is the ability of a senior officer to issue an order and the willingness of a subordinate to accept that order. What we are dealing with here are individuals, without appropriate justification, refusing to carry out a lawful order.

Now, the vaccination policies of the military are rather robust. I think there are more than a dozen required vaccinations, and someone who just cavalierly dismisses that requirement and then claims that they should not somehow be held accountable, I think is wrong. But this goes to the fabric of the military. You must obey lawful orders, and all of these were lawful orders.

Mandatory vaccination, again, is not a new, novel technique.

Another aspect of this is, this went right to the heart of readiness. We can all recall when an aircraft carrier in the Pacific had to be evacuated because of COVID aboard the ship, and the ship was actually out of commission for several months. That is a readiness issue that is pretty obvious.

There are procedures to be reinstated in the military. They have been in effect for many, many years. There is a board procedure. You can bring forth evidence that your dismissal was not appropriate, and that is being pursued now, I presume, by many people—or at least some.

So this would really, I think, basically signal that you don't have to obey legal orders from your commander if you are accepting popular notions about what is right and what is not right. And I think we should reject this amendment.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 421

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Mr. CRUZ. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 46, nays 53, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 199 Leg.]

YEAS—46

Barrasso	Grassley	Ricketts
Blackburn	Hagerty	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Rounds
Braun	Hoeven	Rubio
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Budd	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Capito	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Lummis	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Vance
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Mullin	Young
Fischer	Murkowski	
Graham	Paul	

NAYS—53

Baldwin	Heinrich	Romney
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sinema
Carper	Luján	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Cassidy	Markey	Tester
Collins	Menendez	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warnock
Duckworth	Murray	Warren
Feinstein	Ossoff	Welch
Fetterman	Padilla	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Hassan	Reed	

NOT VOTING—1

Durbin

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 46, the nays are 53.

Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is not agreed to.

The amendment (No. 421) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that there be up to 6 minutes of debate before the next rollcall vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 1055

(Purpose: To establish the Office of the Lead Inspector General for Ukraine Assistance.)

Mr. WICKER. Now, Madam President, I think we can move along quickly if we do have order, and I do appreciate that.

I call up my amendment No. 1055 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Mississippi [Mr. WICKER], for himself and others, proposes an amendment numbered 1055.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under ''Text of Amendments.'')

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, some time ago, Senator SINEMA and I introduced the Independent and Objective Oversight of Ukrainian Assistance Act to create a special inspector general to follow the money with respect to Ukraine. Senators HAWLEY, PAUL, RISCH, and WICKER have been important voices in this. Indeed, they have had their own bills. We have gotten together and worked out a compromise.

Our bill would create a lead inspector general among the inspectors general right now doing the auditing, which are the Department of Defense, the State Department, and USAID. This lead inspector general would be our contact. We could go to that inspector general and get answers. By law, the inspector general would have to respond in 15 days.

We will not need Senate confirmation because I expect the President to appoint as the lead one of the inspectors general who are currently involved.

I urge favorable passage and yield to Senator WICKER or Senator RISCH.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. RISCH. Madam President, I rise to speak on behalf of amendment No. 1055, and I am happy to be a cosponsor with Senators WICKER, KENNEDY, HAWLEY, and SINEMA. I am pleased we are able to come together on this. Everyone on this floor wants to see that not a penny is wasted in Ukraine or goes where it shouldn't go.

We have several audits going on there right now, as all of us know. This really strengthens the audit function we are doing. These are enhancements that do not duplicate or undermine the current IG structure. The IG structure is currently run by State, USAID, and DOD. This brings them together and puts them under one head.

Unfortunately, the Paul amendment, which we are going to vote on side by side next, would undermine their work. It duplicates the current oversight structure, creates permanent bureaucracy, extends to areas far outside of Ukraine, and tries to superimpose a structure designed for Afghanistan, which was a very different war than what we are involved in now.

Thanks to efforts of Members of both parties, in the past year, we have enacted 39 legislative oversight provisions covering all money that has been appropriated to support Ukraine since the war began. These provisions have led to the completion of 35 oversight evaluations thus far, and another 67 more are planned or underway. To date, there has not been any substantiated evidence of illicit weapons transfer or misuse of U.S. taxpayer dollars.

The special inspector general for Afghanistan that Senator PAUL's amendment proposes does not make sense for Ukraine. There are no U.S. forces fighting in Ukraine. Ukraine does not have the same security and defense concerns that Afghanistan did, and the war in Ukraine is dramatically smaller than the other war.

The State, DOD, and USAID have the capacity to do this.

This amendment is a good amendment. I would urge you to vote for this and against the next amendment.

I yield to Senator WICKER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I ask consent to have 1 additional minute on each side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WICKER. I reserve the time of the proponents.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, we all share the view that oversight of our assistance to Ukraine and any other nation is critical to make sure it is used appropriately and effectively. That is why we continue to increase our support for the existing permanent IGs and are encouraged that they have space to operate from in Ukraine and are implementing a joint oversight plan. We have also tasked GAO with specific oversight requests.

Adding additional layers of coordination would be counterproductive to our ongoing oversight efforts, and involving the Agencies in the selection for the assessment of the lead IG, as proposed in the Senator's amendment, would potentially compromise the inspector general's independence.

There is no gap in U.S. authorities, presence, or even additional resources for our oversight efforts that this amendment addresses. We should remain focused on strengthening existing oversight efforts as our support for Ukraine continues.

I urge my colleagues to vote no on this amendment.

I yield to my colleague from Illinois.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, bottom line: This is unnecessary. There are robust existing coordination mechanisms among the IGs to ensure comprehensive oversight, provisions in the committee-passed NDAA to assist the DOD IG with enhanced hiring authorities, and $27 million in dedicated funding for oversight for each of the three IGs from DOD, State, and USAID.

The provision also includes a requirement that the lead inspector general complete a briefing to any Member of Congress within 15 days of request. This almost certainly ensures that the LIG will spend their time scheduling and briefing Members of Congress, not conducting oversight.

Lastly, as drafted, the $10 million authorization of appropriations is nonviable funding, and the offset is not valid as neither element includes a funding account for money to go to or from. So this is entirely hollow budget authority.

With that, I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, do the proponents have any additional time?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The proponents have 1 minute.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I claim the time.

Mr. KENNEDY. Go ahead. Save some more for me.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, if the gentleman from Louisiana wants 1 minute, I would be happy to give it to him.

Mr. KENNEDY. I thank the Senator. You are a fine American.

Mr. SCHUMER. A fine act of bipartisanship.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, the American people have sent over $100 billion to help our friends in Ukraine, and most Members of this body have supported it. But this money didn't fall from Heaven; it came out of people's pockets.

How can we possibly look the American people in the eye and say that we don't want to ensure to them that this money will not be stolen? That is all this bill does. It lets the President appoint a lead inspector general to answer to the U.S. Congress so we can look the American people in the eye and say: Your money was not stolen.

I can't imagine that we would not pass this bill. How can you go home and explain this to your people? You can't.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, we have two votes left. In order to expedite things and get out of here at a less unreasonable hour, I ask unanimous consent that—first, I ask that all our Members stay close, and I ask unanimous consent that the votes be 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, to close on behalf of the proponents, this is a bipartisan amendment, and it deserves bipartisan support by the U.S. Senate.

Rather than set up a disruptive new bureaucracy, it builds on the requirement for the President simply to select, of the inspectors general, a lead inspector general reporting directly to the Secretaries of Defense and State.

If you want true oversight and you want to put it in the statute, this amendment is necessary. That is what it does. It is simple, it is effective, and it puts it into law with the signature of the President.

I urge a bipartisan ''yes'' vote for this bipartisan amendment.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 1055

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Mr. WICKER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 200 Leg.]

YEAS—51

Barrasso	Graham	Ricketts
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hagerty	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rounds
Britt	Hoeven	Rubio
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Collins	Lankford	Sinema
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Lummis	Tester
Cramer	Marshall	Thune
Crapo	McConnell	Tillis
Cruz	Moran	Tuberville
Daines	Mullin	Vance
Ernst	Murkowski	Wicker
Fischer	Ossoff	Young

NAYS—48

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	Kelly	Schatz
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Luján	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Warner
Duckworth	Merkley	Warnock
Feinstein	Murphy	Warren
Fetterman	Murray	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Paul	Wyden

NOT VOTING—1

Durbin

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

CHANGE OF VOTE

Mr. VANCE. Mr. President, on rollcall vote 200, I voted nay. It was my intention to vote aye.

I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to change my vote, since it will not affect the outcome.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, so ordered.

(The foregoing tally has been changed to reflect the above order.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 48.

Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for this amendment, the amendment is not agreed to.

The amendment (No. 1055) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

AMENDMENT NO. 438

(Purpose: To provide for the independent and objective conduct and supervision of audits and investigations relating to the programs and operations funded with amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to Ukraine for military, economic, and humanitarian aid.)

Mr. PAUL. I call up my amendment No. 438 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. PAUL] proposes an amendment numbered 438.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under ''Text of Amendments.'')

Mr. PAUL. The United States sent $113 billion in aid to Ukraine. It is impossible to send this much aid this fast into war-torn Ukraine without waste, fraud, and abuse. Yet we are told by the departmental inspectors general that they have not substantiated any cases of fraud. That is not good news. Zero cases mean our oversight is failing.

What our government can't find was uncovered by Ukrainian journalists who uncovered a scandalous contract to buy food for soldiers at grossly inflated prices that led to the resignation of Ukraine's Deputy Defense Minister.

Fortunately, a successful independent oversight body already exists. The Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction conducted hundreds of audits in Afghanistan and saved over $3 billion for the taxpayers. We already have a war-tested inspector general in Afghanistan who is ready and able to take on the task of oversight of aid to Ukraine.

Let's not waste any more American treasure. A vote for my amendment is a vote for real oversight.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I appreciate my colleague's commitment to oversight of taxpayer dollars spent here at home as well as abroad. Inspectors general are key allies as we work to root out waste and increase efficiency and make our government work better. The Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction has done important work in Afghanistan.

While I certainly support the goals of this amendment, I have concerns this provision could ultimately interfere with and divert resources from the inspectors general at the State Department, the Defense Department, and USAID who are already overseeing American support to Ukraine.

While I look forward to working with my colleague to bolster our IGs and conduct congressional oversight of government spending, I must urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 438

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Mr. PAUL. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 20, nays 78, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 201 Leg.]

YEAS—20

Braun	Hawley	Schmitt
Cramer	Hoeven	Scott (FL)
Cruz	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Daines	Kennedy	Sullivan
Fischer	Lee	Tuberville
Grassley	Marshall	Vance
Hagerty	Paul	

NAYS—78

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Peters
Barrasso	Graham	Reed
Bennet	Hassan	Ricketts
Blackburn	Heinrich	Risch
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Romney
Booker	Hirono	Rosen
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Britt	Kaine	Rubio
Brown	Kelly	Sanders
Budd	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Capito	Lankford	Shaheen
Cardin	Luján	Sinema
Carper	Lummis	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Cassidy	Markey	Thune
Collins	McConnell	Tillis
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cornyn	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Moran	Warnock
Cotton	Mullin	Warren
Crapo	Murkowski	Welch
Duckworth	Murphy	Whitehouse
Ernst	Murray	Wicker
Feinstein	Ossoff	Wyden
Fetterman	Padilla	Young

NOT VOTING—2

Durbin	Stabenow

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KAINE). On this vote, the yeas are 20, and the nays are 78.

Under the previous order requiring 60 affirmative votes for adoption of the amendment, the amendment is not agreed to.

The amendment (No. 438) was rejected.

MILITARY PROMOTIONS

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise tonight to discuss once again the routine promotions of our military's general and flag officers.

During this Congress, due to the dangerous and extreme position of one Republican Senator, not a single general or flag officer has been confirmed—not one—all because that Senator disagrees with a policy that is designed to ensure safe and reasonable access for all servicemembers to reproductive healthcare regardless of where the military chooses to assign them.

Last week, the Defense Department's legal advisers and subject-matter experts came before the Armed Services Committee to brief us on the policy and to answer our Members' questions. They laid out clear, plain facts that explained the legality and appropriateness of the policy. As I stated publicly after the briefing concluded, no one with an ounce of intellectual honesty can deny that the Department's policy is legal and is, in fact, rooted in decades of precedent through administrations of both parties.

I respect my colleagues on the other side who feel strongly about this issue, but until Congress passes a law to overturn 40 years of legal precedence, the Department of Defense has a responsibility to manage the health, welfare, and readiness of the force within the legal authorities available to it.

The Department's legal experts also outlined in detail the long-existing statutory authorities that allow the Department to provide these travel and leave benefits. That is all they are, travel and leave policies—policies, I would note, that have been on the books in various fashions for decades.

Even Senator ERNST, the sponsor of a bill that would rescind the policy, recognized publicly after the briefing that the policy is legal. I will note my respect for Senator ERNST. Unlike most of her colleagues, she stayed to the end of the briefing and listened to everything the Department had to say and formed her opinion accordingly. Senator ERNST and I have very different views on this issue, but we share a common respect for our military women and men and an understanding of how Congress should treat them.

Our colleague from Alabama, however, has chosen to take a profoundly disrespectful approach. The nominations he is blocking have had no objections raised against them, and they have all been confirmed by unanimous approval in the committee, including by the Senator from Alabama. These are not controversial nominations.

For many decades, military promotions have been a bipartisan, routine piece of Senate business. Now they have been turned into a political sideshow by the Senator from Alabama. He is getting a lot of personal benefit out of this and I suppose a bit of fundraising success as well. To seek to profit in any way on the backs of servicemembers is, in my view, a disgrace.

To avoid accountability, the Senator likes to say that we should ''just vote'' on these nominations, but he knows this is a ludicrous idea. Let me explain it again. It is virtually impossible for the Senate to process this volume of nominations through floor procedures. As the majority leader and I have explained before, it would literally take the rest of this Congress to move through the nominations we have now, not even accounting for the hundreds still to come.

The Senator from Alabama knows this. So he does not really want to ''just vote''; he wants to grind the Senate to a halt on a series of nonstop 99-to-1 rollcall votes. That means no other Senate business, such as the annual Defense bill we are debating right now or the appropriations bills, which are being considered by the Appropriations Committee; no legislation of any kind, which may, in fact, be his motive.

The Senator from Alabama has moved his goalposts many times, never offering a viable or reasonable compromise. Originally, he just wanted a call from the Secretary of Defense. Once he got it, he changed his demand again. When he asked for a vote to repeal the policy, we did so during the National Defense Authorization Act markup, but of course he changed his demands again, and he is now calling for the complete capitulation of the Department. At this point, one has to wonder if he actually wants to achieve his demands or if he just wants to stay in the spotlight.

We will soon enter the seventh month of this nonsense, and the effects are building. This doesn't just affect the 273 officers stuck on the Senate floor; it affects thousands of military spouses and children, whom I will discuss in a moment, and it affects the officers coming up behind them, some of whom could be assigned but for the fact that an officer sits ahead of them, awaiting Senate confirmation before they can move.

According to the Department of Defense, 45 officers are unable to assume new positions, including 35 who cannot move because their assigned rank goes with the position for which they have been nominated and another 10 officers who are projected to be assigned to a position now held by one of those 35. Twenty-two officers who have been selected for their first star will have to assume the duties of the higher grade while serving as a field grade officer, not a flag officer. Those officers are losing about $2,600 per month through no fault of their own. Similarly, 20 officers selected to the grade of 0–8, or two stars, will assume duties of the higher grade while remaining in their current grade. These officers are losing nearly $2,000 per month while this blockade continues.

Contrary to the misinformation from the Senator from Alabama, there will absolutely be no back pay for these officers, no back pay at all. Their pay is tied to their rank, which is tied to their appointment to that rank, which cannot occur until the Senate provides its consent. While the Senator is trying to enhance his notoriety, these officers are losing pay.

Twenty-one three- and four-star officers have had their retirements deferred to ensure continuity of command. After 30 or 40 years of uniformed service, numerous combat deployments, countless missed birthdays and anniversaries, and countless missed sports games and musical recitals, these officers have been told that their lives are less important than one Senator's ego.

The most heartbreaking effects are on the families that have been impacted by these holds. I will describe just a few of these stories.

Because of the Senator from Alabama's hold, the Marine Corps was forced to cancel a coast-to-coast move for a general and his family. The family's household goods had already been shipped and are now waiting in storage at their future duty station while the general covers the duties of a three-star at a temporary station.

Two Air Force officers who sold their homes in anticipation of moves are living in temporary housing and paying their storage costs out of their own

pockets. They have no clarity about the length of time their nominations will remain on hold, as they are forced to continue their service in their current assignments to ensure continuity.

A naval officer awaiting orders for an overseas assignment has been caught in the Senator's hold. This officer's spouse was a teacher with a public school district in Virginia. Anticipating an overseas assignment with her spouse, this teacher ended her contract with her previous employer, but she has been unable to either accept a new contract at the overseas location or recommit to returning to the school district due to the uncertainty from the hold. She is stuck in limbo.

Two children of affected officers were disenrolled from their current schools due to an expected change-of-station move, but now they cannot enroll in a new school because the Senator from Alabama has blocked their move.

Three officers have chosen to move their families at their own expense, with no option to be reimbursed, to ensure that their children will be enrolled in school, in the hope that they will be reunited with their families after the Senator from Alabama has come to his senses.

Finally, yesterday, it was reported by the largest statewide news organization in Alabama that a petition signed by more than 550 military spouses was delivered to the Senator, calling on him to end his blockade and the harm it is doing to military families. The petition, organized by the Secure Families Initiative, called on Senate leadership to ''reiterate to Senator TUBERVILLE the dangers and ramifications of this political grandstanding; work together to resolve political and ideological disagreements outside the military space; and expeditiously confirm all blocked promotions and fill existing vacancies.''

These are but a few of the tragic family costs being inflicted. These stories will increase significantly as we go into August, traditionally a month that many military families move to new duty stations and start new schools.

All of these effects are but the tip of the iceberg, snapshots and stories of those willing to share. The true impact of the Senator's actions may not be known for years. The destabilizing effect this has on the apolitical nature of military service is what keeps me up at night. The broader impact on our national security is incalculable.

In the U.S. military, there is a total of 852 general and flag officers. By the end of this year, we expect that 650 of them will need to pass through the Senate for promotion or reassignment. An additional 110 officers will be forced to perform two jobs simultaneously or will be assigned to a temporary position as a result of the Senator's holds. Thus, nearly 90 percent of our general and flag officers—our most senior military leaders—will be affected by the Senator from Alabama's holds.

Right now, our Nation faces an unparalleled threat from China, and violent, unstable Russia threatening all of our NATO allies. To not have our military leaders ready to command at a moment's notice is to flirt with disaster. The Senator from Alabama has achieved something that Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin can only have dreamed of. I am sure they would have paid good money to achieve it, but they don't have to.

What disappoints me the most is the silence from my colleagues across the aisle. For 6 months, they have hardly said a word about the Senator from Alabama's antics. Do they not care? I know many of them do, and many of them disagree with what he is doing. So why are they not down here right now? I call on my colleagues across the aisle who support our military and American families to stand with us to help repair this affront to Senate tradition.

Tonight, my colleagues and I will discuss every military nomination on the Executive Calendar. We will read the names of each officer whose nomination has been blocked by the Senator from Alabama, along with a little bit about their backgrounds. Each of these officers has served decades in uniform, something the Senator from Alabama knows nothing about.

Their lives have not been easy. I know firsthand that the nature of military life, even in the best of times, is difficult, punctuated with frequent moves, time away from family, and duties that are as demanding physically as they are mentally and spiritually.

This generation of general and flag officers has had it even harder than many. Most of these nominees have served the majority of their careers during a state of war. For 20 years, they fought in the Global War on Terror, and many of them fought in wars before that. They went where we asked them to go. They fought so other Americans—including most of us in this Chamber—wouldn't have to. We have never had a generation of military leadership whose entire professional development occurred during a period of constant conflict.

As I went through each of these officers' biographies, I was struck by the recognition and manifestation of their service. As you will hear, the Senator from Alabama is blocking the promotion of officers who have been awarded the Purple Heart, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and every other significant award or recognition the Defense Department bestows.

He is blocking the promotion of officers with numerous combat tours of duty, including those who have been injured in combat.

He is blocking the nomination of a career Air Force officer who is an astronaut for NASA.

He is blocking the promotion of pilots who, collectively, have tens of thousands of flying hours and combat flying time. And with pilots, as we know all too well on the Armed Services Committee, they also have the option of flying commercially for the airlines. We can't compete with airlines on pay, but we have always competed on opportunity and mission. If opportunity and mission are compromised, patriotism will only carry one so far, particularly as the Senate's inaction is literally impacting the direct earnings of many of these nominees.

He is blocking the promotion of healthcare professionals who, like pilots, have lucrative private sector options that will look even more attractive as the thrill and satisfaction of a military career recedes.

He is blocking the promotions of combat commanders at all levels who have risen through the ranks with the expectation and hope of leading and mentoring the next generation of combat leaders to ensure the highest standards of military expertise and ethical conduct are passed on.

He is now blocking the confirmation of three members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff: Gen. C.Q. Brown, the nominee to be the next Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Gen. Eric Smith, the next Commandant of the Marine Corps; and GEN Randy George, the next Chief of Staff of the Army.

On top of this, we have just received a historic nomination, the first female officer to be the Chief of Naval Operations, and we just received today the nomination for the next Chief of Staff of the Air Force.

He is blocking the nominations of a critical combatant commander, the commander of Cyber Command, who also serves as the Director of the National Security Agency. It strikes me that cyber and intelligence is not a place the Nation should accept any additional risk.

He is blocking the nomination of the next commander of the Navy's 7th Fleet, the largest of the Navy's forward-deployed fleets and which has responsibilities in the Indo-Pacific area of operation.

He is blocking the nomination of the next commander of the Navy's 5th Fleet, responsible for the naval and combined maritime forces in the Indian Ocean, Persian Gulf, and Arabian Sea, under the overall command of U.S. Central Command.

He is blocking the nomination of the next U.S. military representative to NATO, who is the senior uniformed representative to NATO, during a time when NATO continues to provide critical support to Ukraine in its war against Russia and as NATO itself is expanding to counter the threat posed by Russia to our European allies.

He is blocking the next Superintendent of the Naval Academy during the summer months, when new service academy Superintendents need to be installed to ensure continuity from one academic year to the next. Traditionally, the Senate ensures this nominee

is approved and in place in time for the next class of midshipmen to arrive and begin their Academy training, which started 4 weeks ago.

Now, even future officers who will be commissioned in 2027 are feeling the negative impact of one Senator's action. If we don't break this blockade soon, the Senator from Alabama will have tried his hand at decapitating the entire senior military leadership of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Finally, one last thing, none of the officers whose names we will read today played any part in promulgating the Department's policy with which the Senator from Alabama disagrees—a policy that, like it or not, is perfectly legal and is backed by 40 years of practice through the administrations of both parties. It is a policy aimed at taking care of our servicemembers, a large percentage of whom are women. This policy simply acknowledges that women's healthcare is important for military readiness too.

From President Reagan, whose Justice Department interpreted the newly enacted Hyde Amendment, through the first Bush administration, the Clinton administration, the second Bush administration, the Obama administration, the Trump administration, and now the Biden administration, the interpretation has been the same: This policy is legal.

Maybe my Republican colleagues were caught napping on this. Maybe they didn't bother to read the legal precedents. Maybe they didn't care to. Fine, I have no problem with my colleagues expressing disagreement with the Department's policy or pursuing legislative solutions to their problems. But do not take it out on the professional men and women of the Armed Forces and their families.

As the military spouses who petitioned the Senator from Alabama this week to lift his hold urged, we should engage and address these policy and ideological differences outside of the military space. We are debating the Defense bill right now. And as the majority leader has said publicly, we are not stopping the Republicans from voting on their bill to rescind DOD's policy. Let's have that vote.

Instead, the Senator has chosen to inflict as much financial and emotional pain as possible on the men and women of the Armed Forces in the hopes the Department will cave. If the Senator from Alabama actually cared about the military, he would find another way to demonstrate his political positions.

Release the hostages, Senator. It is time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, Chairman REED has spoken eloquently in the last few minutes about the personal impact of this hold on general officer nominations, on what it means to families, what it means to careers, what it means to people who are coming up through the ranks because, make no doubt, this is not just affecting those people who have been nominated for general officer positions, but it ripples all the way down through the ranks. It is an unprecedented attack on the integrity of our military chain of command.

As I say, Senator REED talked about the impact on individuals. And tonight we are going to be talking about a lot of those individuals. But I would like to talk for a moment about the impact on the readiness of our force.

The first thing to observe is that China and Russia have got to be loving this. They could not imagine that we would do something like this to ourselves to essentially decapitate the senior leadership of our military.

If you step back and say: Wait a minute, look at what is going on here, nobody would believe that they could achieve something like this, that our adversaries could achieve something like this. But we are doing it to ourselves—or actually one person is doing it to all of us and to our country.

This is a dangerous moment in the world. I serve on both the Armed Services and the Intelligence Committees, and the threats that we are facing right now are unprecedented in the history of this country. We have never before faced the kind of threats that we are facing from two heavily armed and aggressive potential adversaries.

We need to have literally all hands on deck. And we are telling our ''all hands'' to stand down; that they are not going to be able to the achieve their commands, to take the case for the leadership of our military throughout the military enterprise.

It really is amazing that we are doing something—I keep saying ''we''—that the Senator from Alabama is doing something that is so seriously compromising national security over a policy matter—over a policy matter.

And I have been in numerous hearings over the last months and talked to the officers, asked them on the record: Is this action compromising national security? The answer every single time has been: Absolutely, yes.

And these aren't necessarily officers who are being blocked; these are the general officers who are retiring. So they don't have a stake in this. They are not looking for a promotion. They are just telling us what has happened.

It is the first time that we do not have a Commandant of the Marine Corps in 150 years. That is outrageous. It is unacceptable. And so not only is this impacting people's lives—people who have dedicated their lives to this country—we are treating them like pawns in a political battle over an issue that the Senator from Alabama disagrees with. If he disagrees with the issue, there is a way to resolve it: bring an amendment. I am pretty sure that the majority leader has said he would bring an amendment to the floor to rescind the policy that the Senator objects to. That is how we resolve policy differences around here, not by taking hostage the entire leadership core of our military.

Now, let me talk a minute about the Senate. The Senate, as I have observed it over the past 10½, almost 11 years, is a rather peculiar institution. Because it has very lax rules, it allows one Senator to hold everything up, to stop things. It has very lax rules. But those rules, as I have studied the history of the Senate—by the way, I would recommend reading the first 100 pages of Robert Caro's book about Lyndon Johnson, ''Master of the Senate.'' It is a wonderful history and description of how this institution has developed. But those lax rules which allow extraordinary actions by individual Members have rested for over 200 years on a bedrock of comity and responsibility and restraint.

Yes, you have the power to do something like this, but you shouldn't do it. You don't take advantage of the rules. And I will tell you one of the results of this—and this is what I am hearing from constituents and from people around the country and indeed from people in this Hall—this could lead to changing the rules, to not allow something like this.

If you abuse a rule like this, which is being done in this case, it is outright abuse of a rule—then somebody is going to say: Wait a minute. We can't run our country this way. We can't allow this to happen to the readiness of our military in this time of peril. We just can't do that. So we are going to have to figure out another way. And all of a sudden one of the privileges—and I believe it is a privilege of an individual Senator—is going to have to start to be curtailed if you don't restrain yourself, if you don't act responsibly within the context of these rules.

My question is, Where does this lead? Is this going to be par for the course around here in the future? Somebody is going to say: Well, I don't like something the Department of the Interior is doing. I think it is really bad, so I am going to hold up every nominee for the military or I am going to hold up every nominee for the Department of Homeland Security or the Department of Interior or whatever the Department is.

Hostage-taking is not how we make policy. And I am afraid what we are seeing here before our eyes is a precedent being established, where one individual Senator, who is trying to get his way on a policy issue, is using and abusing the rules of the Senate in order to get something that ought to be done through the legislative process. Bring up the amendment. If you don't like the policy, bring up the amendment.

Eventually, I mean, the Senate is built on the premise of respect for minority rights, but ultimately majority rules. That is what we all learned in kindergarten. This isn't minority rights. This is one person. That is 1 person out of 100 who is taking this action that is so inimical to the interests of the interests of the country in a very difficult and dangerous time.

I respect the rights of Senators to use their prerogative as they see fit, but I would urge the Senator from Alabama, with whom I have a good personal relationship—I would urge him to reconsider, to try to bring the issue forward to the American people and to the U.S. Senate, and let's have a vote on it. Let's see what the Senate believes about the resolution of this issue.

And by the way, we are not talking about the government paying for abortions here. We are talking about leave and travel. And if a soldier has a medical condition and they are stationed in a State where they need some kind of specialized treatment and it is not available in their State—guess what—for as long as anybody can remember, they have gotten leave and traveled to go where they can have that procedure. So this isn't some kind of radical new program.

But again, if the Senator thinks it is a wrong policy, bad policy, it is inimical to his beliefs, let's bring it to the floor and have a vote. Let's see what the will of the Senate is. But don't compromise the lives of many, many people—we are up into the hundreds now—families who have dedicated their lives to this country. They are innocent pawns in this political game. It is not right.

And then, finally, as I said, it is a compromise of national security. It is a straight-up compromise of national security, which our adversaries couldn't dream of achieving. And that is where I believe—I hope and believe—that the Senator from Alabama will relent, take his vote on the issue, and let these nominations move forward so the Senate can do its business and the military can get back to a place where it is predictable, where they understand what the process is, they understand where the steps are, and they can get about the business of defending this in country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I come to the floor this evening on behalf of the more than 1 million people who are serving this country and who rely on this Senate to put national security ahead of policy disagreements.

With the overturning of Roe v. Wade, millions of Americans, including tens of thousands of U.S. servicemembers, lost access to reproductive care overnight. And I would just remind us all that the military relies on almost 18 percent of its makeup on women. Most of those women are of reproductive age.

Since the Dobbs decision, more and more States have put in place prohibitions on reproductive care—care that was previously the right of all Americans. Now, according to a recent RAND Corporation study, at least 46 percent of female servicemembers no longer have unrestricted access to care.

Now, as we all know, servicemembers and their families are stationed based not on the needs of themselves and their families—so not personal preference—but based on the needs of the Nation. And their sacrifice and commitment to serve means that they are uniquely affected by the restrictive healthcare laws that have come into effect in the post-Roe era.

To address the harm that these healthcare prohibitions have on servicemembers and military families, the Secretary of Defense issued commonsense guidance that protects the readiness of the force and family. And it is guidance that, I will remind everybody, the Secretary of Defense is legally empowered to issue and implement and, as Senator KING so rightly pointed out, that has been in place for male members of our military for years, as long as we remember.

But the senior Senator from Alabama has chosen to break with precedent, to break with the decorum of this Chamber, and to hold 273 noncontroversial military nominations just because he disagrees—he personally disagrees—with this policy. And as Senator KING and Senator REED so eloquently pointed out, our servicemembers should not be used as bargaining chips in policy debates.

Senator TUBERVILLE's actions are jeopardizing our national security; they are harming military families; and they are causing a whole generation of senior military leaders to question whether they want to stay in the military.

Worst of all, the Senator from Alabama knows exactly what the impact is of these holds because he serves with all of us on the Armed Services Committee. So he can't say this is not having an impact. He is hearing, as part of the committee, what the impact is. He knows that the unprecedented nature of his actions and the grave harm they pose to our country and the military are real.

For those who don't sit on the Armed Services Committee, I want to highlight some of the most grievous consequences of Senator TUBERVILLE's actions.

Military families are not able to enroll their children into new schools on time. So we have a whole group of families with young children who—during the summertime would be the time they would be moving. They would be looking to get their children into new schools, and they are on hold.

Military spouses can't go to the next assignment and find a job.

What is particularly concerning for many of these families is that servicemembers are paid less than what they have earned. Just to give you some idea, 22 officers who have been selected for their first star will have to assume the duties of the higher grade while serving as a field grade officer, not a flag officer, and these officers are losing about $2,600 a month through no fault of their own. The last time I talked to members of our military, they weren't making enough money to be able to sacrifice an additional $2,600 a month. Twenty officers selected to the grade of O–8 are two stars. They will assume the duties of the higher grade while remaining in their current grade, and these officers are losing nearly $2,000 a month while this blockade continues.

Contrary to the misinformation that the Senator from Alabama has said on this floor, there will be no backpay for these officers. Their pay is tied to their rank, which is tied to their appointment to that rank, and that can't occur until the Senate provides its consent. They ought to be charging Senator TUBERVILLE for this additional money they are losing because it is on his back, these additional costs that families are incurring.

Some of our most critical national security positions, like the Commandant of the Marine Corps, are also unfilled, and this comes at a time when we know that Russia is waging war in Europe and the People's Republic of China continues to threaten our interests across the globe.

What is so incredibly hard to understand is that our colleagues on the other side of the aisle I know are concerned about the PRC and the influence of China. Yet they are not willing to call their colleague out for what he is doing that provides a real opportunity for the PRC. With every vacancy in our ranks, our adversaries are gaining an advantage over us.

These holds affect real people who have dedicated their lives to preserving our freedoms in this country. Those people who are affected have earned more than being used as political pawns.

I want to take just a moment because we are here tonight to talk about those 273 officers who are being held up. I want to talk about some of those really incredible individuals whom the senior Senator from Alabama is blocking.

The first is a colonel whom I met when I went to Lithuania for the NATO summit. We went up to the base in Lithuania, Pabrade, and the Deputy Commander of EUCOM pointed out that COL Kareem Montague, who is currently the Deputy Commander of the 4th Infantry Division out of Fort Carson, who is deployed temporarily to Lithuania, was one of those general officers whose promotions are on hold.

The colonel has 28 years of service. He has been Executive Officer to the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army. He has been the Commander of the 5th Battlefield Coordination Detachment of U.S. Army Pacific, Joint Base Pearl Harbor, in Hickam, HI. He has been the Commander of the 1st Battalion, 321st Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 18th Fires Brigade, 82nd Airborne, out of Fort Bragg. He has earned the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, and the Defense Meritorious Service Medals. The colonel doesn't deserve to be held up because the Senator from Alabama has a personal beef with Secretary Austin's policy.

Then we have eight officers from the Marine Corps who have been nominated to the rank of brigadier general. The first is Col. David Everly. He is currently serving as Chief of Staff of the II Marine Expeditionary Force. He has 28 years of service. He has been the Chief of Staff to the 2d Marine Expeditionary Brigade. He has been the Commanding Officer of Command Element, 2d Marine Expeditionary Brigade. He has been the Commanding Officer of the Basic School Training Command. He has multiple combat and contingency operation deployments. He has received the Defense Superior Service Medal and the Bronze Star Medal. Colonel Everly doesn't deserve to be held up.

Neither does Col. Kelvin Gallman, also in the Marine Corps, currently serving as Senior Military Adviser to the Secretary of the Navy. He has 29 years of service. He has been the Division Chief, Deputy Division Chief, Joint Capabilities Division, J–8, Joint Staff. He has been Commanding Officer of Personnel Support Detachment. He has multiple combat and contingency deployments, and he has received the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit Medal, and the Bronze Star.

Col. Adolfo Garcia, also with the Marine Corps, is currently serving as the House Director of the Office of Legislative Affairs. Some of us may have run into him in that capacity. He has 30 years of service in. He has been the Military Secretary to the Commandant of the Marine Corps. He has been the Assistant Chief of Staff to I Marine Expeditionary Force, the Commanding Officer of the 14th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division. He has multiple combat tours. He has earned the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal. Again, he is on hold.

Then there is Col. Matt Good. Many of us know Colonel Good because we traveled with him because most recently he served as Director, Senate Liaison, Office of Legislative Affairs. I can tell you, having taken a number of trips with Colonel Good, what a great job he does, how committed he is, how committed he is to this Chamber, to the people serving in the Senate. To have Senator TUBERVILLE do to Colonel Good and all of these members what he is doing is just unconscionable. Colonel Good has 27 years of service. He has been the Commanding Officer of the 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, and commanding officer of the 3d Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division. He has been Chief of Plans and Chief of the Security Cooperation Division of Joint Task Force North, U.S. Northern Command. He has had multiple combat and contingency deployments. He has earned the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

Like all of these marines, like all of the people we are talking about today, they have stellar records of serving this country, and what does Senator TUBERVILLE do to them? He puts their nominations on hold. He denies them funding. He denies them the ability to get on with their lives.

Col. Trevor Hall, U.S. Marine Corps, is currently serving as Chief of Staff to the Marine Corps Forces Command. He has 29 years of service. He was Commanding Officer for the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit; Branch Chief, Trans-regional synchronization, U.S. Special Operations Command; Commanding Officer, Division Training Officer, 3d Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2d Marine Division. He has multiple combat and contingency deployments. He earned the Legion of Merit Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and the Meritorious Service Medal.

Col. Richard Joyce, also in the Marine Corps, is currently serving as Commanding Officer, Marine Aircraft Group 29, 2d Marine Aircraft Wing, with 28 years of service. He has been the Branch Head of the Expeditionary Air Warfare N98, Office of Chief Naval Operations; Commanding Officer, Special Projects Officer, Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 469, Marine Aircraft Group 39, 3d Marine Aircraft Wing. He has had multiple combat and contingency deployments. He has received the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Col. Omar Randall—also U.S. Marine Corps—is currently serving as Director of Logistics, Combat Element Integration Division, Combat Development and Integration. He has 27 years of service. He has been the Branch Head, Futures Branch, Installations and Logistics, Headquarters Marine Corps; Commanding Officer of Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3d Marine Logistics Group. He has had multiple combat and contingency deployments. He has earned the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and the Meritorious Service Medal.

Then there is Col. Robert Weiler from the U.S. Marine Corps, who is currently serving as Military Secretary to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, with 28 years of service. He has been the Commanding Officer of the 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division; Director of Inspections; Commanding Officer of the 2d Battalion, 4th Marines; Senior Military Adviser, Force Development, Office of the Secretary of Defense—Policy. He has had multiple combat and contingency deployments. He received a Purple Heart, a Silver Star, and a Legion of Merit. Senator TUBERVILLE wants to hold up his promotion.

Then I want to cite two people from the Navy who have been nominated for appointments to the grade of rear admiral.

The first is CAPT Brian Anderson, who is currently serving as Assistant Commander, Supply Chain Policy and Management, Naval Supply Systems Command in Mechanicsburg, PA. He has 28 years of service. He has been the Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Logistics Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, San Diego; Chief, Current Operations-Joint Operations Officer; deployed to CENTCOM AOR, Camp African, Kuwait; and Pakistan Liaison Officer. He has been assigned to the Defense Logistics Agency in Fort Belvoir. He earned the Legion of Merit and the Meritorious Service Medal.

Then there is CAPT Julie Mary Treanor. She is currently serving as Chief of Staff in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, with 29 years of service. She has been Commanding Officer of Naval Supply Systems Command Fleet Logistics Center in Norfolk; Naval Sea Systems Command, Director of Industrial Supply Operations, Naval Sea Systems. She also earned the Legion of Merit and the Meritorious Service Medal.

Both Captains Treanor and Anderson have been nominated to the grade of rear admiral. Yet Senator TUBERVILLE has them on hold.

I am going to stop with that list. We have a lot of folks on the floor. We are going to continue to pick up the names of the people who are on hold.

But simply put, it is not acceptable to turn policy disputes into political brinksmanship when it comes to our servicemembers. As we have all said, we are happy to debate our colleagues on policy any day of the week, but that is not what we are doing. Instead, what we have is the senior Senator from Alabama singlehandedly holding military promotions hostage, using our servicemembers as political bargaining chips for his own benefit. His actions undermine our military's greatest strength—our people.

When he is asked about it, he says: Oh, it is playing really well at home.

Well, that is not what this is about. This is about making sure that we treat those people who serve in our military the way we ought to be treating them and that we defend our Nation and trust those folks who serve to make their own decisions about their own healthcare, just as I believe our constituents sent us to Washington to debate policy defenses, not to threaten the health and safety and welfare of those in uniform or to hold our security interests hostage.

So I hope that Senator TUBERVILLE will hear us tonight, that he will let these qualified military officers get back to their work of defending the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I join my colleagues today in expressing my great disappointment in my colleague from Alabama and his continuing hold on military promotions. He has argued—and I have seen him say this several times—that he is not affecting military readiness and that a hold on the promotions of senior officers does not hurt our national security, and, if it did hurt our military

readiness, that he would certainly stop the hold.

So I am here to tell you about six different jobs and the individuals nominated to those particular positions, and for people to decide whether or not they think that having these positions go unfilled with a confirmed officer is jeopardizing our military readiness.

The first position is at the Army Space and Missile Defense Command. This is the Army's force modernization proponent and operational integrator for global space, missile defense, and high-altitude capabilities. It sits at the nexus of integrated deterrence between U.S. Space Command, U.S. Strategic Command, and U.S. Northern Command—a pretty important job I would think.

To fill the position, the President has nominated MG Sean A. Gainey to be a lieutenant general in the U.S. Army and a commanding general of the U.S. Space and Missile Defense Command. Major General Gainey has served for 33 years and has moved some 15 times in those years of service. He is a graduate from the Georgia Southern University ROTC Program. In those 33 years of service, he has earned the Distinguished Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with one bronze oakleaf cluster, and the Bronze Star. He currently serves as Director of the Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems Office, Director of Fires, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G–3/5/7, U.S. Army, Washington, DC.

I think the U.S. Space and Missile Defense Command is a pretty important job and pretty relevant to our national security.

A second position that is being left unfilled with a confirmed nominee is that of Deputy Chief of Staff, G–4, U.S. Army, head of Army Logistics.

We have been talking at length about logistics in a contested environment, especially in the Indo-Pacific region. The Army G–4 develops, implements, and oversees Army strategy, policy, plans, and programming for logistics and sustainment to enable total Army readiness today and a force modernized for the future.

To fill the position of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G–4, Army Logistics is MG Heidi Hoyle. Major General Hoyle graduated from the West Point Military Academy and embarked on a 29-year career spanning 20 different assignments, including her position as the Director of Operations within the office of the Army G–4, as well as numerous combat deployments. She has been awarded the Legion of Merit with two bronze oakleaf clusters, the Bronze Star Medal with one bronze oakleaf cluster, and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal. She is more than qualified to fill this position, and the position needs her in it.

Another position that is going unfilled with a confirmed officer is to be filled by BG Laurence Linton to be a major general in the U.S. Army Reserve. Brigadier General Linton is currently serving as Deputy Commanding General-Support, 88th Readiness Division at Fort Snelling, MN. Brigadier General Linton graduated from the State University of New York ROTC Program and began a 31-year career of service that included 24 different duty assignments, notably deploying to Haiti, Bosnia, and Kuwait. General Linton served most recently as Chief of Staff of Operation Warp Speed, the critical effort to accelerate COVID–19 vaccination development. General Linton has been awarded the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and the Meritorious Service Medal with silver oakleaf cluster and one bronze oakleaf cluster. I cannot think of someone more deserving of this promotion.

The President has also nominated BG Stacy M. Babcock to be a major general in the U.S. Army Reserve. Most recently, General Babcock served as the Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Human Resources Command at Fort Knox, KY. He graduated from the Rochester Institute of Technology ROTC Program in 1991 and has now served 32 years, a career spanning 25 different assignments, including a deployment to Bosnia and three separate deployments to Iraq. General Babcock has been awarded the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star.

The President has also nominated COL Peggy McManus to be a brigadier general in the Army Reserve. Colonel McManus serves as the Deputy Director, Senior Policy Board Advisor, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G–1, Washington, DC. Colonel McManus was commissioned in 1992 via ROTC and has now served 31 years, a career spanning 20 different assignments, including a combat tour to Iraq. Colonel McManus has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal with one silver and one bronze oakleaf cluster.

The President has also nominated Maj. Gen. Andrew J. Gebara to be lieutenant general in the U.S. Air Force and Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration, Headquarters U.S. Air Force.

Do you think that not having a confirmed officer appointed to the Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Deterrence and Nuclear Integration is not hurting our military readiness? Of course, it is.

Major General Gebara would be responsible to the Secretary of the Air Force and Chief of Staff of the Air Force for Nuclear Deterrence Operations. He would provide direction, guidance, integration, and advocacy regarding the nuclear deterrence mission of the U.S. Air Force and engage with joint and interagency partners for nuclear enterprise solutions—only if Senator TUBERVILLE would allow him to take up this position.

And, finally, I want to talk to you and read to you the background of MG Robert M. Collins, who is nominated to be a lieutenant general in the U.S. Army and Military Deputy-Director of the Army Acquisition Corps, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology. If confirmed, General Collins would be the senior military adviser in Army acquisition matters. This is at a time of critical modernization by the Army. I know very well the Future Vertical Lift Program, and it is critical that we have a capable officer in this position. He is currently serving as Deputy for Acquisition and Systems Management. He graduated in 1992 from the Shippensburg University ROTC Program. He has now served 31 years in uniform, spanning 21 different assignments. We need this officer in his job, in this position.

These are just a handful of individuals I am reading today. In which one of these positions does my colleague from Alabama think military readiness is not being affected, being left unfilled?

All I can say is, Senator TUBERVILLE, please reconsider. You are indeed putting our national security, our military readiness in jeopardy by continuing this hold.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I have but a few minutes to speak to my colleagues and to the Senator from Alabama, but, more important, to the American people. I have only minutes, but the damage of this hold will be years. Be aware, America. Be angry, America, as I am angry, as a member of the Armed Services Committee, as a dad of two veterans—a Marine Corps officer who served in Afghanistan and a Navy SEAL who served during these last 20 years. And all of the veterans of America who are angry that our U.S. military is being used as a political pawn, is held hostage; that brave, determined professionals who want to lead and take our military to the fight that lies ahead—they are in limbo. And it isn't just the 273. It is all who report to them, all who depend on them, all who look to them for leadership.

I had breakfast this morning with the Acting Commandant, General Smith, of the U.S. Marine Corps. For the first time in 100 years, the U.S. Marine Corps has no Commandant.

Vice Admiral Franchetti, who was chosen to lead the Navy, the first woman to be in that position, has been held hostage.

Gen. Charles Brown, uniquely accomplished aviator and leader, unable to assume his responsibility as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

And under them, men and women like Lt. Gen. James Bierman, nominated to be Lieutenant General of the United States Marine Corps and Deputy Commandant for Plans, Policies, Operations; and Maj. Gen. Bradford Gering, to be a Lieutenant General in the United States Marine Corps and Deputy Commandant, Aviation.

These men have served 35 years.

Maj. Gen. Gregory Masiello, to be Lieutenant General of the United

States Marine Corps and Director, Defense Contract Management Agency.

These men and women have put their careers, their lives, their families on the line, and now they are waiting because our colleague from Alabama wants to make a political point. He has a political policy, and he is using these military nominees as pawns and hostages. It is nothing short, in effect, of an assault on our U.S. military.

So nothing I say here may persuade him, but what is happening is a travesty and a tragedy for our Nation, because it undermines not just our readiness now but our recruitment in the future.

The Marine Corps is the only service that is making its recruitment goals. The Army, the Navy, the Air Force, all are down significantly. And this action, which disgracefully and shamefully puts our readiness at risk and serious danger, also undermines our ability to attract the best and the brightest in this country as our military has always done. It is the reason we have the greatest military in the world.

We have all of the weapons systems. We have the kinds of hardware that we need. But, most importantly, we need the great men and women who will be discouraged by this action by the Senator from Alabama.

So I plead with him; but, most important, I ask the American people to be aware and be angry, as we all should be. And I hope that my colleagues will join the American people in persuading him that this kind of hold is shameful and disgraceful and should be rejected.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, placing holds on hundreds of military promotions over a single policy disagreement is unconscionable. It is harming our national security, and it is going to have cascading effects for years. Not only will military services be left without confirmed leaders, but our senior leaders are going to have to do multiple jobs at once. This will disadvantage the services at every level and leave less experienced members to have to step in to fill their bosses' shoes.

As someone who served in the navy for 25 years, I want to paint a picture of what that looks like in the real world. Operations plans—they will not get updated. Now these are the plans that prepare us for military conflicts, for humanitarian disasters, and any conflict we face around the world.

Operations and exercises will suffer because they lack an expert at the head of the table who can weigh strategic risks and who is empowered by Congress to make critical decisions.

We won't have confirmed senior leaders at the table in places like Africa, where we are trying to strengthen ties and security cooperation with our partners to counter violent extremists and the rising influence of Russia and China.

And speaking of China, we won't have confirmed senior leaders at critical posts in the regions in that region of the world where they are empowered to bolster our capabilities.

And let's not forget, these holds are preventing the promotions of military leaders in Alabama. There are a lot of really important units who operate out of the Redstone Arsenal, including the Missile Defense Agency, which is responsible for developing U.S. defense against incoming ballistic missiles.

The Missile Defense Agency's next Director is one of those officers at Redstone who is waiting for his third star before he can officially assume this new role. The Senator from Alabama is preventing that.

Do we really want a leadership gap at the Missile Defense Agency?

And, lastly, I have to mention that this tactic treats our military servicemembers and their families like political pawns. Let me tell you, this isn't just like holding up a promotion like in any other job. This blockade of military promotions is hurting military families who are having to put off moves to new assignments across the country or across the world.

That means a military spouse cannot start a new job. It means a new school year starts without military kids who are stuck at their last base and don't know if they are going to be able to maybe try out for the sports team or join a club.

Now, I know from experience just how hard these moves are. They are hard for military families, and that is under the best of circumstances, let alone when they are stuck in the middle of this.

As our military faces recruitment challenges, this stunt—and this is a stunt—is making a decision easy for a military family who has supported their servicemembers, maybe for decades, to finally say that they have had enough. Maybe they will choose to retire instead of assume yet another unknown, brought to you by the Senator from Alabama, or maybe a junior servicemember—maybe that person—decides not to make a career in the military because they see so much uncertainty as their bosses are treated like political pawns. These holds are going to have cascading effects. It is going to get worse and worse. This is not just some abstract idea.

Let me talk about a few of the military leaders whose promotions are being blocked.

The President of the United States has nominated RADM Frederick W. Kacher to be a vice admiral in the U.S. Navy and the Commander of the Seventh Fleet. The Commander of the Seventh Fleet is not going to be able to take over as a confirmed vice admiral in that job. He has spent 31 years in service in 29 different duty assignments. By the Senator from Alabama, he is being treated like a pawn.

The President has also nominated Rear Admiral Douglas G. Perry to be a vice admiral in the U.S. Navy. He is currently the Second Fleet's Commander of the Joint Forces Command in Norfolk. He has spent 34 years in the U.S. Navy, and the Senator from Alabama is treating him like a political pawn.

The President has nominated Rear Admiral Yvette M. Davids to be a vice admiral in the U.S. Navy and the Superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy. She has spent 34 years in service. She was the Commander of a carrier strike group. Now the Senator from Alabama is treating her like a political pawn.

The President has nominated Rear Admiral Brendan R. McLane to be a vice admiral in the U.S. Navy and Commander of the Naval Surface Force of the U.S. Pacific Fleet. He has spent 33 years in service, and the Senator from Alabama is treating him like a political pawn.

The President has nominated Rear Admiral Daniel L. Cheever to be a vice admiral in the U.S. Navy and also the Commander of the Naval Air Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet. I served in the Pacific Fleet aboard an aircraft carrier. Rear Admiral Cheever spent 35 years in the U.S. Navy, and he was also the Commander of a carrier strike group. He is now being treated like a political pawn.

The President has nominated VADM Charles B. Cooper II to be a vice admiral in the U.S. Navy and the Deputy Commander of the U.S. Central Command. How critical is that? He has 34 years of service, but he is being treated as a political pawn.

The President has nominated Rear Admiral Robert M. Gaucher to be a vice admiral of the U.S. Navy. He is currently the Commander of the Naval Submarine Force and all of our submarines in the Atlantic Fleet—attack and ballistic missile subs. He has spent 32 years in the U.S. Navy, and the Senator from Alabama is treating him like a political pawn.

The same is true for Rear Admiral Shoshana S. Chatfield. She has been nominated to be promoted to a vice admiral and to be the U.S. Military Representative to NATO's military committee. She has spent 35 years in uniform, and the Senator from Alabama is treating her as a political pawn.

The President has also nominated Rear Admiral James P. Downey to be a vice admiral in the U.S. Navy and Commander of the Naval Sea Systems Command. The Naval Sea Systems Command is all of the engineering and development. The Presiding Officer knows, being a Senator from Virginia, how critical it is to have somebody in this post who is confirmed by the U.S. Senate. The Senator from Alabama is treating the rear admiral as a political pawn.

The President has nominated Maj. Gen. Roger B. Turner, Jr., to be a lieutenant general in the U.S. Marine Corps and the Commanding General of the III MEF. I believe the Presiding Officer's son serves in the U.S. Marine Corps. The III MEF in Japan is not

going to have a confirmed general. He has spent 34 years in service.

Finally—not finally; I have a few more. By the way, there are another hundred sitting over here on the bench.

The President has nominated VADM William J. Houston to be an admiral in the U.S. Navy—a full admiral—while serving as the Director of Naval Nuclear Propulsion. This admiral is in charge of all of our nuclear reactors, and he can't get promoted after spending 33 years in the U.S. Navy because Senator TUBERVILLE is treating him like a political pawn.

Finally, the President of the United States has nominated MG Tony Hale to be a lieutenant general. Now, I know Major General Hale. He is currently serving as the Commanding General and Commandant at Fort Huachuca in my State of Arizona. He has spent 29 years in uniform. He has been in 18 different duty assignments—six in support of combat operations. The Senator from Alabama is treating MG Tony Hale as his political pawn.

I have been here for 2½ years. There is not something I have felt more strongly about than this, and I don't think the Senator from Alabama gets it. I mean, this blockade of military promotions is doing real damage to our national security right now, it is doing great harm to military families, and it is going to have cascading effects for years. Every single day that this continues, the consequences—the consequences—of this get more severe. So I urge my Senate colleague from Alabama to remove his hold on these nominations so that the Senate can perform its constitutional duty to enable our military readiness and our national security.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, my colleague the Senator from Arizona speaks and spoke with the authority of a person who committed his life, before he came to the U.S. Senate, to the service of our country in the military. I do not speak with that authority. I speak with the gratitude of a citizen who has benefited from the willingness of folks like the Senator from Arizona to dedicate their professional lives to the defense of our country.

In that respect, as a citizen, I speak for what all Americans have come to expect and rely on, and that is the willingness of young men and young women to sign up for service in the military—among them, the people who make that commitment that this will be their careers. They do it day in and day out, being ready for whatever may come, being willing to respond to the call of the Commander in Chief no matter what that may be, and all of us citizens who have not worn the uniform may take it for granted that we have these folks out there.

What the Senator from Alabama is doing is essentially attacking that willingness to serve by pulling the rug out from under the people who have dedicated their lives, who have served with distinction, and who have earned the promotions for which they have been nominated by the President of the United States.

You can't have an organization that functions when you don't have leaders. You can't have an organization that functions when the people who have committed their lives to the profession and who perform with great distinction and get that nomination for promotion aren't promoted.

It does, as the Senator from Arizona described, erode morale, and it erodes the effectiveness of the institution. The cascading effects will be long term, and it is all on the basis of a willful determination to essentially abuse the men and women of the military and to abuse the military itself for an individual goal that is unrelated to the performance of the military but that has a very detrimental impact on the military.

But do you know there is another element here? We are Senators, so that is a big position, and there is a lot of authority that goes with that job. But can any of us look in a mirror and feel good about the use of that authority when the effect of that power as it is being used right now is just flat-out mean? It is mean to families. It is mean to kids.

You have folks whose lives are committed to the service of the military. They have been promoted. They are making a plan about taking children out of the schools they are in and getting them into new schools. That is incredibly disruptive, and it takes an immense amount of love and concern on the part of the men and women of the military to make certain, as they get promoted and move on in their careers and go from where they are to where their next assignments are, that they take care of those kids. That is incredibly important.

How can a Senator take an action that is going to cause so much trauma for innocent people—including the children of these people—who have earned the distinction of a promotion?

This has got to end. It has got to end. It has got to end because the citizens of this country are entitled to a functioning military, and a single Senator cannot intrude or should not intrude on the promotion process. This has got to end so that we show respect for families and the burden that goes along with moving from where you are to the next duty station.

So I join with my colleagues in calling upon the Senator from Alabama to stand down and let us act on these promotions. Our men and women in the military deserve it, our military needs it, and the citizens of this country are entitled to it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleagues and share my deep concern and outrage regarding Senator TUBERVILLE's decision to block the promotions of hundreds of servicemembers. I want to take a moment and share why I believe this action weakens our national security, hurts our servicemembers who are in harm's way, ignores the wishes of the American people, and betrays our country's bipartisan commitment to our servicemembers.

By blocking the promotions of hundreds of servicemembers, the Senator from Alabama is preventing our military from being properly staffed and led. This diminishes our military's effectiveness and combat-readiness.

Senator TUBERVILLE has told us that he is doing this not because he has any concern with these officers' ability to command; instead, Senator TUBERVILLE tells us he is blocking these promotions simply to advance a personal political agenda to take away reproductive freedom from female servicemembers.

It is not only outrageous but bitterly ironic that, while the Senator from Alabama trusts women in uniform to defend our country, while he trusts them to keep all of us safe, while he trusts them to risk their lives for our freedom, he does not trust them to make their own healthcare decisions.

Senator TUBERVILLE's decision to block these promotions not only hurts female servicemembers, it makes America less safe.

What did Senator TUBERVILLE even accomplish by what is truly a reckless stunt? Can my colleague from Alabama explain how blocking promotions for servicemembers strengthens our national security?

What kind of message do we send to our allies and our adversaries that America's combat readiness can be undermined because of one Senator's partisan stunt?

And can he tell us why the health, safety, and daily lives of servicemembers are less important than his own personal and political agenda?

Our brave men and women in uniform put their lives on the line in order to protect our freedoms. We could not freely assemble here in this Chamber without their dedication and sacrifice. There simply is no U.S. Senate without the service of our Armed Forces. Our servicemembers place their trust in us to ensure that they are properly supported, including by being sufficiently staffed and led.

Let me be very, very clear: Senator TUBERVILLE's actions mark nothing less than an abdication and betrayal of that trust.

It is also clear that in pushing this personal partisan agenda, the Senator from Alabama is deeply out of step with the majority of Americans. He is not representing the American people. I know—as I think all of us do—that Americans, regardless of their views or political party, share a common love of country. We stand united in support of our servicemembers because our servicemembers do not risk their lives for

red States or blue; they fight for the freedom of all Americans, and they deserve the support of all Americans.

Bipartisan support for servicemembers has exemplified our country at our best. No issue, no matter how important, should stand in the way of ensuring that our military has the support and leadership that it needs to succeed.

I was reminded of this in April, when I was on a congressional delegation trip and visiting the Northern Command out in Colorado Springs. I met with one of the people who Senator KELLY talked about, Rear Admiral Cheever. He hosted the visit, and he coordinated it. I had a wonderful briefing from him and his leadership team about issues of cyber security, about our quantum readiness.

As you heard Senator KELLY say, Rear Admiral Cheever has been nominated to become a vice admiral and command the Naval Air Force of the U.S. Pacific Fleet—even more responsibility. He is ready to do it. The Senator from Alabama doesn't disagree that he is ready to do it. But as we left that day, he told me that his promotion was in limbo because of the hold that our colleague from Alabama has put on his promotion.

We need him in that position. He and his family and his fellow service men and women need him in that position and are waiting for the Senator from Alabama.

It is fitting that we are discussing this issue on July 26, for it was on July 26, 1947, that the National Security Act of 1947 was signed into law. This law established the Defense Department, an institution with officers whose promotions the Senator from Alabama is blocking today. This law was passed with overwhelming support from leaders of both parties.

In 1947, of course, the Senate was full of debates and even bitter disagreements on all sorts of issues, just as it is today. But Senators understood that while we can debate all day on any number of issues, we owed it to our servicemembers and the American people to stand united in our efforts to support our military and to keep Americans safe, secure, and free.

In the same manner, our military works together despite their own personal differences or political views. My father served in World War II and survived the Battle of the Bulge. He told me that the members of his unit came from all sorts of different backgrounds. They, no doubt, held many different views, but on the battlefield, those differences weren't important. What mattered was their common bond as Americans, their common love of country, and their common commitment to freedom.

What my father's generation did and what our servicemembers do every day is nothing less than extraordinary. Compared to their courage, the political and dangerous game that Senator TUBERVILLE is playing seems very, very small.

No Senator, no matter their party, has the right to put their personal and political agenda ahead of our national security and our servicemembers' freedom and safety. I urge my Republican colleagues to join me in opposing Senator TUBERVILLE's efforts to undermine our bipartisan commitment to our servicemembers and our national security because, ultimately, this kind of reckless, partisan game does not reflect who we are as Americans.

On distant battlefields and in faraway places, thousands of miles from their homes, our brave men and women in uniform risk their lives and confront great dangers so that all of us—including my colleague from Alabama—can be safe, secure, and free. While my colleague stands in the way of promotions, our servicemembers stand in the way of our greatest foes.

We can't ever repay the debt that we owe those who served, but we owe them nothing less than our full support, and that starts with ending this reckless stunt, uniting as Americans, and advancing these overdue promotions.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I follow the strong remarks from my colleague from New Hampshire.

I also note that we are joined by the Senator from Massachusetts, who has called out these delays from the very beginning, called out this what I will call a blockade. We thank Senator REED for his leadership of this committee.

These Senators here before us work every single day to make sure our military is strong. And what is going on with the Senator from Alabama, he has placed a reckless hold—a reckless hold—on the nominations of some of our Nation's finest public servants to more than 275 general and flag officer positions.

These holds, as you have heard tonight, are preventing the Pentagon from executing smooth leadership transitions for the most critical roles in our Nation's security apparatus and leaving entire Agencies without leaders.

I should note that our colleague from Alabama has not taken issue with the quality of these 275 candidates. In fact, some of these candidates were actually nominated for other positions by the previous President and earned bipartisan support. But our colleague from Alabama, for the reasons outlined by my friend from New Hampshire, is now holding the entire military chain of command hostage.

When I was home this past weekend, when I was at festivals, when I was in parades, everyone knew someone, everyone knew someone at the Duluth Airshow that was being held up. Everyone had heard about it from their friends. Certainly, every marine I met, they knew what was going on. So if people think this is just politics as usual and one Senator can just hold up the promotions and the positions of these fine public servants, they are wrong. People have noticed.

For example, we are currently without a confirmed Commandant of the Marine Corps. Our country has not been in this position since 1911. To say it in a different way, in 112 years, we have never let this role sit vacant until today because of one single Senator and his views, which, by the way, are not consistent with the majority of the American people's views.

My colleague has also stalled the promotions of three esteemed military leaders with strong ties to my own State. If you ask me, careers of honorable service should not be met by the politics of partisan spite.

My colleague's completely unnecessary interruption of promotions that support our military's essential work comes at a time when having steady, complete teams in place couldn't be more important. Whether you look at Ukraine's existential fight against Russia or the ever-growing threat of China, it is clear that the world needs America's leadership.

I spoke about this last night at length and today when it comes to keeping our covenant with those who stood with us on the battlefield, those who stood with us in Afghanistan. And here we are again tonight, really talking about the same thing in a different way.

We can talk all we want on this floor about what goes on, but those who actually serve, they deserve the best. And this is not the time to let essential roles sit vacant. Our servicemembers and the civilians who serve our military must be able to look to their leaders for guidance and stability.

This blockade is creating uncertainty among the people whose job it is to protect our Nation and forcing less experienced leaders to act in more senior roles.

I don't want to wait around and see what the worst possible outcome of delaying these transitions could be. In fact, I don't even want to think about that. But because of my colleague's blockade, we have no choice.

To use the words of one retired admiral, ''This is not a game.'' Our country deserves better. The Senate must do better.

Every day this blockade, caused by one Senator—one Senator—continues, it hurts our military, and it helps our enemies. We must end the blockade now.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I want to say a very special thank-you to Senator KLOBUCHAR for her thoughtful and passionate words about the harm that the Senator from Alabama is imposing on our military and on our Nation.

As the Senator from Minnesota said, we are here fighting to try to protect our Nation while Senator TUBERVILLE, in the view of the former Secretaries of

Defense of both parties, is undermining our national security.

I also want to thank Senator REED for his leadership and his steady hand in trying to persuade the Senator from Alabama that it is time to end this blockade.

This is the third time that I have come to the Senate floor to ask the Senator from Alabama to reconsider his unprecedented action of blocking hundreds of promotions earned by our men and women in uniform.

The Senate votes on nominees appointed by the President to occupy top roles in government—Cabinet Secretaries, judges, and Ambassadors. The Senate's role in approving nominations also extends to thousands of military promotions every year. If a colonel does an exceptional job and their military services promotion board decides that they are ready to be a brigadier general, the Senate must hold a vote for that promotion to go through.

In the vast majority of circumstances, this vote is a formality. Most of these promotions are considered in big batches rather than one at a time. Most of the time, there isn't even a recorded vote.

We are confident in the process, and we pass these people through. They have been thoroughly vetted, and their promotions are essential for our security.

But now, for 5 months, the Senator from Alabama has blocked all—all—senior military nominations and promotions from moving forward without a recorded vote. That means one Senator is personally standing in the way of promotions for 273 of our top-level military leaders.

One Senator is preventing the Marine Corps from having a Commandant for the first time in 100 years.

One Senator is setting the Army on a similar course not to have a senior leader.

One Senator is blocking the confirmation of the President's top military adviser, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

One Senator is holding up pay raises for hundreds of men and women in uniform. One Senator is jeopardizing America's national security.

The Senator from Alabama has taken this dangerous step because he disagrees with a policy the Department of Defense announced after last year's abortion decision by the Supreme Court. After that decision, the Department clarified that, if a member of the armed services needs to travel to access abortion care or other kinds of reproductive healthcare that are not available where they have been stationed—for instance, because a State where they have been stationed has banned these forms of healthcare—then they can leave to do so. This is a commonsense policy that is completely legal under the Department's existing authorities, as established by Congress.

The Senator from Alabama disagrees. I think he is wrong. But, look, we all have executive branch policies that we disagree with. As I previously pointed out, as Senators, we have many tools to influence policies. We can hold hearings. We can write oversight letters. We can vote. We can pass laws.

In fact, the Senate Armed Services Committee recently voted on a bill that would get rid of the policy that the Senator from Alabama opposes. The proposal to get rid of the policy failed to get a majority. It was rejected. And if we held that vote among the full Senate, I believe it would fail here as well.

In short, the Senator from Alabama doesn't have enough support to actually pass a law to change the Department's policy. So the Senator from Alabama, instead of accepting what the majority has decided here, instead has decided to hold our senior military leaders and their families hostage as a protest against the fact that he doesn't have enough votes to change a perfectly legal policy that he just doesn't like.

Since I was here last asking for these promotions to be approved, the situation has only become worse. The Senator from Alabama's hold has left the Marine Corps without a Commandant and will soon leave the Army without its most senior leader as well. If this continues through the fall, the President will be deprived of his top military adviser.

The Senator from Alabama is decapitating the leadership of our own military. And make no mistake, the real people being punished by these holds are the military families who had expected to make a move as part of taking up a new post in service to their country.

We must address the damage this hold has inflicted on our Armed Forces, and we must do so by immediately approving every single one of the 272 leaders being held hostage by the Senator's actions, not pick up 1 or 2, not 10 or 20 whom the Senator from Alabama decides would buy him some time—every single person.

This summer is a critical time for families moving across the country or across the world to try to find new housing, to enroll their kids in new schools, and, generally, to get ready for the new school year. But, now, all of that is on hold because those families don't know where they are going to be in the fall.

The Department of Defense has shared stories of students who are disenrolled from their current school because they thought they would be somewhere else in September. But now they don't know if they can enroll in their new school because their parent doesn't know if they will be able to relocate by then.

Spouses who assumed they would be moving or even ended a job now don't know where they may live or work.

These hundreds of nominees and their families can't wait for us to figure this out when we get back from the August recess. The Senator from Alabama needs to fix this now. If the Senator from Alabama refuses to lift his hold, he will be forcing families to either pull their kids out of classes in the middle of the school year or spend the year hundreds or even thousands of miles away from their loved ones.

Over 500 Active-Duty military spouses recently delivered a petition to the Senator from Alabama urging him to release his hold and to end this uncertainty for military families. They said it was ''highly inappropriate and unpatriotic to wage a political battle by using military servicemembers as pawns.''

These Active-Duty military spouses got it right. Spouses and families support our servicemembers. If we treat them and their service with this level of profound disrespect, we will only be exacerbating our country's military recruiting challenges.

We recently held a confirmation hearing for Gen. C.Q. Brown, the President's nominee to be the next Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. As the Senator from Alabama noted, General Brown has had to move 20 times over the course of his military career. General Brown was very clear about the consequences of the holds that the Senator from Alabama has imposed. He says that ''we will lose talent.''

Our senior military leaders don't want to be a political football, but even they are starting to speak out about the impact of these holds. The Deputy Commanding General of the U.S. Army Europe and Africa called these tactics ''reprehensible, irresponsible, and dangerous.''

Our civilian leaders are deeply concerned as well. In April, I sent a letter to Defense Secretary Austin asking about the impact of holding up these military promotions. Secretary Austin wrote: ''[T]he longer that this hold persists, the greater the risk the U.S. military runs in every theater, every domain, and every service.'' General Austin went on to point out that these unprecedented and unnecessary holds are creating ''rising disquiet from our allies and partners, at a moment when our competitors and adversaries are watching.''

As I have mentioned before, there is bipartisan opposition to the Senator from Alabama's actions. Seven former Defense Secretaries, including ones who served under President Trump and President George W. Bush, sent a letter stating that leaving senior positions ''in doubt at a time of enormous geopolitical uncertainty sends the wrong message to our adversaries and could weaken our deterrence.''

The first time I came to the floor to ask the Senator from Alabama to let these promotions move forward, he was holding up 184 nominees. The second time I asked him to step aside, the number was up to 221 top-level servicemembers. Now, we have 273 leaders who have been blocked from assuming leadership positions that they have earned

and that we need them to occupy in order to keep our country safe.

The Senator from Alabama is single-handedly holding up 10 four-star commanders, 54 three-star commanders, multiple Silver Star and Purple Heart recipients, the next Commandant of the Marine Corps, the next Chief of Staff of the Army, and the next Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

We have voted on this abortion policy. The Senate Armed Services Committee has held a briefing with the Department of Defense on this issue. We have held a briefing with the Department of Justice. The Department of Justice has issued a legal opinion that DOD is well within the law. Secretary Austin has personally called the Senator from Alabama to urge him to relent.

I am hopeful that the Senator from Alabama will finally do the right thing and allow these servicemembers to carry out their responsibilities to our Nation. We owe this to the people who put their lives on the line for Active service for our country and to the families who serve by making these lives possible.

The Senator from Alabama should relent for the families, should relent for the Active-Duty members of the military, and should relent for the security of our Nation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FETTERMAN). The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I rise with my colleagues on the floor this evening to discuss the very unfortunate actions of my Senate colleague from Alabama, blocking the advancements and promotions for hundreds of military officers.

I am a Senator from Virginia. Virginia is as connected to the U.S. military mission as any State. One out of every nine Virginians is a veteran. Our Active-Duty community is massive. Our military families, reservists, Guard men and women, DOD civilians, and DOD contractors create a Commonwealth deeply, deeply connected to the American military mission.

The map of Virginia—Yorktown, where the Revolutionary War ended; the battlefields of the Civil War; Appomattox, where the Civil War ended; Bedford, where a core of young people from that tiny mountain community served and died on D-day; the Pentagon, where we were attacked on 9/11—our map is a map of American military history. We train all Marine officers at Quantico. We have the largest naval base in the world in Norfolk and the largest military personnel facility in the world at the Pentagon. Virginia is steeped in the Nation's military mission.

I also rise as a member of the Armed Services Committee and as the father of a U.S. marine to urge my colleague from Alabama, as have my other friends on the floor tonight, to stop punishing our troops and their families, to stop punishing our troops and their families.

I want to talk about the policy, I want to talk about the stunt, and I want to talk about the victims.

The policy: Senator TUBERVILLE objects to the fact that the Department of Defense will allow a servicemember to take time off and travel to terminate a pregnancy lawfully. He objects to that policy.

Is that policy an unreasonable policy? No. It has been Federal policy since the Reagan administration that Federal funds could pay for a Peace Corps volunteer to travel to terminate a pregnancy lawfully if the place where that Peace Corps volunteer was serving did not offer reproductive healthcare access. The Reagan administration was a Republican administration. The policy announced with respect to Peace Corps volunteers in the 1980s was written by then-Department of Justice lawyer Ted Olson, who became the Solicitor General under the Bush administration.

So, for now 40 years, it has been Federal policy that if a Peace Corps volunteer chooses to lawfully terminate a pregnancy, the Federal Government will both allow her time off and pay for her travel—in Democratic and Republican administrations.

It is, similarly, Federal policy that a female prisoner committed to the Federal Bureau of Prisons will be allowed to travel to terminate a pregnancy lawfully and that the Federal Government will pay for that travel. So the policy has been now for 40 years that the Federal Government will pay for travel of Peace Corps volunteers and Federal prisoners to lawfully terminate a pregnancy.

Senator TUBERVILLE wants women servicemembers to have fewer rights than Federal prisoners. Senator TUBERVILLE wants women servicemembers to not be accorded the same choice and protection that we have accorded Peace Corps volunteers since the early 1980s during the Reagan administration.

Why—why—would we say to women who volunteer to wear the uniform of this country and risk their lives that you are not entitled to what we have allowed Peace Corps volunteers and Federal prisoners to have for decades?

What is it about pledging to wear the uniform and offer your life and service to the Nation that should disable you from rights that have been afforded to others?

This is the policy that Senator TUBERVILLE wants to reverse. He wants to mandate that our servicewomen receive fewer rights and fewer protections than Federal prisoners or Peace Corps volunteers.

I find that proposal outrageous. I find that proposal deeply inequitable. But I do defend my colleague's right to have that opinion, if that is his opinion. We have 100 people in this body. We have a lot of different opinions about a lot of different things. But there is a right way and a wrong way.

And so now let me move from the policy to the stunt. I am on the Armed Services Committee. I have my chair here. I have been so pleased to serve with him for the 10 years I have been in the Senate. And he knows I have often offered amendments as part of our annual Defense bill where I failed. I have tried to convince my colleagues, for example, in the writing of the Defense bill to terminate outdated war authorizations, and I have been told, no, this is not the right committee for that; that should be in the Foreign Relations Committee. I have asked for a vote anyway, and I lost. I couldn't convince my colleagues that I was right.

We had a significant debate a few years ago about whether we should do across-the-board cuts in the headquarters of the Pentagon, and I was worried about what across-the-board cuts might do to things like military housing. So I tried to convince my colleagues to see things my way and, instead, adopt my position, and I failed. I had the opportunity to persuade them, but I couldn't persuade a majority.

So what do you do when you can't persuade a majority? Do you punish people who had nothing to do with the policy that you disagree with? No. Not a single member of our committee has ever taken this step during the 10 years that I have been on the committee until Senator TUBERVILLE has decided to undertake this stunt.

Senator TUBERVILLE had an opportunity in connection with the Defense bill in the committee to advocate his position—it was actually an amendment drafted by Senator ERNST, and Senator TUBERVILLE was the cosponsor—to reverse the policy I described earlier and to take away rights from servicewomen—rights that are enjoyed by Federal prisoners and Peace Corps volunteers. And they had an opportunity to persuade. And they offered that amendment, and they failed. They couldn't convince a majority of the committee to go along with them. But they had their chance.

And so once they have had their chance and failed to persuade their colleagues, they now turn, and Senator TUBERVILLE—I don't want to assert this is Senator ERNST; Senator ERNST and Senator TUBERVILLE have the same position on the policy, but Senator ERNST disagrees with the blockade—Senator TUBERVILLE is now taking out his disappointment. I couldn't convince my colleagues of the policy, so why don't I now punish hundreds of military officers and their families? It is a stunt.

When you can't convince your colleagues, be more persuasive next time or find a middle ground or have a dialogue and listen; and maybe the next time you will try, you will do it better, and you will be more persuasive. But, no, that is not what the Senator is doing. Instead, he is deciding to punish these officers and their families.

And I will tell you, in some ways, the part of this stunt that makes me the

angriest is the part that is happening right now. Right now on the Senate floor, we are debating the Defense bill, because maybe you could say I lost my vote in committee, but it is such an issue of conviction and conscience for me that I want to have the whole Senate vote on it. I could see Senator TUBERVILLE—if it really mattered to him, if this policy was really a matter of conviction and conscience for him, you would think he would say: I know I lost in committee, but maybe I will succeed on the floor of the Senate, and I want that opportunity. I want the public to know we have offered Senator TUBERVILLE the ability to vote on this matter on the floor of the Senate. Let's do it in front of the entire American public. You stand up and you say why the Department of Defense policy is wrong and you put it to a vote and make every one of the 100 Senators vote on it.

We have given him that opportunity. As of right now, 5 after 11, the night before we hope to finish the NDAA, he has not accepted it.

Wait a minute. Does he even care about this issue? If it is a matter of conscience and conviction, wouldn't you want to debate it on the floor of the Senate to show how much you care about it? But as of right now, he has not accepted our offer to allow him to have this vote.

Why hasn't he accepted the offer? He knows he is going to lose and probably lose worse than he lost in the committee because there are many people—both Democrats and Republicans—who are tired of the punishment that he is meting out on these military officers. That is why this is a stunt.

If he had the courage of his convictions, he would be on the floor listening to this right now. If he had the courage of his convictions, he would be asking for a vote. If he had the courage of his convictions, he would be accepting the outcome of the vote. And if unsuccessful, he would stop this foolish blockade.

Last, about the victims: My colleagues have done a very good job of talking about who is being damaged and how. It is these officers, certainly, but it is really their families—the inability to move, to find a new school for your children. We have officers among the list of those being blockaded who, on the assumption of a promotion, because it has been done as a matter of course for decades—sold a home, can't buy a new one because the new orders haven't yet come through and have had to pay out of their personal funds to move their families because the military won't pay to move them, hoping that they might be able to get reimbursed.

We have a Virginia officer who has been blocked a promotion, whose wife is a public-school teacher who had resigned from her job and not accepted the contract for the public school for the next year on the thought that she would be looking for a job in a new jurisdiction for a public school. And now she is out of the past job without the ability to go find a new job. What did they do to deserve this?

My colleagues have pointed out that Senator TUBERVILLE does not object to the qualifications of any of these people. He voted for them in committee. In addition, Senator TUBERVILLE has not asserted that a single one of these people had anything to do with the policy he doesn't like.

I mean, it would be one thing if we were nominating for a promotion the individual who developed the policy that Senator TUBERVILLE didn't like. You might understand him subjecting that individual to some more significant scrutiny and even opposition. But none of these people had anything to do with the travel policy announced by the Department of Defense after the Dobbs decision.

So punishing people who were serving this country, who had nothing to do with the policy that you complain about; punishing them not because of what they did but punishing them because you were not persuasive enough to convince your colleagues to embrace a policy that you advanced. It makes no sense.

We know we are facing a recruiting challenge in the military. We are facing it generally. We also know that in certain specialties, that recruiting challenge is particularly acute. Use pilots for an example. Pilots have a lot of opportunities. A number of the officers who are on this list are Air Force or Aviators in the other service branches, and they have all kinds of options to go to the private sector and get paid a whole lot more than they do, but they choose to work for less because they are patriotic about this country and they believe this country respects them.

What does this say to them? What would you do if you were a rational person and you had an opportunity when your promotion was being blocked for something you had nothing to do with, what would you do if there was another opportunity you could take?

My oldest son, who is Active Duty and now a Marine Reservist, is of an age where an awful lot of people are trying to make this decision about: Do I stay in the military or not? I have had a career. I have been in for 8 years or so. Do I stay and make a full career out of it or not?

We know from recruiting polling that we have been doing that one of the main reasons we have a recruiting and retention problem in the military—this was identified in Army polling—is people's belief—it is interesting. I was actually surprised by this polling. We are not having a recruiting challenge because people are afraid to serve or think they might get injured. We are having a recruiting challenge because people believe that if they serve in the military, they will fall behind their peers who don't serve in the military; that their peers who don't serve might advance in their careers and have opportunities decades from now that would be more than what I have if I went in the military.

So if that is our significant problem right now, what is the message that is sent to people who might want to serve if they know: Wow, one Senator who is unhappy with something the Pentagon does can block my professional advancement even though I had nothing to do with that, even though I have served honorably and deployed and won a Silver Star and Purple Heart and other citations for bravery, even though all that happens—if one Senator—only one, only one—is unhappy with something that the Pentagon has done, they can block my professional advancement, just for that reason. How is that going to help us counter the recruiting and retention problem we have in the U.S. military?

My colleagues have done a good job of listing some of the particular positions that are vacant. They have no confirmed Commandant of the Marine Corps to come up against possibly no confirmed chief of staff on the joint chiefs of staff, to have no confirmed head of the U.S. Naval Academy.

Virginia is a shipbuilding and subbuilding State. To have no head of Navy nuclear reactors—we are the premiere producer of nuclear subs in the world. The reactors get built in Virginia—in Lynchburg, generally—and then they get installed on subs and carriers in Newport News. This is what our State does. This nuclear reactor thing is not something to mess around with. It is not a minor thing that just anyone can do. To be the head of Navy nuclear reactors is a really important position.

We just announced through President Biden an initiative with Australia and the United Kingdom to do nuclear sub capacity building together over the course of decades. How good would we be at this commitment we have made if we don't have a head of naval nuclear reactors confirmed in serving this country?

So I join with my colleagues on this floor and ask Senator TUBERVILLE to stop punishing these people.

They served enough. They have done enough. They sweat enough. They bled enough. They moved enough. They sacrificed enough, and they are willing to do even more. Stop punishing them. Stop punishing them.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I want to commend the Senator from Virginia for his articulate and passionate and compelling comments this evening—and all of my colleagues. All of them have made the point that these holds have cascading effects.

It is not just the individual nominee; it is the person waiting to take his or her position. It is not just someone in uniform; it is a family. We are talking

about hundreds of people on the list for nominations. We are talking about thousands of people whose lives will be changed—extraordinarily changed.

The particular effects are on the family. No one serves in the military alone. Families serve. And when you see the disruption that is going to take place—young people not being able to get into schools, teachers who give up their teaching jobs and can't get another—those are real, real costs, in addition, obviously, to every day wondering whether that servicemember who is your spouse or your father will return, or whether mother will return, and, particularly, when they are committed overseas in areas of combat or confrontation.

Now, what Senator TUBERVILLE has said is, ''Well, let's just vote on them.'' That is ridiculous. We know it would take months and months of exclusive voting on these nominations to clear this list, while another list is building up.

And also, there has been some suggestion that we simply—well, we have to get a Chief of Staff of the Marine Corps or the Commandant. Let's vote on a commandant.

But there is an ethic in the military: Leave no one behind.

We cannot turn our backs on the hundreds of relatively young professionals, those colonels who are being promoted to O–7. All of them contribute significantly to the protection of this country, to the stability of our Armed Forces, and they can't be ignored.

What I would like to do is to indicate who would be left behind, who at this point are being ignored—in fact, more than that. What I am going to call off is a roll of honor of men and women who serve and are being dishonored by Senator TUBERVILLE's hold upon their nominations.

I am going to proceed in approximately chronological order from the nomination going forward.

The President nominated Col. Leigh A. Swanson to be brigadier general in the U.S. Air Force. She is a senior flight surgeon in the Air Force. Colonel Swanson has 29 years of service, amassing 545 flight hours and 55 combat flight hours. She carries her medical license in the State of Alabama.

Col. David J. Berkland is nominated to brigadier general of the U.S. Air Force. He is a command-rated pilot with over 3,400 flying hours, including 900 combat hours.

Col. Amy S. Bumgarner is in the U.S. Air Force and is nominated to brigadier general. She is currently serving as Vice Commander, Air Force Office of Special Investigations at Marine Corps Base Quantico. She has now served 28 years in uniform, spanning 17 different assignments, including in Afghanistan.

Col. Ivory D. Carter, nominated to brigadier general, is currently serving as Director, Legislative Liaison, U.S. Cyber Command, Fort Meade. He began his Air Force career as an enlisted information manager in 1990. He has now served 33 years in uniform, spanning 15 different assignments.

Col. Raja Chari is nominated for brigadier general. He is currently serving as an astronaut with NASA. Yes, we are blocking someone who is going to be one of our astronauts.

Col. Jason E. Corrothers is nominated to brigadier general. He is a 1999 graduate of the Air Force Academy. He served 24 years in uniform, spanning 14 different assignments.

Col. John ''Bryan'' Creel is nominated to brigadier general. He amassed over 35 years of uniform service. He is now graded as a command pilot and has more than 7,500 flight hours. He has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with Valor Device, one of the most significant decorations that one could obtain in the Air Force.

Col. Nichols B. Evans has been nominated brigadier general. He is currently serving as Executive Assistant to the Commander, Pacific Air Forces, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Col. Bridget V. Gigliotti has been nominated to brigadier general. She grew up in a Navy family and was commissioned in May 1997 upon graduation through the Air Force Academy. She has now served 26 years in uniform, spanning 19 different assignments.

Col. Chris B. ''Wolf'' Hammond is nominated to be brigadier general. Colonel Hammond is rated as a command pilot, amassing more than 3,000 flight hours, including 400 combat hours. He has now served 25 years in uniform, spanning 17 different assignments.

Col. Leslie F. Hauck. He is currently serving as Commander, 52nd Fighter Wing, in Germany. He is rated a command pilot with over 2,400 hours in the F–16, including 285 combat hours in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He has also been deployed in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Noble Eagle.

Colonel Kurt C. Helphinstine is nominated to brigadier general. He has over 2,700 flying hours in the F–15E, T–38, and T–37, and has 905 combat hours over Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan.

I think all of these gentlemen and ladies who have flown hundreds of hours in combat don't deserve to be disrespected as they are now and wonder if they will get promoted.

Col. Abraham L. Jackson, to be brigadier general, has 25 years in uniform as a career intelligence officer, spanning 15 different assignments.

Col. Benjamin R. Jonsson to be promoted as brigadier general. Colonel Jonsson was assigned to Charleston Air Force Base, where he flew some of the initial C–17A combat missions of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, from 2006 to 2008.

Colonel Jonsson and his family lived in Amman, Jordan, where he graduated from the University of Jordan as an Olmsted Scholar. He later served as the Desk Officer for Egypt and Jordan on the Joint Staff J–5 during the Arab Spring. He is a superbly qualified individual, both as an Air Force officer and as someone who knows a great deal about the Middle East.

Col. Joy M. Kaczor, nominated to brigadier general, is currently serving as Commander, White House Communications Agency, Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling.

Col. Christopher J. Leonard, nominated to brigadier general. Colonel Leonard entered the Air Force in May 1997, after graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy. He has now served 26 years in uniform, serving in 23 different assignments, including numerous overseas postings.

Col. Christopher Menuey, to be brigadier general, is currently serving as Director of Commander's Action Group, Headquarters U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska.

Col. David S. Miller, nominated to brigadier general, is currently serving as Vice Commander, Air Force Sustainment Center, Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma.

Col. Jeffrey A. Phillips to be nominated as brigadier general. Colonel Phillips received his commission via Officer Training School at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama in 1999, following 6 years of service as an enlisted airman. He has now served 30 years in uniform, 24 as an officer, spanning 20 different assignments.

Col. Erik M. Quigley to be brigadier general. Colonel Quigley was commissioned in 1997 as a distinguished graduate from Utah State University's ROTC Program. He has now served 26 years in uniform, spanning 17 different duty assignments, including a deployment to Afghanistan.

Col. Scott Rowe to be brigadier general. He has now served 25 years in uniform, spanning 14 different duty assignments, including as Commander, 12th Flying Training Wing, Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph, Texas; and Commander, 18th Operations Group, Kadena Air Base, Japan.

Col. Derek M. Salmi to be brigadier general. Colonel Salmi is a command pilot with more than 3,000 hours in flight and trainer aircraft. He has deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and New Dawn.

Col. Kayle Stevens. Colonel Stevens is a graduate from Wellesley College and received her commission through ROTC at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She is a career intelligence officer.

Col. Jose E. Sumagil to be brigadier general. He is Chief, Air Force Senate Liaison Division. He has now served 26 years in uniform, spanning 18 different duty assignments. He is rated as a master navigator with more than 2,500 flight hours.

Col. Terence G. Taylor to be a brigadier general. Colonel Taylor attended the University of Virginia, where he served his commission through the Air Force ROTC. He is a command-rated pilot with more than 4,800 flying hours, including 1,800 combat hours.

Col. Daniel J. Voorhies. Colonel Voorhies attended the University of Virginia. He was commissioned through ROTC. He has now served 22 years in uniform, spanning 11 different duty assignments.

Col. Michael O. Walters to be promoted to brigadier general. Colonel Walters has combat experience in Operations Enduring Freedom, Freedom's Sentinel, and Inherent Resolve. He has amassed more than 2,600 flying hours, including 588 combat hours.

Col. Adrienne L. Williams is currently serving as Vice Commander, 18th Air Force, Scott Air Force Base. She has now served 23 years in uniform, spanning 16 different duty assignments.

The President also nominated Col. Corey A. Simmons to be brigadier general in the U.S. Air Force. He has now served 25 years in uniform, spanning 19 different duty assignments. He is a command pilot with more than 3,200 hours in airlift and trainer aircraft.

The President nominated Rear Admiral George M. Wikoff to be vice admiral in the U.S. Navy Central Command/Commander Fifth Fleet and Commander, Combined Maritime Forces. He has served 33 years in uniform, spanning 29 different duty assignments.

The President has nominated the following officers to brigadier general in the U.S. Air Force Reserve:

Col. Sean M. Carpenter. He has served nearly 18 years on Active Duty. He is a command-rated pilot with over 3,000 flying hours, including 325 combat hours, and over five combat deployments.

Col. Mary K. Haddad. Colonel Haddad has 13 years of Active Duty, spanning 13 different duty assignments, including numerous combat assignments.

Col. James L. Hartle to be brigadier general. He has served 23 years of Active-Duty service, spanning 21 different duty assignments, including a number of combat deployments.

Col. Aaron J. Heick. Colonel Heick has served 26 years in uniform, spanning 17 different duty assignments, including a deployment to Turkey.

Col. Joseph D. Janik to be brigadier general. Colonel Janik earned his commission via Officer Training School, Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama. He is a command-rated pilot with over 4,000 flight hours and 3,000 civilian flight hours.

Col. Michael T. McGinley to be brigadier general. He has now served 25 years in uniform, spanning 11 different assignments, including as Director of DIU, the Defense Innovation Unit.

Col. Kevin J. Merrill. Colonel Merrill is a command pilot with more than 3,700 hours in multiple aircraft. He was deployed on several occasions in support of Operations Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom.

Col. Tara E. Nolan to be brigadier general. She has served 28 years in uniform spanning 18 different duty assignments, including in support of numerous combat and contingency operations.

Col. Roderick C. Owens to be brigadier general. Colonel Owens has served 27 years in uniform spanning 15 different duty assignments.

Col. Mark D. Richey. Colonel Richey has 26 years of uniformed service. Colonel Richey is a command pilot with more than 4,500 flying hours and 675 combat sorties.

Col. Norman B. Shaw, Jr., to be a brigadier general. He is a command pilot with more than 3,400 flying hours.

The President has also nominated Col. Kristen A. Hillery to brigadier general. She has served 30 years in uniform spanning 14 different duty assignments, including Commander, 752nd Medical Squadron, March Air Force Base, CA.

Col. Michelle L. Wagner to be brigadier general. She has now served 26 years in uniform spanning nine different assignments, including two medical commands.

The President has also nominated the following officers to the grade of major general in the U.S. Air Force Reserve:

Brig. Gen. Elizabeth Arledge, who spent 6 years on Active Duty working with nuclear weapons, conventional munitions, and special operations aircraft before joining the Air Force Reserve in 1998.

Brig. Gen. Robert M. Blake has amassed more than 4,500 flying hours in military aircraft, including combat sorties in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Brig. Gen. Vanessa J.E. Dornhoefer, who has 27 years of Active-Duty service spanning 16 different duty assignments.

Brig. Gen. Christopher A. Freeman. Brigadier General Freeman earned his commission from the Air Force ROTC Program at the University of Alabama in 1992 as a distinguished graduate. He has been awarded the Purple Heart, the Legion of Merit, and the Defense Distinguished Service Medal. He is being held in this blockade.

With that, I would like to yield to the Senator from Virginia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I would like to continue this wall of honor, this honor roll of these patriotic public servants.

Rear Admiral John Gumbleton to be a vice admiral of the U.S. Navy and Deputy Commander of U.S. Fleet Forces Command. He currently serves as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Budget. He has 34 years of service to the Navy. His awards include the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and the Meritorious Service Medal.

Rear Admiral Christopher S. Gray to be a vice admiral of the U.S. Navy and the Commander of Navy Installations Command. He currently serves as Commander of Navy Region Mid-Atlantic and has 34 years of service. He has served as the Commander of Navy Region Northwest and the Chief of Staff of Navy Installations Command. His awards include the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal With Combat ''V'' and Strike/Flight numeral 1.

Rear Admiral James Pitts to be a vice admiral in the U.S. Navy and Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Warfighting Requirements and Capabilities. He currently serves as the Director of the Warfare Integration, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. He has 37 years of service. He has been awarded the Legion of Merit with one gold star, Defense Superior Service Medal, and the Meritorious Service Medal with three gold stars. He has 30 different awards, many received multiple times.

Gen. Kenneth Wilsbach for reappointment as a general in the U.S. Air Force and Commander, Air Force Combat Command. He currently serves as the Commander of Pacific Air Forces. He has 38 years of service. General Wilsbach is a command pilot with more than 5,000 hours in multiple aircrafts, Defense Distinguished Service Medal with one oakleaf cluster, Defense Superior Service Medal with one oakleaf cluster, Legion of Merit with two oakleaf clusters, and the Bronze Star Medal.

Maj. Gen. Linda S. Hurry to be a lieutenant general in the U.S. Air Force and Deputy Commander, Air Force Materiel Command. She is nominated to be the Deputy Commander of Air Force Materiel Command, which manages installation and mission support, discovery and development, testing and evaluation, and life cycle management services and sustainment for every Air Force weapon system. Air Force Materiel Command employs nearly 86,000 military and civilian airmen, managing a $71.3 billion budget. Major Hurry has served for 32 years. Her awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with one oakleaf cluster, and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with one oakleaf cluster.

BG Miguel Mendez to be a major general in the Army National Guard of the United States. He served 35 years in the Army, encompassing 20 different duty stations. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal with two bronze oakleaf clusters and the Army Commendation Medal with one bronze oakleaf cluster.

COL Marlene Markotan to be brigadier general of the U.S. Army Reserve. She currently serves as the Group Commander at Fort Totten, NY. She served 32 years in the Army, encompassing 20 different duty stations. She was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal with three bronze oakleaf clusters.

Col. David Castaneda to be brigadier general in the U.S. Air Force Reserve. He served 30 years in the Air Force, 21 different duty stations. He served in multiple different leadership capacities at both the headquarters and wing level. He is a command pilot with more than 2,600 hours in the F–16 and F–35,

and more than 550 of those hours are in combat. His awards include the Legion of Merit with one oakleaf cluster and the Meritorious Service Medal with three oakleaf clusters.

MG Karl H. Gingrich to be a lieutenant general in the U.S. Army while also serving as a Deputy Chief of Staff in the U.S. Army. He currently serves as Director of Program Analysis and Evaluation with the U.S. Army. He has 34 years in the Army, 23 different duty assignments, including 2 assignments in support of combat operations. He was awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with four bronze oakleaf clusters, and the Bronze Star Medal.

The following three officers have been nominated to serve as rear admiral in the Navy Reserve:

Rear Admiral Kenneth R. Blackmon currently serves as the Reserve Director for U.S. Fleet Forces Command and previously served as Deputy Commander of the U.S. Third Fleet. He was awarded the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with one oakleaf cluster, and the Joint Service Commendation Medal.

Rear Admiral Marc Lederer currently serves as the Reserve Deputy for Fleet Readiness and Logistics for the CNO. He has 32 years in the Navy encompassing 21 different duty assignments. His awards include the Legion of Merit with one gold star, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with one oakleaf cluster, and the Meritorious Service Medal with one gold star.

Rear Admiral Robert Nowakowski currently serves as Reserve Vice Commander, U.S. Naval Forces for U.S. Central Command. He has 31 years in the Navy encompassing 21 different duty assignments. He previously served as Deputy Commander of the Navy Recruiting Command. I would love to have him here and ask him how this blockade might affect recruiting into the Navy. His awards include the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and the Meritorious Service Medal with one gold star.

The President has nominated these six officers in the Navy Reserve to the grade of rear admiral as unrestricted line officers:

CAPT Jeffrey Jurgemeyer. He currently serves as Chief of Navy Reserve, U.S. Naval Surface Force Pacific. He has 30 years in the Navy and Reserve encompassing 18 different duty assignments. He was awarded the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, and the Meritorious Service Medal with two gold stars.

CAPT Richard S. Lofgren currently serves as the Commanding Officer of Navy Reserve Fourth Fleet. He has served 30 years, 20 different duty assignments. His awards include the Legion of Merit and the Meritorious Service Medal with one gold star.

CAPT Michael Mattis currently serves as the Deputy Commander, Navy Reserve Region Readiness and Mobilization Command in San Diego. He has 29 years in the Navy, 17 different duty assignments. He has been awarded the Legion of Merit with two gold stars and the Bronze Star.

CAPT Richard Meyer serves as the Deputy Commander of the Navy Region Southeast Reserve Component in Fort Worth. He has 30 years in the Navy, 20 different duty assignments, and has been awarded the Legion of Merit with one gold star and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

CAPT Bryon T. Smith is currently serving as Commanding Officer of the Navy Reserve Navy Installations Command EOC. He has 28 years in the Navy, 17 different duty assignments. His awards include the Legion of Merit with one gold star and the Meritorious Service Medal with one gold star.

CAPT Michael R. Vanpoots is currently serving as the Deputy Commander of Navy Reserve Region Readiness and Mobilization Command. He has 28 years in the Navy, 20 different assignments. His awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

CAPT John Byington to be a rear admiral. He has served 33 years in the Navy, with 22 different duty assignments. He previously served as the Region Commander for the Naval Information Force Reserve Southeast Region. His awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with two bronze oakleaf clusters and the Meritorious Service Medal with one gold star.

CAPT John Robinson to be rear admiral in the U.S. Navy Reserve. He currently serves as the Commanding Officer of the Navy Reserve Chief of Information Headquarters. He has 26 years in the Navy, 10 different duty stations. He has been awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with one gold star and the Meritorious Service Medal.

Lt. Gen. Gregory Guillot—we had him before our committee today—who is a general in the U.S. Air Force, to serve as the Commander of the U.S. Northern Command, protecting the homeland of the United States and North America, and also to be the Commander of North American Aerospace Defense Command, NORAD. He currently serves as Deputy Commander of U.S. Central Command. He has commanded a flying squadron, operations group, two flying wings, and a numbered Air Force. He has served 34 years in the Air Force, with 24 different duty assignments, and has more than 1,380 flying hours. His awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal with two oakleaf clusters, the Legion of Merit with one oakleaf cluster, and the Bronze Star Medal with two oakleaf clusters.

LTG Laura A. Potter to be a lieutenant general in the Army and also to serve as the Director of Army Staff. She currently serves as the Deputy Chief of Staff, which is the principal officer responsible to the Chief of Staff of the Army for all Army intelligence matters. She has 33 years in the Army, 20 different duty assignments, including four in support of combat operations. She has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal with one bronze oakleaf cluster, Legion of Merit with one bronze oakleaf cluster, and the Bronze Star Medal with one bronze oakleaf cluster.

MG William J. Hartman to be a lieutenant general in the U.S. Army while serving as the Deputy Commander of U.S. Cyber Command. He currently serves as Commander of Cyber National Mission Force. He was born in Mobile, AL. He graduated from the University of South Alabama ROTC Program. He has 33 years in the Army, encompassing 19 different duty assignments, including 8 assignments in support of combat operations. His awards include the Legion of Merit with one bronze oakleaf cluster, the Bronze Star Medal with two bronze oakleaf clusters, and the Meritorious Service Medal with four bronze oakleaf clusters.

CAPT David Ludwa to be a rear admiral in the U.S. Navy Reserve. He has 28 years in the Navy, 24 different duty assignments. He has been awarded the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with one bronze oakleaf cluster and the Meritorious Service Medal with two gold stars.

CAPT Peter Muschinske to be a rear admiral to the U.S. Naval Reserve as a Navy Chaplain. He currently serves as the Deputy Fleet Chaplain with the Navy Reserve U.S. Pacific Fleet. He served 33 years in the Navy, all as Chaplain. He served in 15 different duty assignments providing chaplain and ministry services to sailors and marines around the world. His awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with three gold stars.

CAPT Marc F. Williams to be a rear admiral in the U.S. Navy Reserve Civil Engineer Corps. He earned his commission after graduating from the academy in 1998 with a degree in ocean engineering. He has 25 years in the Navy, 17 different duty assignments. His awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with two gold stars and the Joint Service Commendation Medal.

LTG Andrew M. Rohling to be a lieutenant general while also serving as the Deputy Chairman of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Military Committee—a very important position because it is a very important time for NATO. He served as a deputy commanding general, U.S. Army, Africa, Europe. He has 34 years in the Army, 27 different duty stations, 7 supporting combat operations. His awards include the Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal for combat service, Legion of Merit with two bronze oakleaf clusters, the Bronze Star Medal for Valor with one bronze oakleaf cluster, the Bronze Star Medal with three bronze oakleaf clusters, and he is also a Purple Heart recipient.

MG John B. Richardson IV to serve as Commanding General, First U.S. Army; 32 years of service, 27 different duty assignments, including 6 assignments supporting combat operations. Defense Superior Service Medal for Combat Service, Defense Superior Service Medal with one bronze oakleaf cluster, Legion of Merit for Combat Service, the Legion of Merit with two bronze oakleaf clusters, Bronze Star Medal for Valor, Bronze Star Medal with two oakleaf clusters, Purple Heart recipient.

I will now rest my voice and yield back to my chairman, Senator REED.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. I thank the Senator from Virginia, and let me continue the roll of officers.

Brig. Gen. David P. Garfield. He is a command pilot with 4,800 flying hours, including 506 combat hours. He has been awarded the Legion of Merit and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Brig. Gen. Mitchell A. Hanson to become major general. Brigadier General Hanson has flown the A–10 and F–16 in a variety of operational assignments and is a command pilot with more than 3,400 flying hours and over 200 combat hours.

General Jody A. Merritt. She has served 33 years in uniform, spanning 17 different duty assignments. She has been awarded the Legion of Merit and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

General Adrian K. White. He has 33 years of uniformed service, spanning 17 different duty assignments. He has been awarded the Legion of Merit and Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

General William W. Whittenberger, Jr. He is a command pilot with more than 4,500 hours and has flown combat missions in Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Iraq. He has been awarded the Legion of Merit and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

General Christopher F. Yancy. His combat experience includes nine deployments in Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, Southern Watch and Northern Watch; multiple operations in the former Yugoslavia; and Expeditionary Fighter Squadron Command in South Korea.

The President has nominated COL Carlos M. Caceres to be a brigadier general in the U.S. Army Reserve. The colonel has served 31 years in uniform. He completed a 19-month deployment to Iraq and was awarded the Bronze Star.

The President has nominated COL William F. Wilkerson to be a brigadier general in the U.S. Army Reserve. He has 22 months deployed in support of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and has been awarded two Bronze Stars.

The President has nominated COL Evelyn E. Laptook to be a brigadier general. She has now served 30 years in uniform, including as Deputy Surgeon General, Office of the Surgeon General, Defense Intelligence Agency, and Chief of Intelligence/Assistant Chief of Staff J2, Kosovo Forces.

The President has nominated BG Ronald R. Ragin to be a major general in the U.S. Army. He has five separate deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. He has been awarded four Legion of Merits and three Bronze Stars.

The President has nominated CAPT Walter D. Brafford and CAPT Robert J. Hawkins to be appointed to the grade of rear admiral. Captain Brafford has 27 years of service as a dental officer. Captain Hawkins has 26 years of service, primarily as a nurse anesthetist.

The following individuals have been nominated to rear admiral (lower half):

CAPT Amy N. Bauernschmidt. She is currently serving as Commanding Officer of the USS *Abraham Lincoln*. She has 29 years of service.

CAPT Michael Brent Devore, 28 years of service. He worked as Commanding Officer of the USS *New York* and Commanding Officer of USS *Stethem*.

CAPT Thomas Anthony Donovan, 27 years of service; Commanding Officer, Naval Special Warfare Tactical Development and Evaluation Squadron TWO.

CAPT Frederic C. Goldhammer, 30 years of service; Commanding Officer, USS *Ronald Reagan*.

CAPT Ian Lake Johnson, 29 years of service; Commanding Officer, Naval Station Newport, RI; also awarded the Legion of Merit and Meritorious Service Medal.

CAPT Neil Andrew Koprowsky. He was the Commanding Officer of the USS *Kearsarge* and Commanding Officer of the USS *San Antonio*.

CAPT Paul Joseph Lanzilotta, currently serving as Commanding Officer of the USS *Gerald R. Ford*. His awards include the Legion of Merit and the Meritorious Service Medal.

CAPT Joshua Lasky, currently serving as Assistant Deputy Director for Global Operations, J39, Joint Staff, Washington, DC; 29 years of service.

CAPT Donald Wilson Marks, 28 years of service. He was the Commanding Officer of Naval Surface Group Western Pacific.

CAPT Craig Thomas Mattingly. He is currently serving as Senior Military Advisor, Office of the Secretary of the Navy; 29 years of service.

CAPT Andrew Thomas Miller, currently serving as Chief of Staff, U.S. Strategic Command Special Activities Atlantic; 29 years of service.

CAPT Lincoln Michael Reifsteck, serving as Branch Head, Commanders Action Group, Undersea Warfare Division, N97; 28 years of service.

CAPT Frank Alexander Rhodes IV, 28 years of service, was a Commander of Carrier Air Wing THREE. His awards include the Legion of Merit and the Meritorious Service Medal.

CAPT Thomas Edwin Schultz, currently serving as Executive Assistant to the Under Secretary of the Navy; 29 years of service; and was Commanding Officer of the USS *Green Bay*.

CAPT Todd Edward Whalen, currently serving as Chief of Staff, Naval Surface Force Atlantic; 28 years of service.

CAPT Forrest Owen Young, 29 years of service and formerly Commander, Carrier Wing FIVE.

The President has nominated CAPT Frank G. Schlereth III to be rear admiral (lower half), U.S. Navy. He is currently serving as Division Chief/Executive Assistant to the Director, Defense Intelligence Agency, and he is selected as Special Duty Officer with Foreign Expertise. He served as Naval Attache in Greece and the Assistant Naval Attache in Israel.

The President has nominated CAPT Brian J. Anderson and CAPT Julie M. Treanor for appointments to the grade of rear admiral (lower half).

Captain Anderson is currently serving as Assistant Commander, Supply Chain Policy and Management, Naval Supply Systems, and he has 28 years of service.

CAPT Julie Mary Treanor is currently serving as Chief of Staff, N41, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, with 29 years of service.

The President has nominated RDML Casey J. Moton and RDML Stephen R. Tedford for appointments to rear admiral in the U.S. Navy.

Admiral Moton is currently serving as Program Executive Officer, Unmanned and Small Combatants. He has 34 years of service.

Admiral Tedford is currently serving as Program Executive Officer for Unmanned Aviation and Strike Weapons. He has 32 years of service.

The President has nominated RDML Rick Freedman to be a rear admiral in the U.S. Navy. Admiral Freedman is currently serving as Director, Education and Training, Defense Health Agency; 32 years of service.

The President has nominated RDML Kenneth W. Epps to be a rear admiral in the U.S. Navy. Admiral Epps is currently serving as Commander, Naval Supply Systems, Command Weapons Systems Support; 33 years of service.

The President has nominated the following officers to the grade of rear admiral in the Navy:

RDML Stephen Dennard Barnett, currently serving as Navy Region Hawaii Commander/Naval Surface Group MIDPAC; 32 years of service.

RDML Michael Wayne Baze, currently serving as Commander, Expeditionary Strike Group THREE; 33 years of service.

RDML Richard Thomas Brophy, Jr., currently serving as Chief of Naval Air Training; 32 years of service.

RDML Joseph F. Cahill III, currently serving as Commander, Carrier Strike Group FIFTEEN; 31 years of service.

RDML Jeffrey John Czerewko, currently serving as Commander, Carrier Strike Group FOUR; 33 years of service.

RDML Brian Llewellyn Davies, currently serving as Submarine Group TWO Commander, assumed additional duties as Second Fleet Deputy Commander; 32 years of service.

RDML Michael Philip Donnelly, currently serving as Task Force SEVEN

ZERO Commander/Carrier Strike Group FIVE Commander; 34 years of service; formerly Commanding Officer of the USS *Ronald Reagan*.

RDML Daniel Pratt Martin, currently serving as Director of Maritime Operations, Task Force U.S. Pacific Fleet, 32 years of service.

RDML Richard Edward Seif, Jr., currently serving as Submarine Group SEVEN Commander/Task Force FIVE FOUR; 30 years of service.

RDML Paul Carl Spedero, Jr., currently serving as Carrier Strike Group EIGHT Commander, with 33 years of service.

RDML Derek Andrew Trinque, currently serving as Commander, Expeditionary Strike Group SEVEN/Amphibious Force, Seventh Fleet, with 31 years of service.

RDML Dennis Velez, currently serving as Commander, Carrier Strike Group TEN; 31 years of service.

RDML Darryl Leo Walker, currently serving as Commander, Combined Joint Task Force CYBER Tenth Fleet; 33 years of service.

RDML Jeromy Boone Williams, currently serving as Commander of U.S. Special Operations Command Pacific; 30 years of service.

The President has nominated the following officers to appointments to the grade of rear admiral (lower half), U.S. Navy:

CAPT Joshua Charles Himes, currently serving as Chief of Staff, U.S. Fleet Cyber Command/U.S. Tenth Fleet; 30 years of service.

CAPT Kurtis Arthur Mole, currently serving as Information Warfare Commander, Carrier Strike Group FIVE; 28 years of service.

The following nominations to brigadier general:

COL Brandon C. Anderson, currently serving as Deputy Commander (Maneuver), 2nd Infantry Division (Combined), Eighth Army, Republic of Korea; 27 years of service.

COL Beth A. Behn, currently serving as Chief of Transportation and Commandant, U.S. Army Transportation School, Fort Lee, Virginia; 29 years of service.

COL Matthew W. Braman, 28 years of service, including Commander, 2nd Battalion, 10th Aviation Regiment, during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan; awarded the Silver Star.

COL Kenneth J. Burgess, 26 years of service; awarded Legion of Merit and Bronze Star.

COL Thomas E. Burke, currently serving as Director of House Affairs, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs, Washington, DC; 29 years of service.

COL Chad C. Chalfont, 28 years of service and awarded the Bronze Star.

COL Kendall J. Clarke, Commander, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, Operation Enduring Freedom; Legion of Merit and Bronze Star.

COL Patrick M. Costello, 26 years of service; Commander, 3rd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, Operation Enduring Freedom.

COL Rory A. Crooks, 29 years of service; Commander, 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery, during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

COL Troy M. Denomy, 27 years of service; Commander, C Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Iraq; and awarded the Purple Heart.

COL Sara E. Dudley, Commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

COL Joseph E. Escandon, Commander, U.S. Army Joint Modernization Command, Futures and Concepts Center. He has 27 years of service.

COL Alric L. Francis, Commander, Field Artillery Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

COL George C. Hackler, 29 years of service, was Director of Capabilities Development, Combined Security Transition Command in Afghanistan during Operation Resolute Support.

COL William C. Hannan, Jr. He was Chief, Office of Security Cooperation—Iraq, Operation INHERENT RESOLVE, and was awarded the Bronze Star.

Col. Peter G. Hart, with 28 years of service. He was Director of the J–5, U.S. Forces in Afghanistan, during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

COL Gregory L. Holden has 28 years of service. He served as the Director of the J–2 Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command, Operation INHERENT RESOLVE in Iraq.

COL Paul D. Howard is currently serving as the Commandant for the U.S. Army Signal School in Fort Gordon, GA.

COL James G. Kent was the Executive Officer to the Deputy Commanding General of the U.S. Army Materiel Command at the Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, and he is being nominated for brigadier general.

COL Curtis W. King commanded the 1st Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery, during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

COL John P. Lloyd is currently serving as Commander of the North Atlantic Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Brooklyn, NY.

With that, I yield to my colleague from Virginia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, VADM Jeffrey W. Hughes, VADM of the U.S. Navy. While serving as Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability Development, he received his commission after graduating from Duke University. He has 35 years in the Navy with 22 different duty assignments and is formerly Commander of Navy Personnel Command. He received the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, and the Meritorious Service Medal with one gold star.

Maj. Gen. Heath A. Collins to be a lieutenant general of the U.S. Air Force while serving as Director of the Missile Defense Agency. He is currently serving as the Program Executive for that Agency at the Redstone Arsenal in Alabama. He was nominated to lead this important Agency that is a critical research and development and acquisition Agency within the Department of Defense. He has spent 30 years in the Air Force with 23 different duty assignments. He was awarded the Legion of Merit with one oakleaf cluster, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with two oakleaf clusters, and the Meritorious Service Medal with one oakleaf cluster.

Lt. Gen. Jeffrey A. Kruse to be a lieutenant general in the U.S. Air Force while serving as the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency. He has 32 years in the Air Force with 24 different duty assignments and the Defense Superior Service Medal with three oakleaf clusters, the Legion of Merit with two oakleaf clusters, and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

Maj. Gen. Michael G. Koscheski to be a lieutenant general while serving as the Deputy Commander of the Air Combat Command. He has 31 years in the Air Force with 24 different duty assignments, 2,800 flying hours, including more than 650 combat hours in Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan. He has the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with two oakleaf clusters, and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with two oakleaf clusters.

Lt. Gen. Donna D. Shipton to be a lieutenant general of the U.S. Air Force while serving as the Commander of the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center. She has 31 years in the Air Force with 19 different duty assignments, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with one oakleaf cluster, and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with two oakleaf clusters.

LTG John S. Kolasheski to be a lieutenant general in the U.S. Army while serving as the Deputy Commanding General of U.S. Army Europe-Africa. After Russia's invasion of Ukraine, he led V Corps efforts in support of Ukraine, deploying a corps element to Poland and subsequently establishing a permanent headquarters forward. He has 34 years of service with 24 different duty assignments. He has the Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, five Legions of Merit, three Bronze Star Medals, four Meritorious Service Medals, the Combat Action Badge, Airborne Badge, and Ranger Tab. He served three combat tours in Iraq and two in Afghanistan. He has been forward-deployed in combat for a total of 46 months—nearly 4 years away from his family.

COL Matthew N. Gebhard to be brigadier general in the U.S. Army Reserve. He has 30 years in the military with 19

different duty assignments. He has earned the Airborne, Ranger, and Expert Infantryman Badges.

COL Katherine M. Braun to be brigadier general of the U.S. Army Reserve. She is an intelligence officer by training and has 27 years of service. She has the Meritorious Service Medal with two oakleaf clusters.

The following two nominations are for brigadier generals to the grade of major general:

BG Mary V. Krueger is currently the Commanding General of the Medical Readiness Command, East, and the Chief of the U.S. Army Medical Corps. She served in both Iraq and Afghanistan for 19 months and commanded clinics, hospitals, and medical research centers. She has three Legions of Merit, two Bronze Star Medals, four Meritorious Service Medals, a Flight Surgeon Badge, and an Expert Field Medical Badge.

BG Anthony L. McQueen is serving currently as the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command. He deployed to Iraq twice for a total of 20 months. He received the Army Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, three Legions of Merit, four Meritorious Service Medals, the Expert Field Medical Badge, Airborne Badge, and Air Assault Badge.

GEN Jack J. Stumme to be a brigadier general of the U.S. Army. He is currently Army Chaplain and is serving as the Command Chaplain for the U.S. Army Europe and Africa commands. He has deployed as a chaplain to serve the critical religious and spiritual needs of the military four separate times, including to Iraq, Kuwait, and Afghanistan, for a total of 36 months. He has received the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, six Meritorious Service Medals, two Joint Service Commendation Medals, and the Airborne Badge.

COL James F. Porter to be a brigadier general in the U.S. Army Reserve. He is currently serving as the Chief of Staff for the 311th Sustainment Command in Los Angeles, CA. He has deployed three times in support of contingency operations in Cuba and Kuwait for a total of 25 months. He has the Legion of Merit, three Meritorious Service Medals, and the Airborne Badge.

BG Beth Salisbury to be a major general in the U.S. Army. She is a medical corps woman and is a specialist in occupational therapy. She has commanded medical companies, medical commands, and medical brigades. She has deployed four times to Qatar, Kuwait, and Iraq in support of contingency operations for a total of 43 months of forward deployment—nearly 4 years away from her family. She has the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, five Meritorious Service Medals, and two Joint Service Commendation Medals.

Maj. Gen. Michael J. Lutton to be a lieutenant general in the U.S. Air Force while serving as Deputy Commander of the Air Force Global Strike Command. He previously commanded the Air Force's only group providing initial training for the Nation's space and intercontinental ballistic missile operations. He has received the Defense Superior Service Medal, two Legions of Merit, and four Meritorious Service Medals.

MG Charles D. Costanza to be a lieutenant general while serving as the Commanding General of the V ''Fifth'' Corps. He currently serves as the Commanding General of the 3rd Infantry Division. He has 32 years in the Marine Corps, encompassing 21 different duty assignments, including 5 in support of combat and contingency operations. He has received the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, and other decorations.

Maj. Gen. James H. Adams III to be a lieutenant general in the U.S. Marine Corps. He currently serves as the Deputy Director of Requirements and Capability Development on the J–8, Joint Staff. He has 32 years in the Marine Corps with 23 different duty assignments. His past assignments include Branch Head of Aviation Plans and Policy. From the U.S. Marine Corps, he has been awarded the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, and the Air Medal.

Lt. Gen. Michael A. Guetlein to be the General and Vice Chief of Space Operations of the U.S. Space Force. He currently serves as the Commander of Space Systems Command. The general has commanded and led at the flight, squadron, division, directorate, Program Executive Officer, and field command levels. He has had 32 years in the Air Force with 19 different duty assignments. He has been awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, and the Meritorious Service Medal.

Lt. Gen. Philip A. Garrant to be a lieutenant general in the U.S. Space Force and the Commander of the Space Systems Command. He has had 32 years in the Air Force with 16 different duty assignments. He has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, and the Legion of Merit.

The following three officers have been nominated to the grade of major general in the U.S. Space Force:

Brig. Gen. Donald J. Cothern, who is currently serving as the Deputy Commander of the Space Systems Command in California. He has served for 30 years in the Air Force with 16 different duty assignments. He has been awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

Brig. Gen. Troy L. Endicott is currently serving as the Assistant Deputy Chief of Space Operations for Operations, Cyber, and Nuclear in the U.S. Air Force. He deployed four times during Operations Northern Watch, Iraqi Freedom, and Enduring Freedom as a space weapons officer, and he commanded one of the Air Force's first expeditionary space units in Iraq. He has 29 years of service with 18 different duty assignments. He has been awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, and the Meritorious Service Medal.

Brig. Gen. Timothy A. Sejba currently serves as the Program Executive Officer for Space Domain Awareness for the Space Systems Command in Los Angeles. He has had 28 years of service with 17 different duty assignments. He has been awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal and the Legion of Merit.

Maj. Gen. Shawn N. Bratton to be a lieutenant general of the U.S. Space Force while also serving as Deputy Chief of Space Operations. He has 36 years in the Air Force with 21 different duty assignments, including deployment in combat and contingency operations during Operation Iraqi Freedom. He has been awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Bronze Star, and the Meritorious Service Medal.

VADM Karl O. Thomas to be a vice admiral in the U.S. Navy and Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Warfare. He has 37 years of service. He is currently serving as the Commander of the U.S. Seventh Fleet. He has been awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal and the Legion of Merit.

Lt. Gen. Michael S. Cederholm to be a lieutenant general in the U.S. Marine Corps and Commanding General, I Marine Expeditionary Force. He has 34 years of service with multiple combat tours. He has been a Top Gun instructor. He has been awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, and the Bronze Star Medal.

Brig. Gen. Derin S. Durham to be a major general in the U.S. Air Force Reserve. He has 33 years of Active and Reserve service. He flew numerous combat missions supporting operations in Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan. He has more than 5,150 flying hours, including 332 combat hours. He has been awarded the Legion of Merit.

Three nominations for appointments to the grade of brigadier general in the U.S. Army Reserve:

COL Brandi B. Peasley currently serves as the Chief of Staff of the 79th Theater Support Command in Los Alamitos, CA. She has 29 years of service with two combat tours. She has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

COL John D. Rhodes currently serves as the Deputy Commander of the 451st Expeditionary Sustainment Command, which comprises 84 units and 8,000 soldiers. He started his career as an ROTC officer, graduating from the University of Alabama at Huntsville. He has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal and Meritorious Service Medal.

COL Earl C. Sparks IV currently serves as Commander for the 77th Quartermaster Group in El Paso, TX. He has 34 years of service.

BG William Green, Jr., to be a major general in the U.S. Army and the Chief

of Chaplains for the U.S. Army. Chaplain Green serves currently as the Deputy Chief of Chaplains in the Office of the Chief of Chaplains for the U.S. Army. He has had 29 years of service and multiple deployments in support of combat or contingency operations. He has been awarded the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star Medal.

MG John W. Brennan to be a lieutenant general and Deputy Commander of United States Africa Command. He currently serves as Director of Operations, J–3, U.S. Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. He has had numerous combat deployments and has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal for Combat Service, the Legion of Merit, five Bronze Stars, and two Bronze Stars for Valor. He has earned the Master Parachutist Badge, the Military Free Fall Parachutist Badge, the Air Assault Badge, the Scuba Diver Badge, the Special Operations Diver Badge, a Ranger Tab, and a Special Forces Tab.

MG Mark T. Simerly to be a lieutenant general in the U.S. Army and the Director of the Defense Logistics Agency. He has had 39 years of service and multiple combat tours, over 30 months deployed away from his family in those operations. He has been awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal and the Legion of Merit.

Maj. Gen. Ryan P. Heritage to be a lieutenant general in the U.S. Marine Corps and Deputy Commandant for Information, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps. He has 33 years of service and numerous tours in support of combat and contingency operations. He has been awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

VADM Craig A. Clapperton to be a vice admiral in the U.S. Navy and the Commander of Fleet Cyber Command. He has 34 years of service. He has been the Commander of the Combined Joint Task Force, CYBER, Tenth Fleet, the Commander of the Carrier Strike Group, Twelfth Fleet. He has been awarded the Legion of Merit with two gold stars and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

Four officers to the grade of rear admiral in the U.S. Navy:

CAPT Thomas James Dickinson has 28 years of service and has been awarded the Legion of Merit and the Meritorious Service Medal.

CAPT Kevin Ray Smith has 29 years of service and has been awarded the Legion of Merit with one gold star and the Meritorious Service Medal.

CAPT Todd Sinclair Weeks has 30 years of service and has been awarded the Legion of Merit and the Meritorious Service Medal.

CAPT Dianna Wolfson has 27 years of service and has been awarded the Legion of Merit and the Meritorious Service Medal.

The following officers are for appointment to the grade of major general in the U.S. Air Force:

Brig. Gen. Curtis Bass, currently serves as Vice Commander of the U.S. Airforce Warfare Center at Nellis Air Force Base; 28 years of service; Defense Superior Service Medal, Bronze Star Medal.

Brig. Gen. Kenyon Bell, 28 years of service; Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

Brig. Gen. Charles D. Bolton, a master navigator with more than 2,800 hours, a distinguished graduate of the U.S. Air Force Weapons School; 29 years of service; Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal.

Brig. Gen. Larry Broadwell received his commission in March 1996 from the Officer Training School at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama; 2,600 flying hours, 76 combat hours, 27 years of service; Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal.

Brig. Gen. Scott Cain, 2,800 hours of flying time, 28 years of service; Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

Brig. Gen. Sean Choquette, 30 years of service, multiple deployments to support combat contingency operations; Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal.

Brig. Gen. Roy W. Collins, 28 years of service; Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

Brig. Gen. John R. Edwards, currently serves as the Director of Strategic Capabilities at the NSC at the White House; 28 years of service, 2,500 flight hours, including 237 combat hours; Defense Superior Service Medal and Legion of Merit.

Brig. Gen. Jason Hinds, 27 years of service, commander of the 1st Fighter Wing, Joint Base Langley in Virginia; Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit.

Brig. Gen. Justin R. Hoffman, 28 years of service; Defense Superior Service Medal and Bronze Star.

Brig. Gen. Stacy Jo Huser, 27 years of service; Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit.

Brig. Gen. Matteo G. Martemucci, 29 years of service; Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star; currently serves as the Director of Intelligence at U.S. Cyber Command.

Brig. Gen. David Mineau, 29 years of service; Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal.

Brig. Gen. Paul D. Moga currently serves as the Commandant of Cadets at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs; 2,600 flying hours, including more than 250 combat hours; 28 years of service; Legion of Merit; Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

Brig. Gen. Ty W. Neuman also serves at the White House with the National Security Council; 3,188 flight hours, including 294 combat hours; 28 years of service; Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit.

Brig. Gen. Christopher Niemi, rated command pilot with 3,100 flight hours, 30 years of service; Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit.

Brig. Gen. Brandon D. Parker, command pilot with more than 2,800 hours in bomber aircraft, 380 of those in combat, 27 years of service; Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

Brig. Gen. Michael T. Rawls served as Commandant of the Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, command pilot, accumulated more than 2,100 hours in 30 different aircraft; 31 years of service; Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal.

Brig. Gen. Patrick S. Ryder, 31 years of service; Defense Superior Service Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

Brig. Gen. David G. Shoemaker, command pilot with more than 2,000 pilot hours, flown at Operations Provide Comfort, Northern Watch, Southern Watch, Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, logging more than 100 combat sorties in an F–16; 29 years of service; Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

Brig. Gen. Rebecca J. Sonkiss currently serves as the Commander of the 618th Air Operations Center at Scott Air Force Base; 4,400 hours, including 1,377 combat hours in nine different Air Force manned and remotely piloted aircraft; 29 years of service; Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star.

Brig. Gen. Claude K. Tudor, Jr., commissioned through the ROTC Program at Troy State University in Alabama, 31 years of service; Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit.

Brig. Gen. Dale R. White, 26 years of service; Legion of Merit.

Maj. Gen. David Hodne to be Lieutenant General in United States and the Deputy Commanding General Futures Concepts at U.S. Army Futures Command; 31 years of service; 11 tours in support of combat and contingency operations; Purple Heart, Defense Superior Service Medal, 4 Legions of Merit, 4 Bronze Star Medals.

Brian R. Moore to be Brigadier General in the U.S. Air Force, currently serves as the Director of Staff at Wright Patterson Air Force Base; 27 years of service; Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with three oakleaf clusters.

VADM Daniel Dwyer to be Vice Admiral in the U.S. Navy, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for warfighting development; 35 years of service; commanded a Provincial Reconstruction Team in Afghanistan in 2008; Legion of Merit, Bronze Star.

RDML Darin K. Via to be Surgeon General of the Navy; 32 years of service, commander of Naval Medical Force Atlantic, command surgeon in U.S. Central Command; Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal.

Lt. Gen. Scott Pleus to be lieutenant general in the Air Force and Director of the Air Force Staff; 33 years of service, command pilot with more than

2,500 flying hours, combat hours earned during Operations Desert Fox and Southern Watch; Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

Brig. Gen. Dale White to be lieutenant general in the U.S. Air Force and work at the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics; 26 years of service; Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal.

Finally, Maj. Gen. David Harris to be lieutenant general in the Air Force and Deputy Chief of Staff Air Force Futures Headquarters; 29 years of service; 2,500 flying hours, having flown in support of Operations Deliberate Force, Allied Force, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, and Inherent Resolve; a master navigator and parachutist, receiving his commission following his graduation from the University of Alabama; 29 years of service; Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross with valor device, Bronze Star Medal.

I yield the floor.

Mr. REED. Let me continue this role of honor to be promoted to brigadier general:

COL Shannon M. Lucas, 28 years of service, including Deputy Commander of the U.S. Army Criminal Division at Quantico, VA; the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star.

COL Landis C. Maddox, currently serving as Commander Joint Munitions and Lethality, Life Cycle Management Command. He was the executive officer of the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Material Command, Redstone Arsenal, Alabama; Bronze Star Medal.

COL Kareem P. Montague, currently serving as Deputy Commander 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, CO; 28 years of service. He commanded the 1st Battalion, 321st Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 18th Fires Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division; Legion of Merit, Bronze Star.

COL John P. Mountford, currently serving as Deputy Commander, Maneuver, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, KS, and Operation ATLANTIC RESOLVE in Poland; 28 years of service. He was awarded the Bronze Star.

Colonel Davis C. Phillips, currently serving as Program Manager of Future Long Range Assault Aircraft Program Executive Officer Aviation in the Redstone Arsenal in Alabama; 28 years of service; Defense Superior Service Medal and Bronze Star.

COL Kenneth N. Reed, currently serving as Commander, Southwestern Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Dallas, TX; awarded Legion of Merit and Bronze Star.

COL John W. Sannes, currently serving as Deputy Chief of Staff, Combined Joint Task Force—Operation Inherent Resolve, Operation INHERENT RESOLVE in Iraq. He was the Commander of Special Operations Task Force in Afghanistan and OPERATION FREEDOM'S SENTINEL; Defense Superior Service Medal and the Legion of Merit.

COL Andrew O. Saslav, currently serving as Deputy Commander Operations, 82nd Airborne Division. He was the Commander 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division during OPERATION SPARTAN SHIELD in Kuwait; Legion of Merit and Bronze Star.

COL Charlone E. Stallworth, currently serving as Special Assistant for General/Flag Officer Matters, Joint Staff, Washington, DC; 29 years of service.

COL Jennifer S. Walkwawicz, currently serving as Director, Officer Personnel Management Director, U.S. Army Resources Command, Fort Knox, KY; Legion of Merit and Bronze Star holder.

COL Camilla A. White, currently serving as Chief of Staff, Office of Assistant Secretary of the Army; 29 years of service. She was Chief of Staff, Rapid Capabilities & Critical Technologies Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, at the Redstone Arsenal in Alabama; also Program Manager for Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, Missile Defense Agency, Ground-based Midcourse Defense, Redstone Arsenal, Alabama.

COL Scott D. Wilkinson, currently serving as Deputy Commander, Support, 101st Airborne Division, Air Assault, and Operation EUROPEAN ASSURE, DETER, AND REINFORCE in Poland; 29 years of service; Legion of Merit, and Bronze Star Medal.

COL Jeremy S. Wilson, currently serving as Deputy Commander Support, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, GA; multiple combat deployments; holder of the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star Medal.

COL Scott C. Woodward, currently serving as Deputy Commander, U.S. Army Combined Armed Center, Fort Leavenworth, KS; 29 years of service, Operation INHERENT RESOLVE in Iraq, multiple combat deployments; Bronze Star Medal for Valor and the Legion of Merit.

COL Joseph W. Wortham, II, currently serving as Deputy Commander 1st Special Forces Command, Airborne, Fort Liberty, NC; 27 years of service. He was the Commander of 5th Special Forces Group, Airborne, U.S. Army, during OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE in Iraq.

COL David J. Zinn, currently serving as Commander of 3d Multi-Domain Task Force, U.S. Army Pacific, Schofield Barracks, HI. He was the Commander of the 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, during Operation ENDURING FREEDOM; Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal.

The President has also nominated Maj. Gen. David R. Iverson to be a lieutenant general in the U.S. Air Force and Deputy Commander, U.S. Forces Korea; Commander, Combined Air Component Command, United Nations Command; and Commander, Combined Air Component Command, Combined Forces Command; and Commander of the Seventh Air Force Pacific Air Forces.

Major General Iverson is a rated Command Pilot with 5,400 flying hours, including 1,500 combat hours. He is the holder of the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal, and other awards.

The President has nominated Lt. Gen. Kevin B. Schneider to be a general in the U.S. Air Force and Commander of Pacific Air Forces and Air Component Command for the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command; 35 years of service; awards include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Air Force Distinguished Service Medal, and the Defense Superior Service Medal.

The President has nominated Maj. Gen. Laura L. Lenderman to be a lieutenant general of the U.S. Air Force and Deputy Commander, Pacific Air Forces; 29 years of service; a rated Command Pilot with more than 3,000 flight hours; and a recipient of the Distinguished Service Medal and other awards.

The President had nominated Maj. Gen. Thomas L. James to be a lieutenant general in the U.S. Army while serving as Deputy Commander, U.S. Space Command. He holds advanced degrees in airpower art and science and military operational art and science from Air University, international relations from Auburn University Montgomery in Montgomery, AL, and strategic studies in the Air War College at Maxwell Air Force base in Alabama.

He serves in the aviation branch of the Army and has lived and served in Alabama multiple times, both at Fort Rucker and Maxwell Air Force Base. He deployed to Afghanistan, Iraq, and Qatar in support of contingency operations for a total of 24 months.

The President has nominated MG Leonard F. Anderson IV to be a lieutenant general in the U.S. Marine Corps while serving as Commander, Marine Forces Reserves, Commander, Marine Forces South.

Major General Anderson is nominated to serve as the Marine Corps' senior most Reserve officer. He would command and control assigned forces in order to assist and augment the Active Component with trained units and individual marines.

He has attended the TOPGUN Strike Fighter Tactics Instructor course. He has been awarded the Legion of Merit and other awards.

The President has nominated Lt. Gen. Timothy D. Haugh to the rank of general in the Air Force while serving as Director, National Security Agency/Chief, Central Security Service/Commander, and Commander, U.S. Cyber Command.

The National Security Agency/Central Security Service leads the U.S.

Government in cryptology that encompasses both signals intelligence, insights, and cyber security products and services and enables computer network operations to gain a decisive advantage for the Nation and our allies.

Lieutenant General Haugh will be dual-hatted as Director, NSA, and Commander, CYBERCOM.

At this point, unless General Haugh is rapidly confirmed, we will have a gap at one of the most important organizations in the United States: Cyber Command and the National Security Agency.

The President has nominated LTG James J. Mingus to be a general in the U.S. Army while serving as the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army.

He earned his commission in 1985 after graduating from the Army ROTC Program at Winona State University, where he earned his bachelor's degree.

He commanded the 82nd Airborne Division and has deployed multiple times to Iraq and Afghanistan in combat roles, for a total of 38 months of contingency operations away from his family.

He is the recipient of the Purple Heart.

The President has nominated GEN Randy A. George to the rank of general while serving as the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army.

General George has commanded at the platoon, company, battalion, brigade, division, and corps levels. He has served in combat in Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Freedom's Sentinel. He has served a total of 57 months deployed in contingency operations away from his family.

He is the recipient of a Purple Heart.

The President has nominated Gen. Eric M. Smith, U.S. Marine Corps, to be General and Commandant of the Marine Corps. General Smith would be the 39th Commandant of the Marine Corps. He is the first Acting Commandant in over 110 years.

He has led marines at every level, from platoon commander to Marine Expeditionary Force Commander.

He is also the recipient of the Purple Heart.

The President has nominated Gen. Charles Q. Brown to the rank of general while serving as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. General Brown currently serves as the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force. He is a career F–16 pilot, has flown more than 3,000 hours, including more than 130 combat flight hours.

His awards include two Defense Distinguished Service Medals, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, four Legions of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, three Meritorious Service Medals, the Aerial Achievement Medal, and the Joint Service Commendation Medal.

Mr. President, those are the nominees before us. I think what we have demonstrated tonight is the range of assignments and organizations that are affected by these holds, spanning every service, every theater of operations, every sector of operations—from space to cyber, to submarines.

This is an undermining of our military readiness which is unseen before. These individuals deserve promotion. When the Presiding Officer heard Senator KAINE and I talk about their qualifications, there is no doubt they deserve promotion. And the men and women who serve beneath them—who will serve beneath them—deserve their leadership, which has been tested over time and in many cases—many cases—through combat. They should not be political pawns.

Now, before Senator TUBERVILLE, we would be talking about our nominees. They are not nominees; they are hostages.

We can't tolerate that. That is a disservice to these men and women, to our Armed Forces, to the men and women they lead. We have to do our duty.

And as Senator KAINE said, there are appropriate ways to deal with policy decisions you don't like. You can take a vote. You can't hold all of these men and women, disrupt their family lives, send a signal to the military that: So what—29 years of service, a couple Purple Hearts; I don't care.

I would hope that Senator TUBERVILLE would immediately lift these holds. And we can't do it in a piecemeal fashion. The depth, the range of the responsibilities we have talked about this evening can't be cured by: Oh, we will confirm the Commandant.

We can't leave anyone behind. And if this precedent continues and is established, it will be used again and again and again, to the detriment of the Nation.

This is the time for us to stand up—stand up for what we always say about our devotion to the military, our respect for the military; that they shouldn't be demeaned; they shouldn't be used as political tokens. It is time to stop the speeches on the Fourth of July and fill them unanimously, as we typically do, by voice on these matters.

MORNING BUSINESS

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 195, adoption of the Lee amendment to limit the availability of funds for the support of Ukraine (376). Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted nay.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 196, adoption of the Cornyn amendment to provide for an investment screening mechanism relating to covered sectors (931). Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 197, adoption of the Rounds amendment to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 to include the Secretary of Agriculture on the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States and require review of certain agricultural transactions (No. 813). Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.

The Rounds-Tester amendment adds the Secretary of Agriculture to the Committee on Foreign Investment. If the committee determines that investments by foreign adversaries into agricultural real estate or a U.S. business engaged in agriculture or biotech would result in control by the foreign adversary, it requires the President to prohibit the transaction. I support this amendment's efforts to protect critical agricultural assets, but I am concerned that the amendment as drafted merits additional review to avoid unintended risks of discrimination based on national origin or citizenship. While I will support this amendment and its objectives, Senators Rounds and Tester understand my concern and have agreed to continue working with me and our colleagues to resolve these concerns before Congress sends a final bill to the President.•

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

REMEMBERING JAMES S. CROWN

• Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I recently traveled to Vilnius, Lithuania, for this year's NATO Summit. It was a fitting location; Lithuania has had an extraordinary journey breaking free from the tyranny of the Soviet Union and becoming a thriving democracy. The visit also had a deep significance for me personally. One hundred and twelve years ago, my mother came to the United States from Lithuania. Although she never saw her homeland again, she always carried it in her heart.

Just a few decades before my mother arrived in the United States, a Lithuanian Jewish couple, Ida and Arie Krinsky, immigrated to the United States. They settled in Chicago, where Arie toiled in a sweatshop to make a living and support his wife and seven children. Eventually, the Krinsky family changed their surname to Crown. Three of the Crown sons, Henry and his brothers Irving and Sol, established a sand and gravel company, the Material Service Corporation, that would grow into a business empire before merging with General Dynamics.

When Henry Crown passed away in 1990, his obituary in the New York Times referred to him as ''the billionaire whose life exemplified the Horatio Alger rags-to-riches story of American industrialists.'' It is a legacy that has been preserved and expanded by his children. To this day, the Crown family

is widely known for its socially conscious investment and philanthropic efforts, and as a pillar of the Jewish community from Chicago to Israel.

Tragically, late last month, James ''Jim'' Crown, Henry's grandson, passed away in a car accident on his 70th birthday. Born to Renee and Lester Crown, Jim went to high school in Winnetka, attended Hampshire College in Amherst, MA, for his undergraduate studies, and graduated from Stanford Law School. He began his career at Salomon Brothers, eventually becoming vice president of the Capital Markets Service Group. It was during his time on Wall Street that Jim met and fell in love with Paula Hannaway, an investment banker. In 1985, the two married and returned to Chicago to join the family business.

Jim was chair and CEO of Henry Crown and Company, a privately held company dealing in securities, real estate, and other investments. He also was a member of the board of JPMorgan Chase & Co. Jim was one of Chicago's most prominent philanthropists and a longtime member of the board of trustees for the University of Chicago, serving as chair from 2003 to 2009.

In early 2003, Jim had breakfast with a young Illinois State senator who was gearing up to make a run for the U.S. Senate. Some might have seen an inexperienced newcomer with almost no chance of success. But Jim saw what others did not. In Jim's words, ''I was just taken with his sensibility, his intelligence, his values, and how he conducted himself during that campaign.'' That young State senator, Barack Obama, would not only win that seat but go on to become our Nation's first Black President. And Jim was one of his earliest supporters.

Jim represented the best of finance and business; he knew that success went well beyond profits and bull markets. He understood the importance of giving back. In 2021, Jim and Paula made history with a $75 million donation to the University of Chicago's School of Social Work, reportedly the largest ever private donation to a school of social work. Today, the school has been renamed the Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice. Jim's father Lester Crown said, ''[Jim] was the leader of our family both intellectually and emotionally, and he looked out for everybody.'' I would add that ''everybody'' stretched far beyond Jim's own family.

And just before his passing, as the head of the Civic Committee and Commercial Club of Chicago, Jim was working to convene Chicago business leaders to focus on ways to address violent crime, to make Chicago ''the Safest Big City in America.'' The strategy centered on investing in the communities most impacted by violent crime, expanding community violence intervention programs, and committing to expand economic opportunity, all with the goal of breaking the cycle of trauma and ending generational poverty. While Jim may be gone, I hope his work will be continued to make this a reality.

Jim is survived by his loving wife of 38 years, Paula; their children, Torie, Hayley, Summer, and W. Andrew; and two grandchildren; as well as his parents Renee and Lester; four sisters Patricia, Susan, Sara, and Janet; two brothers Steve and Daniel. To the entire Crown family and all of those who knew and loved Jim, Loretta and I send our deepest condolences.

Thank you, Jim, for all that you did for the city of Chicago; it will not be the same without you.●

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

TRIBUTE TO SHARON COHEN

● Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I would like to thank someone who is critical to the functioning of the U.S. Senate—and who has been instrumental in the lives of many of us Senators, staff, and the entire Senate community for more than two decades.

At the end of this week, Sharon Cohen will be retiring after many years of service in the Senate Dining Room. The Senate Dining Room will be a very different place without her, and we will all miss her.

Sharon is wonderful—kind, caring, and dedicated. Since joining the Senate Dining Room, she has won over everyone she has met with her warmth, patience, and dedication—both to her work and to anyone with whom she interacts.

We have all had people who touched our lives, providing guidance during difficult times, or even just a friendly face on long days. Sharon provided all of that—and more—to Senators, staff, and the colleagues who worked beside her every single day.

Throughout her many years of service, Sharon has worked just as hard as anyone else in the Senate—in fact, she has probably worked harder. She never missed a day of work, never showed up late, and never called out sick. Her colleagues always trusted that they could rely on her. It is one of Sharon's many qualities that will be missed in the Senate.

And she was willing to go above and beyond to support fellow workers, both new and old, and lend a hand no matter the task. While her work may not have made headline news every day, Sharon is one of the many unsung heroes that make the Senate run.

Soon, Sharon will be enjoying her well-earned retirement, but true to form, she will stay busy. In fact, she has already started her next role: grandmother to a beautiful new grandchild. She will spend her retirement caring for Trent, or as she refers to him, ''her little man,'' alongside her daughter Angie.

I know I am not alone when I say I will miss Sharon's cheerful presence in the Senate Dining Room. We all are grateful for her many years of hard work and dedication to this body and our country. We wish her all the best as she embarks on a new adventure.●

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

RECOGNIZING CHEAP TRICK

● Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, for most Americans, April 1 is April Fools' Day, a day of pranks, misleading headlines, deception, and trickery. While that also is true for Illinoisans, in 2007, the Illinois General Assembly gave Illinoisans something else to celebrate: Cheap Trick Day, in honor of the rock and roll band.

For nearly 50 years, Cheap Trick has been part of the American soundtrack, lighting up car radios on cross-country drives, blasting through speakers at weddings, and now playing in the next generation's wireless headphones. Through it all, Cheap Trick has kept their listeners humming along to popular tunes like ''Surrender'' and ''The Flame.''

But before they were rock and roll legends, they were just a band from Rockford, IL. In 1973, guitarist Rick Nielsen, bassist Tom Petersson, original vocalist Randy Hogan, and drummer Bun E. Carlos came together to form Cheap Trick. The band came up with their name after attending a Slade concert. Following the English rock band's show, Tom remarked that Slade used ''every cheap trick in the book'' during their set. The name stuck, and the group would go on to become a regular on the Billboard charts.

In 1974, Robin Zander joined the band, replacing Hogan as lead vocalist. While they started out playing shows across the Midwest—Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Iowa—they would go on to tour the world, opening for the likes of Kiss, Kansas, and Queen. But it was a six-date tour of Japan in the spring of 1978 that changed everything.

Cheap Trick put on the performance of a lifetime before raucous crowds at the Nippon Budokan in Tokyo, Japan. They released the performances as a live album, ''Cheap Trick at Budokan,'' which went triple-platinum, selling more than 3 million certified units. The album included the smash hit ''I Want You to Want Me,'' which decades later remains a mainstay on classic rock radio stations across the country. In 2020, the National Recording Registry at the Library of Congress selected ''Cheap Trick at Budokan'' as one of just 25 recordings to join the National Archives for that year.

And in 2016, Cheap Trick was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, receiving rock and roll's highest honor and taking their place next to their own musical idols, The Beatles. In addition to leaving behind an impressive discography, the band also has helped shape the sound of the next generation of great bands. Groups like

Pearl Jam, Guns N' Roses, Nirvana, and Green Day, all have credited Cheap Trick as an influence.

Cheap Trick has since become a true family business with Daxx, Rick's son, on the drums and Robin Taylor, Robin's son, floating from guitar, bass, and background vocals. The band is still on the road, playing for crowds from all generations looking to enjoy the nostalgic rock sounds of the 80s. As of this year, Cheap Trick has performed more than 5,000 concerts and sold more than 20 million albums.

Aside from April 1, soon, the band will have another date to celebrate. August 15 will mark 50 years of Cheap Trick. No matter how many sold out shows, world tours, or records sold, Cheap Trick will always be a band that got its start in Rockford, IL. I congratulate Cheap Trick on a half century of hits.●

SALAH EL DEEN SOLTAN

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak of the importance of Holocaust education and engagement that can help us push back against the rising tide of anti-Semitism we are seeing nowadays, in our country and across the world.

As the Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism and Intolerance for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, as many of my colleagues know, I have made it a personal priority to address the rise of anti-Semitism. As anti-Semitism is increasing at home and abroad, it is important to come together to address anti-Semitism, and call out the hate when we see or hear it before it becomes more ingrained in our society.

At the same time, we should celebrate those occasions when a person with a history of making anti-Semitic statements sees the light and realizes the error of his ways, renounces his past statements, and vows never to repeat them. Happily, we have an example of just such a case that I would like to bring to the attention of Senate and the American people.

I would like to submit into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a noteworthy letter from Salah el Deen Soltan, a U.S. person, who wrote last month to his newest grandson, to be shared with other grandchildren, most of whom he hasn't met after a decade in wrongful detention in Egypt.

As Human Rights Watch stated in a report published on May 3, 2023, calling for Soltan to be released from his unjust imprisonment in one of Cairo's most notorious jails:

> Before moving to the United States, Soltan was a professor of Islamic Law at Cairo University. He later founded and served as the president of the Islamic American University in Dearborn, Michigan from 1999 to 2004. As a legal US permanent resident, Soltan lived and worked in the US for over a decade before his arrest in Egypt in September 2013 for opposing the military's ousting of elected president Mohamed Morsi. A court sentenced Soltan to life in prison in September 2017 in a mass trial marred by extensive due process and fair trial violations. The United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention determined in 2018 that his arrest was arbitrary, as the authorities failed to provide credible evidence of wrongdoing, and that his prosecution violated the right to political participation and freedoms of peaceful assembly and expression.

In the coming weeks, Soltan will have served a full decade in Egyptian jails. During this time, he had time to reflect on his personal history of making crude and cruel anti-Semitic statements to his students and followers over the years. So he wrote a letter, that has been smuggled out of prison and delivered to his family.

In this letter, Soltan addresses his previously held anti-Semitic positions and remarks, apologizes for them and disavows them. In solitary confinement, Soltan reflects on his past, corrects the record for his grandson, and lays out how would like to be remembered in case he never gets the opportunity to meet his grandchildren.

As he writes:

> My previous statements and stances are wrong and the best of us are those who reflect, hold oneself accountable and repent. Here I am, reflecting and seeking forgiveness from God for the harm that may have been inflicted upon anyone. I apologize to everyone harmed by what I said and called for. I leave behind these prison walls all forms of anger, hate and coarseness. I bear the burden of upholding the sanctity of human life, speaking truth and defending it wherever it may be. I had only intended to stand up for justice but what I did resulted in the exact opposite of the intent; and became a reason for further oppression, suffering and marginalization of the innocent. In fact, my oppressors used my decade-old stances to justify and fend off pressure from concerned western parties about my release.

It is never too late for remorse and redemption.

In 2020, we saw several Muslim-majority Middle Eastern governments normalize diplomatic relations with Israel with the historic announcement of the Abraham Accords. And in the years since, there has been a real thawing of the hostility toward the Jewish state in some of the neighboring countries. Overcoming decades of official hostility toward the government and people of Israel, broadcast through official media outlets, and often imbued with blatant anti-Semitism, will take time. But a journey begins with a single step. And the reconciliation of the peoples of the region begins with one person.

Together, we can choose peace and forgiveness, rather than be prisoners of past differences. In that spirit and consistent with the Jewish tradition of Teshuva, in which people can see the error of their ways and vow never to repeat that which has offended the Creator, I welcome and embrace Salah Soltan's change of heart. Especially given his difficult circumstances, I find it refreshing and notable that he has taken the time and the trouble to send a heartfelt message to his grandchildren. He has accepted responsibility for his previous hateful words and is seeking forgiveness from those harmed by it.

This September, Soltan will have been imprisoned for a decade in Egyptian prisons where human rights organizations have estimated there to be over 60,000 political prisoners. Last May, more than 50 human rights organizations released a joint statement noting that Soltan is at serious risk of death due to deteriorating health conditions.

In recent weeks, Egypt has started to correct course with the release of two high-profile detainees. I urge President Sisi to extend his Presidential pardon to Soltan, so that he may leave Egypt and be reunited with his family.

I ask unanimous consent that the complete text of the letter written by Salah el Deen Soltan to his grandchildren be printed in full at this point in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

> MY DEAREST BELOVED GRANDSON, SALAH BINYAMEEN: Ever since I learned of your birth and that you will bear my name, I have been praying for you and constantly thinking about you. I fervently pray to God Almighty that you become a positive force in our community and the world at large. It is no secret that you were born during one of the most challenging periods of my imprisonment, yet news of your birth brought me immense solace and joy. Your coming is a reminder of the time that has passed, my fifth grandson, the fourth of whom I have not met or spent time with because of my decade-long wrongful imprisonment in solitary confinement. The passing years have been arduous, and I feel as though time slips away from me without anyone to share my happiness or alleviate my solitude.
>
> Dearest grandson, Salah, enduring a decade of imprisonment and torture, I found solace only in God. The darkness of my solitude has revealed many certainties and has granted me clarity about my past with all of its good and bad, particularly as I witness death so frequently around me. I feel as if I stared death in the eyes while lying on the ground, paralyzed and denied help and medicine for days. During those helpless moments, all I could do was ponder: Will I ever have the opportunity to see you? What will you come to know of me? If you never meet me, who will be your source of information about me? So, I've decided to write you a series of letters, this being the first, so that you may come to know me as I am. I want you to understand who I am, what my values are, and what I stand for.
>
> My dearest Salah, I have always believed, and will continue to believe, that justice is the bedrock of faith. Freedom and justice are the imperatives of our religious beliefs. I have always prayed for divine guidance towards truth, and for inspiration to stand up for the distressed and most marginalized. In the depths of my suffering, I question whether I have consistently lived up to those ideals. I am grateful to God for the guidance on the things I got right and for forgiveness on those that I got wrong. Allah Himself swore by the sanctity of the questioning soul: ''And I swear by the reproaching soul'' (Quran 75:2). None of us is immune, not even from the gravest of errors, and repentance is a virtue of a sound heart.
>
> The first of these revisions occurred in the immediate aftermath of the 2013 coup and

the gruesome Rabaa Massacre. I penned an Op-Ed to the Egyptian people apologizing for the Islamist Political movements' political mistakes. My decade in solitude that followed compelled me to delve further inwards, to think and rethink. When your father and I shared a prison cell, I engaged in deep contemplations and introspections. Those were both bitter and sweet days, I miss him so much. We engaged in endless debates as I contemplated the meaning of justice, injustice, and advocating for the most disenfranchised. I pondered anger, violence, righteousness, the common good, and reform. I held myself accountable, questioning whether I adhered to my intellectual commitments for the benefit of all or only for certain groups. I reflected on my intellectual journey from Egypt to the United States, Bahrain, and beyond. I have learned and grown and want to acknowledge my regrets and mistakes, as acknowledging what is right and wrong is the beginning of wisdom.

The Palestinian cause shaped my generation's worldview and awakened my political consciousness and activism. It laid the foundations for my understanding of justice, starting from my elementary school days until I obtained my Ph.D. in Islamic jurisprudence. For many years, I allowed my anger to inform my reactions to the senseless bloodshed, and the desecration of sacred sites and to drive my approach to the Palestinian issue privately and publicly. I focused on the losses and struggles of the Palestinian people and their powerlessness and while then as now, many more Palestinians have been injured and killed. My impassioned defense of the oppressed in the Muslim world in those days relied on the common rhetoric that was fueled by anger which turned to hate. As the death toll mounted, my statements sometimes veered toward antisemitism. In doing so, I displayed a blind rage that contradicted the fundamental principles of our beautiful religion. We are a religion of tolerance and compassion toward all religions and such rhetoric has no place in our community or our pursuit of justice. I deeply regret times when I engaged in that kind of rhetoric that I shudder to recall and condemn all rhetoric that is discriminatory, hateful and violent. The ends can never justify the means and noble objectives can only be attained through noble methods. Let me be clear, my commitment to justice for the Palestinian people remains steadfast, as is my belief that the many paths towards justice and peace do not require demonization of the other. Salah, justice and solidarity must extend to those with whom we disagree. In fact, our true commitment to these ideals is measured by how we apply them to those who differ from us.

Look at me now, Salah; I find myself in a country with a Muslim ruler, where the judge, warden, officer, and guards who wrongfully imprison, torture and deny me basic medical needs are all Muslim. While those who stand up for me (and others) are individuals who share little in common with me, except for our shared belief in justice and freedom. I recall how Eric Lewis, a Jewish lawyer and now a dear friend of the family, was the sole international lawyer permitted to visit a political prisoner in Egyptian prisons. I remember how Andrea Prasow, a Jewish human rights lawyer, assumed your father's position as the Executive Director of a rights organization advocating on behalf of Arab political prisoners. Senators Patrick Leahy (liberal Christian), and the late John McCain (Conservative Christian) also come to mind. These individuals, spanning the political spectrum, have dedicated their professional careers to advocating for the oppressed despite their respective political and ideological differences. All of these contradictions and ironies have compelled me to see the error in some of my previous beliefs, statements and positions.

My previous statements and stances are wrong and the best of us are those who reflect, hold oneself accountable and repent. Here I am, reflecting and seeking forgiveness from God for the harm that may have been inflicted upon anyone. I apologize to everyone harmed by what I said and called for. I leave behind these prison walls all forms of anger, hate and coarseness. I bear the burden of upholding the sanctity of human life, speaking truth and defending it wherever it may be.

I had only intended to stand up for justice, but what I did resulted in the exact opposite of the intent; and became a reason for further oppression, suffering and marginalization of the innocent. In fact, my oppressors used my decade-old stances to justify and fend off pressure from concerned western parties about my release.

Lastly, my dearest grandson, I am writing to you in pursuit of a world that leads with love and eschews hatred. Life is far too short and precious to allow it to be dominated by anger. I urge you to set your moral compass towards justice and truth. Defend those with every peaceful means at your disposal. I hope you grow up to build a world where tolerance, peace and coexistence despite differences is the norm. My beloved, I pray that you grow up knowing and being proud of your grandfather and everything he stood for. I love you, and I long for the opportunity to meet you, whether it is in this life or in the corridors of Paradise in the one after. Oh God, please make me better than they think, and forgive me for what they do not know.

Your loving grandfather,

SALAH EL DEEN SOLTAN,

16/6/2023,

27/11/1444.

HONORING OFFICER JACOB J. CHESTNUT AND DETECTIVE JOHN M. GIBSON

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise to honor the 25th anniversary of the tragic passing of two fallen Capitol Police officers, Officer Jacob J. Chestnut, Jr., and Detective John M. Gibson, who were killed while bravely defending the Capitol on July 24, 1998.

In the afternoon of July 24, 1998, a lone gunman forced his way past a security checkpoint, fatally shot Officer Chestnut, and ran toward the offices of Majority Whip Tom DeLay. Detective Gibson, a member of Representative DeLay's protective team, told others to hide and find cover while he stood in defense until he was mortally wounded himself. Office Chestnut and Detective Gibson made the ultimate sacrifice to protect the lives of others in the Capitol that day.

Officer Jacob Joseph Chestnut, Jr., was a 20-year Air Force veteran, having served two tours in Vietnam and retired as a master sergeant. He has the distinction of being the first African-American to lie in honor at the Capitol.

Detective John Michael Gibson had served with the U.S. Capitol Police for 18 years. He left behind his wife, a 17-year-old daughter, and two sons, 14 and 15 years old. He lay in honor with Officer Chestnut in the Capitol Rotunda.

Both men were buried with full honors in Arlington National Cemetery. These men gave their lives here on the grounds of the Capitol, in defense of our democracy. In the days that followed, Representative DeLay stated that their deaths symbolized ''the sacrifices of thousands of police officers across the Nation who do their duty to serve and protect the public, sometimes under great abuse, sometimes under great disregard, and many times people take them for granted. It all comes together when an incident like this happens and we realize how much we owe to police officers all over this country.''

The men and women of the Capitol Police put their lives on the line every day, and each and every one of us who works here are indebted to their sacrifice. Today we remember Officer Jacob Chestnut and Detective John Gibson while thanking all of the officers of the U.S. Capitol Police Department.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 9981

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, today, we commemorate the 75th anniversary of a momentous event in our Nation's history: the signing of Executive Order 9981 by President Harry S. Truman on July 26, 1948. This landmark executive order marked a significant step forward in our ongoing journey toward a more inclusive and equitable society.

A fundamental value of the United States is to support the equality of all. E.O. 9981, titled ''Establishing the President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services,'' proclaimed that ''there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion or national origin.'' By desegregating the military, this order shattered long-standing discriminatory practices and set a precedent for the pursuit of justice and racial equality.

The issuance of E.O. 9981 was a response to the tireless efforts of countless civil rights activists, military leaders, and concerned citizens who recognized the moral imperative to confront racism and discrimination. It represented a critical turning point in the fight against racial injustice, serving as a catalyst for the broader civil rights movement to follow.

Over the past seven and a half decades, the principles enshrined in E.O. 9981 have had a profound impact on our society. By integrating the military, this historic document not only helped to foster a spirit of unity among servicemembers, irrespective of their race or background, but it also provided a model for progress, inspiring subsequent legislation and initiatives aimed at combating discrimination and inequality in various sectors of American life.

Moreover, E.O. 9981 has served as a beacon of hope for marginalized communities, demonstrating that institutionalized prejudice can be dismantled

through bold leadership, determined activism, and collective will. Its legacy has reverberated far beyond the military, contributing to the broader struggle for civil rights and social justice, including the landmark civil rights legislation of the 1960s and the ongoing quest for racial equality today.

As we celebrate this significant milestone, it is essential that we reflect on the progress made and acknowledge the work that remains unfinished. While E.O. 9981 marked a pivotal moment, we recognize that systemic racism continues to persist in various forms, demanding our unwavering commitment to its eradication. In honoring the 75th anniversary of E.O. 9981, let us recommit ourselves to the enduring principles of equality and justice for all. Let us continue to strive for a society that values diversity, inclusivity, and equal opportunity, where the color of one's skin does not determine their worth or limit their potential.

As members of Congress, entrusted with the duty of shaping legislation and promoting the well-being of all Americans, I urge you to draw inspiration from the spirit of E.O. 9981 and to uphold our fundamental American values. Although our painful history cannot be erased, let us work together to enact policies that dismantle systemic barriers, rectify historical injustices, and build a more equitable and harmonious future for our Nation.

HONORING CAPTAIN ROBERT C. HARMON AND PRIVATE JOHN R. PEIRSON

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I rise to honor posthumously half-brothers Captain Robert C. Harmon and Private John R. Peirson from New Richmond, WI, who both made the ultimate sacrifice for our great Nation during World War II.

A week before the D-Day invasion on the Normandy coast and on his 51st mission, Captain Harmon's plane was shot down over occupied France by German artillery. Initially listed as missing-in-action, Captain Harmon was officially declared dead on May 29, 1945, by the U.S. War Department.

Motivated by a sense of duty to his country, as well as the loss of his older half-brother, Private Peirson enlisted in the U.S. Army. He was mortally wounded during the April 16, 1945, Easter Day assault on the island of Okinawa, Japan, and died of his wounds the following day.

A joint memorial service was held in New Richmond, WI, on April 26, 1949, for the repatriated remains of the two fallen brothers. They are buried side by side at the Fort Snelling Cemetery in Minneapolis, MN. Both were posthumously awarded the Purple Heart.

In recognition of their service and sacrifice, I was proud to sponsor and witness successful passage of S. 2932 during the 117th Congress, a bill to designate the facility of the U.S. Postal Service located at 430 South Knowles Avenue in New Richmond, WI, as the ''Captain Robert C. Harmon and Private John R. Peirson Post Office Building.'' This legislation was passed in the Senate by unanimous consent on May 25, 2022, and was signed into law by President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., on December 29, 2022.

The official dedication and celebration of the Captain Robert C. Harmon and Private John R. Peirson Post Office Building will take place on August 25, 2023. Family, friends, fellow veterans, elected leaders, and community members will come together to remember these brothers and their service to our country. Local support of this dedication includes the New Richmond City Council, along with Mayors Fred Horne and Jim Zajkowski; the New Richmond Chamber of Commerce; the Butler-Harmon American Legion Post 80; and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10818 New Richmond/St. Croix County. Special recognition is due to Ms. Sally Berkholder who has been a tireless advocate for this dedication and ensuring that the family and community is able to properly celebrate and honor the service of the Harmon/Peirson brothers.

Captain Harmon and Private Peirson heroically gave their lives serving our country during World War II. They bravely fought for our American values and freedom, and we are indebted by their sacrifice. I am proud that their memory will live on by the official dedication of the New Richmond Post Office as the ''Captain Robert C. Harmon and Private John R. Peirson Post Office Building.''

REMEMBERING WALTER KNIGHT

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Walter Knight, who passed away on June 20, 2023, at the age of 89. Mr. Knight will be remembered for his numerous acts of leadership in the community of Beloit, WI—notably, serving as the first African-American on the Beloit Police and Fire Commission and the first African-American to be elected to the Beloit City Council.

Mr. Knight spent the first 17 years of his life in Arkansas where he attended segregated public schools and graduated from Union Grove High School in 1951. Upon graduation, he moved to Beloit, WI, where he went on to work for Fairbanks Morse in the foundry. The grueling conditions of the foundry motivated him to enroll in Blackhawk Technical College. This allowed him to move into a position in the machine shop at Fairbanks Morse where he remained for 25 years. Later in his career at Fairbanks Morse, he was elected the president of the Local Union 1533 United Steelworkers of America from 1972–1976.

To further advance his educational career, Mr. Knight studied union policy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. At the time he attended Madison, less than 1 percent of students were African-American. After securing higher-level education, Mr. Knight's activist voice and profound leadership in the Beloit community led him to be elected the first African-American on the Beloit City Council, where he served from 1972–1985. Mr. Knight's involvement and dedication to the Beloit community did not stop there. As an African-American, he spent his early years in Beloit fighting segregation by exposing and assisting in the closure of local discriminatory and prejudice businesses.

In addition to his fight for racial justice, Mr. Knight spent over 30 years with the Rock County Opportunities Industrialization Center. As executive director, he dedicated his time to helping minority and other local residents build occupational and social skills to enhance their career prospects. Mr. Knight always wanted to be remembered as someone who did all he could to help others. His life of selfless acts for his community accurately displays this. From working in the foundry at Fairbanks Morse to becoming president of the Beloit City Council, Mr. Knight was truly a trailblazer and has left an indelible mark on the Beloit community.

By creating opportunities and a voice for the minority community in Beloit, Mr. Knight's leadership granted him induction into the Beloit Historical Society Hall of Fame in 2014. Additionally, as a part of the 2019 Juneteenth celebration, the Portland Avenue Bridge in Beloit was renamed ''Walter R. Knight Bridge'' in his honor. Mr. Knight will be whole-heartedly missed and always remembered for the years of compassion and love he bestowed upon his community.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF TRUE COMPANIES

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of True Companies. This network of Wyoming businesses spans several major industries that directly benefit Natrona County, Wyoming, and our Nation.

Headquartered in Casper, WY, True Companies is a Wyoming institution. Proudly owned and operated by the True family, the businesses that make up True Companies are diverse. They contribute to multiple industries including energy, agriculture, real estate/development, and the financial sector. True Companies employs over 1,000 individuals across the United States in Wyoming, Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, Utah, New Mexico, Arizona, Missouri, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Oklahoma.

In Wyoming, we follow the Code of the West, a set of cowboy ethics that drive and shape our values. These principles remind us to take pride in our work and to do what has to be done. Today, the Code of the West hangs in the lobby of True Companies, serving as a reminder of the values of its

founder H.A. ''Dave'' True, Jr. Henry Alphonso True, Jr., or Dave as he was known to friends and family, was born in 1915 in Cheyenne. He married his high school sweetheart Jean in 1938. After earning his engineering degree from Montana State University, he followed in the footsteps of his father. Dave worked for Texaco, formerly known as the Texas Company, in Cody, where he lived with Jean and their four children: Tamma, H.A. ''Hank'' III, Diemer, and David L. In 1948, the family relocated to Casper. Here, Dave became part owner and manager of the Reserve Drilling Company, a one-rig drilling outfit that would change the course of his career. Just 3 years later, he was the president of Reserve Drilling and then opened his own drilling enterprise, True and Brown Drilling Contractors.

Dave had an uncanny ability to anticipate the needs of a then-booming oil industry. In 1954, he founded True Oil and True Drilling. He discovered several oil reservoirs in the ensuing years. In the next two decades, he founded eight additional businesses, each uniquely situated to meet the needs of—and capitalize on—the booming oil sector and Casper's growing population. It was also during this period that Dave began to diversify his interests. In 1957, he entered the ranching sector. True Ranches, a 36-head cattle operation included Nugget, his lone bull. Other endeavors were the Belle Fourche Pipeline Company, Black Hills Trucking, and Eighty-Eight Oil LLC. In all his business dealings, Dave was a consummate professional. He valued integrity and respect over making a quick buck. He was known to say, ''A good deal is not a good deal unless it's good for both parties.''

Quiet and hard working, Dave took seriously his role of sharing his time and talent with his community. In 1961, he established a scholarship program for the children of True Companies employees. For over six decades, the program has rewarded deserving, high-achieving students with money to pursue their education. Dave also taught his children the importance of public service and giving back. Today, the True family is well-known for its generous philanthropic efforts. In May of this year, the University of Wyoming, our State's only 4-year university, established the H.A. ''Dave'' True Jr. Family College of Business Deanship. This distinct honor recognizes the True family's legacy of dedicated service and entrepreneurial spirit.

The history of True Companies began with the humble vision and determination of Dave and Jean. After Dave died in 1994, Jean continued as the family's matriarch until she passed in 2006. She was 90 years old. Today, the company's heritage lives on through their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and even great-great-grandchildren.

Hank III and Karen True have three children: Thea True-Wells and Scott Wells with children Eric, Christopher, Jean Marie, and Katelin Wells; H.A. ''Tad'' IV and Jennifer True with children H.A. ''Henry'' V, Sam and Charlie; and Barbara True.

Diemer and Susie True have four children: Kip and Chris True with children Hailey True, Hannah and Steven Gutenberger, Hollie and Seth Snitker, Hayden and Lydia True, Harrison and Meghan True, Haines, Helaina, Hadleigh and Hyldie True; Kyle and Caridee True with children Connor and Suzanna True, Kennedee and Shawn Dalke, Cross and Megan True, Johnathon and Jacqueline True, Jordan, Sophia, and Patton True; Tara and Kirk Aamot with children Abbie and James Cooksey, Mark, David, and Grace Aamot; and Tracy True-Propp with children Mikayla and Preston Propp.

Dave and Melanie True have four children: Shane and JoAnn True with children Ellie True, Elijah and Katherine True, Rand, Delaney, Finn, and Reagan True; Christy and Quintin LeClercq with children Brayden, Kellan, Lincoln, and Zanden LeClercq; Bryce and Kelsey True with children Taggart, Roark, and Akston True; and Ashley and Gene VanDeest.

Dave and Jean's eldest daughter Tamma True-Hatten died in 2017. Her husband Donald Hatten predeceased her in 2002. Their memories live on through their two children Jaci and Dale Kerns with children Kodi Kerns, Jake (JD) and Dawn Kerns, Josh and Randi Kerns, and Joel Kerns; and Dave Hatten with children Kaci Hatten and Kara and Christian Sabo.

True Companies includes the following businesses: True Oil, True Drilling, True Ranches, Toolpushers Supply Company, Black Hills Trucking, Measurement Services LLC, Bridger Pipeline LLC, Eighty-Eight Oil LLC, Equitable Oil Purchasing Company, Hilltop Bank, Flowstate, and Brick and Bond, in addition to numerous other ranches and properties.

This year, members and employees of the True Companies family will celebrate its 75th anniversary by giving back to the community. On August 19, 2023, True Companies will join Bluepeak in sponsoring the annual 5150' Festival, a free community event hosted by Visit Casper. It is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate all that Casper has to offer with food, vendors, and live music.

True Companies was built on a foundation of humble service and hard work. Its founder, H.A. ''Dave'' True, Jr., established a culture that encouraged employees to ''talk less and say more.'' Bobbi and I are honored to celebrate its 75th anniversary, and we look forward to the next 75 years of success.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MILWAUKEE MEXICAN FIESTA

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Mexican Fiesta in Milwaukee. I am proud to honor this tradition that showcases the rich cultural history of the Hispanic community in Wisconsin.

What began as a small street festival in Milwaukee has grown to be one of the largest celebrations of Mexican culture in the country. In 1973, proud members of the Mexican-American community closed down one street in downtown Milwaukee to celebrate Mexican Independence Day. Today, the Mexican Fiesta attracts thousands of visitors from across the State to enjoy Hispanic cuisine, dance to Mexican artists, and learn more about the rich history of this community. With more than 450 exhibitors and vendors, it has also become an opportunity for Wisconsin small businesses, nonprofits, and local artisans to showcase their products and reach new customers.

This 50-year tradition is not only a celebration of Hispanic heritage; it is also a chance to support students across the State as they pursue an education. Money raised through the Mexican Fiesta goes towards the Wisconsin Hispanic Scholarship Foundation, which expands access to higher education for the Hispanic community. Since its founding, the foundation has awarded $1.8 million in scholarships. Thanks to their efforts, young Hispanic men and women across the State have been empowered to explore their interests and jumpstart their futures.

The original organizers of the Mexican Fiesta were searching for a way to share their traditions and culture with the rest of their community. It has been inspiring to watch that vision become a reality over the last 50 years. Armed with the knowledge that education opens doors, the Wisconsin Hispanic Scholarship Foundation has used the reach and popularity of this celebration to empower young Wisconsinites to pursue their dreams. I am proud to recognize this important tradition on their 50th anniversary, and I look forward to celebrating the countless contributions that Mexican Americans have made to our State for years to come.

TRIBUTE TO SEAN FARRELL

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, today I bid a fond farewell to my chief of staff Sean Farrell. Sean has been an indispensable member of my team for 6 years. During that time, he has worn several hats, each coming with its own challenges. Sean joined Team Blackburn when I was serving on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, where he mastered some of the most complex issues that the U.S. Congress examines. After I was elected to the Senate, Sean agreed to move from the House to the Senate and assumed the formidable task of managing my legislative agenda, as well as a gaggle of young lawyers and policy experts.

When I asked Sean to serve as my chief of staff, I knew I was asking him to face challenges far beyond those normally associated with the position.

Pandemic-era rules had scattered our staff across the country, and the Senate was still limping its way through a once in a lifetime crisis. Thankfully, Sean stepped up. He approached the job with grace and persistence and, even during the toughest fights kept his eye on the ball and the team's focus on serving the people of Tennessee.

We will miss him tremendously, but I have no doubt that his beautiful wife Kasey will be happy to see him spending more time at home and less time in the halls of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. I would like to leave Sean with my thanks for his years of service to the Volunteer State and my best wishes as he moves forward in this next exciting season of his career.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS VICKSBURG DISTRICT

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the 150th anniversary of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Vicksburg District. The history of this vital entity can be traced back to 1873 when Captain William Henry Harrison Benyuard opened the Monroe-based branch to address surveys and conduct wreck removals on the Yazoo and Ouachita Rivers. Today, the Vicksburg District encompasses areas across Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana containing nine major river basins and incorporating approximately 460 miles of mainline Mississippi River levees.

As U.S. Senator for Arkansas, I have worked closely with the Vicksburg District Corps leaders on many projects to benefit The Natural State. I have always appreciated our collaboration to strengthen navigation, conservation, recreation and water supply on the Ouachita River. To better serve the communities adjacent to tributaries and reservoirs in its jurisdiction, I have worked alongside the Corps to fund studies in the Ouachita River Basin and support its flood risk management mission on the Red and Ouachita Rivers. The District has also been instrumental in securing additional water supply for the city of Hot Springs and Central Arkansas Water via Lake Ouachita and Lake DeGray.

The Corps plays an important role in managing safety and environmental issues for our waterways and related structures. As a member of the Environment and Public Works Committee, I proudly support these efforts and am committed to always working to ensure it has the funding and resources necessary to carry out its mission.

I look forward to continuing our partnership and delivering the resources to improve Corps infrastructure and facilities, and I congratulate the Vicksburg District on 150 years of managing water resources and responding to emergencies for the benefit of the entire region it serves and supports.•

TRIBUTE TO JOHN SQUIRE DRENDEL

• Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the 100th birthday of my dear friend John Squire Drendel. John dedicated his life to advocating on behalf of his clients and serving the people of Nevada. For 70 years, John shaped Nevada's legal community, and I am proud to join his family and friends in celebrating this significant milestone.

On August 4, 1923, John was born in Carson Valley, NV, a beautiful rural community just south of Carson City. In the midst of the Great Depression, John left home to work on a nearby ranch and complete his studies at Douglas County High School.

During his first semester at the University of Notre Dame in the fall of 1941, the bombing of Pearl Harbor altered the trajectory of his life. John served in the U.S. Navy as a lieutenant and as a commander of a landing craft tank in the Pacific Islands of Saipan, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa.

Following the end of World War II, John took advantage of the education benefits provided in the G.I. Bill to complete his undergraduate education and attend law school at the University of Colorado. After obtaining his law degree, John returned home to Nevada with his wife Marilyn to raise their four children and work as a Nevada highway patrolman.

In 1950, John passed the Nevada Bar Exam and later partnered with William O. Bradley to form Bradley & Drendel, a premier personal injury firm in northern Nevada. In 1957, in order to make their services more accessible to their clients, the two selected a converted garage in Reno, NV, to serve as their firm's office. By 1970, John had solidified his reputation by representing a diesel mechanic from Ely, NV, who suffered from a debilitating injury while at work. John won the highest verdict awarded to a single plaintiff in the U.S. at that point in time, providing financial security for the mechanic and his family. This firm continues to serve the community with a third generation of attorneys. Currently, John's son Thomas is of counsel to the firm.

John is deeply respected by his peers and remains active in Nevada's legal community as a founding member and former president of the Nevada Trial Lawyers Association and the Washoe County Bar Association. John has been honored with countless accolades throughout the duration of his career, including the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Nevada Trial Lawyers Association in 2001.

The list of John's contributions to the legal community and Nevada are never-ending. John strived for excellence throughout his career and has proven himself a great Nevadan. His professional accomplishments are surpassed only by the wonderful family and community he has built in the Silver State. I know John is happy to be spending his retirement with his children Mary, John, Ann, and Thomas; their grandchildren Sarah, Andrew, Anne, Clara, Nathaniel, Mary, and Matthew; and their four great-grandchildren. I am incredibly pleased to honor this momentous event in his life and wish him joy in the years to come.•

400TH ANNIVERSARY OF PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

• Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, today it is my privilege to recognize the 400th anniversary of the city of Portsmouth, NH. For four centuries, Portsmouth has endured as one our country's oldest and most vital cities, continuing to serve as a pillar for New Hampshire's economy and culture—and for our country's national security.

From its founding in 1623, Portsmouth has served as one of New England's most important trade ports, helping develop and sustain the region's economy and, at one time, even served as New Hampshire's capital. Portsmouth first started as Strawbery Banke, an early settlement that evolved into a maritime hub and led Portsmouth to become the iconic city that it is today. In the 400 years since 1623, Portsmouth continues to be a wonderful place to live—and it is a premier destination for trade and tourism, boasting some of the finest breweries and seafood in the country. Portsmouth is in part why New Hampshire attracts millions of tourists each year.

Portsmouth has also been instrumental in building and maintaining the U.S. Navy, through the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, as well as providing a key installation for the U.S. Air Force with the Pease Air Force Base, which is now home to the finest Air National Guard in the country. In New Hampshire, our motto is ''Live Free or Die,'' and Granite Staters in Portsmouth have embodied that spirit since our country's beginning. The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard built and launched John Paul Jones and the USS Ranger in the American Revolutionary War—one of the founding vessels of the U.S. Navy—and was a one-time home to the famed USS Constitution. The shipbuilders and dockworkers in Portsmouth have built and maintained vessels that served in conflicts from the Revolutionary War through today, including playing a decisive role in building our submarine fleet in World War II. Across distant seas and faraway tides, ships built in Portsmouth—powered by everything from winds to atoms—have helped ensure that Granite Staters and all Americans can continue to live free.

The people of Portsmouth also know that inclusiveness is a virtue and a key to our State and our country's strength. As we mark the 400th anniversary of the city of Portsmouth, we also recognize that the Wabanaki people have long called this region their home, thousands of years before the establishment of Portsmouth. Over the

years, a diverse group of people and communities have all made Portsmouth's culture richer and more vibrant. I am grateful for those who are shining a light on all parts of Portsmouth's history, especially the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire. The organization has helped make more Granite Staters aware of the long and rich history of New Hampshire's Black community, including in Portsmouth, and deepened our appreciation of the diversity that has made Portsmouth—and New Hampshire—stronger year after year.

While much of Portsmouth has changed over the last four centuries, it still never fails to capture the hearts and imaginations of those who visit. Anyone who has visited Portsmouth even once knows that it is not an easy place to forget. Everyone who has walked Portsmouth's streets, toured the Strawbery Banke Museum to explore our history, taken in a live performance in Prescott Park or the Music Hall, tasted our fresh seafood, or even simply looked out at the Piscataqua River and breathed in the salty ocean air, knows that Portsmouth is a special place.

Portsmouth has endured for four centuries because, across generations, people have believed in the city's promise, worked hard to keep the community strong, and remained dedicated to the notion that Portsmouth's best days are always ahead.

On behalf of Congress and all Granite Staters, I offer my congratulations to the city of Portsmouth on this incredible milestone, and encourage people from across our country to visit this great American city.●

TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN HOLMES

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize Lt. Stephen Holmes of Candia as July's Granite Stater of the Month. Stephen, a Marine Corps veteran and a firefighter, is working to destigmatize mental health among first responders by visiting New Hampshire fire departments and sharing his own experience dealing with PTSD.

At age 17, Stephen enlisted in the Marine Corps infantry and went on to serve three tours of duty in Iraq. On his return home 4 years later, he wanted to continue helping others through public service and decided to join the Exeter Fire Department. However, it soon became clear that he was struggling with serious symptoms of anxiety, depression, and anger, and he was diagnosed with PTSD at the Manchester VA.

Stephen took a leave of absence from the Exeter Fire Department due to his mental health, and during this time, Stephen's wife gave him a book on meditation, which turned out to be his saving grace. After trying many other therapeutic techniques recommended by his doctors, Stephen found that meditation worked best for him to help him feel at peace.

Stephen did not stop there. After returning to the Exeter Fire Department, he wanted to use the lessons he had learned to shed more light on the issue of first responders' mental health. With the help of other Fire and EMS professionals, Stephen began visiting one fire station after another to share his mental health struggles and the importance of seeking care. Already, many of his peers have started receiving mental health treatment, Stephen's story having provided the push that they needed and the validation that it is okay to need help.

Many first responders might believe that they cannot seek help, since they are the ones that the rest of us rely on in a crisis. However, first responders often need mental health care precisely because of how high-pressure their jobs are and the suffering that they see, which is why Stephen's work is all the more important—he is sharing his firsthand experiences, breaking down stigma, and letting first responders know that it is okay to seek the care that they need.

Stephen exemplifies the Granite State spirit of commitment to community and person-to-person advocacy to bring about positive change. I am deeply grateful, as I know his fellow first responders are, for his bravery and compassion in sharing his personal experiences, and I look forward to seeing how he continues to change people's lives.●

REMEMBERING BOB PENNEY

● Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, my dear friend, Robert Clark Penney, passed away on March 14, 2023. As we prepare to say our final goodbyes at a memorial ceremony this coming weekend, I am among many Alaskans who are reflecting on the legacy Bob created across our state and especially along his beloved Kenai River.

Named Alaska's Ambassador for Sport Fishing by our State legislature in 2017, Bob was known for his success in business and his tireless advocacy of the iconic Kenai River watershed. But, like many Alaskans, he started with humble roots in the lower 48. Bob was born in Portland in 1932, where he showed his business acumen early. At the age of 10, he and his sister Patsy were gifted a pony. While his sister was gathering her friends for a free ride, Bob was on the next block with the pony, selling rides for a dime apiece.

As he grew up, Bob played on the high school tennis team and worked part-time after school hours. He also loved the outdoors, hunting birds and fishing for salmon in the local rivers near Gresham, OR.

Bob answered the call to head north to Alaska in 1951, when the lumber company he worked for expanded into what was then still a U.S. Territory. When Bob was just 19, the company offered him the job of managing their new Alaska prospect. Bob excelled there, but it was a job he took at Wade Trailer sales in 1956 that inspired him to enter real estate, where he would really make his mark.

After learning the ropes at Wade's, Bob opened Penney Trailer Sales in 1959, selling mobile homes. Bob soon grew the business to include RVs and housing for construction camps. In just a few short years, he was the largest mobile home dealer in our new State. During that time, Bob also began to invest in real estate and building development. He built everything from single-family homes to massive commercial real estate ventures spanning the west coast and Mexico. Through it all, Bob always gave back, seemingly more by the year. His philosophy in both life and business was to ''wear the other guy's shoes'' and ''always leave a little bit for the next person.'' Bob served on the boards of the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, the Anchorage Economic Development Corporation, and the Alaska Regional Hospital Board of Trustees. He was a philanthropist, starting the Anchorage Mayor's Charity Ball, which has now raised more than $4 million for charitable organizations in our State's largest city.

When the oil industry started to boom in Alaska, Bob felt the State needed greater community involvement to bring attention to this opportunity and others like it. He formed the Organization for the Management of Alaska's Resources—OMAR—later renamed the Resource Development Council—RDC—and included many State leaders in the effort. RDC is now Alaska's largest resource trade association—encompassing the fishing, forestry, mining, oil and gas, and tourism industries—and its advocacy remains critical to growing our economy and reaching our potential as a state.

Bob also had a distinguished tenure as a member of the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. The federally chartered council is critical to the sustainable management of Alaska's commercial fisheries, one of the largest employers and economic drivers in our State. Bob's service on the board contributed to the health and well-being of the largest fishery in America, but his true passion was the conservation of the fishery of the Kenai River in southcentral Alaska.

Bob was always delighted by Kenai Chinooks, or ''Kings,'' the largest salmon in the world. He loved to take friends and visitors out on the river and the pictures of happy anglers and their catch of the day adorned the walls of his riverfront home. Bob realized these fish are an amazing resource for the State and for Alaskans, as more than half our population can access the river by road in a matter of hours. Bob knew that Alaskans could feed their families and fill their freezers from this river in perpetuity if it was managed correctly.

So, in 1986, Bob founded the Kenai River Sportfishing Association. Under his direction, the association grew into Alaska's premier sportfish and fish

habitat conservation organization, helping to ensure the long-term sustainability of the river.

Bob and two of his friends, Senator Ted Stevens and Bix Bonney, utilized KRSA to start the Kenai River Classic, an invitational fishing tournament held each August. The tournament has brought in elected officials and industry leaders from across America, educating them about the Kenai River and its needs. It has raised over $25 million for conservation of the local watershed, enabling the rehabilitation of critical fish spawning habitat, opportunities for youth, and better access to the river for both subsistence and sportfishing.

''Alaska's Sport Fish Ambassador'' was true to his name and title, but family and friends were the driving force in his life. Bob met his wife Jeannie in 1973 at a dinner party in Girdwood; they dated and got married on New Year's Eve in 1974 on a sailing schooner in Kawela Bay off Oahu. Since the vessel was ''just outside the limits,'' their marriage license lists the latitude and longitude, instead.

Bob always had big ideas for Alaska. He couldn't walk through a room without taking up one cause or other. He followed through, helping to build our young State. But Bob was always happiest holding court at his home, ''River Presence,'' on the Kenai, surrounded by his family and friends.

Bob is survived by 4 grown children, 10 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren, and leaves a remarkable legacy, from economic development to philanthropy, to world-class fishing on the Kenai River. My family and I knew Bob for decades, were proud to call him our friend, and are grateful for all he did to enrich our great State.●

TRIBUTE TO YUFEI CHEN AND RICHARD ZHU

● Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize outstanding academic achievement on the world stage by none other than two California students. Earlier this month, the 2023 International Biology Olympiad—IBO—showcased the remarkable talents and encyclopedic knowledge of pre-university students in the field of theoretical and laboratory biology.

To even qualify was a challenge, but after competing in a field of 44 States, over 600 schools, and nearly 10,000 students at the national competition and then competing among their peers from over 80 countries at the international level, two California students stood out. Richard Zhu of North Hollywood Senior High School earned a silver medal, while Yufei Chen of University High School in Irvine not only earned a gold medal, he earned the highest score in the world.

Both students demonstrated a remarkable intellect, a refreshing passion in the field of STEM, and an example for every other California student to follow to achieve their dreams. I can't wait to see where their talents will lead them next.

Congratulations, once again, to Yufei Chen and Richard Zhu, on the hard-earned and well-deserved recognition.●

400TH ANNIVERSARY OF PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the city of Portsmouth, NH, on the 400th anniversary of its first European settlement.

Historians trace Portsmouth's earliest New World beginnings to the 1623 arrival of David Thomson. With a 6,000-acre land patent in hand from the Council for New England, David and his wife Amias Cole Thomson stepped ashore and constructed a settlement known as Pannaway Plantation. The name is thought to mean ''place where the water spreads out'' in the language of the Abenaki, one of the many Tribes that inhabited, hunted, and farmed the land and fished local waters long before the Thomsons arrived in Little Harbor. Pannaway found success as a fishing outpost; however, the Thomsons and their crew left for another settlement in Boston Harbor just a few short years later. A new group of settlers directed by Captain John Mason and led by Captain Walter Neale would return in 1630 and establish a colony along the Piscataqua River known as Strawbery Banke. The port facilitated trade that served fishing, lumber, and shipbuilding interests. It was officially incorporated as the town of Portsmouth in 1653, an homage to the English town in Hampshire County where Captain Mason lived.

In these early years, Portsmouth rose to prominence as a major center for commerce and government. It was the colonial capital of New Hampshire, and its dwellings housed wealthy merchants as well as hunters, trappers, fishermen, shipbuilders, and other skilled crafters. Portsmouth also played a pivotal role in our country's fight for independence. Four months before shots were fired in Lexington and Concord, a group of local men captured Fort William and Mary, a military post that guarded access to the waters of Portsmouth Harbor and the Piscataqua River, and distributed its gunpowder to towns around the colony. Many historians consider the raid as one of the first acts of overt defiance in the American Revolution.

The new Nation also relied on Portsmouth's expertise in shipbuilding to build vessels for the Continental Navy. Captain John Paul Jones lived in Portsmouth while supervising construction of the USS *Ranger*. The first ship to fly the American flag into battle, the USS *Raleigh* was built on nearby Badger's Island. The *Raleigh* is proudly depicted on New Hampshire's State flag and the Great Seal of the State of New Hampshire.

The area's rich heritage of shipbuilding as well as the deep, ice-free waters of Portsmouth Harbor made it an ideal location for a Federal navy yard. In 1800, President John Adams established the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. It is the U.S. Navy's oldest continuously operating shipyard in the country, and its current workforce is responsible for overhauling and repairing America's modern submarine fleet. In the early 20th century, the shipyard and the city welcomed delegates from Russia and Japan to negotiate an end to the countries' year-and-a-half-long conflict. They arrived in Portsmouth in August 1905 at the suggestion of President Theodore Roosevelt, who received a Nobel Prize for his efforts to broker an end to the Russo-Japanese War. In Portsmouth, President Roosevelt could count on both the naval shipyard to observe diplomatic protocols and the people of the city to act as gracious hosts to both delegations. The friendly, relaxed environment proved conducive to securing the first international treaty to be signed on U.S. soil and an agreement that set the tone for Pacific relations in the century to follow.

Portsmouth has witnessed so much since its first European settlement, and city residents understand the social, cultural, and economic benefits of preserving and celebrating this history. Its charming downtown retains and blends four centuries of unique buildings, architecture, landmarks, and community spaces, including the 1695 Sherburne House at Strawbery Banke Museum, the 1716 Warner House, the 1784 Governor John Langdon House, the 1855 reconstruction of the iconic North Church, the 1878 rebuilding of the Music Hall, and 1954 creation of Prescott Park. Efforts to sustain these treasures and more have positioned the city as a popular heritage tourism destination with a thriving arts and culture scene, boutique shops, and a variety of local restaurants and cafes. They have also reinvigorated a sense of community among Portsmouth residents by bringing to light their shared history and the city's distinct local character.

Within these efforts, city residents devote special attention to giving voice to the generations of people who contributed to Portsmouth's long, complex story with little or no recognition in previous town histories. They carefully consider and pay respect to the Native Tribes—the Abenaki, the Pennacook, the Wabanaki peoples, and more—who inhabited the area for thousands of years prior to European contact. Local museums share the experiences and perspectives of immigrants across the centuries who were drawn to Portsmouth with prospects for a better life. The city is home to the Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire, an organization that strives to build communities that are more inclusive by promoting awareness and appreciation of African-American history, as well as the Portsmouth African Burying Ground. After years of discussion and deliberation by a city-organized committee, the 18th

century gravesite was rededicated in 2015 as a park titled ''We Stand In Honor of Those Forgotten.'' The site is now a sobering memorial that encourages reflection on the full, unvarnished history of the region.

Around the 300th anniversary of its first European settlement, the city of Portsmouth worked alongside the local chamber of commerce to create a new slogan that would attract new industry and accentuate the high quality of life for residents of the community. They settled on ''The City of the Open Door,'' an expression that conveys optimism and invites people of every faith, every culture, and every background to the city to help write the next memorable chapter of Portsmouth's long and impressive story. City residents continue to exemplify this ethos a full century later. I congratulate the city of Portsmouth on this important milestone and wish the community all the best as it celebrates its past and looks forward to its bright future.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Stringer, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 682. An act to facilitate access to electromagnetic spectrum for commercial space launches and commercial space reentries.

H.R. 752. An act to require SelectUSA to coordinate with State-level economic development organizations to increase foreign direct investment in semiconductor-related manufacturing and production.

H.R. 1176. An act to amend the Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative (TAIPEI) Act of 2019 to provide that the United States, as a member of any international organizations, should oppose any attempts by the People's Republic of China to resolve Taiwan's status by distorting the decisions, language, policies, or procedures of the organization, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1345. An act to amend the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act to establish the Office of Policy Development and Cybersecurity, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1684. An act to require the Secretary of State to submit an annual report to Congress regarding the ties between criminal gangs and political and economic elites in Haiti and impose sanctions on political and economic elites involved in such criminal activities.

H.R. 2544. An act to improve the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3203. An act to impose sanctions with respect to Chinese producers of synthetic opioids and opioid precursors, to hold Chinese officials accountable for the spread of illicit fentanyl, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4470. An act to extend the authorization of the Chemical Facility AntiTerrorism Standards Program of the Department of Homeland Security.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY) announced that on today, July 26, 2023, she had signed the following enrolled bill, which was previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

H.R. 1096. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the United States Marine Corps, and to support programs at the Marine Corps Heritage Center.

At 4:01 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2670. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 682. An act to facilitate access to electromagnetic spectrum for commercial space launches and commercial space reentries; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 1176. An act to amend the Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative (TAIPEI) Act of 2019 to provide that the United States, as a member of any international organizations, should oppose any attempts by the People's Republic of China to resolve Taiwan's status by distorting the decisions, language, policies, or procedures of the organization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 1345. An act to amend the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act to establish the Office of Policy Development and Cybersecurity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 3203. An act to impose sanctions with respect to Chinese producers of synthetic opioids and opioid precursors, to hold Chinese officials accountable for the spread of illicit fentanyl, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1684. An act to require the Secretary of State to submit an annual report to Congress regarding the ties between criminal gangs and political and economic elites in Haiti and impose sanctions on political and economic elites involved in such criminal activities.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mrs. MURRAY, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled ''Further Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals for Fiscal Year 2024'' (Rept. No. 118–78).

By Mr. MANCHIN, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with amendments:

S. 873. A bill to improve recreation opportunities on, and facilitate greater access to, Federal public land, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118–79).

By Mr. SCHATZ, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment:

S. 950. A bill to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to make a technical correction to the water rights settlement for the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118–80).

By Mr. SANDERS, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 265. A bill to reauthorize the rural emergency medical service training and equipment assistance program, and for other purposes.

By Mr. CARPER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

S. 1278. A bill to designate the Federal building located at 985 Michigan Avenue in Detroit, Michigan, as the ''Rosa Parks Federal Building'', and for other purposes.

S. 1381. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, through the Coastal Program of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to work with willing partners and provide support to efforts to assess, protect, restore, and enhance important coastal landscapes that provide fish and wildlife habitat on which certain Federal trust species depend, and for other purposes.

By Mr. SANDERS, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment:

S. 1844. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to reauthorize user fee programs relating to new animal drugs and generic new animal drugs.

By Mr. CARPER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

S. 2195. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to reauthorize the diesel emissions reduction program.

S. 2395. A bill to reauthorize wildlife habitat and conservation programs, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. WARNER for the Select Committee on Intelligence.

*Michael Colin Casey, of Kentucky, to be Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to

respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. VANCE:

S. 2497. A bill to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to convert certain insured State banks into national banks; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 2498. A bill to prohibit unfair and deceptive advertising of prices for hotel rooms and other places of short-term lodging, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CARPER, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 2499. A bill to extend the authorization of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program of the Department of Homeland Security; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. WARNOCK, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 2500. A bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to adjust the period during which amounts transferred by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to the account for customer education initiatives and non-awards expenses shall remain available, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2501. A bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to promulgate an occupational safety and health standard to protect workers from heat-related injuries and illnesses; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ROUNDS:

S. 2502. A bill to require the Chief Data and Artificial Intelligence Officer of the Department of Defense to develop a bug bounty program relating to dual-use foundational artificial intelligence models; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. BUDD):

S. 2503. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to enhance penalties for certain crimes committed against veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2504. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to streamline applications from farmers to be vendors under certain nutrition programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BRAUN:

S. 2505. A bill to require a report on the effect of the phase-out of the reduction of Survivor Benefit Plan survivor annuities by the amount of dependency and indemnity compensation; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. KELLY, Mr. PADILLA, and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 2506. 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 Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. KING):

S. 2507. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to ensure equal treatment of buy-protect-sell transactions and certain other transactions under the agricultural conservation easement program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2508. A bill to require a report on Department of Defense security clearance process updates, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2509. A bill to require reporting on sexual assault in surveys; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. BROWN, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 2510. A bill to improve supply chain resiliency for critical drug products with vulnerable supply chains and ensure that reserves of critical drugs and active pharmaceutical ingredients are maintained to prevent supply disruptions in the event of drug shortages or public health emergencies; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 2511. A bill to expand psychological mental and behavioral health services to Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP beneficiaries by permitting reimbursement of psychological services provided by certain supervised psychology trainees, and facilitating the reimbursement of those services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. KAINE):

S. 2512. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit for reenrollment provisions in retirement plans of small employers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 2513. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BARRASSO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. ROMNEY, and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. 2514. A bill to amend the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act to modify certain requirements applicable to salinity control units, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BROWN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. TESTER, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. BOOKER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. RISCH, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Mr. MORAN, Mr. REED, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 2515. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 2516. A bill to establish the Veterans Advisory Committee on Equal Access, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 2517. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to allow for periodic automatic reenrollment under qualified automatic contribution arrangements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 2518. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make investment income of certain foreign governments subject to tax; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 2519. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose an asset test on professional sports leagues qualifying for 501(c)(6) status; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LUJÁN:

S. 2520. A bill to require the standardization of reciprocal fire suppression cost share agreements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. HAWLEY, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2521. A bill to promote competition and reduce consumer switching costs in the provision of online communications services; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 2522. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide matching payments for ABLE account contributions by certain individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TUBERVILLE (for himself, Mr. WARNOCK, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 2523. A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to require certain membership on the Board of Directors of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 2524. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prohibit institutions of higher education participating in Federal student assistance programs from giving preferential treatment in the admissions process to legacy students or donors; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 2525. A bill to prohibit Federal spending on funding research in China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2526. A bill to establish the Office of Press Freedom, to create press freedom curriculum at the National Foreign Affairs Training Center, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2527. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of

Defense or the Secretary of a military department to enter into cooperative agreements to manage certain recreational resources in California; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2528. A bill to require verification of the financial independence of financial services counselors in the Department of Defense; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2529. A bill to provide support for military families with dependents in the Exceptional Family Member Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. KING, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 2530. A bill to address behavioral health and well-being among education professionals and other school staff; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 2531. A bill to improve the communications between social media platforms and law enforcement agencies, to establish the Federal Trade Commission Platform Safety Advisory Committee, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2532. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to submit an annual report on certain out-of-cycle or premature personnel transfers; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 2533. A bill to require the Secretary of Defense to allow certain military spouses employed by the Department of Defense to telework full time; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. FETTERMAN, and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. 2534. A bill to amend the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Authorization Act of 1992 to reauthorize the Chesapeake Bay Office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2535. A bill to prohibit agreements between employers that directly restrict the current or future employment of any employee; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself and Mr. WELCH):

S. 2536. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to provide training materials for the use of health care professionals to inform their patients about the availability of benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. LUJÁN:

S. 2537. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to improve access to the food distribution program on Indian reservations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. TUBERVILLE):

S. 2538. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to regional biocontainment laboratories for maintaining surge capacity for purposes of responding to outbreaks of infectious diseases or acts of bioterrorism; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. HAGERTY, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 2539. A bill to clarify that, in awarding funding under title X of the Public Health Service Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services may not discriminate against eligible States, individuals, or other entities for refusing to counsel or refer for abortions; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LUJÁN:

S. 2540. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to allow for increased flexibility in the food distribution program on Indian reservations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. TUBERVILLE (for himself, Mr. HAGERTY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mrs. BRITT):

S. 2541. A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to require the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation to conduct research and development on the inclusion of certain oilseed crops in double cropping policies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 2542. A bill to amend the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 to establish a last acre program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 2543. A bill to amend the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 to require the National Center for Education Statistics to collect, acquire, compile, and disseminate student attainment in languages other than English, and to require the National Center for Education Research to support research on attainment in languages other than English; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. WARREN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 2544. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve reproductive health care of individuals with disabilities; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 2545. A bill to require the United States Trade Representative to regularly monitor industrial subsidies provided by the Government of the People's Republic of China and submit a report on the risks posed by those subsidies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself and Mr. KELLY):

S. 2546. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 North Taylor Lane in Patagonia, Arizona, as the ''Jim Kolbe Memorial Post Office''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 2547. A bill to amend the Natural Gas Act to bolster fairness and transparency in the consideration of interstate natural gas pipeline permits, to provide for greater public input opportunities in the natural gas pipeline permitting process, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 2548. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to establish an Aviation Security Checkpoint Technology Fund in the Department of Homeland Security to fund investments in aviation security checkpoint technology, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. FETTERMAN (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 2549. A bill to name the community-based outpatient clinic of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Monroeville, Pennsylvania, as the ''Henry Parham VA Clinic''; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE:

S. 2550. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to disallow deductions for certain payments relating to defamation suits; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 2551. A bill to impose export controls and sanctions to address the security threat posed by the genetic mapping efforts of the Government of the People's Republic of China and other countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 2552. A bill to provide for the independent and objective conduct and supervision of audits and investigations relating to the programs and operations funded with amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to Ukraine for military, economic, and humanitarian aid; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. FETTERMAN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. SMITH, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 2553. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to ensure that striking workers and their households do not become ineligible for benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MURPHY:

S. 2554. A bill to establish name, image, and likeness rights for college athletes at institutions of higher education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. CRAMER):

S.J. Res. 38. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Highway Administration relating to ''Waiver of Buy America Requirements for Electric Vehicle Chargers''; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BRAUN:

S. Res. 311. A resolution designating September 2023 as ''Macedonian American Heritage Month'' and celebrating the language, history, and culture of Macedonian Americans and their incredible contributions to the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WARNOCK,

Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. REED, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BENNET, Ms. SMITH, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. Res. 312. A resolution recognizing the importance of independent living for individuals with disabilities made possible by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and calling for further action to strengthen home and community living for individuals with disabilities; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. PADILLA, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. LUJÁN, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. Res. 313. A resolution designating September 2023 as ''National Child Awareness Month'' to promote awareness of charities that benefit children and youth-serving organizations throughout the United States and recognizing the efforts made by those charities and organizations on behalf of children and youth as critical contributions to the future of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Res. 314. A resolution to authorize testimony and representation in United States v. Sahady; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL):

S. Res. 315. A resolution to authorize testimony and representation in United States v. Bozell; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):

S. Res. 316. A resolution honoring the life of Lowell Palmer Weicker, Jr., former Senator for the State of Connecticut; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. CRUZ):

S. Res. 317. A resolution celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of Texas Tech University; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

S. Res. 318. A resolution raising awareness of modern day slavery; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. FETTERMAN, and Mr. TESTER):

S. Con. Res. 18. A concurrent resolution calling for the immediate release of Marc Fogel, a United States citizen and teacher, who was given an unjust and disproportionate criminal sentence by the Government of the Russian Federation in June 2022; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 26

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 26, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the amendments made to reporting of third party network transactions by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

S. 311

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 311, a bill to correct the inequitable denial of enhanced retirement and annuity benefits to certain U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers.

S. 414

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 414, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and to expand eligibility for dependency and indemnity compensation paid to certain survivors of certain veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 552

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 552, a bill to extend duty-free treatment provided with respect to imports from Haiti under the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act.

S. 610

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 610, a bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to modify the frequency of board of directors meetings, and for other purposes.

S. 626

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 626, a bill to recommend that the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation test the effect of a dementia care management model, and for other purposes.

S. 707

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 707, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to allow for the retirement of certain animals used in Federal research, and for other purposes.

S. 838

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 838, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to mental health services under the Medicare program.

S. 1036

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1036, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to streamline nutrition access for older adults and adults with disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 1119

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1119, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the maximum age for children eligible for medical care under the CHAMPVA program, and for other purposes.

S. 1205

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1205, a bill to modify market development programs under the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

S. 1246

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1246, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to strengthen the drug pricing reforms in the Inflation Reduction Act.

S. 1264

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1264, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to strengthen the drug pricing reforms in the Inflation Reduction Act.

S. 1271

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY) and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1271, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to trafficking of illicit fentanyl and its precursors by transnational criminal organizations, including cartels, and for other purposes.

S. 1323

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1323, a bill to create protections for financial institutions that provide financial services to State-sanctioned marijuana businesses and service providers for such businesses, and for other purposes.

S. 1334

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1334, a bill to require the Secretary of Defense to develop, in cooperation with allies and partners in the Middle East, an integrated maritime domain awareness and interdiction capability, and for other purposes.

S. 1384

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1384, a bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors.

S. 1409

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1409, a bill to protect the safety of children on the internet.

S. 1444

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1444, a bill to increase the pay and enhance the training of United States Border Patrol agents, and for other purposes.

S. 1527

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1527, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to ensure that members of the Armed Forces and their families have access to the contraception they need in order to promote the health and readiness of all members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 1668

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) were added as cosponsors of S. 1668, a bill to improve the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network, and for other purposes.

S. 1756

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1756, a bill to amend the Farm Credit Act of 1971 to support the commercial fishing industry.

S. 1829

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1829, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to persons engaged in the import of petroleum from the Islamic Republic of Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 1837

At the request of Mr. FETTERMAN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1837, a bill to amend the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to include spotted lanternfly control research and development as a high-priority research and extension initiative, and for other purposes.

S. 1852

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1852, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a sickle cell disease prevention and treatment demonstration program.

S. 1860

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1860, a bill to direct the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to establish a grant program to fund youth fishing projects.

S. 1875

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1875, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from transmitting certain information to the Department of Justice for use by the national instant criminal background check system.

S. 2085

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2085, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection screening tests.

S. 2092

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2092, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a child tax credit for pregnant moms with respect to their unborn children, and for other purposes.

S. 2231

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2231, a bill to amend title V of the Social Security Act to support stillbirth prevention and research, and for other purposes.

S. 2240

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2240, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to authorize appropriations for certain cooperative projects among the United States, Israel, and developing countries, and for other purposes.

S. 2317

At the request of Mr. FETTERMAN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2317, a bill to amend the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 and the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 to direct the Agricultural Research Service to expand organic research, and for other purposes.

S. 2335

At the request of Mr. VANCE, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2335, a bill to establish within the Department of the Treasury the Office of the Special Inspector General for Financial Regulatory Abuses and Misconduct, and for other purposes.

S. 2391

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2391, a bill to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program.

S. 2413

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2413, a bill to expand and strengthen the Abraham Accords and the Negev Forum, and for other purposes.

S. 2494

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2494, a bill to update the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010.

S. CON. RES. 14

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 14, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress supporting the State of Israel.

S. RES. 20

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 20, a resolution condemning the coup that took place on February 1, 2021, in Burma and the Burmese military's detention of civilian leaders, calling for an immediate and unconditional release of all those detained, promoting accountability and justice for those killed by the Burmese military, and calling for those elected to serve in parliament to resume their duties without impediment, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 371

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 371 intended to be proposed to S. 2226, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 774

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 774 intended to be proposed to S. 2226, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 988

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 988 intended to be proposed to S. 2226, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 992

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 992 intended to be proposed to S. 2226, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 993

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the names of the Senator from Connecticut

(Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 993 intended to be proposed to S. 2226, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 999

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 999 intended to be proposed to S. 2226, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1032

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1032 intended to be proposed to S. 2226, an original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 2517. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to allow for periodic automatic reenrollment under qualified automatic contribution arrangements , and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, today I am introducing the Auto Reenroll Act of 2023, alongside Senator CASSIDY. Enacting this bill would improve financial security for Americans by strengthening their private retirement savings.

Nearly 7 in 10 Americans working in the private sector have access to employer-sponsored retirement plans, but a quarter of those with access do not participate in those plans. This means less money saved for retirement. Often, it means leaving money on the table, in the form of employer-matching contributions. Encouraging more employees to participate in their workplace plans would increase their overall compensation and improve their financial security and retirement outlook.

The Auto Reenroll Act of 2023 would boost participation by encouraging safe harbor retirement plans to adopt automatic reenrollment features. Automatic enrollment plans have been tremendously successful at encouraging workers to participate in employer-sponsored plans, but employees who opt out of participating at the beginning of their tenure will likely never reconsider that decision. This bill would build on the success of auto enrollment by permitting employers to reenroll nonparticipants once every 3 years, providing them another opportunity to consider participation. This would encourage those employees to reassess their nonparticipation as their financial situation evolves.

I encourage my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation to bolster private retirement savings.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 2547. A bill to amend the Natural Gas Act to bolster fairness and transparency in the consideration of interstate natural gas pipeline permits, to provide for greater public input opportunities in the natural gas pipeline permitting process, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, today, I am introducing a bill to make the process of siting natural gas pipelines fairer, more transparent, and more responsive to landowner concerns.

For some time now, I have been listening to Virginians with passionate views on the process involved in permitting the Mountain Valley Pipeline, as well as the previous proposal for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. For various reasons, many oppose one or both of these projects, while others support these projects. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, FERC, is tasked with analyzing all the issues—purpose and need for a project, impacts on people living on the route, potential risks to the environment or property—and deciding what course best serves the public interest.

From listening to all sides, I have concluded that while reasonable people may reach different conclusions, FERC's public input process is flawed and could be better. Accordingly, this legislation proposes several steps to address several shortcomings, all of which were originally brought to my attention by Virginia constituents. For instance, this bill requires programmatic analysis of pipelines proposed around the same time and in the same geographic vicinity so that the full impacts of multiple projects can be analyzed. It requires a greater number of public comment meetings so that citizens are not required to commute long distances to meetings at which they must speed through just a few minutes of remarks on these complex topics. It ensures that affected landowners are given proper notice and compensation. It guarantees that landowner complaints will be heard before construction commences. And it clarifies the circumstances under which eminent domain should and should not be used.

I am pleased to be joined by my colleague Senator MARK WARNER on this bill. The public deserves reasonable opportunity to weigh in on energy infrastructure projects, and we are heeding calls by our constituents to make this process fairer and more transparent without mandating a particular outcome.

I encourage the Senate to consider this legislation, not to pave the way for pipelines nor to throw up insurmountable roadblocks to them but to give the public greater certainty that the Federal Government's infrastructure decisions are fair and transparent.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 311—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2023 AS ''MACEDONIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH'' AND CELEBRATING THE LANGUAGE, HISTORY, AND CULTURE OF MACEDONIAN AMERICANS AND THEIR INCREDIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BRAUN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 311

Whereas, since the 1880s, tens of thousands of Macedonians have immigrated to the United States seeking civil liberties, human rights, religious freedom, economic opportunity, and security in response to the 1903 Ilinden Uprising against the Ottoman Empire, the 1912-1913 Balkan Wars, World War I and World War II, the 1946-1949 Greek Civil War, and the communist policies of Yugoslavia;

Whereas these Macedonian American immigrants have settled across the United States, contributing to their communities in innumerable ways as loyal and patriotic citizens;

Whereas there are an estimated 500,000 individuals of Macedonian heritage living in the United States, with sizeable communities in the States of Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Florida, Texas, Arizona, and California;

Whereas the Macedonian American community in the United States is a vibrant community that is embedded within the mosaic of the United States, partaking in all walks of life, business, medicine, law, technology, civic engagement, government, the military, education, the arts, culinary world, athletics, and more;

Whereas Macedonian American entrepreneurs have exhibited resilience, determination, and a commitment to hard work by overcoming challenges to achieve business success and contribute to the foundation of commerce in the United States;

Whereas Macedonian American athletes have achieved remarkable success in various sporting disciplines and contributed to the rich tapestry of the sporting tradition in the United States by winning medals at the Olympic Games, winning league championships, and owning sports teams;

Whereas Macedonian American artists have demonstrated exceptional skill in various art forms, including the visual arts, literature, music, dance, theater, film, and photography, leaving an indelible mark on the artistic tradition of the United States;

Whereas members of the Macedonian American community have contributed greatly to the field of medicine, including in cardiovascular and thoracic surgery, orthopedic surgery and sports medicine, and obstetrics and gynecology, among others;

Whereas Macedonian Americans have been elected to serve in legislatures and courtrooms across the country, collaborating on the never-ending work of democracy in the United States; and

Whereas it is important to highlight these critical contributions and the cultural impact of Macedonian Americans in the United States: Now, therefore, be it:

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2023 as ''Macedonian American Heritage Month'' to honor the cultural contributions and achievements of Macedonian Americans;

(2) recognizes the numerous contributions of Macedonian Americans to the United States in various fields, including arts, sciences, business, politics, academics, medicine and sports; and

(3) urges the people of the United States to observe Macedonian American Heritage Month with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs that honor the cultural contributions and achievements of Macedonian Americans.

SENATE RESOLUTION 312—RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF INDEPENDENT LIVING FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES MADE POSSIBLE BY THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990 AND CALLING FOR FURTHER ACTION TO STRENGTHEN HOME AND COMMUNITY LIVING FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WELCH, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. REED, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BENNET, Ms. SMITH, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. LUJAN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 312

Whereas, in enacting the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), Congress recognized that ''historically, society has tended to isolate and segregate individuals with disabilities, and, despite some improvements, such forms of discrimination against individuals with disabilities continue to be a serious and pervasive social problem'';

Whereas the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 recognizes the rights of individuals with disabilities to fully participate in their communities through independent living, equality of opportunity, and economic self-sufficiency;

Whereas, 33 years after the date of the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and 24 years after the date of the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in Olmstead v. L.C., 527 U.S. 581 (1999), many individuals with disabilities continue to live in segregated institutional settings because of a lack of support services in their communities;

Whereas the continuation of segregated institutional settings has hindered the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in communities, schools, and workplaces, undermining the promise of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990;

Whereas individuals with disabilities living in institutional and long-term care settings have endured disproportionate rates of infection and death during the COVID–19 pandemic;

Whereas individuals of color with disabilities have been disparately affected by the COVID–19 pandemic;

Whereas individuals of color with disabilities experience disproportionately greater barriers to high quality and accessible healthcare, education, and competitive integrated employment opportunities, infringing on their right to fully participate in their communities under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990;

Whereas, 33 years after the date of the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990—

(1) women with disabilities continue to regularly face barriers to reproductive healthcare, including inaccessible and inequitable services;

(2) individuals with disabilities continue to face high rates of unemployment and barriers to accessible workplaces;

(3) nearly a quarter of the population of individuals with disabilities live below the poverty line;

(4) some telecommunication, electronic, and information technologies continue to be developed without the goal of making those technologies fully accessible for all individuals of the United States; and

(5) many businesses, public and private organizations, transportation systems, and services remain inaccessible to many individuals with disabilities;

Whereas the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 represents the floor, and not the ceiling, of efforts needed to dismantle barriers to full participation, equal opportunity, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency; and

Whereas fulfilling the promise of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 requires individuals, families, communities, and government to work together to guarantee that individuals with disabilities have the opportunity to thrive in their communities and in their lives: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the importance of independent living for individuals with disabilities made possible by the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.);

(2) encourages the people of the United States to celebrate the advancement of inclusion and equality of opportunity made possible by the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990;

(3) pledges to continue to work on a bipartisan basis to identify and address the remaining barriers that undermine the national goals of equality of opportunity, independent living, economic self-sufficiency, and full participation for individuals with disabilities, including by focusing on individuals with disabilities who remain segregated in institutions;

(4) pledges to work with States to improve access to home- and community-based services for individuals with disabilities;

(5) calls on the Department of Labor to develop policies and practices and provide technical assistance that enable individuals with disabilities to become economically self-sufficient;

(6) calls on the Federal Communications Commission to provide information, resources, and technical assistance to enable individuals with disabilities to have full and equitable access to communications and telecommunications services and technologies;

(7) calls on the Department of Health and Human Services to provide information, resources, and technical assistance related to home- and community-based services and to enable individuals with disabilities to live independently;

(8) calls on the Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide accessible and inclusive homes and communities that increase the options available for accessible, inclusive, and equitable housing for individuals with disabilities; and

(9) calls on the Department of Transportation to create accessible transit and airports and increase the hiring, promotion, and retention of individuals with disabilities in the transportation workforce.

SENATE RESOLUTION 313—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2023 AS ''NATIONAL CHILD AWARENESS MONTH'' TO PROMOTE AWARENESS OF CHARITIES THAT BENEFIT CHILDREN AND YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATIONS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES AND RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS MADE BY THOSE CHARITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS ON BEHALF OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH AS CRITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUTURE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. PADILLA, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. LUJÁN, and Ms. HASSAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 313

Whereas millions of children and youth in the United States represent the hopes and the future of the United States;

Whereas numerous individuals, charities benefitting children, and youth-serving organizations that work with children and youth collaborate to provide invaluable services to enrich and better the lives of children and youth throughout the United States;

Whereas raising awareness of and increasing support for organizations that provide access to health care, social services, education, the arts, sports, and other services will result in the development of character in, and the future success of, the children and youth of the United States;

Whereas the month of September, as the school year begins, is a time when parents, families, teachers, school administrators, and communities increase the focus on children and youth throughout the United States;

Whereas the month of September is a time for the people of the United States to highlight and be mindful of the needs of children and youth;

Whereas private corporations and businesses have joined with hundreds of national and local charitable organizations throughout the United States in support of a month-long focus on children and youth; and

Whereas designating September 2023 as ''National Child Awareness Month'' would

recognize that a long-term commitment to children and youth is in the public interest and will encourage widespread support for charities and organizations that seek to provide a better future for the children and youth of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates September 2023 as ''National Child Awareness Month''—

(1) to promote awareness of charities that benefit children and youth-serving organizations throughout the United States;

(2) to recognize the efforts made by those charities and organizations on behalf of children and youth as critical contributions to the future of the United States; and

(3) to recognize the importance of meeting the needs of at-risk children and youth, including children and youth who—

(A) have experienced homelessness;

(B) are in the foster care system;

(C) have been victims, or are at risk of becoming victims, of child sex trafficking;

(D) have been impacted by violence;

(E) have experienced trauma; and

(F) have serious physical and mental health needs.

SENATE RESOLUTION 314—TO AUTHORIZE TESTIMONY AND REPRESENTATION IN UNITED STATES V. SAHADY

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 314

Whereas, in the case of *United States v. Sahady*, Cr. No. 21-134, pending in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, the prosecution has requested the production of testimony from Daniel Schwager, a former employee of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(2) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§ 288b(a) and 288c(a)(2), the Senate may direct its counsel to represent current and former officers and employees of the Senate with respect to any subpoena, order, or request for evidence relating to their official responsibilities;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may, by the judicial or administrative process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate; and

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Daniel Schwager, a former employee of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate, is authorized to provide relevant testimony in the case of *United States v. Sahady*, except concerning matters for which a privilege should be asserted.

SEC. 2. The Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Mr. Schwager, and any current or former officer or employee of the Secretary's office, in connection with the production of evidence authorized in section one of this resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 315—TO AUTHORIZE TESTIMONY AND REPRESENTATION IN UNITED STATES V. BOZELL

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 315

Whereas, in the case of *United States v. Bozell*, Cr. No. 21-216, pending in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, the prosecution has requested the production of testimony from Daniel Schwager, a former employee of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(2) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§ 288b(a) and 288c(a)(2), the Senate may direct its counsel to represent current and former officers and employees of the Senate with respect to any subpoena, order, or request for evidence relating to their official responsibilities;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may, by the judicial or administrative process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate; and

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That Daniel Schwager, a former employee of the Office of the Secretary of the Senate, is authorized to provide relevant testimony in the case of *United States v. Bozell*, except concerning matters for which a privilege should be asserted.

SEC. 2. The Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Mr. Schwager, and any current or former officer or employee of the Secretary's office, in connection with the production of evidence authorized in section one of this resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 316—HONORING THE LIFE OF LOWELL PALMER WEICKER, JR., FORMER SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MURPHY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 316

Whereas Lowell P. Weicker, Jr.—

(1) was born in Paris, France, in 1931; and

(2) graduated from Yale University, in New Haven, Connecticut, and the University of Virginia Law School;

Whereas Lowell P. Weicker, Jr. served in the United States Army from 1953 through 1955, achieving the rank of first lieutenant;

Whereas Lowell P. Weicker, Jr. was elected to the House of Representatives in 1968;

Whereas Lowell P. Weicker, Jr. was first elected to the Senate in 1970 and was reelected in 1976 and 1982;

Whereas Lowell P. Weicker, Jr. served on the Senate Watergate Committee, where he was the first Republican senator to call for the resignation of President Richard Nixon, an act of political courage and dedication to public service;

Whereas Lowell P. Weicker, Jr. was an early and strong advocate in the Senate for the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), which prohibits discrimination based on disability in everyday activities;

Whereas, while serving in the Senate, Lowell P. Weicker, Jr. was a strong advocate for protecting public health, shown through his efforts to—

(1) prevent cuts in funding for the National Institutes of Health;

(2) support scientific and medical research efforts; and

(3) secure funding for human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) treatment;

Whereas, after his tenure in the Senate, Lowell P. Weicker, Jr. was elected Governor of Connecticut in 1990;

Whereas, as Governor of Connecticut, Lowell P. Weicker, Jr. secured the passage of a state income tax that, while unpopular, balanced the budget of the State;

Whereas, as Governor of Connecticut, Lowell P. Weicker, Jr. signed many laws that sought to improve the quality of life for residents of the State, including a ban on assault rifles for the first time in State history;

Whereas, after leaving public office, Lowell P. Weicker, Jr. continued his work to improve the public health, founding Trust for America's Health, a nonprofit working on disease prevention, and serving as the president of the organization from 2001 through 2011; and

Whereas Lowell P. Weicker, Jr. is survived by his wife, Claudia Weicker, as well as his 5 sons, 2 stepsons, 12 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of Lowell P. Weicker, Jr., former member of the Senate;

(2) the Senate directs the Secretary of the Senate to communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of Lowell P. Weicker, Jr.; and

(3) when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Lowell P. Weicker, Jr.

SENATE RESOLUTION 317—CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. CRUZ) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 317

Whereas, in 2023, Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas, is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the University;

Whereas, established as Texas Technological College in 1923, the University opened 2 years later with an enrollment of 914 undergraduate students;

Whereas, in 1936, a division of graduate studies was added, and in 1969 the college was renamed Texas Tech University;

Whereas the University has distinguished itself by earning—

(1) the Very High Research Activity designation from the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education;

(2) recognition as both a Veteran Friendly Institution and an honoree on the ''Best for Vets: Employers'' list by the Military Times; and

(3) recognition by the United States Department of Education as a Hispanic-serving institution;

Whereas, in the last 3 years, faculty members of Texas Tech University received 23

Fulbright Scholar Awards, 8 National Science Foundation Career Awards, and 7 National Endowment for the Humanities grants;

Whereas Texas Tech University alumni include Governors from Texas and Colorado, multiple members of the United States Congress and State legislatures, stars of stage, screen, and music, and leaders and captains of industry, science, engineering, agriculture, and more;

Whereas, as of the adoption of this resolution, Texas Tech University serves more than 40,000 students and offers over 150 undergraduate, 100 graduate, and 50 doctoral programs across 13 colleges and schools;

Whereas Texas Tech University has international campuses and study abroad programs;

Whereas Texas Tech University has award-winning academic programs, including the Davis College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, the School of Medicine, the School of Law, the Whitacre College of Engineering, and the Rawls College of Business;

Whereas, in recent years, Texas Tech University inaugurated the Texas Tech School of Veterinary Medicine, the first school of veterinary medicine in the State of Texas in more than 100 years;

Whereas Texas Tech University takes great pride in the 17 varsity sports that represent the University and in membership of the Big 12 Conference;

Whereas the Red Raiders have won 27 Big 12 Conference titles, including 11 in the past 7 years, and alumni of the University include Olympic and Super Bowl champions; and

Whereas, since the founding of the University 100 years ago, Texas Tech University has provided generations of Texans with a strong foundation for achievement, and in so doing, the University has contributed significantly to the prosperity and vitality of the Lone Star State and the Nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate commemorates the 100th anniversary of Texas Tech University and extends to all those associated with this noteworthy institution sincere best wishes for the future.

SENATE RESOLUTION 318—RAISING AWARENESS OF MODERN DAY SLAVERY

Mrs. BLACKBURN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 318

Whereas it is estimated that tens of millions of children, women, and men around the world are subjected to conditions of modern day slavery;

Whereas it is estimated that human trafficking, both sex trafficking and forced labor, generate more than $150,000,000,000 in illicit profits for the traffickers and those who help facilitate the crime;

Whereas the International Labour Organization 2021 Global Estimates Report indicates there are 49,600,000 people in modern day slavery, including 27,600,000 in forced labor and 22,000,000 in forced marriage;

Whereas the 2021 Global Estimates Report indicates modern day slavery is only rising, increasing by more than 9,000,000 since 2016;

Whereas, despite being outlawed in every nation, modern day slavery exists around the world, including in the United States;

Whereas, out of the 28,000,000 people trapped in forced labor, 17,300,000 people are exploited in the private sector, 6,300,000 people are in forced commercial sexual exploitation, and 3,900,000 people are in forced labor imposed by state authorities;

Whereas, around the world, 55 percent of forced labor victims are women or girls;

Whereas more than 12,000,000 of the individuals trapped in modern day slavery are children;

Whereas an estimated 22,000,000 people were living in forced marriage on any given day in 2021, with women and girls making up 14,900,000 of the total;

Whereas the Department of State 2022 Trafficking in Persons Report identifies governments with a ''documented 'policy or pattern' of human trafficking, trafficking in government-funded programs, forced labor in government-affiliated medical services or other sectors, sexual slavery in government camps, or the employment or recruitment of child soldiers,'' including the Governments of Afghanistan, Burma, the People's Republic of China, Cuba, Eritrea, Iran, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Russia, South Sudan, Syria, and Turkmenistan;

Whereas the People's Republic of China's government policies are separating 800,000 to 900,000 Tibetan children from their families and communities to eliminate Tibetan identity and supplant it with a Chinese nationalist identity to neutralize any resistance to Chinese Community Party rule;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China's exploits and profits from over 1,000,000 Uyghurs detained and subjected to forced labor in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region;

Whereas there are reports of Ukrainians being forcibly removed to remote areas of Russia;

Whereas the International Criminal Court issues arrest warrants for Russian officials for the kidnapping and deportation of Ukrainian children;

Whereas the Washington Institute for Defense and Security report on modern day slavery indicates that displaced Ukrainian women are being forced into sex slavery and domestic servitude;

Whereas the Trafficking in Persons Report indicates that forced labor is part of an established system of political repression and a pillar of the economic system in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

Whereas North Koreans are systematically forced into labor overseas, primarily in Russia and China, in violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions;

Whereas the Trafficking in Persons Report indicates that the Government of Iran condones and, in some cases, directly facilitates sex trafficking of Iranian adults and children;

Whereas human trafficking, modern day slavery, and forced labor are evil and stand at the center of global and national security concerns;

Whereas the United States Government, along with international allies, organizations, and private sector businesses, is working to prevent forced labor and modern day slavery in global supply chains;

Whereas, every year since 2010, the President of the United States has designated the month of January as ''National Human Trafficking Prevention Month''; and

Whereas the United Nations recognizes July 30 as ''World Day against Trafficking in Persons'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 30, 2023, as World Day against Trafficking in Persons;

(2) commends each individual who supported the month of January as ''National Human Trafficking Prevention Month'';

(3) notes the dedication of individuals, organizations, and governments to end modern day slavery; and

(4) calls for concerted, international action to bring an end to modern day slavery around the world.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 18—CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF MARC FOGEL, A UNITED STATES CITIZEN AND TEACHER, WHO WAS GIVEN AN UNJUST AND DISPROPORTIONATE CRIMINAL SENTENCE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION IN JUNE 2022

Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. FETTERMAN, and Mr. TESTER) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 18

Whereas United States citizen Marc Fogel has lived a life of service, teaching history at international schools in Colombia, Malaysia, Oman, Venezuela, and Russia for 35 years;

Whereas Marc Fogel taught at the Anglo-American School of Moscow from 2012 to 2021, honorably serving the children of United States diplomats and members of the Armed Forces;

Whereas Marc Fogel is known to his family, friends, colleagues, and students as a kind, personable, upbeat, and giving man, a loving father, and a passionate and dedicated teacher;

Whereas Marc Fogel has undergone three back surgeries, a spinal fusion, a hip replacement, and two knee surgeries to correct various injuries and health issues, which have left him with chronic back pain and a permanent limp;

Whereas Marc Fogel did not wish to use opioids to manage his pain and was instead prescribed medical marijuana for pain management in a manner consistent with the State law of Pennsylvania;

Whereas, on August 14, 2021, as he returned to Russia for one final year of teaching before his intended retirement, Marc Fogel was arrested in the Sheremetyevo airport in Moscow for carrying about half an ounce of medical marijuana in his luggage;

Whereas Marc Fogel has stated he intended that marijuana solely for personal consumption, and the Government of the Russian Federation has presented no evidence to the contrary;

Whereas, on June 16, 2022, a Russian court convicted Marc Fogel of ''large-scale drugs smuggling'' in a politicized show trial and sentenced him to 14 years in a maximum-security penal colony in Russia;

Whereas Russian lawyers informed the family that the typical sentence for Marc Fogel's offense is five years of probation, and in 2019, the same Russian court sentenced Alexander Grigoriev to eight years in prison for the possession of 1,500 grams of various narcotics;

Whereas Marc Fogel's sentence is vastly disproportionate to the severity of his nonviolent crime, wildly dissimilar to the typical punishments for comparable offenses in Russia, and clearly motivated by ongoing political tensions between Russia and the United States;

Whereas, in August 2022, Russian courts denied Marc Fogel's appeal of his sentence;

Whereas the 2021 Country Report on Human Rights Practices in Russia issued by the Department of State reported, ''Conditions in prisons and detention centers . . . were often harsh and life threatening. Overcrowding, abuse by guards and inmates, limited access to health care, food shortages, and inadequate sanitation were common'';

Whereas Marc Fogel turns 62 years old in July 2023, and his physical and mental health is rapidly declining due to the stress and harsh conditions of his detention, such that

his family fears he will not survive his sentence; and

Whereas the Department of State requested Marc Fogel be released from Russian custody on humanitarian grounds, but received no response to that request: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) calls on the Government of the Russian Federation to immediately release Marc Fogel, who has already served more time in prison than his minor and nonviolent crimes can justify;

(2) urges the Government of the Russian Federation to respect Marc Fogel's human rights and to provide full, unfettered, and consistent consular access to Marc Fogel while he remains in detention, in accordance with its international obligations;

(3) urges all United States executive branch officials, including President Joseph Biden, Secretary of State Antony Blinken, and Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs Roger Carstens, to raise the case of Marc Fogel and to press for his immediate release in all interactions with the Government of the Russian Federation;

(4) urges the Government of the Russian Federation to desist from issuing outlandishly disproportionate criminal sentences to nonviolent United States citizens;

(5) condemns the Government of the Russian Federation's continued use of detentions and prosecutions of citizens and lawful permanent residents of the United States for political purposes;

(6) calls for the immediate release of other citizens and lawful permanent residents of the United States who are wrongfully detained in Russia, such as Paul Whelan, Evan Gershkovich, and Vladimir Kara-Murza; and

(7) expresses sympathy for and solidarity with the families of all other citizens and lawful permanent residents of the United States wrongfully detained abroad for the personal hardship experienced as a result of the arbitrary and baseless detention of their loved ones.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1050. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1051. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1052. Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1053. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1054. Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1055. Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HAWLEY, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. LEE) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 935 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. WICKER)) to the bill S. 2226, supra.

SA 1056. Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1057. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1058. Mr. HAWLEY (for himself, Mr. LUJÁN, and Mr. CRAPO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1059. Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. LUJÁN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1060. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1061. Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. DAINES) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1062. Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1063. Ms. SINEMA submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1064. Mrs. HYDE–SMITH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1065. Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. BRAUN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1066. Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for Mr. CRUZ) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 166, honoring the efforts of the Coast Guard for excellence in maritime border security.

SA 1067. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1068. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1069. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1070. Ms. SINEMA (for herself and Mr. LANKFORD) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1071. Mr. DAINES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1072. Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1050. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____. AMENDMENTS TO CONTRACTING AUTHORITY FOR CERTAIN SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.

(a) SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.—Section 8(a)(1)(D)(i)(II) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(a)(1)(D)(i)(II)) is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(or $10,000,000, in the case of a Department of Defense contract, as adjusted for inflation by the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council under section 1.109 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation)'' after ''$7,000,000''; and

(2) by inserting ''(or $8,000,000, in the case of a Department of Defense contract, as adjusted for inflation by the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council under section 1.109 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation)'' after ''$3,000,000''.

(b) CERTAIN SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY WOMEN.—Section 8(m) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.637(m)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7)(B)—

(A) in clause (i), by inserting ''(or $10,000,000, in the case of a Department of Defense contract, as adjusted for inflation by the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council under section 1.109 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation)'' after ''$7,000,000''; and

(B) in clause (ii), by inserting ''(or $8,000,000, in the case of a Department of Defense contract, as adjusted for inflation by the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council under section 1.109 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation)'' after ''$4,000,000''; and

(2) in paragraph (8)(B)—

(A) in clause (i), by inserting ''(or $10,000,000, in the case of a Department of Defense contract, as adjusted for inflation by the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council under section 1.109 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation)'' after ''$7,000,000''; and

(B) in clause (ii), by inserting ''(or $8,000,000, in the case of a Department of Defense contract, as adjusted for inflation by the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council under section 1.109 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation)'' after ''$4,000,000''.

(c) QUALIFIED HUBZONE SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.—Section 31(c)(2)(A)(ii) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657a(c)(2)(A)(ii)) is amended—

(1) in subclause (I), by inserting ''(or $10,000,000, in the case of a Department of Defense contract, as adjusted for inflation by the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council under section 1.109 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation)'' after ''$7,000,000''; and

(2) in subclause (II), by inserting ''(or $8,000,000, in the case of a Department of Defense contract, as adjusted for inflation by the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council under section 1.109 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation)'' after ''$3,000,000''.

(d) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS.—Section 36(c)(2) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657f(c)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by inserting ''(or $10,000,000, in the case of a Department of Defense contract, as adjusted for inflation by the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council under section 1.109 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation)'' after ''$7,000,000''; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by inserting ''(or $8,000,000, in the case of a Department of Defense contract, as adjusted for inflation by the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council under section 1.109 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation)'' after ''$3,000,000''.

(e) CERTAIN VETERAN-OWNED CONCERNS.—Section 8127(c) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking ''$5,000,000'' and inserting ''the dollar thresholds under section 36(c)(2) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657f(c)(2))''.

SA 1051. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1299L. LEGAL PREPAREDNESS FOR SERVICEMEMBERS ABROAD.

(a) REVIEW REQUIRED.—Not later than December 31, 2024, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, shall—

(1) review the 10 largest foreign countries by United States Armed Forces presence and evaluate local legal systems, protections afforded by bilateral agreements between the United States and countries being evaluated, and how the rights and privileges afforded under such agreements may differ from United States law; and

(2) brief the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate on the findings of the review.

(b) TRAINING REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense shall review and improve as necessary training and educational materials for members of the Armed Forces, their spouses, and dependents, as appropriate, who are stationed in a country reviewed pursuant to subsection (a)(1) regarding relevant foreign laws, how such foreign laws may differ from the laws of the United States, and the rights of accused in common scenarios under such foreign laws.

(c) TRANSLATION STANDARDS AND READINESS.—The Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall review foreign language standards for servicemembers and employees of the Department of Defense and Department of State who are responsible for providing foreign language translation services in situations involving foreign law enforcement where a servicemember may be being detained, to ensure such persons maintain an appropriate proficiency in the legal terminology and meaning of essential terms in a relevant language.

SA 1052. Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of part III of subtitle B of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2853. IMPLEMENTATION OF COMPTROLLER GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING MILITARY HOUSING.

(a) WORK ORDER DATA FOR PRIVATIZED MILITARY HOUSING.—The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Sustainment, not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act—

(1) requires the military departments to establish a process to validate data collected by privatized military housing partners to better ensure the reliability and validity of work order data and to allow for more effective use of such data for monitoring and tracking purposes; and

(2) provides in future reports to Congress additional explanation of such work order data collected and reported, such as explaining the limitations of available survey data, how resident satisfaction was calculated, and reasons for any missing data.

(b) FINANCES FOR PRIVATIZED MILITARY HOUSING PROJECTS.—The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environment, not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, takes steps to resume issuing required reports to Congress on the financial condition of privatized military housing in a timely manner.

(c) PRIVATIZED MILITARY HOUSING DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''privatized military housing'' means military housing provided under subchapter IV of chapter 169 of title 10, United States Code.

SA 1053. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

DIVISION __—INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This division may be cited as the ''Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024''.

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

DIVISION __—INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

Sec. 101. Authorization of appropriations.
Sec. 102. Classified Schedule of Authorizations.
Sec. 103. Intelligence Community Management Account.
Sec. 104. Increase in employee compensation and benefits authorized by law.

TITLE II—CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY RETIREMENT AND DISABILITY SYSTEM

Sec. 201. Authorization of appropriations.

TITLE III—INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY MATTERS

Subtitle A—General Intelligence Community Matters

Sec. 301. Plan to recruit, train, and retain personnel with experience in financial intelligence and emerging technologies.
Sec. 302. Policy and performance framework for mobility of intelligence community workforce.
Sec. 303. In-State tuition rates for active duty members of the intelligence community.
Sec. 304. Standards, criteria, and guidance for counterintelligence vulnerability assessments and surveys.
Sec. 305. Improving administration of certain post-employment restrictions for intelligence community.
Sec. 306. Mission of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center.
Sec. 307. Prohibition relating to transport of individuals detained at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
Sec. 308. Department of Energy science and technology risk assessments.
Sec. 309. Congressional oversight of intelligence community risk assessments.
Sec. 310. Inspector General review of dissemination by Federal Bureau of Investigation Richmond, Virginia, field office of certain document.
Sec. 311. Office of Intelligence and Analysis.

Subtitle B—Central Intelligence Agency

Sec. 321. Change to penalties and increased availability of mental health treatment for unlawful conduct on Central Intelligence Agency installations.
Sec. 322. Modifications to procurement authorities of the Central Intelligence Agency.
Sec. 323. Establishment of Central Intelligence Agency standard workplace sexual misconduct complaint investigation procedure.

TITLE IV—MATTERS CONCERNING FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Subtitle A—People's Republic of China

Sec. 401. Intelligence community coordinator for accountability of atrocities of the People's Republic of China.
Sec. 402. Interagency working group and report on the malign efforts of the People's Republic of China in Africa.
Sec. 403. Amendment to requirement for annual assessment by intelligence community working group for monitoring the economic and technological capabilities of the People's Republic of China.
Sec. 404. Assessments of reciprocity in the relationship between the United States and the People's Republic of China.
Sec. 405. Annual briefing on intelligence community efforts to identify and mitigate Chinese Communist Party and Russian foreign malign influence operations against the United States.
Sec. 406. Assessment of threat posed to United States ports by cranes manufactured by countries of concern.

Subtitle B—Other Foreign Countries

Sec. 411. Report on efforts to capture and detain United States citizens as hostages.
Sec. 412. Sense of Congress on priority of fentanyl in National Intelligence Priorities Framework.

TITLE V—MATTERS PERTAINING TO UNITED STATES ECONOMIC AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGY COMPETITION WITH UNITED STATES ADVERSARIES

Subtitle A—General Matters

Sec. 501. Assignment of detailees from intelligence community to Department of Commerce.

Subtitle B—Next-generation Energy, Biotechnology, and Artificial Intelligence

Sec. 511. Expanded annual assessment of economic and technological capabilities of the People's Republic of China.
Sec. 512. Assessment of using civil nuclear energy for intelligence community capabilities.
Sec. 513. Policies established by Director of National Intelligence for artificial intelligence capabilities.

TITLE VI—WHISTLEBLOWER MATTERS

Sec. 601. Submittal to Congress of complaints and information by whistleblowers in the intelligence community.
Sec. 602. Prohibition against disclosure of whistleblower identity as reprisal against whistleblower disclosure by employees and contractors in intelligence community.
Sec. 603. Establishing process parity for adverse security clearance and access determinations.
Sec. 604. Elimination of cap on compensatory damages for retaliatory revocation of security clearances and access determinations.
Sec. 605. Modification and repeal of reporting requirements.

TITLE VII—CLASSIFICATION REFORM

Subtitle A—Classification Reform Act of 2023

Sec. 701. Short title.
Sec. 702. Definitions.
Sec. 703. Classification and declassification of information.
Sec. 704. Transparency officers.

Subtitle B—Sensible Classification Act of 2023

Sec. 711. Short title.
Sec. 712. Definitions.
Sec. 713. Findings and sense of the Senate.
Sec. 714. Classification authority.
Sec. 715. Promoting efficient declassification review.
Sec. 716. Training to promote sensible classification.
Sec. 717. Improvements to Public Interest Declassification Board.
Sec. 718. Implementation of technology for classification and declassification.
Sec. 719. Studies and recommendations on necessity of security clearances.

TITLE VIII—SECURITY CLEARANCE AND TRUSTED WORKFORCE

Sec. 801. Review of shared information technology services for personnel vetting.
Sec. 802. Timeliness standard for rendering determinations of trust for personnel vetting.
Sec. 803. Annual report on personnel vetting trust determinations.
Sec. 804. Survey to assess strengths and weaknesses of Trusted Workforce 2.0.
Sec. 805. Prohibition on denial of eligibility for access to classified information solely because of past use of cannabis.

TITLE IX—ANOMALOUS HEALTH INCIDENTS

Sec. 901. Improved funding flexibility for payments made by the Central Intelligence Agency for qualifying injuries to the brain.
Sec. 902. Clarification of requirements to seek certain benefits relating to injuries to the brain.
Sec. 903. Intelligence community implementation of HAVANA Act of 2021 authorities.
Sec. 904. Report and briefing on Central Intelligence Agency handling of anomalous health incidents.

TITLE X—ELECTION SECURITY

Sec. 1001. Strengthening Election Cybersecurity to Uphold Respect for Elections through Independent Testing Act of 2023.

TITLE XI—OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 1101. Modification of reporting requirement for All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office.
Sec. 1102. Funding limitations relating to unidentified anomalous phenomena.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CONGRESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES.—The term ''congressional intelligence committees'' has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003).

(2) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The term ''intelligence community'' has the meaning given such term in such section.

TITLE I—INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES

SEC. 101. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2024 for the conduct of the intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the Federal Government.

SEC. 102. CLASSIFIED SCHEDULE OF AUTHORIZATIONS.

(a) SPECIFICATIONS OF AMOUNTS.—The amounts authorized to be appropriated under section 101 for the conduct of the intelligence activities of the Federal Government are those specified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations prepared to accompany this division.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF CLASSIFIED SCHEDULE OF AUTHORIZATIONS.—

(1) AVAILABILITY.—The classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in subsection (a) shall be made available to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and to the President.

(2) DISTRIBUTION BY THE PRESIDENT.—Subject to paragraph (3), the President shall provide for suitable distribution of the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in subsection (a), or of appropriate portions of such Schedule, within the executive branch of the Federal Government.

(3) LIMITS ON DISCLOSURE.—The President shall not publicly disclose the classified Schedule of Authorizations or any portion of such Schedule except—

(A) as provided in section 601(a) of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (50 U.S.C. 3306(a));

(B) to the extent necessary to implement the budget; or

(C) as otherwise required by law.

SEC. 103. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated for the Intelligence Community Management Account of the Director of National Intelligence for fiscal year 2024 the sum of $658,950,000.

(b) CLASSIFIED AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts authorized to be appropriated for the Intelligence Community Management Account by subsection (a), there are authorized to be appropriated for the Intelligence Community Management Account for fiscal year 2024 such additional amounts as are specified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to in section 102(a).

SEC. 104. INCREASE IN EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS AUTHORIZED BY LAW.

Appropriations authorized by this division for salary, pay, retirement, and other benefits for Federal employees may be increased by such additional or supplemental amounts as may be necessary for increases in such compensation or benefits authorized by law.

TITLE II—CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY RETIREMENT AND DISABILITY SYSTEM

SEC. 201. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated for the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability Fund $514,000,000 for fiscal year 2024.

TITLE III—INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY MATTERS

Subtitle A—General Intelligence Community Matters

SEC. 301. PLAN TO RECRUIT, TRAIN, AND RETAIN PERSONNEL WITH EXPERIENCE IN FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence, in coordination with the heads of human capital of the Central Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees, the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a plan for the intelligence community to recruit, train, and retain personnel who have skills and experience in financial intelligence and emerging technologies in order to improve analytic tradecraft.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The plan required by subsection (a) shall include the following elements:

(1) An assessment, including measurable benchmarks of progress, of current initiatives of the intelligence community to recruit, train, and retain personnel who have skills and experience in financial intelligence and emerging technologies.

(2) An assessment of whether personnel in the intelligence community who have such skills are currently well integrated into the analytical cadre of the relevant elements of the intelligence community that produce analyses with respect to financial intelligence and emerging technologies.

(3) An identification of challenges to hiring or compensation in the intelligence community that limit progress toward rapidly increasing the number of personnel with such skills, and an identification of hiring or other reforms to resolve such challenges.

(4) A determination of whether the National Intelligence University has the resources and expertise necessary to train existing personnel in financial intelligence and emerging technologies.

(5) A strategy, including measurable benchmarks of progress, to, by January 1, 2025, increase by 10 percent the analytical cadre of personnel with expertise and previous employment in financial intelligence and emerging technologies.

SEC. 302. POLICY AND PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK FOR MOBILITY OF INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY WORKFORCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense and the Director of the Office of Personnel Management as the Director of National Intelligence considers appropriate, develop and implement a policy and performance framework to ensure the timely and effective mobility of employees and contractors of the Federal Government who are transferring employment between elements of the intelligence community.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The policy and performance framework required by subsection (a) shall include processes with respect to the following:

(1) Human resources.

(2) Medical reviews.

(3) Determinations of suitability or eligibility for access to classified information in accordance with Executive Order 13467 (50 U.S.C. 3161 note; relating to reforming processes related to suitability for Government employment, fitness for contractor employees, and eligibility for access to classified national security information).

SEC. 303. IN-STATE TUITION RATES FOR ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 135(d) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1015d(d)), as amended by section 6206(a)(4) of the Foreign Service Families Act of 2021 (Public Law 117–81), is further amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''or'' after the semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) a member of the intelligence community (as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003)) (other than a member of the Armed Forces of the United States) who is on active duty for a period of more than 30 days.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect at each public institution of higher education in a State that receives assistance under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) for the first period of enrollment at such institution that begins after July 1, 2026.

SEC. 304. STANDARDS, CRITERIA, AND GUIDANCE FOR COUNTERINTELLIGENCE VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS AND SURVEYS.

Section 904(d)(7)(A) of the Counterintelligence Enhancement Act of 2002 (50 U.S.C. 3383(d)(7)(A)) is amended to read as follows:

''(A) COUNTERINTELLIGENCE VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS AND SURVEYS.—To develop standards, criteria, and guidance for counterintelligence risk assessments and surveys of the vulnerability of the United States to intelligence threats, including with respect to critical infrastructure and critical technologies, in order to identify the areas, programs, and activities that require protection from such threats.''.

SEC. 305. IMPROVING ADMINISTRATION OF CERTAIN POST-EMPLOYMENT RESTRICTIONS FOR INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

Section 304 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3073a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(1)—

(A) by striking ''A former'' and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A former''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) PRIOR DISCLOSURE TO DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a former employee who occupies a covered post-service position in violation of subsection (a), whether the former employee voluntarily notified the Director of National Intelligence of the intent of the former employee to occupy such covered post-service position before occupying such post-service position may be used in determining whether the violation was knowing and willful for purposes of subparagraph (A).

''(ii) PROCEDURES AND GUIDANCE.—The Director of National Intelligence may establish procedures and guidance relating to the submittal of notice for purposes of clause (i).''; and

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''the restrictions under subsection (a) and'' before ''the report requirements'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''ceases to occupy'' and inserting ''occupies''; and

(C) in paragraph (3)(B), by striking ''before the person ceases to occupy a covered intelligence position'' and inserting ''when the person occupies a covered intelligence position''.

SEC. 306. MISSION OF THE NATIONAL COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY CENTER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 904 of the Counterintelligence Enhancement Act of 2002 (50 U.S.C. 3383) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (d) through (i) as subsections (e) through (j), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

''(d) MISSION.—The mission of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center shall include organizing and leading strategic planning for counterintelligence activities of the United States Government by integrating instruments of national power as needed to counter foreign intelligence activities.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) COUNTERINTELLIGENCE ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2002.—Section 904 of the Counterintelligence Enhancement Act of 2002 (50 U.S.C. 3383) is amended—

(A) in subsection (e), as redesignated by subsection (a)(1), by striking ''Subject to subsection (e)'' both places it appears and inserting ''Subject to subsection (f)''; and

(B) in subsection (f), as so redesignated—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking ''subsection (d)(1)'' and inserting ''subsection (e)(1)''; and

(ii) in paragraph (2), by striking ''subsection (d)(2)'' and inserting ''subsection (e)(2)''.

(2) COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS ACT OF 1994.—Section 811(d)(1)(B)(ii) of the Counterintelligence and Security Enhancements Act of 1994 (50 U.S.C. 3381(d)(1)(B)(ii)) is amended by striking ''section 904(d)(2) of that Act (50 U.S.C. 3383(d)(2))'' and inserting ''section 904(e)(2) of that Act (50 U.S.C. 3383(e)(2))''.

SEC. 307. PROHIBITION RELATING TO TRANSPORT OF INDIVIDUALS DETAINED AT UNITED STATES NAVAL STATION, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA.

(a) DEFINITION OF INDIVIDUAL DETAINED AT GUANTANAMO.—In this section, the term ''individual detained at Guantanamo'' has the meaning given that term in section 1034(f)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114–92; 129 Stat. 971; 10 U.S.C. 801 note).

(b) PROHIBITION ON CHARTERING PRIVATE OR COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT TO TRANSPORT INDIVIDUALS DETAINED AT UNITED STATES NAVAL STATION, GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA.—No head of an element of the intelligence community may charter any private or commercial aircraft to transport an individual who is or was an individual detained at Guantanamo.

SEC. 308. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY RISK ASSESSMENTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COUNTRY OF RISK.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''country of risk'' means a foreign country determined by the Secretary, in accordance with subparagraph (B), to present a risk of theft of United States intellectual property or a threat to the national security of the United States if nationals of the country, or entities owned or controlled by the country or nationals of the country, participate in any research, development, demonstration, or deployment activity authorized under this Act or an amendment made by this Act.

(B) DETERMINATION.—In making a determination under subparagraph (A), the Secretary, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Intelligence and Counterintelligence, shall take into consideration—

(i) the most recent World Wide Threat Assessment of the United States Intelligence Community, prepared by the Director of National Intelligence; and

(ii) the most recent National Counterintelligence Strategy of the United States.

(2) COVERED SUPPORT.—The term ''covered support'' means any grant, contract, subcontract, award, loan, program, support, or other activity authorized under this Act or an amendment made by this Act.

(3) ENTITY OF CONCERN.—The term ''entity of concern'' means any entity, including a national, that is—

(A) identified under section 1237(b) of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; Public Law 105–261);

(B) identified under section 1260H of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (10 U.S.C. 113 note; Public Law 116–283);

(C) on the Entity List maintained by the Bureau of Industry and Security of the Department of Commerce and set forth in Supplement No. 4 to part 744 of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations;

(D) included in the list required by section 9(b)(3) of the Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–145; 134 Stat. 656); or

(E) identified by the Secretary, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Intelligence and Counterintelligence and the applicable office that would provide, or is providing, covered support, as posing an unmanageable threat—

(i) to the national security of the United States; or

(ii) of theft or loss of United States intellectual property.

(4) NATIONAL.—The term ''national'' has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

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

(b) SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY RISK ASSESSMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop and maintain tools and processes to manage and mitigate research security risks, such as a science and technology risk matrix, informed by threats identified by the Director of the Office of Intelligence and Counterintelligence, to facilitate determinations of the risk of loss of United States intellectual property or threat to the national security of the United States posed by activities carried out under any covered support.

(2) CONTENT AND IMPLEMENTATION.—In developing and using the tools and processes developed under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) deploy risk-based approaches to evaluating, awarding, and managing certain research, development, demonstration, and deployment activities, including designations that will indicate the relative risk of activities;

(B) assess, to the extent practicable, ongoing high-risk activities;

(C) designate an officer or employee of the Department of Energy to be responsible for tracking and notifying recipients of any covered support of unmanageable threats to United States national security or of theft or loss of United States intellectual property posed by an entity of concern;

(D) consider requiring recipients of covered support to implement additional research security mitigations for higher-risk activities if appropriate; and

(E) support the development of research security training for recipients of covered support on the risks posed by entities of concern.

(3) ANNUAL UPDATES.—The tools and processes developed under paragraph (1) shall be evaluated annually and updated as needed, with threat-informed input from the Office of Intelligence and Counterintelligence, to reflect changes in the risk designation under paragraph (2)(A) of research, development, demonstration, and deployment activities conducted by the Department of Energy.

(c) ENTITY OF CONCERN.—

(1) PROHIBITION.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), no entity of concern, or individual that owns or controls, is owned or controlled by, or is under common ownership or control with an entity of concern, may receive, or perform work under, any covered support.

(2) WAIVER OF PROHIBITION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may waive the prohibition under paragraph (1) if determined by the Secretary to be in the national interest.

(B) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—Not less than 2 weeks prior to issuing a waiver under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall notify Congress of the intent to issue the waiver, including a justification for the waiver.

(3) PENALTY.—

(A) TERMINATION OF SUPPORT.—On finding that any entity of concern or individual described in paragraph (1) has received covered support and has not received a waiver under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall terminate all covered support to that entity of concern or individual, as applicable.

(B) PENALTIES.—An entity of concern or individual identified under subparagraph (A) shall be—

(i) prohibited from receiving or participating in covered support for a period of not less than 1 year but not more than 10 years, as determined by the Secretary; or

(ii) instead of the penalty described in clause (i), subject to any other penalties authorized under applicable law or regulations that the Secretary determines to be in the national interest.

(C) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—Prior to imposing a penalty under subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall notify Congress of the intent to impose the penalty, including a description of and justification for the penalty.

(4) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall—

(A) share information about the unmanageable threats described in subsection (a)(3)(E) with other Federal agencies; and

(B) develop consistent approaches to identifying entities of concern.

(d) INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.—This section shall be applied in a manner consistent with the obligations of the United States under international agreements.

(e) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 240 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that—

(1) describes—

(A) the tools and processes developed under subsection (b)(1) and any updates to those tools and processes; and

(B) if applicable, the science and technology risk matrix developed under that subsection and how that matrix has been applied;

(2) includes a mitigation plan for managing risks posed by countries of risk with respect to future or ongoing research and development activities of the Department of Energy; and

(3) defines critical research areas, designated by risk, as determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 309. CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT OF INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY RISK ASSESSMENTS.

(a) RISK ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTS AND MATERIALS.—Except as provided in subsection (b), whenever an element of the intelligence community conducts a risk assessment arising from the mishandling or improper disclosure of classified information, the Director of National Intelligence shall, not later than 30 days after the date of the commencement of such risk assessment—

(1) submit to the congressional intelligence committees copies of such documents and materials as are—

(A) within the jurisdiction of such committees; and

(B) subject to the risk assessment; and

(2) provide such committees a briefing on such documents, materials, and risk assessment.

(b) EXCEPTION.—If the Director determines, with respect to a risk assessment described in subsection (a), that the documents and other materials otherwise subject to paragraph (1) of such subsection (a) are of such a volume that submittal pursuant to such paragraph would be impracticable, the Director shall—

(1) in lieu of submitting copies of such documents and materials, submit a log of such documents and materials; and

(2) pursuant to a request by the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate or the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives for a copy of a document or material included in such log, submit to such committee such copy.

SEC. 310. INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW OF DISSEMINATION BY FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION RICHMOND, VIRGINIA, FIELD OFFICE OF CERTAIN DOCUMENT.

(a) REVIEW REQUIRED.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of Justice shall conduct a review of the actions and events, including any underlying policy direction, that served as a basis for the January 23, 2023, dissemination by the field office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation located in Richmond, Virginia, of a document titled ''Interest of Racially or Ethnically Motivated Violent Extremists in Radical-Traditionalist Catholic Ideology Almost Certainly Presents New Mitigation Opportunities.''.

(b) SUBMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—The Inspector General of the Department of Justice shall submit the findings of the Inspector General with respect to the review required by subsection (a) to the following:

(1) The congressional intelligence committees.

(2) The Committee on the Judiciary, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(3) The Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 311. OFFICE OF INTELLIGENCE AND ANALYSIS.

Section 201 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 121) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(h) PROHIBITION.—

''(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term 'United States person' means a United States citizen, an alien known by the Office of Intelligence and Analysis to be a permanent resident alien, an unincorporated association substantially composed of United States citizens or permanent resident aliens, or a corporation incorporated in the United States, except for a corporation directed and controlled by 1 or more foreign governments.

''(2) COLLECTION OF INFORMATION FROM UNITED STATES PERSONS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Office of Intelligence and Analysis may not engage in the collection of information or intelligence targeting any United States person except as provided in subparagraph (B).

''(B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to any employee, officer, or contractor of the Office of Intelligence and Analysis who is responsible for collecting information from individuals working for a State, local, or Tribal territory government or a private employer.''.

Subtitle B—Central Intelligence Agency

SEC. 321. CHANGE TO PENALTIES AND INCREASED AVAILABILITY OF MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT FOR UNLAWFUL CONDUCT ON CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY INSTALLATIONS.

Section 15(b) of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 3515(b)) is amended, in the second sentence, by striking ''those specified in section 1315(c)(2) of title 40, United States Code'' and inserting ''the maximum penalty authorized for a Class B misdemeanor under section 3559 of title 18, United States Code''.

SEC. 322. MODIFICATIONS TO PROCUREMENT AUTHORITIES OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

Section 3 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 3503) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''sections'' and all that follows through ''session)'' and inserting ''sections 3201, 3203, 3204, 3206, 3207, 3302 through 3306, 3321 through 3323, 3801 through 3808, 3069, 3134, 3841, and 4752 of title 10, United States Code'' and

(2) in subsection (d), by striking ''in paragraphs'' and all that follows through ''1947'' and inserting ''in sections 3201 through 3204 of title 10, United States Code, shall not be delegable. Each determination or decision required by sections 3201 through 3204, 3321 through 3323, and 3841 of title 10, United States Code''.

SEC. 323. ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY STANDARD WORKPLACE SEXUAL MISCONDUCT COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION PROCEDURE.

(a) WORKPLACE SEXUAL MISCONDUCT DEFINED.—The term ''workplace sexual misconduct''—

(1) means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when—

(A) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment;

(B) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual; or

(C) such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment; and

(2) includes sexual harassment and sexual assault.

(b) STANDARD COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION PROCEDURE.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency shall—

(1) establish a standard workplace sexual misconduct complaint investigation procedure;

(2) implement the standard workplace sexual misconduct complaint investigation procedure through clear workforce communication and education on the procedure; and

(3) submit the standard workplace sexual misconduct complaint investigation procedure to the congressional intelligence committees.

(c) MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.—The procedure established pursuant to subsection (b)(1) shall, at a minimum—

(1) identify the individuals and offices of the Central Intelligence Agency to which an employee of the Agency may bring a complaint of workplace sexual misconduct;

(2) detail the steps each individual or office identified pursuant to paragraph (1) shall take upon receipt of a complaint of workplace sexual misconduct and the timeframes within which those steps shall be taken, including—

(A) documentation of the complaint;

(B) referral or notification to another individual or office;

(C) measures to document or preserve witness statements or other evidence; and

(D) preliminary investigation of the complaint;

(3) set forth standard criteria for determining whether a complaint of workplace sexual misconduct will be referred to law enforcement and the timeframe within which such a referral shall occur; and

(4) for any complaint not referred to law enforcement, set forth standard criteria for determining—

(A) whether a complaint has been substantiated; and

(B) for any substantiated complaint, the appropriate disciplinary action.

(d) ANNUAL REPORTS.—On or before April 30 of each year, the Director shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees, the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives an annual report that includes, for the preceding calendar year, the following:

(1) The number of workplace sexual misconduct complaints brought to each individual or office of the Central Intelligence Agency identified pursuant to subsection (c)(1), disaggregated by—

(A) complaints referred to law enforcement; and

(B) complaints substantiated.

(2) For each complaint described in paragraph (1) that is substantiated, a description of the disciplinary action taken by the Director.

TITLE IV—MATTERS CONCERNING FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Subtitle A—People's Republic of China

SEC. 401. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY COORDINATOR FOR ACCOUNTABILITY OF ATROCITIES OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ATROCITY.—The term ''atrocity'' means a crime against humanity, genocide, or a war crime.

(2) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term ''foreign person'' means—

(A) any person or entity that is not a United States person; or

(B) any entity not organized under the laws of the United States or of any jurisdiction within the United States.

(3) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term ''United States person'' has the meaning given that term in section 105A(c) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3039).

(b) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY COORDINATOR FOR ACCOUNTABILITY OF ATROCITIES OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.—

(1) DESIGNATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall designate a senior official of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence to serve as the intelligence community coordinator for accountability of atrocities of the People's Republic of China (in this section referred to as the ''Coordinator'').

(2) DUTIES.—The Coordinator shall lead the efforts of and coordinate and collaborate with the intelligence community with respect to the following:

(A) Identifying and addressing any gaps in intelligence collection relating to atrocities of the People's Republic of China, including by recommending the modification of the priorities of the intelligence community with respect to intelligence collection and by utilizing informal processes and collaborative mechanisms with key elements of the intelligence community to increase collection on atrocities of the People's Republic of China.

(B) Prioritizing and expanding the intelligence analysis with respect to ongoing atrocities of the People's Republic of China and disseminating within the United States Government intelligence relating to the identification and activities of foreign persons suspected of being involved with or providing support to atrocities of the People's Republic of China, including genocide and forced labor practices in Xinjiang, in order to support the efforts of other Federal agencies, including the Department of State, the Department of Justice, the Department of the Treasury, the Office of Foreign Assets Control, the Department of Commerce, the Bureau of Industry and Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the National Security Council, to hold the People's Republic of China accountable for such atrocities.

(C) Increasing efforts to declassify and share with the people of the United States and the international community information regarding atrocities of the People's Republic of China in order to expose such atrocities and counter the disinformation and misinformation campaign by the People's Republic of China to deny such atrocities.

(D) Documenting and storing intelligence and other unclassified information that may be relevant to preserve as evidence of atrocities of the People's Republic of China for future accountability, and ensuring that other relevant Federal agencies receive appropriate support from the intelligence community with respect to the collection, analysis, preservation, and, as appropriate, dissemination, of intelligence related to atrocities of the People's Republic of China, which may include the information from the annual report required by section 6504 of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117–263).

(E) Sharing information with the Forced Labor Enforcement Task Force, established under section 741 of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 4681), the Department of Commerce, and the Department of the Treasury for the purposes of entity listings and sanctions.

(3) PLAN REQUIRED.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress—

(A) the name of the official designated as the Coordinator pursuant to paragraph (1); and

(B) the strategy of the intelligence community for the collection and dissemination of intelligence relating to ongoing atrocities of the People's Republic of China, including a detailed description of how the Coordinator shall support, and assist in facilitating the implementation of, such strategy.

(4) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(A) REPORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than May 1, 2024, and annually thereafter until May 1, 2034, the Director shall submit to Congress a report detailing, for the year covered by the report—

(i) the analytical findings, changes in collection, and other activities of the intelligence community with respect to ongoing atrocities of the People's Republic of China;

(ii) the recipients of information shared pursuant to this section for the purpose of—

(I) providing support to Federal agencies to hold the People's Republic of China accountable for such atrocities; and

(II) sharing information with the people of the United States to counter the disinformation and misinformation campaign by the People's Republic of China to deny such atrocities; and

(iii) with respect to clause (ii), the date of any such sharing.

(B) FORM.—Each report submitted under subparagraph (A) may be submitted in classified form, consistent with the protection of intelligence sources and methods.

(c) SUNSET.—This section shall cease to have effect on the date that is 10 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 402. INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP AND REPORT ON THE MALIGN EFFORTS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN AFRICA.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with such heads of elements of the intelligence community as the Director considers appropriate, shall establish an interagency working group within the intelligence community to analyze the tactics and capabilities of the People's Republic of China in Africa.

(2) ESTABLISHMENT FLEXIBILITY.—The working group established under paragraph (1) may be—

(A) independently established; or

(B) to avoid redundancy, incorporated into existing working groups or cross-intelligence efforts within the intelligence community.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this subsection, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the congressional intelligence committees;

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and twice annually thereafter, the working group established under subsection (a) shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the specific tactics and capabilities of the People's Republic of China in Africa.

(3) ELEMENTS.—Each report required by paragraph (2) shall include the following elements:

(A) An assessment of efforts by the Government of the People's Republic of China to exploit mining and reprocessing operations in Africa.

(B) An assessment of efforts by the Government of the People's Republic of China to provide or fund technologies in Africa, including—

(i) telecommunications and energy technologies, such as advanced reactors, transportation, and other commercial products; and

(ii) by requiring that the People's Republic of China be the sole provider of such technologies.

(C) An assessment of efforts by the Government of the People's Republic of China to expand intelligence capabilities in Africa.

(D) A description of actions taken by the intelligence community to counter such efforts.

(E) An assessment of additional resources needed by the intelligence community to better counter such efforts.

(4) FORM.—Each report required by paragraph (2) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex if necessary.

(c) SUNSET.—The requirements of this section shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 403. AMENDMENT TO REQUIREMENT FOR ANNUAL ASSESSMENT BY INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP FOR MONITORING THE ECONOMIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITIES OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

Section 6503(c)(3)(D) of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (division F of Public Law 117–263) is amended by striking ''the top 200'' and inserting ''all the known''.

SEC. 404. ASSESSMENTS OF RECIPROCITY IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence and such other heads of elements of the intelligence community as the Assistant Secretary considers relevant, shall submit to Congress the following:

(1) A comprehensive assessment that identifies critical areas in the security, diplomatic, economic, financial, technological, scientific, commercial, academic, and cultural spheres in which the United States does not enjoy a reciprocal relationship with the People's Republic of China.

(2) A comprehensive assessment that describes how the lack of reciprocity between the People's Republic of China and the United States in the areas identified in the assessment required by paragraph (1) provides advantages to the People's Republic of China.

(b) FORM OF ASSESSMENTS.—

(1) CRITICAL AREAS.—The assessment required by subsection (a)(1) shall be submitted in unclassified form.

(2) ADVANTAGES.—The assessment required by subsection (a)(2) shall be submitted in classified form.

SEC. 405. ANNUAL BRIEFING ON INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY AND MITIGATE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY AND RUSSIAN FOREIGN MALIGN INFLUENCE OPERATIONS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CHINESE ENTITIES ENGAGED IN FOREIGN MALIGN INFLUENCE OPERATIONS.—The term ''hinese entities engaged in foreign malign influence operations'' means all of the elements of the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party involved in foreign malign influence, such as—

(A) the Ministry of State Security;

(B) other security services of the People's Republic of China;

(C) the intelligence services of the People's Republic of China;

(D) the United Front Work Department and other united front organs;

(E) state-controlled media systems, such as the China Global Television Network (CGTN); and

(F) any entity involved in foreign malign influence operations that demonstrably and intentionally disseminate false information and propaganda of the Government of the People's Republic of China or the Chinese Communist Party.

(2) RUSSIAN MALIGN INFLUENCE ACTORS.—The term ''Russian malign influence actors'' refers to entities or individuals engaged in foreign malign influence operations against the United States who are affiliated with—

(A) the intelligence and security services of the Russian Federation

(B) the Presidential Administration;

(C) any other entity of the Government of the Russian Federation; or

(D) Russian mercenary or proxy groups such as the Wagner Group.

(3) FOREIGN MALIGN INFLUENCE OPERATION.—The term ''foreign malign influence operation'' means a coordinated and often concealed activity that is covered by the definition of the term ''foreign malign influence'' in section 119C of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3059) and uses disinformation, press manipulation, economic coercion, targeted investments, corruption, or academic censorship, which are often intended—

(A) to coerce and corrupt United States interests, values, institutions, or individuals; and

(B) to foster attitudes, behavior, decisions, or outcomes in the United States that support the interests of the Government of the People's Republic of China or the Chinese Communist Party.

(b) BRIEFING REQUIRED.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter until the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Foreign Malign Influence Center shall, in collaboration with the heads of the elements of the intelligence community, provide Congress a classified briefing on the ways in which the relevant elements of the intelligence community are working internally and coordinating across the intelligence community to identify and mitigate the actions of Chinese and Russian entities engaged in foreign malign influence operations against the United States, including against United States persons.

(c) ELEMENTS.—The classified briefing required by subsection (b) shall cover the following:

(1) The Government of the Russian Federation, the Government of the People's Republic of China, and the Chinese Communist Party tactics, tools, and entities that spread disinformation, misinformation, and malign information and conduct influence operations, information campaigns, or other propaganda efforts.

(2) A description of ongoing foreign malign influence operations and campaigns of the Russian Federation against the United States and an assessment of their objectives and effectiveness in meeting those objectives.

(3) A description of ongoing foreign malign influence operations and campaigns of the People's Republic of China against the United States and an assessment of their objectives and effectiveness in meeting those objectives.

(4) A description of any cooperation, information-sharing, amplification, or other coordination between the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China in developing or carrying out foreign malign influence operations against the United States.

(5) A description of front organizations, proxies, cut-outs, aligned third-party countries, or organizations used by the Russian Federation or the People's Republic of China to carry out foreign malign influence operations against the United States.

(6) An assessment of the loopholes or vulnerabilities in United States law that Russia and the People's Republic of China exploit to carry out foreign malign influence operations.

(7) The actions of the Foreign Malign Influence Center, in coordination with the Global Engagement Center, relating to early-warning, information sharing, and proactive risk mitigation systems, based on the list of entities identified in subsection (a)(1), to detect, expose, deter, and counter foreign malign influence operations of the Government of the People's Republic of China or the Chinese Communist Party against the United States.

(8) The actions of the Foreign Malign Influence Center to conduct outreach, to identify and counter tactics, tools, and entities described in paragraph (1) by sharing information with allies and partners of the United States, in coordination with the Global Engagement Center, as well as State and local governments, the business community, and civil society in order to expose the political influence operations and information operations of the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the People's Republic of China or the Chinese Communist Party carried out against individuals and entities in the United States.

SEC. 406. ASSESSMENT OF THREAT POSED TO UNITED STATES PORTS BY CRANES MANUFACTURED BY COUNTRIES OF CONCERN.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the congressional intelligence committees;

(B) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, and the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(C) the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, the Committee on Financial Services, and the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) COUNTRY OF CONCERN.—The term ''country of concern'' has the meaning given that term in section 1(m)(1) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a(m)(1)).

(b) ASSESSMENT.—The Director of National Intelligence, in coordination with such other heads of the elements of the intelligence community as the Director considers appropriate and the Secretary of Defense, shall conduct an assessment of the threat posed to United States ports by cranes manufactured by countries of concern and commercial entities of those countries, including the Shanghai Zhenhua Heavy Industries Co. (ZPMC).

(c) REPORT AND BRIEFING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall

submit a report and provide a briefing to the appropriate committees of Congress on the findings of the assessment required by subsection (b).

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report and briefing required by paragraph (1) shall outline the potential for the cranes described in subsection (b) to collect intelligence, disrupt operations at United States ports, and impact the national security of the United States.

(3) FORM OF REPORT.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

Subtitle B—Other Foreign Countries

SEC. 411. REPORT ON EFFORTS TO CAPTURE AND DETAIN UNITED STATES CITIZENS AS HOSTAGES.

(a) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this section, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(1) the congressional intelligence committees;

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on efforts by the Maduro regime in Venezuela to detain United States citizens and lawful permanent residents.

(c) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection (b) shall include, regarding the arrest, capture, detainment, or imprisonment of United States citizens and lawful permanent residents, the following:

(1) The names, positions, and institutional affiliation of Venezuelan individuals, or those acting on their behalf, who have engaged in such activities.

(2) A description of any role played by transnational criminal organizations, and an identification of such organizations.

(3) Where relevant, an assessment of whether and how United States citizens and lawful permanent residents have been lured to Venezuela.

(4) An analysis of the motive for the arrest, capture, detainment, or imprisonment of United States citizens and lawful permanent residents.

(5) The total number of United States citizens and lawful permanent residents detained or imprisoned in Venezuela as of the date on which the report is submitted.

(d) FORM.—The report required by subsection (b) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 412. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON PRIORITY OF FENTANYL IN NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE PRIORITIES FRAMEWORK.

It is the sense of Congress that the trafficking of illicit fentanyl, including precursor chemicals and manufacturing equipment associated with illicit fentanyl production and organizations that traffic or finance the trafficking of illicit fentanyl, originating from the People's Republic of China and Mexico should be among the highest priorities in the National Intelligence Priorities Framework of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

TITLE V—MATTERS PERTAINING TO UNITED STATES ECONOMIC AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGY COMPETITION WITH UNITED STATES ADVERSARIES

Subtitle A—General Matters

SEC. 501. ASSIGNMENT OF DETAILEES FROM INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY TO DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

(a) AUTHORITY.—In order to better facilitate the sharing of actionable intelligence on foreign adversary intent, capabilities, threats, and operations that pose a threat to the interests or security of the United States, particularly as they relate to the procurement, development, and use of dual-use and emerging technologies, the Director of National Intelligence may assign or facilitate the assignment of members from across the intelligence community to serve as detailees to the Bureau of Industry and Security of the Department of Commerce.

(b) ASSIGNMENT.—Detailees assigned pursuant to subsection (a) shall be drawn from such elements of the intelligence community as the Director considers appropriate, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce.

(c) EXPERTISE.—The Director shall ensure that detailees assigned pursuant to subsection (a) have subject matter expertise on countries of concern, including China, Iran, North Korea, and Russia, as well as functional areas such as illicit procurement, counterproliferation, emerging and foundational technology, economic and financial intelligence, information and communications technology systems, supply chain vulnerability, and counterintelligence.

(d) DUTY CREDIT.—The detail of an employee of the intelligence community to the Department of Commerce under subsection (a) shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

Subtitle B—Next-generation Energy, Biotechnology, and Artificial Intelligence

SEC. 511. EXPANDED ANNUAL ASSESSMENT OF ECONOMIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITIES OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

Section 6503(c)(3) of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117–263) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(I) A detailed assessment, prepared in consultation with all elements of the working group—

''(i) of the investments made by the People's Republic of China in—

''(I) artificial intelligence;

''(II) next-generation energy technologies, especially small modular reactors and advanced batteries; and

''(III) biotechnology; and

''(ii) that identifies—

''(I) competitive practices of the People's Republic of China relating to the technologies described in clause (i);

''(II) opportunities to counter the practices described in subclause (I);

''(III) countries the People's Republic of China is targeting for exports of civil nuclear technology;

''(IV) countries best positioned to utilize civil nuclear technologies from the United States in order to facilitate the commercial export of those technologies;

''(V) United States vulnerabilities in the supply chain of these technologies; and

''(VI) opportunities to counter the export by the People's Republic of China of civil nuclear technologies globally.

''(J) An identification and assessment of any unmet resource or authority needs of the working group that affect the ability of the working group to carry out this section.''.

SEC. 512. ASSESSMENT OF USING CIVIL NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY CAPABILITIES.

(a) ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.—The Director of National Intelligence shall, in consultation with the heads of such other elements of the intelligence community as the Director considers appropriate, conduct an assessment of capabilities identified by the Intelligence Community Continuity Program established pursuant to section E(3) of Intelligence Community Directive 118, or any successor directive, or such other intelligence community facilities or intelligence community capabilities as may be determined by the Director to be critical to United States national security, that have unique energy needs—

(1) to ascertain the feasibility and advisability of using civil nuclear reactors to meet such needs; and

(2) to identify such additional resources, technologies, infrastructure, or authorities needed, or other potential obstacles, to commence use of a nuclear reactor to meet such needs.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Committee on Oversight and Accountability and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report, which may be in classified form, on the findings of the Director with respect to the assessment conducted pursuant to subsection (a).

SEC. 513. POLICIES ESTABLISHED BY DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6702 of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (50 U.S.C. 3334m) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''subsection (b)'' and inserting ''subsection (c)'';

(2) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

''(b) POLICIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out subsection (a)(1), not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024, the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the heads of the elements of the intelligence community, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and such other officials as the Director of National Intelligence determines appropriate, shall establish the policies described in paragraph (2).

''(2) POLICIES DESCRIBED.—The policies described in this paragraph are policies for the acquisition, adoption, development, use, coordination, and maintenance of artificial intelligence capabilities that—

''(A) establish a lexicon relating to the use of machine learning and artificial intelligence developed or acquired by elements of the intelligence community;

''(B) establish guidelines for evaluating the performance of models developed or acquired by elements of the intelligence community, such as by—

''(i) specifying conditions for the continuous monitoring of artificial intelligence capabilities for performance, including the conditions for retraining or retiring models based on performance;

''(ii) documenting performance objectives, including specifying how performance objectives shall be developed and contractually enforced for capabilities procured from third parties;

''(iii) specifying the manner in which models should be audited, as necessary, including the types of documentation that should be provided to any auditor; and

''(iv) specifying conditions under which models used by elements of the intelligence community should be subject to testing and evaluation for vulnerabilities to techniques meant to undermine the availability, integrity, or privacy of an artificial intelligence capability;

''(C) establish guidelines for tracking dependencies in adjacent systems, capabilities, or processes impacted by the retraining or sunsetting of any model described in subparagraph (B);

''(D) establish documentation requirements for capabilities procured from third parties, aligning such requirements, as necessary, with existing documentation requirements applicable to capabilities developed by elements of the intelligence community;

''(E) establish standards for the documentation of imputed, augmented, or synthetic data used to train any model developed, procured, or used by an element of the intelligence community; and

''(F) provide guidance on the acquisition and usage of models that have previously been trained by a third party for subsequent modification and usage by such an element.

''(3) POLICY REVIEW AND REVISION.—The Director of National Intelligence shall periodically review and revise each policy established under paragraph (1).''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 6712(b)(1) of such Act (50 U.S.C. 3024 note) is amended by striking ''section 6702(b)'' and inserting ''section 6702(c)''.

TITLE VI—WHISTLEBLOWER MATTERS

SEC. 601. SUBMITTAL TO CONGRESS OF COMPLAINTS AND INFORMATION BY WHISTLEBLOWERS IN THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER 4 OF TITLE 5.—

(1) APPOINTMENT OF SECURITY OFFICERS.—Section 416 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(i) APPOINTMENT OF SECURITY OFFICERS.—Each Inspector General under this section, including the designees of the Inspector General of the Department of Defense pursuant to subsection (b)(3), shall appoint within their offices security officers to provide, on a permanent basis, confidential, security-related guidance and direction to employees and contractors described in subsection (b)(1) who intend to report to Congress complaints or information, so that such employees and contractors can obtain direction on how to report to Congress in accordance with appropriate security practices.''.

(2) PROCEDURES.—Subsection (e) of such section is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''or any other committee of jurisdiction of the Senate or the House of Representatives'' after ''either or both of the intelligence committees'';

(B) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

''(2) LIMITATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the employee may contact an intelligence committee or another committee of jurisdiction directly as described in paragraph (1) of this subsection or in subsection (b)(4) only if the employee—

''(i) before making such a contact, furnishes to the head of the establishment, through the Inspector General (or designee), a statement of the employee's complaint or information and notice of the employee's intent to contact an intelligence committee or another committee of jurisdiction of the Senate or the House of Representatives directly; and

''(ii)(I) obtains and follows, from the head of the establishment, through the Inspector General (or designee), procedural direction on how to contact an intelligence committee or another committee of jurisdiction of the Senate or the House of Representatives in accordance with appropriate security practices; or

''(II) obtains and follows such procedural direction from the applicable security officer appointed under subsection (i).

''(B) LACK OF PROCEDURAL DIRECTION.—If an employee seeks procedural direction under subparagraph (A)(ii) and does not receive such procedural direction within 30 days, or receives insufficient direction to report to Congress a complaint or information, the employee may contact an intelligence committee or any other committee of jurisdiction of the Senate or the House of Representatives directly without obtaining or following the procedural direction otherwise required under such subparagraph.''; and

(C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(D) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

''(3) COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND STAFF.—An employee of an element of the intelligence community who intends to report to Congress a complaint or information may report such complaint or information to the Chairman and Vice Chairman or Ranking Member, as the case may be, of an intelligence committee or another committee of jurisdiction of the Senate or the House of Representatives, a nonpartisan member of the committee staff designated for purposes of receiving complaints or information under this section, or a member of the majority staff and a member of the minority staff of the committee.''.

(3) CLARIFICATION OF RIGHT TO REPORT DIRECTLY TO CONGRESS.—Subsection (b) of such section is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) CLARIFICATION OF RIGHT TO REPORT DIRECTLY TO CONGRESS.—Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (e), an employee of an element of the intelligence community who intends to report to Congress a complaint or information may report such complaint or information directly to Congress.''.

(b) AMENDMENTS TO NATIONAL SECURITY ACT OF 1947.—

(1) APPOINTMENT OF SECURITY OFFICERS.—Section 103H(j) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3033(j)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(5) The Inspector General shall appoint within the Office of the Inspector General security officers as required by section 416(i) of title 5, United States Code.''.

(2) PROCEDURES.—Subparagraph (D) of section 103H(k)(5) of such Act (50 U.S.C. 3033(k)(5)) is amended—

(A) in clause (i), by inserting ''or any other committee of jurisdiction of the Senate or the House of Representatives'' after ''either or both of the congressional intelligence committees'';

(B) by amending clause (ii) to read as follows:

''(ii)(I) Except as provided in subclause (II), an employee may contact a congressional intelligence committee or another committee of jurisdiction directly as described in clause (i) only if the employee—

''(aa) before making such a contact, furnishes to the Director, through the Inspector General, a statement of the employee's complaint or information and notice of the employee's intent to contact a congressional intelligence committee or another committee of jurisdiction of the Senate or the House of Representatives directly; and

''(bb)(AA) obtains and follows, from the Director, through the Inspector General, procedural direction on how to contact a congressional intelligence committee or another committee of jurisdiction of the Senate or the House of Representatives in accordance with appropriate security practices; or

''(BB) obtains and follows such procedural direction from the applicable security officer appointed under section 416(i) of title 5, United States Code.

''(II) If an employee seeks procedural direction under subclause (I)(bb) and does not receive such procedural direction within 30 days, or receives insufficient direction to report to Congress a complaint or information, the employee may contact a congressional intelligence committee or any other committee of jurisdiction of the Senate or the House of Representatives directly without obtaining or following the procedural direction otherwise required under such subclause.'';

(C) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv); and

(D) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

''(iii) An employee of an element of the intelligence community who intends to report to Congress a complaint or information may report such complaint or information to the Chairman and Vice Chairman or Ranking Member, as the case may be, of a congressional intelligence committee or another committee of jurisdiction of the Senate or the House of Representatives, a nonpartisan member of the committee staff designated for purposes of receiving complaints or information under this section, or a member of the majority staff and a member of the minority staff of the committee.''.

(3) CLARIFICATION OF RIGHT TO REPORT DIRECTLY TO CONGRESS.—Subparagraph (A) of such section is amended—

(A) by inserting ''(i)'' before ''An employee of''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(ii) Subject to clauses (ii) and (iii) of subparagraph (D), an employee of an element of the intelligence community who intends to report to Congress a complaint or information may report such complaint or information directly to Congress, regardless of whether the complaint or information is with respect to an urgent concern—

''(I) in lieu of reporting such complaint or information under clause (i); or

''(II) in addition to reporting such complaint or information under clause (i).''.

(c) AMENDMENTS TO THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY ACT OF 1949.—

(1) APPOINTMENT OF SECURITY OFFICERS.—Section 17(d)(5) of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 3517(d)(5)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(I) The Inspector General shall appoint within the Office of the Inspector General security officers as required by section 416(i) of title 5, United States Code.''.

(2) PROCEDURES.—Subparagraph (D) of such section is amended—

(A) in clause (i), by inserting ''or any other committee of jurisdiction of the Senate or the House of Representatives'' after ''either or both of the intelligence committees'';

(B) by amending clause (ii) to read as follows:

''(ii)(I) Except as provided in subclause (II), an employee may contact an intelligence committee or another committee of jurisdiction directly as described in clause (i) only if the employee—

''(aa) before making such a contact, furnishes to the Director, through the Inspector General, a statement of the employee's complaint or information and notice of the employee's intent to contact an intelligence committee or another committee of jurisdiction of the Senate or the House of Representatives directly; and

''(bb)(AA) obtains and follows, from the Director, through the Inspector General, procedural direction on how to contact an intelligence committee or another committee of jurisdiction of the Senate or the House of Representatives in accordance with appropriate security practices; or

''(BB) obtains and follows such procedural direction from the applicable security officer appointed under section 416(i) of title 5, United States Code.

''(II) If an employee seeks procedural direction under subclause (I)(bb) and does not receive such procedural direction within 30 days, or receives insufficient direction to report to Congress a complaint or information, the employee may contact an intelligence committee or another committee of jurisdiction of the Senate or the House of Representatives directly without obtaining or following the procedural direction otherwise required under such subclause.'';

(C) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv); and

(D) by inserting after clause (ii) the following:

''(iii) An employee of the Agency who intends to report to Congress a complaint or information may report such complaint or information to the Chairman and Vice Chairman or Ranking Member, as the case may be, of an intelligence committee or another committee of jurisdiction of the Senate or the House of Representatives, a nonpartisan member of the committee staff designated for purposes of receiving complaints or information under this section, or a member of the majority staff and a member of the minority staff of the committee.''.

(3) CLARIFICATION OF RIGHT TO REPORT DIRECTLY TO CONGRESS.—Subparagraph (A) of such section is amended—

(A) by inserting ''(i)'' before ''An employee of''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(ii) Subject to clauses (ii) and (iii) of subparagraph (D), an employee of the Agency who intends to report to Congress a complaint or information may report such complaint or information directly to Congress, regardless of whether the complaint or information is with respect to an urgent concern—

''(I) in lieu of reporting such complaint or information under clause (i); or

''(II) in addition to reporting such complaint or information under clause (i).''.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section or an amendment made by this section shall be construed to revoke or diminish any right of an individual provided by section 2303 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 602. PROHIBITION AGAINST DISCLOSURE OF WHISTLEBLOWER IDENTITY AS REPRISAL AGAINST WHISTLEBLOWER DISCLOSURE BY EMPLOYEES AND CONTRACTORS IN INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1104 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3234) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3) of such section—

(A) in subparagraph (I), by striking ''; or'' and inserting a semicolon;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (J) as subparagraph (K); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (I) the following:

''(J) a knowing and willful disclosure revealing the identity or other personally identifiable information of an employee or contractor employee so as to identify the employee or contractor employee as an employee or contractor employee who has made a lawful disclosure described in subsection (b) or (c); or'';

(2) by redesignating subsections (f) and (g) as subsections (g) and (h), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after subsection (e) the following:

''(f) PERSONNEL ACTIONS INVOLVING DISCLOSURE OF WHISTLEBLOWER IDENTITY.—A personnel action described in subsection (a)(3)(J) shall not be considered to be in violation of subsection (b) or (c) under the following circumstances:

''(1) The personnel action was taken with the express consent of the employee or contractor employee.

''(2) An Inspector General with oversight responsibility for a covered intelligence community element determines that—

''(A) the personnel action was unavoidable under section 103H(g)(3)(A) of this Act (50 U.S.C. 3033(g)(3)(A)), section 17(e)(3)(A) of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 3517(e)(3)(A)), section 407(b) of title 5, United States Code, or section 420(b)(2)(B) of such title;

''(B) the personnel action was made to an official of the Department of Justice responsible for determining whether a prosecution should be undertaken; or

''(C) the personnel action was required by statute or an order from a court of competent jurisdiction.''.

(b) APPLICABILITY TO DETAILEES.—Subsection (a) of section 1104 of such Act (50 U.S.C. 3234) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(5) EMPLOYEE.—The term 'employee', with respect to an agency or a covered intelligence community element, includes an individual who has been detailed to such agency or covered intelligence community element.''.

(c) HARMONIZATION OF ENFORCEMENT.—Subsection (g) of such section, as redesignated by subsection (a)(2) of this section, is amended to read as follows:

''(g) ENFORCEMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the President shall provide for the enforcement of this section.

''(2) HARMONIZATION WITH OTHER ENFORCEMENT.—To the fullest extent possible, the President shall provide for enforcement of this section in a manner that is consistent with the enforcement of section 2302(b)(8) of title 5, United States Code, especially with respect to policies and procedures used to adjudicate alleged violations of such section.''.

SEC. 603. ESTABLISHING PROCESS PARITY FOR ADVERSE SECURITY CLEARANCE AND ACCESS DETERMINATIONS.

Subparagraph (C) of section 3001(j)(4) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (50 U.S.C. 3341(j)(4)) is amended to read as follows:

''(C) CONTRIBUTING FACTOR.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (iii), in determining whether the adverse security clearance or access determination violated paragraph (1), the agency shall find that paragraph (1) was violated if the individual has demonstrated that a disclosure described in paragraph (1) was a contributing factor in the adverse security clearance or access determination taken against the individual.

''(ii) CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE.—An individual under clause (i) may demonstrate that the disclosure was a contributing factor in the adverse security clearance or access determination taken against the individual through circumstantial evidence, such as evidence that—

''(I) the official making the determination knew of the disclosure; and

''(II) the determination occurred within a period such that a reasonable person could conclude that the disclosure was a contributing factor in the determination.

''(iii) DEFENSE.—In determining whether the adverse security clearance or access determination violated paragraph (1), the agency shall not find that paragraph (1) was violated if, after a finding that a disclosure was a contributing factor, the agency demonstrates by clear and convincing evidence that it would have made the same security clearance or access determination in the absence of such disclosure.''.

SEC. 604. ELIMINATION OF CAP ON COMPENSATORY DAMAGES FOR RETALIATORY REVOCATION OF SECURITY CLEARANCES AND ACCESS DETERMINATIONS.

Section 3001(j)(4)(B) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (50 U.S.C. 3341(j)(4)(B)) is amended, in the second sentence, by striking ''not to exceed $300,000''.

SEC. 605. MODIFICATION AND REPEAL OF REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

(a) MODIFICATION OF FREQUENCY OF WHISTLEBLOWER NOTIFICATIONS TO INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—Section 5334(a) of the Damon Paul Nelson and Matthew Young Pollard Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, and 2020 (Public Law 116–92; 50 U.S.C. 3033 note) is amended by striking ''in real time'' and inserting ''monthly''.

(b) REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT FOR INSPECTORS GENERAL REVIEWS OF ENHANCED PERSONNEL SECURITY PROGRAMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 11001 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (d); and

(B) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (d).

(2) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—Subsection (d) of section 11001 of such title, as redesignated by paragraph (1)(B), is amended—

(A) in paragraph (3), by adding ''and'' after the semicolon at the end; and

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a period.

TITLE VII—CLASSIFICATION REFORM

Subtitle A—Classification Reform Act of 2023

SEC. 701. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Classification Reform Act of 2023''.

SEC. 702. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) AGENCY.—The term ''agency'' means any Executive agency as defined in section 105 of title 5, United States Code, any military department as defined in section 102 of such title, and any other entity in the executive branch of the Federal Government that comes into the possession of classified information.

(2) CLASSIFY, CLASSIFIED, CLASSIFICATION.—The terms ''classify'', ''classified'', and ''classification'' refer to the process by which information is determined to require protection from unauthorized disclosure pursuant to Executive Order 13526 (50 U.S.C. 3161 note; relating to classified national security information), or previous and successor executive orders or similar directives, or section 703 in order to protect the national security of the United States.

(3) CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—The term ''classified information'' means information that has been classified under Executive Order 13526 (50 U.S.C. 3161 note; relating to classified national security information), or previous and successor executive orders or similar directives, or section 703.

(4) DECLASSIFY, DECLASSIFIED, DECLASSIFICATION.—The terms ''declassify'', ''declassified'', and ''declassification'' refer to the process by which information that has been classified is determined to no longer require protection from unauthorized disclosure pursuant to Executive Order 13526 (50 U.S.C. 3161 note; relating to classified national security information), or previous and successor executive orders or similar directives, or section 703.

(5) INFORMATION.—The term ''information'' means any knowledge that can be communicated, or documentary material, regardless of its physical form or characteristics, that is owned by, is produced by or for, or is under the control of the United States Government.

SEC. 703. CLASSIFICATION AND DECLASSIFICATION OF INFORMATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President may, in accordance with this section, protect from unauthorized disclosure any information owned by, produced by or for, or under the control of the executive branch of the Federal Government when there is a demonstrable need to do so in order to protect the national security of the United States.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES FOR CLASSIFICATION AND DECLASSIFICATION.—

(1) GOVERNMENTWIDE PROCEDURES.—

(A) CLASSIFICATION.—The President shall, to the extent necessary, establish categories of information that may be classified and procedures for classifying information under subsection (a).

(B) DECLASSIFICATION.—At the same time the President establishes categories and procedures under subparagraph (A), the President shall establish procedures for declassifying information that was previously classified.

(C) MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.—The procedures established pursuant to subparagraphs (A) and (B) shall—

(i) provide that information may be classified under this section, and may remain classified under this section, only if the harm to national security that might reasonably be expected from disclosure of such information outweighs the public interest in disclosure of such information;

(ii) establish standards and criteria for the classification of information;

(iii) establish standards, criteria, and timelines for the declassification of information classified under this section;

(iv) provide for the automatic declassification of classified records with permanent historical value;

(v) provide for the timely review of materials submitted for pre-publication;

(vi) narrow the criteria for classification set forth under section 1.4 of Executive Order 13526 (50 U.S.C. 3161 note; relating to classified national security information), as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act;

(vii) narrow the exemptions from automatic declassification set forth under section 3.3(b) of Executive Order 13526 (50 U.S.C. 3161 note; relating to classified national security information), as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act;

(viii) provide a clear and specific definition of ''harm to national security'' as it pertains to clause (i); and

(ix) provide a clear and specific definition of ''intelligence sources and methods'' as it pertains to the categories and procedures under subparagraph (A).

(2) AGENCY STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The head of each agency shall establish a single set of consolidated standards and procedures to permit such agency to classify and declassify information created by such agency in accordance with the categories and procedures established by the President under this section and otherwise to carry out this section.

(B) SUBMITTAL TO CONGRESS.—Each agency head shall submit to Congress the standards and procedures established by such agency head under subparagraph (A).

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT TO FOIA.—Section 552(b)(1) of title 5, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''(1)(A) specifically authorized to be classified under section 703 of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024, or specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national security; and

''(B) are in fact properly classified pursuant to that section or Executive order;''.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) RELATION TO PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVES.—Presidential directives regarding classifying, safeguarding, and declassifying national security information, including Executive Order 13526 (50 U.S.C. 3161 note; relating to classified national security information), or successor order, in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, as well as procedures issued pursuant to such Presidential directives, shall remain in effect until superseded by procedures issues pursuant to subsection (b).

SEC. 704. TRANSPARENCY OFFICERS.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Attorney General, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Director of National Intelligence, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, the Director of the National Security Agency, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the head of any other department, agency, or element of the executive branch of the Federal Government determined by the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board established by section 1061 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 2000ee) to be appropriate for coverage under this section, shall each designate at least 1 senior officer to serve as the principal advisor to assist such head of a department, agency, or element and other officials of the department, agency, or element of the head in identifying records of significant public interest and prioritizing appropriate review of such records in order to facilitate the public disclosure of such records in redacted or unredacted form.

(b) DETERMINING PUBLIC INTEREST IN DISCLOSURE.—In assisting the head of a department, agency, or element and other officials of such department, agency, or element in identifying records of significant public interest under subsection (a), the senior officer designated by the head under such subsection shall consider whether—

(1) or not disclosure of the information would better enable United States citizens to hold Federal Government officials accountable for their actions and policies;

(2) or not disclosure of the information would assist the United States criminal justice system in holding persons responsible for criminal acts or acts contrary to the Constitution;

(3) or not disclosure of the information would assist Congress or any committee or subcommittee thereof, in carrying out its oversight responsibilities with regard to the executive branch of the Federal Government or in adequately informing itself of executive branch policies and activities in order to carry out its legislative responsibilities;

(4) the disclosure of the information would assist Congress or the public in understanding the interpretation of the Federal Government of a provision of law, including Federal regulations, Presidential directives, statutes, case law, and the Constitution of the United States; or

(5) or not disclosure of the information would bring about any other significant benefit, including an increase in public awareness or understanding of Government activities or an enhancement of Federal Government efficiency.

(c) PERIODIC REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each senior officer designated under subsection (a) shall periodically, but not less frequently than annually, submit a report on the activities of the officer, including the documents determined to be in the public interest for disclosure under subsection (b), to—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives; and

(C) the head of the department, agency, or element of the senior officer.

(2) FORM.—Each report submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be submitted, to the greatest extent possible, in unclassified form, with a classified annex as may be necessary.

Subtitle B—Sensible Classification Act of 2023

SEC. 711. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Sensible Classification Act of 2023''.

SEC. 712. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) AGENCY.—The term ''agency'' has the meaning given the term ''Executive agency'' in section 105 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) CLASSIFICATION.—The term ''classification'' means the act or process by which information is determined to be classified information.

(3) CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—The term ''classified information'' means information that has been determined pursuant to Executive Order 12958 (50 U.S.C. 3161 note; relating to classified national security information), or successor order, to require protection against unauthorized disclosure and is marked to indicate its classified status when in documentary form.

(4) DECLASSIFICATION.—The term ''declassification'' means the authorized change in the status of information from classified information to unclassified information.

(5) DOCUMENT.—The term ''document'' means any recorded information, regardless of the nature of the medium or the method or circumstances of recording.

(6) DOWNGRADE.—The term ''downgrade'' means a determination by a declassification authority that information classified and safeguarded at a specified level shall be classified and safeguarded at a lower level.

(7) INFORMATION.—The term ''information'' means any knowledge that can be communicated or documentary material, regardless of its physical form or characteristics, that is owned by, is produced by or for, or is under the control of the United States Government.

(8) ORIGINATE, ORIGINATING, AND ORIGINATED.—The term ''originate'', ''originating'', and ''originated'', with respect to classified information and an authority, means the authority that classified the information in the first instance.

(9) RECORDS.—The term ''records'' means the records of an agency and Presidential papers or Presidential records, as those terms are defined in title 44, United States Code, including those created or maintained by a government contractor, licensee, certificate holder, or grantee that are subject to the sponsoring agency's control under the terms of the contract, license, certificate, or grant.

(10) SECURITY CLEARANCE.—The term ''security clearance'' means an authorization to access classified information.

(11) UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE.—The term ''unauthorized disclosure'' means a communication or physical transfer of classified information to an unauthorized recipient.

(12) UNCLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—The term ''unclassified information'' means information that is not classified information.

SEC. 713. FINDINGS AND SENSE OF THE SENATE.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate makes the following findings:

(1) According to a report released by the Office of the Director of Intelligence in 2020 titled ''Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report on Security Clearance Determinations'', more than 4,000,000 individuals have been granted eligibility for a security clearance.

(2) At least 1,300,000 of such individuals have been granted access to information classified at the Top Secret level.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the classification system of the Federal Government is in urgent need of reform;

(2) the number of people with access to classified information is exceedingly high and must be justified or reduced;

(3) reforms are necessary to reestablish trust between the Federal Government and the people of the United States; and

(4) classification should be limited to the minimum necessary to protect national security while balancing the public's interest in disclosure.

SEC. 714. CLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The authority to classify information originally may be exercised only by—

(1) the President and, in the performance of executive duties, the Vice President;

(2) the head of an agency or an official of any agency authorized by the President pursuant to a designation of such authority in the Federal Register; and

(3) an official of the Federal Government to whom authority to classify information originally has been delegated pursuant to subsection (c).

(b) SCOPE OF AUTHORITY.—An individual authorized by this section to classify information originally at a specified level may also classify the information originally at a lower level.

(c) DELEGATION OF ORIGINAL CLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY.—An official of the Federal Government may be delegated original classification authority subject to the following:

(1) Delegation of original classification authority shall be limited to the minimum required to administer this section. Agency heads shall be responsible for ensuring that designated subordinate officials have a demonstrable and continuing need to exercise this authority.

(2) Authority to originally classify information at the level designated as ''Top Secret'' may be delegated only by the President, in the performance of executive duties, the Vice President, or an agency head or official designated pursuant to subsection (a)(2).

(3) Authority to originally classify information at the level designated as ''Secret'' or ''Confidential'' may be delegated only by the President, in the performance of executive duties, the Vice President, or an agency head or official designated pursuant to subsection (a)(2), or the senior agency official described in section 5.4(d) of Executive Order 13526 (50 U.S.C. 3161 note; relating to classified national security information), or successor order, provided that official has been delegated ''Top Secret'' original classification authority by the agency head.

(4) Each delegation of original classification authority shall be in writing and the authority shall not be redelegated except as provided by paragraphs (1), (2), and (3). Each delegation shall identify the official by name or position title.

(d) TRAINING REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An individual may not be delegated original classification authority under this section unless the individual has first received training described in paragraph (2).

(2) TRAINING DESCRIBED.—Training described in this paragraph is training on original classification that includes instruction on the proper safeguarding of classified information and of the criminal, civil, and administrative sanctions that may be brought against an individual who fails to protect classified information from unauthorized disclosure.

(e) EXCEPTIONAL CASES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—When an employee, contractor, licensee, certificate holder, or grantee of an agency who does not have original classification authority originates information believed by that employee, contractor, licensee, certificate holder, or grantee to require classification, the information shall be protected in a manner consistent with Executive Order 13526 (50 U.S.C. 3161 note; relating to classified national security information), or successor order.

(2) TRANSMITTAL.—An employee, contractor, licensee, certificate holder, or grantee described in paragraph (1), who originates information described in such paragraph, shall promptly transmit such information to—

(A) the agency that has appropriate subject matter interest and classification authority with respect to this information; or

(B) if it is not clear which agency has appropriate subject matter interest and classification authority with respect to the information, the Director of the Information Security Oversight Office.

(3) AGENCY DECISIONS.—An agency that receives information pursuant to paragraph (2)(A) or (4) shall decide within 30 days whether to classify this information.

(4) INFORMATION SECURITY OVERSIGHT OFFICE ACTION.—If the Director of the Information Security Oversight Office receives information under paragraph (2)(B), the Director shall determine the agency having appropriate subject matter interest and classification authority and forward the information, with appropriate recommendations, to that agency for a classification determination.

SEC. 715. PROMOTING EFFICIENT DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Whenever an agency is processing a request pursuant to section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Freedom of Information Act'') or the mandatory declassification review provisions of Executive Order 13526 (50 U.S.C. 3161 note; relating to classified national security information), or successor order, and identifies responsive classified records that are more than 25 years of age as of December 31 of the year in which the request is received, the head of the agency shall review the record and process the record for declassification and release by the National Declassification Center of the National Archives and Records Administration.

(b) APPLICATION.—Subsection (a) shall apply—

(1) regardless of whether or not the record described in such subsection is in the legal custody of the National Archives and Records Administration; and

(2) without regard for any other provisions of law or existing agreements or practices between agencies.

SEC. 716. TRAINING TO PROMOTE SENSIBLE CLASSIFICATION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) OVER-CLASSIFICATION.—The term ''over-classification'' means classification at a level that exceeds the minimum level of classification that is sufficient to protect the national security of the United States.

(2) SENSIBLE CLASSIFICATION.—The term ''sensible classification'' means classification at a level that is the minimum level of classification that is sufficient to protect the national security of the United States.

(b) TRAINING REQUIRED.—Each head of an agency with classification authority shall conduct training for employees of the agency with classification authority to discourage over-classification and to promote sensible classification.

SEC. 717. IMPROVEMENTS TO PUBLIC INTEREST DECLASSIFICATION BOARD.

Section 703 of the Public Interest Declassification Act of 2000 (50 U.S.C. 3355a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the following:

''(5) A member of the Board whose term has expired may continue to serve until a successor is appointed and sworn in.''; and

(2) in subsection (f)—

(A) by inserting ''(1)'' before ''Any employee''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(2)(A) In addition to any employees detailed to the Board under paragraph (1), the Board may hire not more than 12 staff members.

''(B) There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out subparagraph (A) such sums as are necessary for fiscal year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter.''.

SEC. 718. IMPLEMENTATION OF TECHNOLOGY FOR CLASSIFICATION AND DECLASSIFICATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Office of Electronic Government (in this section referred to as the ''Administrator'') shall, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, the Director of National Intelligence, the Public Interest Declassification Board, the Director of the Information Security Oversight Office, and the head of the National Declassification Center of the National Archives and Records Administration—

(1) research a technology-based solution—

(A) utilizing machine learning and artificial intelligence to support efficient and effective systems for classification and declassification; and

(B) to be implemented on an interoperable and federated basis across the Federal Government; and

(2) submit to the President a recommendation regarding a technology-based solution described in paragraph (1) that should be adopted by the Federal Government.

(b) STAFF.—The Administrator may hire sufficient staff to carry out subsection (a).

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 540 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to Congress a classified report on the technology-based solution recommended by the Administrator under subsection (a)(2) and the President's decision regarding its adoption.

SEC. 719. STUDIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON NECESSITY OF SECURITY CLEARANCES.

(a) AGENCY STUDIES ON NECESSITY OF SECURITY CLEARANCES.—

(1) STUDIES REQUIRED.—The head of each agency that grants security clearances to personnel of such agency shall conduct a study on the necessity of such clearances.

(2) REPORTS REQUIRED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, each head of an agency that conducts a study under paragraph (1) shall submit to Congress a report on the findings of the agency head with respect to such study,

which the agency head may classify as appropriate.

(B) REQUIRED ELEMENTS.—Each report submitted by the head of an agency under subparagraph (A) shall include, for such agency, the following:

(i) The number of personnel eligible for access to information up to the ''Top Secret'' level.

(ii) The number of personnel eligible for access to information up to the ''Secret'' level.

(iii) Information on any reduction in the number of personnel eligible for access to classified information based on the study conducted under paragraph (1).

(iv) A description of how the agency head will ensure that the number of security clearances granted by such agency will be kept to the minimum required for the conduct of agency functions, commensurate with the size, needs, and mission of the agency.

(3) INDUSTRY.—This subsection shall apply to the Secretary of Defense in the Secretary's capacity as the Executive Agent for the National Industrial Security Program, and the Secretary shall treat contractors, licensees, and grantees as personnel of the Department of Defense for purposes of the studies and reports required by this subsection.

(b) DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE REVIEW OF SENSITIVE COMPARTMENTED INFORMATION.—The Director of National Intelligence shall—

(1) review the number of personnel eligible for access to sensitive compartmented information; and

(2) submit to Congress a report on how the Director will ensure that the number of such personnel is limited to the minimum required.

(c) AGENCY REVIEW OF SPECIAL ACCESS PROGRAMS.—Each head of an agency who is authorized to establish a special access program by Executive Order 13526 (50 U.S.C. 3161 note; relating to classified national security information), or successor order, shall—

(1) review the number of personnel of the agency eligible for access to such special access programs; and

(2) submit to Congress a report on how the agency head will ensure that the number of such personnel is limited to the minimum required.

(d) SECRETARY OF ENERGY REVIEW OF Q AND L CLEARANCES.—The Secretary of Energy shall—

(1) review the number of personnel of the Department of Energy granted Q and L access; and

(2) submit to Congress a report on how the Secretary will ensure that the number of such personnel is limited to the minimum required

(e) INDEPENDENT REVIEWS.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which a study is completed under subsection (a) or a review is completed under subsections (b) through (d), the Director of the Information Security Oversight Office of the National Archives and Records Administration, the Director of National Intelligence, and the Public Interest Declassification Board shall each review the study or review, as the case may be.

TITLE VIII—SECURITY CLEARANCE AND TRUSTED WORKFORCE

SEC. 801. REVIEW OF SHARED INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES FOR PERSONNEL VETTING.

(a) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this section, the term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(1) the congressional intelligence committees;

(2) the Committee on Armed Services and the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(3) the Committee on Armed Services and the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a review of the extent to which the intelligence community can use information technology services shared among the intelligence community for purposes of personnel vetting, including with respect to human resources, suitability, and security.

SEC. 802. TIMELINESS STANDARD FOR RENDERING DETERMINATIONS OF TRUST FOR PERSONNEL VETTING.

(a) TIMELINESS STANDARD.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall, acting through the Security Executive Agent and the Suitability and Credentialing Executive Agent, establish and publish in such public venue as the President considers appropriate, new timeliness performance standards for processing personnel vetting trust determinations in accordance with the Federal personnel vetting performance management standards.

(2) QUINQUENNIAL REVIEWS.—Not less frequently than once every 5 years, the President shall, acting through the Security Executive Agent and the Suitability and Credentialing Executive Agent—

(A) review the standards established pursuant to paragraph (1); and

(B) pursuant to such review—

(i) update such standards as the President considers appropriate; and

(ii) publish in the Federal Register such updates as may be made pursuant to clause (i).

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3001 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (50 U.S.C. 3341) is amended by striking subsection (g).

(b) QUARTERLY REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than quarterly, the Security Executive Agent and the Suitability and Credentialing Executive Agent shall jointly make available to the public a quarterly report on the compliance of Executive agencies (as defined in section 105 of title 5, United States Code) with the standards established pursuant to subsection (a).

(2) DISAGGREGATION.—Each report made available pursuant to paragraph (1) shall disaggregate, to the greatest extent practicable, data by appropriate category of personnel risk and between Government and contractor personnel.

(c) COMPLEMENTARY STANDARDS FOR INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The Director of National Intelligence may, in consultation with the Security, Suitability, and Credentialing Performance Accountability Council established pursuant to Executive Order 13467 (50 U.S.C. 3161 note; relating to reforming processes related to suitability for Government employment, fitness for contractor employees, and eligibility for access to classified national security information) establish for the intelligence community standards complementary to those established pursuant to subsection (a).

SEC. 803. ANNUAL REPORT ON PERSONNEL VETTING TRUST DETERMINATIONS.

(a) DEFINITION OF PERSONNEL VETTING TRUST DETERMINATION.—In this section, the term ''personnel vetting trust determination'' means any determination made by an executive branch agency as to whether an individual can be trusted to perform job functions or to be granted access necessary for a position.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than March 30, 2024, and annually thereafter for 5 years, the Director of National Intelligence, acting as the Security Executive Agent, and the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, acting as the Suitability and Credentialing Executive Agent, in coordination with the Security, Suitability, and Credentialing Performance Accountability Council, shall jointly make available to the public a report on specific types of personnel vetting trust determinations made during the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year in which the report is made available, disaggregated, to the greatest extent possible, by the following:

(1) Determinations of eligibility for national security-sensitive positions, separately noting—

(A) the number of individuals granted access to national security information; and

(B) the number of individuals determined to be eligible for but not granted access to national security information.

(2) Determinations of suitability or fitness for a public trust position.

(3) Status as a Government employee, a contractor employee, or other category.

(c) ELIMINATION OF REPORT REQUIREMENT.—Section 3001 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (50 U.S.C. 3341) is amended by striking subsection (h).

SEC. 804. SURVEY TO ASSESS STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF TRUSTED WORKFORCE 2.0.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and once every 2 years thereafter until 2029, the Comptroller General of the United States shall administer a survey to such sample of Federal agencies, Federal contractors, and other persons that require security clearances to access classified information as the Comptroller General considers appropriate to assess—

(1) the strengths and weaknesses of the implementation of the Trusted Workforce 2.0 initiative; and

(2) the effectiveness of vetting Federal personnel while managing risk during the onboarding of such personnel.

SEC. 805. PROHIBITION ON DENIAL OF ELIGIBILITY FOR ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION SOLELY BECAUSE OF PAST USE OF CANNABIS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CANNABIS.—The term ''cannabis'' has the meaning given the term ''marihuana'' in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802).

(2) ELIGIBILITY FOR ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—The term ''eligibility for access to classified information'' has the meaning given the term in the procedures established pursuant to section 801(a) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3161(a)).

(b) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the head of an element of the intelligence community may not make a determination to deny eligibility for access to classified information to an individual based solely on the use of cannabis by the individual prior to the submission of the application for a security clearance by the individual.

TITLE IX—ANOMALOUS HEALTH INCIDENTS

SEC. 901. IMPROVED FUNDING FLEXIBILITY FOR PAYMENTS MADE BY THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY FOR QUALIFYING INJURIES TO THE BRAIN.

Section 19A(d) of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 3519b(d)) is amended by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following new paragraph:

''(3) FUNDING.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Payment under paragraph (2) in a fiscal year may be made using any funds—

''(i) appropriated in advance specifically for payments under such paragraph; or

''(ii) reprogrammed in accordance with section 504 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3094).

''(B) BUDGET.—For each fiscal year, the Director shall include with the budget justification materials submitted to Congress in support of the budget of the President for that fiscal year pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, an estimate of the funds required in that fiscal year to make payments under paragraph (2).''.

SEC. 902. CLARIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS TO SEEK CERTAIN BENEFITS RELATING TO INJURIES TO THE BRAIN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 19A(d)(5) of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 3519b(d)(5)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''Payments made'' and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Payments made''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) RELATION TO CERTAIN FEDERAL WORKERS COMPENSATION LAWS.—Without regard to the requirements in sections (b) and (c), covered employees need not first seek benefits provided under chapter 81 of title 5, United States Code, to be eligible solely for payment authorized under paragraph (2) of this subsection.''.

(b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency shall—

(1) revise applicable regulations to conform with the amendment made by subsection (a); and

(2) submit to the congressional intelligence committees, the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives copies of such regulations, as revised pursuant to paragraph (1).

SEC. 903. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY IMPLEMENTATION OF HAVANA ACT OF 2021 AUTHORITIES.

(a) REGULATIONS.—Except as provided in subsection (c), not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, each head of an element of the intelligence community that has not already done so shall—

(1) issue regulations and procedures to implement the authorities provided by section 19A(d) of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 3519b(d)) and section 901(i) of title IX of division J of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (22 U.S.C. 2680b(i)) to provide payments under such sections, to the degree that such authorities are applicable to the head of the element; and

(2) submit to the congressional intelligence, the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives committees copies of such regulations.

(b) REPORTING.—Not later than 210 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, each head of an element of the intelligence community shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees, the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report on—

(1) the estimated number of individuals associated with their element that may be eligible for payment under the authorities described in subsection (a)(1);

(2) an estimate of the obligation that the head of the intelligence community element expects to incur in fiscal year 2025 as a result of establishing the regulations pursuant to subsection (a)(1); and

(3) any perceived barriers or concerns in implementing such authorities.

(c) ALTERNATIVE REPORTING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, each head of an element of the intelligence community (other than the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency) who believes that the authorities described in subsection (a)(1) are not currently relevant for individuals associated with their element, or who are not otherwise in position to issue the regulations and procedures required by subsection (a)(1) shall provide written and detailed justification to the congressional intelligence committees, the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives to explain this position.

SEC. 904. REPORT AND BRIEFING ON CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY HANDLING OF ANOMALOUS HEALTH INCIDENTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AGENCY.—The term ''Agency'' means the Central Intelligence Agency.

(2) QUALIFYING INJURY.—The term ''qualifying injury'' has the meaning given such term in section 19A(d)(1) of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 3519b(d)(1)).

(b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees a report on the handling of anomalous health incidents by the Agency.

(c) CONTENTS.—The report required by subsection (b) shall include the following:

(1) HAVANA ACT IMPLEMENTATION.—

(A) An explanation of how the Agency determines whether a reported anomalous health incident resulted in a qualifying injury or a qualifying injury to the brain.

(B) The number of participants of the Expanded Care Program of the Central Intelligence Agency who—

(i) have a certified qualifying injury or a certified qualifying injury to the brain; and

(ii) as of September 30, 2023, applied to the Expanded Care Program due to a reported anomalous health incident.

(C) A comparison of the number of anomalous health incidents reported by applicants to the Expanded Care Program that occurred in the United States and that occurred in a foreign country.

(D) The specific reason each applicant was approved or denied for payment under the Expanded Care Program.

(E) The number of applicants who were initially denied payment but were later approved on appeal.

(F) The average length of time, from the time of application, for an applicant to receive a determination from the Expanded Care Program, aggregated by qualifying injuries and qualifying injuries to the brain.

(2) PRIORITY CASES.—

(A) A detailed list of priority cases of anomalous health incidents, including, for each incident, locations, dates, times, and circumstances.

(B) For each priority case listed in accordance with subparagraph (A), a detailed explanation of each credible alternative explanation that the Agency assigned to the incident, including—

(i) how the incident was discovered;

(ii) how the incident was assigned within the Agency; and

(iii) whether an individual affected by the incident is provided an opportunity to appeal the credible alternative explanation.

(C) For each priority case of an anomalous health incident determined to be largely consistent with the definition of ''anomalous health incident'' established by the National Academy of Sciences and for which the Agency does not have a credible alternative explanation, a detailed description of such case.

(3) ANOMALOUS HEALTH INCIDENT SENSORS.—

(A) A list of all types of sensors that the Agency has developed or deployed with respect to reports of anomalous health incidents, including, for each type of sensor, the deployment location, the date and the duration of the employment of such type of sensor, and, if applicable, the reason for removal.

(B) A list of entities to which the Agency has provided unrestricted access to data associated with anomalous health incidents.

(C) A list of requests for support the Agency has received from elements of the Federal Government regarding sensor development, testing, or deployment, and a description of the support provided in each case.

(D) A description of all emitter signatures obtained by sensors associated with anomalous health incidents in Agency holdings since 2016, including—

(i) the identification of any of such emitters that the Agency prioritizes as a threat; and

(ii) an explanation of such prioritization.

(d) ADDITIONAL SUBMISSIONS.—Concurrent with the submission of the report required by subsection (b), the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency shall submit to the congressional intelligence committees, the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives—

(1) a template of each form required to apply for the Expanded Care Program, including with respect to payments for a qualifying injury or a qualifying injury to the brain;

(2) copies of internal guidance used by the Agency to adjudicate claims for the Expanded Care Program, including with respect to payments for a qualifying injury to the brain;

(3) the case file of each applicant to the Expanded Care Program who applied due to a reported anomalous health incident, including supporting medical documentation, with name and other identifying information redacted;

(4) copies of all informational and instructional materials provided to employees of and other individuals affiliated with the Agency with respect to applying for the Expanded Care Program; and

(5) copies of Agency guidance provided to employees of and other individuals affiliated with the Agency with respect to reporting and responding to a suspected anomalous health incident, and the roles and responsibilities of each element of the Agency tasked with responding to a report of an anomalous health incident.

(e) BRIEFING.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency shall brief the congressional intelligence committees, the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the Subcommittee on Defense of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives on the report.

TITLE X—ELECTION SECURITY

SEC. 1001. STRENGTHENING ELECTION CYBERSECURITY TO UPHOLD RESPECT FOR ELECTIONS THROUGH INDEPENDENT TESTING ACT OF 2023.

(a) REQUIRING PENETRATION TESTING AS PART OF THE TESTING AND CERTIFICATION OF

VOTING SYSTEMS.—Section 231 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 20971) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(e) REQUIRED PENETRATION TESTING.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Commission shall provide for the conduct of penetration testing as part of the testing, certification, decertification, and recertification of voting system hardware and software by accredited laboratories under this section.

''(2) ACCREDITATION.—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall recommend to the Commission entities the Director proposes be accredited to carry out penetration testing under this subsection and certify compliance with the penetration testing-related guidelines required by this subsection. The Commission shall vote on the accreditation of any entity recommended. The requirements for such accreditation shall be a subset of the requirements for accreditation of laboratories under subsection (b) and shall only be based on consideration of an entity's competence to conduct penetration testing under this subsection.''.

(b) INDEPENDENT SECURITY TESTING AND COORDINATED CYBERSECURITY VULNERABILITY DISCLOSURE PROGRAM FOR ELECTION SYSTEMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle D of title II of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15401 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new part:

''PART 7—INDEPENDENT SECURITY TESTING AND COORDINATED CYBERSECURITY VULNERABILITY DISCLOSURE PILOT PROGRAM FOR ELECTION SYSTEMS

''SEC. 297. INDEPENDENT SECURITY TESTING AND COORDINATED CYBERSECURITY VULNERABILITY DISCLOSURE PILOT PROGRAM FOR ELECTION SYSTEMS.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Commission, in consultation with the Secretary, shall establish an Independent Security Testing and Coordinated Vulnerability Disclosure Pilot Program for Election Systems (VDP–E) (in this section referred to as the 'program') in order to test for and disclose cybersecurity vulnerabilities in election systems.

''(2) DURATION.—The program shall be conducted for a period of 5 years.

''(3) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the program, the Commission, in consultation with the Secretary, shall—

''(A) establish a mechanism by which an election systems vendor may make their election system (including voting machines and source code) available to cybersecurity researchers participating in the program;

''(B) provide for the vetting of cybersecurity researchers prior to their participation in the program, including the conduct of background checks;

''(C) establish terms of participation that—

''(i) describe the scope of testing permitted under the program;

''(ii) require researchers to—

''(I) notify the vendor, the Commission, and the Secretary of any cybersecurity vulnerability they identify with respect to an election system; and

''(II) otherwise keep such vulnerability confidential for 180 days after such notification;

''(iii) require the good faith participation of all participants in the program;

''(iv) require an election system vendor, within 180 days after validating notification of a critical or high vulnerability (as defined by the National Institute of Standards and Technology) in an election system of the vendor, to—

''(I) send a patch or propound some other fix or mitigation for such vulnerability to the appropriate State and local election officials, in consultation with the researcher who discovered it; and

''(II) notify the Commission and the Secretary that such patch has been sent to such officials;

''(D) in the case where a patch or fix to address a vulnerability disclosed under subparagraph (C)(ii)(I) is intended to be applied to a system certified by the Commission, provide—

''(i) for the expedited review of such patch or fix within 90 days after receipt by the Commission; and

''(ii) if such review is not completed by the last day of such 90 day period, that such patch or fix shall be deemed to be certified by the Commission, subject to any subsequent review of such determination by the Commission; and

''(E) 180 days after the disclosure of a vulnerability under subparagraph (C)(ii)(I), notify the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency of the vulnerability for inclusion in the database of Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures.

''(4) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION; SAFE HARBOR.—

''(A) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.—Participation in the program shall be voluntary for election systems vendors and researchers.

''(B) SAFE HARBOR.—When conducting research under this program, such research and subsequent publication shall be considered to be:

''(i) Authorized in accordance with section 1030 of title 18, United States Code (commonly known as the 'Computer Fraud and Abuse Act'), (and similar state laws), and the election system vendor will not initiate or support legal action against the researcher for accidental, good faith violations of the program.

''(ii) Exempt from the anti-circumvention rule of section 1201 of title 17, United States Code (commonly known as the 'Digital Millennium Copyright Act'), and the election system vendor will not bring a claim against a researcher for circumvention of technology controls.

''(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph may be construed to limit or otherwise affect any exception to the general prohibition against the circumvention of technological measures under subparagraph (A) of section 1201(a)(1) of title 17, United States Code, including with respect to any use that is excepted from that general prohibition by the Librarian of Congress under subparagraphs (B) through (D) of such section 1201(a)(1).

''(5) EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE.—Cybersecurity vulnerabilities discovered under the program shall be exempt from section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Freedom of Information Act).

''(6) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) CYBERSECURITY VULNERABILITY.—The term 'cybersecurity vulnerability' means, with respect to an election system, any security vulnerability that affects the election system.

''(B) ELECTION INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term 'election infrastructure' means—

''(i) storage facilities, polling places, and centralized vote tabulation locations used to support the administration of elections for public office; and

''(ii) related information and communications technology, including—

''(I) voter registration databases;

''(II) election management systems;

''(III) voting machines;

''(IV) electronic mail and other communications systems (including electronic mail and other systems of vendors who have entered into contracts with election agencies to support the administration of elections, manage the election process, and report and display election results); and

''(V) other systems used to manage the election process and to report and display election results on behalf of an election agency.

''(C) ELECTION SYSTEM.—The term 'election system' means any information system that is part of an election infrastructure, including any related information and communications technology described in subparagraph (B)(ii).

''(D) ELECTION SYSTEM VENDOR.—The term 'election system vendor' means any person providing, supporting, or maintaining an election system on behalf of a State or local election official.

''(E) INFORMATION SYSTEM.—The term 'information system' has the meaning given the term in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code.

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

''(G) SECURITY VULNERABILITY.—The term 'security vulnerability' has the meaning given the term in section 102 of the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015 (6 U.S.C. 1501).''.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of such Act is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to subtitle D of title II the following:

''PART 7—INDEPENDENT SECURITY TESTING AND COORDINATED CYBERSECURITY VULNERABILITY DISCLOSURE PROGRAM FOR ELECTION SYSTEMS

''Sec. 297. Independent security testing and coordinated cybersecurity vulnerability disclosure program for election systems.''.

TITLE XI—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 1101. MODIFICATION OF REPORTING REQUIREMENT FOR ALL-DOMAIN ANOMALY RESOLUTION OFFICE.

Section 1683(k)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (50 U.S.C. 3373(k)(1)), as amended by section 6802(a) of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117–263), is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking ''DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE AND SECRETARY OF DEFENSE'' and inserting ''ALL-DOMAIN ANOMALY RESOLUTION OFFICE''; and

(2) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense shall jointly'' and inserting ''Director of the Office shall''.

SEC. 1102. FUNDING LIMITATIONS RELATING TO UNIDENTIFIED ANOMALOUS PHENOMENA.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP.—The term ''congressional leadership'' means—

(A) the majority leader of the Senate;

(B) the minority leader of the Senate;

(C) the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the minority leader of the House of Representatives.

(3) DIRECTOR.—The term ''Director'' means the Director of the All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office.

(4) UNIDENTIFIED ANOMALOUS PHENOMENA.—The term ''unidentified anomalous phenomena'' has the meaning given such term in section 1683(n) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (50 U.S.C. 3373(n)), as amended by section 6802(a) of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117–263).

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that, due to the increasing potential for technology surprise from foreign adversaries and to ensure sufficient integration across the United States industrial base and avoid technology and security stovepipes—

(1) the United States industrial base must retain its global lead in critical advanced technologies; and

(2) the Federal Government must expand awareness about any historical exotic technology antecedents previously provided by the Federal Government for research and development purposes.

(c) LIMITATIONS.—No amount authorized to be appropriated by this Act may be obligated or expended, directly or indirectly, in part or in whole, for, on, in relation to, or in support of activities involving unidentified anomalous phenomena protected under any form of special access or restricted access limitations that have not been formally, officially, explicitly, and specifically described, explained, and justified to the appropriate committees of Congress, congressional leadership, and the Director, including for any activities relating to the following:

(1) Recruiting, employing, training, equipping, and operations of, and providing security for, government or contractor personnel with a primary, secondary, or contingency mission of capturing, recovering, and securing unidentified anomalous phenomena craft or pieces and components of such craft.

(2) Analyzing such craft or pieces or components thereof, including for the purpose of determining properties, material composition, method of manufacture, origin, characteristics, usage and application, performance, operational modalities, or reverse engineering of such craft or component technology.

(3) Managing and providing security for protecting activities and information relating to unidentified anomalous phenomena from disclosure or compromise.

(4) Actions relating to reverse engineering or replicating unidentified anomalous phenomena technology or performance based on analysis of materials or sensor and observational information associated with unidentified anomalous phenomena.

(5) The development of propulsion technology, or aerospace craft that uses propulsion technology, systems, or subsystems, that is based on or derived from or inspired by inspection, analysis, or reverse engineering of recovered unidentified anomalous phenomena craft or materials.

(6) Any aerospace craft that uses propulsion technology other than chemical propellants, solar power, or electric ion thrust.

(d) NOTIFICATION AND REPORTING.—Any person currently or formerly under contract with the Federal Government that has in their possession material or information provided by or derived from the Federal Government relating to unidentified anomalous phenomena that formerly or currently is protected by any form of special access or restricted access shall—

(1) not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, notify the Director of such possession; and

(2) not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, make available to the Director for assessment, analysis, and inspection—

(A) all such material and information; and

(B) a comprehensive list of all non-earth origin or exotic unidentified anomalous phenomena material.

(e) LIABILITY.—No criminal or civil action may lie or be maintained in any Federal or State court against any person for receiving material or information described in subsection (d) if that person complies with the notification and reporting provisions described in such subsection.

(f) LIMITATION REGARDING INDEPENDENT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Consistent with Department of Defense Instruction Number 3204.01 (dated August 20, 2014, incorporating change 2, dated July 9, 2020; relating to Department policy for oversight of independent research and development), independent research and development funding relating to material or information described in subsection (c) shall not be allowable as indirect expenses for purposes of contracts covered by such instruction, unless such material and information is made available to the Director in accordance with subsection (d).

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICABILITY.—Paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date that is 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply with respect to funding from amounts appropriated before, on, or after such date.

(g) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Director has received a notification under paragraph (1) of subsection (d) or information or material under paragraph (2) of such subsection, the Director shall provide written notification of such receipt to the appropriate committees of Congress, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives, and congressional leadership.

SA 1054. Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. HEINRICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2816. LIMITATION ON USE OF AMOUNTS FOR MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS RELATING TO RELOCATING ELEMENTS OF THE AIR FORCE TO DAVIS–MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE, ARIZONA.

None of the amounts authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2024 for the Air Force may be obligated or expended for a military construction project (as described in section 2801(b) of title 10, United States Code) for the construction or modification of facilities for temporary or permanent use by Air Force Special Operation Command to relocate headquarters elements or Special Operations Wing elements from Hurlburt Field, Florida, or Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico, to Davis–Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona.

SA 1055. Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HAWLEY, Ms. SINEMA, and Mr. LEE) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 935 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. WICKER)) to the bill S. 2226, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XII, add the following:

SEC. 1240A. OFFICE OF THE LEAD INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR UKRAINE ASSISTANCE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Office of the Lead Inspector General for Ukraine Assistance to provide for the oversight of independent and objective conduct and supervision of audits and investigations relating to the programs and operations funded with amounts appropriated by the United States for Ukraine.

(b) APPOINTMENT OF LEAD INSPECTOR GENERAL; REMOVAL.—

(1) APPOINTMENT.—The head of the Office of the Lead Inspector General for Ukraine Assistance shall be known as the Lead Inspector General for Ukraine Assistance (in this section referred to as the ''Lead Inspector General''), who shall be designated by the President.

(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The appointment of the Lead Inspector General shall be made solely on the basis of integrity and demonstrated ability in conducting investigations, including experience in accounting, auditing, financial analysis, law, management analysis, public administration, or investigations.

(3) SELECTION.—The Lead Inspector General may be—

(A) a senior member of the civil service or Foreign Service;

(B) selected from among the offices of the Inspectors General; or

(C) an individual that the meets the qualifications under paragraph (2), as determined by the President.

(4) DEADLINE FOR APPOINTMENT.—The appointment of an individual as Lead Inspector General shall be made not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(5) PROHIBITION ON POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.—For purposes of section 7324 of title 5, United States Code, the Lead Inspector General shall not be considered an employee who determines policies to be pursued by the United States in the nationwide administration of Federal law.

(6) REMOVAL.—The Lead Inspector General shall be removable from office in accordance with the provisions of section 403(b) of title 5, United States Code.

(c) SUPERVISION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of carrying out this section, the Lead Inspector General shall report directly to, and be under the general supervision of, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to limit the ability of the Inspectors General to enter into agreements to conduct joint audits, inspections, or investigations in the exercise of their oversight responsibilities in accordance with this section with respect to Ukraine.

(d) DUTIES.—The duties of the Lead Inspector General are as follows:

(1) To appoint, from among the offices of the Inspectors General, an Assistant Inspector General for Ukraine Assistance, who shall supervise auditing and investigative activities and assist the Lead Inspector General in the discharge of responsibilities under this subsection.

(2) To develop and carry out, in coordination with the offices of the Inspectors General, a joint strategic plan to conduct comprehensive oversight of all amounts appropriated by the United States for Ukraine.

(3) To apply key lessons from prior oversight work, in coordination with the offices of the Inspectors General, to Ukraine response programs and operations to minimize waste, fraud, and abuse.

(4) With respect to amounts appropriated by the United States for Ukraine—

(A) to ensure, through joint or individual audits, inspections, and investigations, independent and effective oversight of—

(i) all funds appropriated for such support; and

(ii) the programs, operations, and contracts carried out using such funds; and

(B) to review and ascertain the accuracy of information provided by Federal agencies relating to—

(i) obligations and expenditures;

(ii) costs of programs and projects;

(iii) accountability of funds;

(iv) the tracking and monitoring of all lethal and nonlethal security assistance and compliance with end-use certification requirements; and

(v) the award and execution of major contracts, grants, and agreements in support of Ukraine.

(5) To employ, or authorize the employment by the Inspectors General, on a temporary basis using the authorities in section 3161 of title 5, United States Code (without regard to subsection (b)(2) of such section), such auditors, investigators, and other personnel as the Lead Inspector General considers appropriate to carrying out the duties described in this subsection.

(6) To obtain expert and consultant services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, at daily rates not to exceed the equivalent rate prescribed for grade GS–15 of the General Schedule by section 5332 of that title.

(7) To carry out such other responsibilities relating to the coordination and efficient and effective discharge by the Inspectors General of duties relating to United States military and nonmilitary support for Ukraine as the Lead Inspector General shall specify.

(8) To discharge the responsibilities under this subsection in a manner consistent with the authorities and requirements of this section and the authorities and requirements applicable to the Inspectors General under chapter 4 of title 5, United States Code, including section 404(b)(1) and section 406 of that title.

(e) DEPLOYMENT OF LEAD INSPECTOR GENERAL STAFF.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Office of the Lead Inspector General for Ukraine Assistance shall maintain a presence of at least one individual in the country of Ukraine on a permanent basis.

(2) EVACUATION PLAN.—The Lead Inspector General shall—

(A) coordinate with the appropriate chief of mission for the purpose of developing an evacuation plan; and

(B) maintain a plan to evacuate personnel should an evacuation be required.

(3) NOTICE AND JUSTIFICATION.—To any extent that the Lead Inspector General determines that the Office of the Lead Inspector General for Ukraine Assistance cannot maintain such a presence in Ukraine, the Lead Inspector General shall notify the appropriate committees of Congress in writing within 7 days of such determination, along with a justification for why the presence could not be maintained.

(f) REPORTS.—

(1) QUARTERLY REPORTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the end of each fiscal-year quarter, the Lead Inspector General shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report summarizing, with respect to that quarter and, to the extent possible, the period beginning on the date on which such quarter ends and ending on the date on which the report is submitted, the activities of the Lead Inspector General with respect to programs and operations funded with amounts appropriated by the United States for Ukraine.

(B) ELEMENTS.—Each report required by subparagraph (A) shall include, for the period covered by the report—

(i) a description of any identified waste, fraud, or abuse with respect to programs and operations funded with amounts appropriated by the United States for Ukraine;

(ii) a description of the status and results of—

(I) investigations, inspections, and audits; and

(II) referrals to the Department of Justice;

(iii) a description of the overall plans for review by the Inspectors General of such support of Ukraine, including plans for investigations, inspections, and audits; and

(iv) an evaluation of the compliance of the Government of Ukraine with all requirements for receiving United States funds, including a description of any area of concern with respect to the ability of the Government of Ukraine to achieve such compliance.

(2) FORM.—Each report required by this subsection shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex if the Lead Inspector General considers it necessary.

(3) AVAILABILITY.—

(A) PUBLIC.—The Lead Inspector General shall publish on a publicly available internet website the unclassified form of each report required by paragraph (1) in English and any other language the Lead Inspector General determines is widely used and understood in Ukraine.

(B) MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.—On request by a Member of Congress, the Lead Inspector General shall make any report required by paragraph (1), including the classified annex, as applicable, available to the Member of Congress.

(4) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to authorize the public disclosure of information that is—

(A) specifically prohibited from disclosure by any other provision of law;

(B) specifically required by Executive order to be protected from disclosure in the interest of national defense or national security or in the conduct of foreign affairs; or

(C) a part of an ongoing criminal investigation.

(g) PUBLICATION OF UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE TO UKRAINE.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President, acting through the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State, shall publish a comprehensive accounting of unclassified amounts appropriated by the United States for Ukraine on a publicly available website of the United States Government.

(h) BRIEFINGS.—On request by a committee of Congress or a Member of Congress, not later than 15 days after receiving the request, the Lead Inspector General shall provide to the committee of Congress or Member of Congress a briefing on the oversight of programs and operations funded with amounts appropriated by the United States for Ukraine.

(i) INSPECTORS GENERAL STAFFING.—Personnel assigned to Ukraine-related oversight work by the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, the Inspector General of the Department of State, the Inspector General of the United States Agency for International Development, and the Inspector General of other Federal agency shall exclusively perform Ukraine-related oversight work in accordance with the joint strategic plan under subsection (d)(2).

(j) ASSESSMENT OF OFFICE OF THE LEAD INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR UKRAINE ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Office of the Lead Inspector General for Ukraine Assistance is established, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State shall enter into a contract with an independent third-party entity, which may include a federally funded research and development corporation, to conduct an assessment of the Office of the Lead Inspector General for Ukraine Assistance.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The assessment conducted under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) An assessment of the discharge of the duties described in subsection (d), including an assessment as to whether any structural or policy adjustments would enable more effective oversight efforts.

(B) An assessment as to whether establishing a Special Inspector General would be a more effective oversight model.

(C) An assessment as to whether the Lead Inspector General would benefit from additional resources or authorities to ensure the discharge of all duties under subsection (d) and any other provision of law.

(D) Any recommendations for Congress to improve the effectiveness of the Lead Inspector General.

(3) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress, and on request, to any Member of Congress, a report on the assessment required by paragraph (1)

(B) PUBLICATION.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State shall publish the report required by subparagraph (A) on a publicly accessible internet website of the United States Government.

(k) TERMINATION.—The Office of the Lead Inspector General for Ukraine Assistance shall terminate 180 days after the date on which amounts appropriated by the United States for Ukraine are less than the amounts that were appropriated by the United States for Ukraine on February 24, 2022.

(l) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION.—There is authorized to be appropriated $10,000,000 to carry out this section.

(2) OFFSET.—The amount authorized to be appropriated for the Office of the Secretary of Defense is hereby reduced by $10,000,000.

(m) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AMOUNTS APPROPRIATED BY THE UNITED STATES FOR UKRAINE.—The term ''amounts appropriated by the United States for Ukraine'' means amounts appropriated on or after January 1, 2022, for—

(A) the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative established under section 1250 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114–92; 129 Stat. 1608);

(B) any foreign military financing accessed by the Government of Ukraine;

(C) the presidential drawdown authority under section 506(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2318(a));

(D) the defense institution building program under section 332 of title 10, United States Code;

(E) the building partner capacity program under section 333 of title 10, United States Code;

(F) the international military education and training program of the Department of State; or

(G) any amounts appropriated on or after January 1, 2022, for the military, economic, reconstruction, or humanitarian support of Ukraine under any account or for any purpose not described in this paragraph.

(2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term ''appropriate committees of Congress'' means—

(A) the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Relations, and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives.

(3) INSPECTORS GENERAL.—The term ''Inspectors General'' means the following:

(A) The Inspector General of the Department of Defense.

(B) The Inspector General of the Department of State.

(C) The Inspector General of the United States Agency for International Development.

SA 1056. Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in the funding tables, insert the following to raise the topline for implementation of the National Defense Strategy and for other purposes:

ACCOUNT	LINE	PE	SAG	FY24 AMT ($1000S)	TITLE/STUB ENTRY	UFR?
MSLS	6			$314.2	PrSM (Inc 1) production increase	
AMMO	36			$20.0	M795 155mm artillery projectile production	
RDA		0604802A		$20.0	Low-drag artillery guidance kit (XM1210 LR PGK)	
MSLS	20			$20.0	SB600 production increase	
PDW	78			$10.9	Marinized SB600	
MSLS	17			$350.0	Additional 1 Patriot fire unit	
RDDW		0603881C		$108.0	All Domain Missile Warning and Missile Tracking Architecture (THAAD).	
MSLS	10			$36.0	JAGM capacity expansion	
RDA		02065778A		$67.0	GMLRS–ER capacity expansion	
RDA		0604611A		$29.1	Javelin RDTE for F-model auto gate/fast launch	
MSLS	22			$87.6	Stinger capacity expansion—obsolescence	
PANMC	15			$350.0	Coyote production increase	
RDA		1160402BB		$27.3	Palletized Field Artillery Launcher	
RDN		0604227N		$50.0	Harpoon—seeker development obsolescence issues	
WPN	23			$20.0	Harpoon—additional test equipment for production and missile recert.	
WPN	20			$152.0	AARGM–ER production increase	
WPN	20			$34.0	AARGM–ER special test equipment	
WPN	16			$40.0	NSM production increase	
WPN	7			$180.0	SM–6 obsolescence steering & control	
WPN	7			$30.0	SM–6 obsolescence Plate 3A	
WPN	4			$20.0	Tomahawk BlkV throughput expansion	
PDW	33			$63.0	SM–3 Block IIA capacity expansion	
PDW	33			$140.0	SM–3 Block IIA obsolescence	
WPN	27			$65.0	Mk48 Mod 7 AUR and Technology Expansion Program	
WPN	27			$40.0	Mk48 Mod 7 further obsolescence fixes	
WPN	29			$121.1	Mk54 Mod 1 kit	
WPN	29			$18.6	Mk54 HAAWC kit	
WPN	31			$10.0	Indian Head explosive fill production expansion	
RDN		0604601N		$10.0	Indian Head underwater fill testing/quals completion	
RDN		0604601N		$15.0	Hammerhead capability	
RDN		9999		$60.0	Classified program	
WPN	31			$7.5	Mk68	
WPN	31			$0.4	Mk68 obsolescence	
RDN		0603782N		$10.0	ONR capability acceleration	
RDN	51	0603582N		$19.6	PAC–3 MSE/Aegis integration	
MPAF	16			$217.3	GLSDB risk mitigation of current GFE—sensor/shooter	
MPAF	8			$160.0	Joint Strike Missile production increase and test equipment	
MPAF	12			$20.0	AMRAAM AP	
WPN	6			$60.0	AIM–9X capacity expansion	
WPN	6			$130.0	AIM–9X production increase (Navy)	
MPAF	6			$130.0	AIM–9X production increase (AF)	
MPAF	9			$35.0	SDB II capacity expansion to 2100	
MPAF	9			$70.0	SDB II capacity expansion to 3000	
OPN	63			$100.0	Phoenix Ghost CP200	
WPN	22			$38.0	ABL energetics expansion (GMLRS, PrSM, PAC–3, etc)	
WPN	23			$125.0	Expansion of solid rocket motor industrial base	
RDDW		0602000D8Z		$35.0	CL–20	
MPAF	0708011F			$150.0	Defense Industrial Base (DIB) Expansion for Industrial Preparedness/Pollution Prevention AFP–44	
RDDW		0605022D8Z		$15.0	Defense exportability features	
RDAF		0604183F		$133.4	HACM acceleration	
RDN		0605518N		$25.0	Mach-TB increase	
RDDW		0603766E		$120.0	Assault Breaker II 4x LOE acceleration	
RDSF	9999			$20.0	Classified space add	
RDSF		1206310SF		$30.0	Narrowband antenna on-orbit demonstration	
RDSF		1206616SF		$70.0	Cislunar space domain awareness	
PSF	22			$108.0	One additional space launch	
RDDW		0603133D8Z		$25.0	Foreign Comparative Testing	
RDDW		0604250D8Z		$46.0	Maintain SCO level of effort	
RDDW		0601101E		$25.0	NSCAI generative AI	
RDDW		0602303E		$50.0	NSCAI generative AI	
RDDW		0601101E		$16.5	NSCAI AI for Cyber	
RDDW		0602303E		$42.9	NSCAI AI for Cyber	
RDDW		0603760E		$6.6	NSCAI AI for Cyber	
OMDW			DS1	$200.0	National Defense Stockpile Transaction Fund increase	

ACCOUNT	LINE	PE	SAG	FY24 AMT ($1000S)	TITLE/STUB ENTRY	UFR?
RDDW		0901579D8Z		$(30.0)	Transfer to pilot program—Protecting Access to Critical Assets	
RDDW		0901579D8Z		$30.0	Transfer from Office of Strategic Capital for pilot program on Protecting Access to Critical Assets.	
RDDW		0604250D8Z		$25.0	Pele microreactor	
RDA		0603119A		$2.8	Contested Logistics: Autonomous Self Perception Combat Engineer Program (ASCEP).	
RDDW		0603896C		$19.0	Ballistic Missile Defense C2BMC (MD01)	
4701		18–D–650		$73.3	Tritium Finishing Facility, SRS	
4701				$28.1	B83 Stockpile Systems	
4701				$341.8	Savannah River Pit Production	
MILCON				$695.0	FY25 UFRs (for display purposes—text below)	
MILCON				$1,691.0	FY24 MILCON UFRs (for display purposes—text below)	
OMA			132	$1,652.0	Army FSRM to 100%	
OMN			BSM1	$650.0	Navy FSRM to 100%	
OMMC			BSM1	$1,415.0	Marine Corps FSRM to 100%	
OMARNG			011R	$1,375.0	Air Force FSRM to 100%	
OMDW			4GTM	$65.0	Defense Community Infrastructure Program	
OMAF			42A	$2.0	Program increase for operational energy	
OMDW	UNDIS			$1,200.0	Fuel price increases (FY23 + Fy24)	
SCN	10			$928.0	DDG–51 prior-year CTC	
SCN	11			$300.0	Surface ship supplier base	
SCN	11			$280.0	DDG–51 AP.	
APN	62			$132.0	F–35B/C engine spares	
APN	6			$250.0	FD2030—CH–53K +1 a/c	
RDN		0603207N		$10.0	Task Force 59 long-endurance USV experimentation	
RDAF		0207138F		$35.0	F–22 open system architecture for CCA	
OPAF	9999			$200.0	Classified program	
OPAF	9999			$150.0	Classified program	
RDN		0604378N		$22.5	Stratospheric balloon research—JTRS	
OPAF	9999			$40.0	Classified program	
APN	56			$72.6	NGJ +2 additional shipsets	
OMAF			MULTIPLE	$470.3	F–22 WSS (prevent divestment)	
APAF	11			$240.0	MH–139A	
RDAF		0207110F		$50.0	Next-Gen Advanced Propulsion	
APAF	3			$618.3	F–35A test jets (6 a/c)	
RDAF		0207253F		$49.0	Compass Call RDTE sim	
RDAF		0207133F		$49.1	Advanced F–16 EW protection/attack	
APAF		26		$130.5	Advanced F–16 EW protection/attack	
OPA	71			$68.5	ENVG–B	
OMDW			1FU1	$15.0	JTF–N	
RDDW		63375D8Z		$30.0	Directed Energy Threat Research	
RDDW		33140D8Z		20.0	NSA Cyber Workforce Pilot Program	
OMARNG			153	$12.0	Army National Guard Mission Assurance Program	
RDDW		9999		$17.0	All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office	
RDN		0604558N		$7.0	Advanced Submarine Control Using Precision Maneuvering Unit	
OMDW			012D	$10.0	Southeast Asia Cyber Pilot Expansion	
OMARNG			121	$21.5	Exercise Northern Strike	
PMC	40			$26.0	Low cost unmanned aerospace vehicle (PAACK–P)	
OPA	86			$77.0	IBCS—integration acceleration for INDOPACOM	Army #1
MSLS	3			$22.7	M–SHORAD Increment 1—expand capacity of existing batteries	Army #2
OPA	60			$81.2	Trojan SPIRIT	Army #3
OMA			121	$102.5	Expanding INDOPACOM Campaigning Activities	Army #6
AMMO	36			21.5	Water intake pump upgades, Radford AAP	Army #10
RDA		0604804A		$21.2	Maneuver support vessel (heavy)	Army #11
ACFT	8			$62.1	Black Hawk (HH–60M) replacement—MEDEVAC	Army #25
RDN		0604038N		$45.3	Maritime Targeting Cell Afloat (MTC–A) Development	Navy #1
RDN		0604234N		$249.3	Fund E–2D Theater Combat ID and HECTR	Navy #2
OPN	16			$61.9	Fund ZEUS for DDG–1000 Class	Navy #3
RDN		0204202N		$124.5	Fund ZEUS for DDG–1000 Class	Navy #3
OMN			1C1C	$4.0	VIOLET	Navy #4
OPN	78			$1.2	VIOLET	Navy #4
RDN		0101402N		$20.4	VIOLET	Navy #4
OMN			BSM1	$300.0	Dry Dock Repairs at PSNS Investment Restoration and Modernization (RM)	Navy #5
OMN			BSM1	$250.0	Targeted Facilities Sustainment, Restoration and Modernization (FSRM) Investment	Navy #6
OMN			BSM1	$300.0	Targeted Facilities Sustainment, Restoration and Modernization (FSRM) Investment	Navy #6
SCN	32			$208.1	DDG–51 SEWIP Blk III (DDG 136–137)	Navy #7
SCN	3			$170.0	CVN 75 and CVN 80 SEWIP Blk III	Navy #8
SCN	7			$94.0	CVN 75 and CVN 80 SEWIP Blk III	Navy #8
APN	15			$118.8	Navy Unique Fleet Essential Airlift Logistics KC-130J (+1 A/C Reserve).	Navy #9
APN	62			$93.0	CH–53K Initial and Outfitting Spares	USMC #2
PMC	43			$21.1	Project 7/11—Modular Operations Cells	USMC #3
APN	16			$252.9	(+2) KC–130J Aircraft and Initial Spares	USMC #4
PMC	25			$5.1	Distributed Common Ground/Surface System- Marine Corps (DCGS–MC) All- Source SCI Workstations Family of Field Medical Equipment (FFME)	USMC #5
PMC	50			$11.0	Damage Control Resuscitation (DCR) and Damage Control Surgery (DCS) Equipment Sets	USMC #6
PMC	19			$160.0	(+4) AN/TPS–80 G/ATOR Radar	USMC #7

ACCOUNT	LINE	PE	SAG	FY24 AMT ($1000S)	TITLE/STUB ENTRY	UFR?
RDN		0206313M		$16.3	Satellite Communications Terminal, Network-on-the-Move (NOTM) Digital Interoperability (DI)—Marine Agile	USMC #8
RDN		0605217N		$78.5	Network Gateway Link (MANGL) Roll-Up	USMC #11
PMC	54			$21.0	Ultra-Light-Weight Camouflage Netting System (ULCANS)	USMC #12
PMC	17			$5.1	Joint All Domain Command and Control (JADC2) Testing, Evaluation and Engineering Environment.	USMC #13
APN	68			$122.4	(+4) F–35B Engine/Lift System USMC Spares	USMC #14
PMC	48			$8.0	Demolition Equipment Set, Squad Engineer/Explosive Hazard Defeat Systems	USMC #19
APN	68			$67.5	(+3) UC–12W(ER) Beechcraft King Air 350ER with Cargo Door and Initial Spares.	USMC #20
PMC	52			$10.0	Multi-Terrain Loader—Replacement	USMC #21
APAF	52			$596.2	Accelerate E–7 delivery	AF #1
RDAF		0604007F		$37.2	Accelerate E–7 delivery	AF #1
OMAF			012C	$0.7	(OI–3) Fund ISR Digital Infrastructure	AF #4
OMAF			012C	$58.6	(OI–3) Fund ISR Digital Infrastructure	AF #4
RDAF		0207431F		$1.2	(OI–3) Fund ISR Digital Infrastructure	AF #4
RDAF		0207431F		$13.8	(OI–3) Fund ISR Digital Infrastructure	AF #4
RDAF		0207431F	$6.2	(OI–3) Fund ISR Digital Infrastructure	AF #4.	
RDAF		0207431F		$5.9	(OI–3) Fund ISR Digital Infrastructure	AF #4
RDAF	66			$15.9	(OI–3) Fund ISR Digital Infrastructure	AF #4
OPAF		0305208F		$5.0	(OI–3) Fund ISR Digital Infrastructure	AF #4
RDAF				$10.6	(OI–3) Fund ISR Digital Infrastructure	AF #4
OMAF		9999	011C	$12.1	(OI–3) Fund ISR Digital Infrastructure	USSF #3
RDSF		9999		$13.0	Classified Program D	USSF #4
RDSF		9999		$105.0	Classified Program E	USSF #5
RDSF		9999		$90.0	Classified Program F	USSF #6
RDSF	56	1203040SF		$43.0	DCO–S	USSF #7
RDDW		0604181C		$298.0	Glide Phase Interceptor	MDA #3
RDDW		0603891C		22.9	Classified Program A/Novel countermeasure against hypersonic threats.	MDA #1
RDDW		0603906C		$15.0	Classified Program B	MDA #2
RDDW		0603914C		$34.7	Pacific Collector/Pacific Tracker Replacement Planning & Engineering	MDA #7
RDDW		0603914C		$315.3	Pacific Collector Replacement	MDA #8
RDDW		0603891C		$32.2	Left Through Right of Launch Integration/Antenna, software development & C2BMC integration.	MDA #4
RDDW		0603890C		$12.4	Electronic Attack/Electronic Protection	MDA #6
RDDW		0603891C		$27.3	Electronic Warfare for Missile Defense	MDA #9
OPN	126			$36.9	Somalia presistent presence	AFRICOM #1
OMA			411	$95.3	Contract ISR	AFRICOM #2
OMA			411	$2.1	Contract ISR	AFRICOM #2
OMA			411	$4.7	Contract ISR	AFRICOM #2
RDA		0603766A		$14.7	Air Vigilance O&S	CENTCOM #1
RDAF		0207247F		$15.0	AF TENCAP Crestone Database	CENTCOM #1
OMAF			015F	$16.0	GPN–CENT	CENTCOM #2
OMAF			015F	$8.0	Data analysis and AI initiative	CENTCOM #3
OMAF			015F	$34.0	MSS licenses	CENTCOM #3
OMAF			015F	$30.0	Cloud transition	CENTCOM #3
		0303055F	011Z	$81.2	European Communications Infrastructure	EUCOM #1
		0207522F	012C	$78.3	Air Based Air Defense	EUCOM #2
RDDW		0604331D8Z		$174.0	Joint Fires Network (JFN)	INDOPACOM #1
RDDW		0604102C		$147.0	Guam Defense System	INDOPACOM #2
OMAF			011C	$90.0	INDOPACOM Campaigning	INDOPACOM #5
OMMC			1A1A	$8.0	INDOPACOM Campaigning	INDOPACOM #5
OMN			1CCM	$36.0	INDOPACOM Campaigning	INDOPACOM #5
OMN			1CCM	$49.0	Joint Training Team	INDOPACOM #9
OMN			1CCM	$25.5	Joint Task Force Micronesia	INDOPACOM #10
RDDW		0604331D8Z		$10.0	Joint Experimentation and Innovation	INDOPACOM #12
OMN			1CCM	$9.0	Joint Experimentation and Innovation	INDOPACOM #12
OPN	43			$117.0	Persistent Targeting for Undersea	INDOPACOM #17
OMN			1CCM	$9.0	Joint Task Force Indo-Pacific (JTF–IP)	INDOPACOM #24
OMN			1CCM	$5.0	Headquarters Manpower Enhancements	INDOPACOM #26
OMDW			8PLI	$69.9	Joint Training, Exercise and Evaluation Program (JTEEP)	INDOPACOM #27
RDAF		0604617F		$4.5	Arctic capable prepo shelters	NORTHCOM #1
RDAF		0604617F		$5.5	Arctic capable prepo shelters	NORTHCOM #1
OMAF			015C	$5.2	Counter strategic competitors in Western Hemisphere	NORTHCOM #2
RDAF		0604617F		$1.0	Arctic campaigning	NORTHCOM #3
RDAF		0604617F		$6.0	Arctic campaigning	NORTHCOM #3

ACCOUNT	LINE	PE	SAG	FY24 AMT ($1000S)	TITLE/STUB ENTRY	UFR?
RDAF		0102417F		$55.0	OTH–R capability acceleration	NORTHCOM #4
RDAF		0102326F		$9.8	Domain awareness tech dev	NORTHCOM #5
RDAF		01002412F		$27.0	ARCHER	NORTHCOM #6
OPAF	22			$211.5	3DELLR	NORTHCOM #7
RDAF		0102326F		$4.2	HDCS	NORTHCOM #8
RDAF		0102326F		$33.2	ERSA	NORTHCOM #9
RDAF		0201130F		$13.9	Core tech investment	NORTHCOM #10
O&M, DW			1PL7	$31.1	Counter Uncrewed Aerial Systems (CUAS) Group 3 Defeat Acceleration	SOCOM
PROC, DW	75			$9.3	Counter Uncrewed Aerial Systems (CUAS) Group 3 Defeat Acceleration	SOCOM
OMMC			1A1A	$9.9	Global Prepositioning Network (GPN) Concept	SOUTHCOM #22
RDSF		9999		$143.0	SPACECOM classified program	SPACECOM #3
RDSF		9999		$127.0	SPACECOM classified program	SPACECOM #5
RDSF		9999		$68.0	SPACECOM classified program	SPACECOM #6
OMAF			015X	$20.0	Space warfighting terrain	SPACECOM #7
				$ 24,969.4		

Account	State/Country	Installation	Project Title	FY 2024 Request	Senate Change	Senate Authorized
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION						
ARMY						
Army	Alabama	Anniston Army Depot	OPEN STORAGE (P&D)	0	270	270
Army	Alabama	Redstone Arsenal	SUBSTATION	50,000	0	50,000
Army	Alaska	Fort Wainwright	COST TO COMPLETE: ENLISTED UNACCOMPANIED PERS HSG	34,000	0	34,000
Army	Alaska	Fort Wainwright	SOLDER PERFORMANCE READINESS CENTER (P&D)	0	7,900	7,900
Army	Florida	Eglin Air Force Base	BARRACKS	0	75,000	75,000
Army	Georgia	Hunter Army Airfield	AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE HANGAR (P&D)	0	9,900	9,900
Army	Georgia	Fort Eisenhower	CYBER INSTRUCTIONAL FACILITY (CLASSROOMS)	163,000	−90,000	73,000
Army	Germany	Grafenwoehr	AUTOMATED MULTIPURPOSE MACHINE GUN RANGE	10,400	0	10,400
Army	Germany	Hohenfels	SIMULATIONS CENTER	56,000	0	56,000
Army	Germany	Pulaski Barracks	CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER	0	25,000	25,000
Army	Hawaii	Aliamanu Military Reservation	WATER STORAGE TANK	20,000	0	20,000
Army	Hawaii	Fort Shafter	CLEARWELL AND BOOSTER PUMP	0	23,000	23,000
Army	Hawaii	Helemano Military Reservation	WELLS AND STORAGE TANK	0	33,000	33,000
Army	Hawaii	Schofield Barracks	ELEVATED TANK AND DISTRIBUTION LINE	0	21,000	21,000
Army	Hawaii	Schofield Barracks	WATER STORAGE TANK	0	16,000	16,000
Army	Hawaii	Wheeler Army Airfield	AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER (P&D)	0	5,400	5,400
Army	Indiana	Crane Army Ammunition Plant	EARTH COVERED MAGAZINES (P&D)	0	1,195	1,195
Army	Illinois	Rock Island Arsenal	CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER ADDITION	0	44,000	44,000
Army	Kansas	Fort Riley	AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER (P&D)	0	1,600	1,600
Army	Kansas	Fort Riley	AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE HANGER	105,000	0	105,000
Army	Kentucky	Blue Grass Army Depot	SMALL ARMS MODERNIZATION (P&D)	0	3,300	3,300
Army	Kentucky	Fort Campbell	AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER (P&D)	0	2,500	2,500
Army	Kentucky	Fort Campbell	MULTIPURPOSE TRAINING RANGE	38,000	0	38,000
Army	Kentucky	Fort Knox	MIDDLE SCHOOL ADDITION (P&D)	0	6,600	6,600
Army	Kwajalein	Kwajalein Atoll	COST TO COMPLETE: PIER	0	15,000	15,000
Army	Louisiana	Fort Johnson	BARRACKS	0	106,000	106,000
Army	Louisiana	Fort Johnson	MULTIPURPOSE ATHLETIC FIELD	0	13,400	13,400
Army	Maryland	Fort Meade	CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER	0	50,000	50,000
Army	Massachusetts	Soldier Systems Center Natick	BARRACKS ADDITION	18,500	0	18,500
Army	Michigan	Detroit Arsenal	GROUND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT BUILDING	72,000	0	72,000
Army	New Mexico	White Sands Missile Range	J–DETC DIRECTED ENERGY FACILITY (P&D)	0	5,500	5,500
Army	New York	Fort Hamilton	CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER	0	25,000	25,000
Army	New York	Watervliet Arsenal	TANK FARM (P&D)	0	160	160
Army	North Carolina	Fort Liberty	AUTOMATED RECORD FIRE RANGE	19,500	0	19,500
Army	North Carolina	Fort Liberty	BARRACKS	50,000	0	50,000
Army	North Carolina	Fort Liberty	BARRACKS (FACILITY PROTOTYPING)	85,000	0	85,000
Army	North Carolina	Fort Liberty	CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER	0	39,000	39,000
Army	Oklahoma	McAlester Army Ammunition Plant	WATER TREATMENT PLANT (P&D)	0	1,194	1,194
Army	Pennsylvania	Letterkenny Army Depot	ANECHOIC CHAMBER (P&D)	0	275	275
Army	Pennsylvania	Letterkenny Army Depot	GUIDED MISSILE MAINTENANCE BUILDING	89,000	0	89,000
Army	Pennsylvania	Tobyhanna Army Depot	HELIPAD (P&D)	0	311	311
Army	Pennsylvania	Tobyhanna Army Depot	RADAR MAINTENANCE SHOP (P&D)	0	259	259
Army	Poland	Various Locations	PLANNING & DESIGN	0	25,710	25,710
Army	South Carolina	Fort Jackson	CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER	0	41,000	41,000
Army	South Carolina	Fort Jackson	COST TO COMPLETE: RECEPTION BARRACKS COMPLEX, PHASE 2	0	66,000	66,000
Army	Texas	Fort Bliss	RAIL YARD	74,000	0	74,000
Army	Texas	Fort Cavazos	BARRACKS (P&D)	0	20,000	20,000
Army	Texas	Fort Cavazos	TACTICAL EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE FACILITIES (P&D)	0	5,800	5,800
Army	Texas	Red River Army Depot	COMPONENT REBUILD SHOP	113,000	−66,600	46,400
Army	Texas	Red River Army Depot	NON–DESTRUCTIVE TESTING FACILITY (P&D)	0	280	280
Army	Texas	Red River Army Depot	STANDBY GENERATOR (P&D)	0	270	270
Army	Virginia	Fort Belvoir	EQUINE TRAINING FACILITY (P&D)	0	4,000	4,000
Army	Virginia	Fort Belvoir	EQUINE FACILITY	0	40,000	40,000
Army	Virginia	Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall	BARRACKS	0	177,000	177,000
Army	Washington	Joint Base Lewis-McChord	BARRACKS	100,000	0	100,000
Army	Washington	Joint Base Lewis-McChord	VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SHOP (P&D)	0	7,500	7,500
Army	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide	BARRACKS REPLACEMENT FUND	0	50,000	50,000
Army	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	HOST NATION SUPPORT	26,000	0	26,000
Army	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	MINOR CONSTRUCTION	76,280	0	76,280
Army	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	PLANNING & DESIGN	270,875	0	270,875
			Subtotal Military Construction, Army	**1,470,555**	**812,724**	**2,283,279**
NAVY						
Navy	Australia	Royal Australian Air Force Base Darwin.	PDI: AIRCRAFT PARKING APRON (INC)	134,624	0	134,624
Navy	California	Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms.	COMMUNICATIONS TOWERS	42,100	0	42,100
Navy	California	Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton	FIRE/EMERGENCY RESPONSE STATION (53 AREA) REPLACEMENT	0	26,825	26,825
Navy	California	Port Hueneme	LABORATORY COMPOUND FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS	110,000	−95,000	15,000
Navy	Connecticut	Naval Submarine Base New London	SUBMARINE PIER 31 EXTENSION	112,518	−75,800	36,718
Navy	Connecticut	Naval Submarine Base New London	WEAPONS MAGAZINE & ORDNANCE OPERATIONS FAC.	219,200	−200,000	19,200
Navy	District Of Columbia	Marine Barracks Washington	BACHELOR ENLISTED QUARTERS & SUPPORT FACILITY	131,800	−115,000	16,800
Navy	District of Columbia	Naval Support Activity	ELECTROMAGNETIC & CYBER COUNTERMEASURES LAB (P&D)	0	40,000	40,000
Navy	Djibouti	Camp Lemonnier	ELECTRICAL POWER PLANT	0	20,000	20,000
Navy	Florida	Naval Air Station Whiting Field	AHTS HANGAR	0	50,000	50,000
Navy	Georgia	Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany	CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATION FACILITY	0	63,970	63,970
Navy	Guam	Andersen Air Force Base	PDI: CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER	105,220	−50,000	55,220
Navy	Guam	Andersen Air Force Base	PDI: JOINT CONSOL. COMM. CENTER (INC)	107,000	0	107,000
Navy	Guam	Joint Region Marianas	PDI: JOINT COMMUNICATION UPGRADE (INC)	292,830	−261,500	31,330

Account	State/Country	Installation	Project Title	FY 2024 Request	Senate Change	Senate Authorized
Navy	Guam	Joint Region Marianas	PDI: MISSILE INTEGRATION TEST FACILITY	174,540	−130,000	44,540
Navy	Guam	Naval Base Guam	PDI: 9TH ESB TRAINING COMPLEX	23,380	0	23,380
Navy	Guam	Naval Base Guam	PDI: ARTILLERY BATTERY FACILITIES	137,550	−70,000	67,550
Navy	Guam	Naval Base Guam	PDI: CONSOLIDATED MEB HQ/NCIS PHII	19,740	0	19,740
Navy	Guam	Naval Base Guam	PDI: RECREATION CENTER	34,740	0	34,740
Navy	Guam	Naval Base Guam	PDI: RELIGIOUS MINISTRY SERVICES FACILITY	46,350	0	46,350
Navy	Guam	Naval Base Guam	PDI: SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY (INC)	166,159	−110,000	56,159
Navy	Guam	Naval Base Guam	PDI: TRAINING CENTER	89,640	0	89,640
Navy	Hawaii	Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam	DRY DOCK 3 REPLACEMENT (INC)	1,318,711	91,000	1,409,711
Navy	Hawaii	Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam	WATERFRONT PRODUCTION FACILITY (P&D)	0	60,000	60,000
Navy	Hawaii	Marine Corps Base Kaneohe Bay	WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY COMPLIANCE UPGRADE	0	40,000	40,000
Navy	Italy	Naval Air Station Sigonella	EDI: ORDNANCE MAGAZINES	77,072	0	77,072
Navy	Maine	Portsmouth Naval Shipyard	MULTI–MISSION DRYDOCK #1 EXTENSION (INC)	544,808	0	544,808
Navy	Maryland	Fort Meade	CYBERSECURITY OPERATIONS FACILITY	186,480	−125,900	60,580
Navy	Maryland	Naval Air Station Patuxent River	AIRCRAFT DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE FACILITIES	141,700	−79,700	62,000
Navy	North Carolina	Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point.	2D LAAD MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS FACILITIES	0	50,000	50,000
Navy	North Carolina	Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point.	AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE HANGAR (INC)	19,529	0	19,529
Navy	North Carolina	Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point.	MAINTENANCE FACILITY & MARINE AIR GROUP HQS	125,150	−85,000	40,150
Navy	North Carolina	Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune	10TH MARINES MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS COMPLEX	0	20,000	20,000
Navy	North Carolina	Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune	AMPHIBIOUS COMBAT VEHICLE SHELTERS	0	31,890	31,890
Navy	North Carolina	Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune	CORROSION REPAIR FACILITY REPLACEMENT	0	20,000	20,000
Navy	Pennsylvania	Naval Surface Warfare Center Philadelphia Dam Neck Annex.	AI MACHINERY CONTROL DEVELOPMENT CENTER	0	88,200	88,200
Navy	Virginia		MARITIME SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM FACILITY	109,680	0	109,680
Navy	Virginia	Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek—Fort Story.	CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER	35,000	0	35,000
Navy	Virginia	Marine Corps Base Quantico	WATER TREATMENT PLANT	127,120	−90,000	37,120
Navy	Virginia	Naval Station Norfolk	CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER	43,600	0	43,600
Navy	Virginia	Naval Station Norfolk	MQ–25 AIRCRAFT LAYDOWN FACILITIES	114,495	−103,000	11,495
Navy	Virginia	Naval Station Norfolk	SUBMARINE PIER 3 (INC)	99,077	0	99,077
Navy	Virginia	Naval Weapons Station Yorktown	WEAPONS MAGAZINES	221,920	−175,000	46,920
Navy	Virginia	Norfolk Naval Shipyard	DRY DOCK SALTWATER SYSTEM FOR CVN–78 (INC)	81,082	0	81,082
Navy	Washington	Naval Base Kitsap	ALTERNATE POWER TRANSMISSION LINE	0	19,000	19,000
Navy	Washington	Naval Base Kitsap	ARMORED FIGHTING VEHICLE SUPPORT FACILITY	0	31,000	31,000
Navy	Washington	Naval Base Kitsap	SHIPYARD ELECTRICAL BACKBONE	195,000	−180,000	15,000
Navy	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide	BARRACKS REPLACEMENT FUND	0	75,000	75,000
Navy	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide	INDOPACOM PLANNING & DESIGN	0	69,000	69,000
Navy	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide	MCON–D (UTILITIES MILCON) (P&D)	0	85,000	85,000
Navy	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide	SIOP (P&D)	0	50,000	50,000
Navy	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide	PLANNING & DESIGN	599,942	0	599,942
Navy	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide	UNSPECIFIED MINOR CONSTRUCTION	34,430	30,000	64,430
Navy	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide	USMC PLANNING & DESIGN	0	48,741	48,741
			Subtotal Military Construction, Navy	**6,022,187**	**−936,274**	**5,085,913**
AIR FORCE						
Air Force	Alaska	Eielson Air Force Base	CONSOLIDATED MUNITIONS COMPLEX (P&D)	0	1,200	1,200
Air Force	Alaska	Eielson Air Force Base	JOINT PACIFIC ALASKA RANGE COMPLEX (JPARC) OPS FACILITY (P&D)	0	1,100	1,100
Air Force	Alaska	Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson	EXTEND RUNWAY 16/34 (INC 3)	107,500	0	107,500
Air Force	Alaska	Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson	PRECISION GUIDED MISSILE COMPLEX (P&D)	0	6,100	6,100
Air Force	Arizona	Luke Air Force Base	GILA BEND (P&D)	0	2,600	2,600
Air Force	Australia	Royal Australian Air Force Base Darwin.	PDI: SQUADRON OPERATIONS FACILITY	26,000	0	26,000
Air Force	Australia	Royal Australian Air Force Base Tindal.	PDI: AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SUPPORT FACILITY	17,500	0	17,500
Air Force	Australia	Royal Australian Air Force Base Tindal.	PDI: SQUADRON OPERATIONS FACILITY	20,000	0	20,000
Air Force	Australia	Royal Australian Air Force Base Tindal.	PDI: BOMBER APRON	93,000	0	93,000
Air Force	District of Columbia	Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling	LARGE VEHICLE INSPECTION STATION	0	50,000	50,000
Air Force	Florida	MacDill Air Force Base	KC–46A ADAL AIRCRAFT CORROSION CONTROL	25,000	0	25,000
Air Force	Florida	MacDill Air Force Base	KC–46A ADAL AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE HANGAR	27,000	0	27,000
Air Force	Florida	MacDill Air Force Base	KC–46A ADAL APRON & HYDRANT FUELING PITS	61,000	0	61,000
Air Force	Florida	MacDill Air Force Base	KC–46A ADAL FUEL SYSTEM MAINTENANCE DOCK	18,000	0	18,000
Air Force	Florida	Patrick Space Force Base	COMMERCIAL VEHICLE INSPECTION	15,000	0	15,000
Air Force	Florida	Patrick Space Force Base	COST TO COMPLETE: CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS CENTER	15,000	0	15,000
Air Force	Florida	Patrick Space Force Base	FINAL DENIAL BARRIERS, SOUTH GATE	12,000	0	12,000
Air Force	Florida	Tyndall Air Force Base	NATURAL DISASTER RECOVERY	0	252,000	252,000
Air Force	Georgia	Robins Air Force Base	BATTLE MANAGEMENT COMBINED OPERATIONS COMPLEX	115,000	0	115,000
Air Force	Guam	Joint Region Marianas	PDI: NORTH AIRCRAFT PARKING RAMP (INC)	109,000	0	109,000
Air Force	Japan	Kadena Air Base	PDI: HELO RESCUE OPS MAINTENANCE HANGAR (INC 3)	46,000	0	46,000
Air Force	Japan	Kadena Air Base	PDI: THEATER A/C CORROSION CONTROL CTR (INC)	42,000	0	42,000
Air Force	Louisiana	Barksdale Air Force Base	CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER (P&D)	0	2,000	2,000
Air Force	Louisiana	Barksdale Air Force Base	DORMITORY (P&D)	0	7,000	7,000
Air Force	Louisiana	Barksdale Air Force Base	WEAPONS GENERATION FACILITY (INC 3)	112,000	0	112,000
Air Force	Mariana Islands	Tinian	PDI: AIRFIELD DEVELOPMENT, PHASE 1 (INC 3)	26,000	0	26,000
Air Force	Mariana Islands	Tinian	PDI: FUEL TANKS W/PIPELINE & HYDRANT (INC 3)	20,000	0	20,000
Air Force	Mariana Islands	Tinian	PDI: PARKING APRON (INC 3)	32,000	0	32,000
Air Force	Massachusetts	Hanscom Air Force Base	CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER	37,000	0	37,000
Air Force	Massachusetts	Hanscom Air Force Base	MIT–LINCOLN LAB (WEST LAB CSL/MIF) (INC 4)	70,000	0	70,000
Air Force	Mississippi	Columbus Air Force Base	T–7A GROUND BASED TRAINING SYSTEM FACILITY	30,000	0	30,000
Air Force	Mississippi	Columbus Air Force Base	T–7A UNIT MAINTENANCE TRAINING FACILITY	9,500	0	9,500
Air Force	Mississippi	Keesler Air Force Base	AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER (P&D)	0	2,000	2,000
Air Force	Montana	Malmstrom Air Force Base	FIRE STATION BAY/STORAGE AREA	0	10,300	10,300
Air Force	Nebraska	Offutt Air Force Base	55 CES MAINTENANCE/WAREHOUSE (P&D)	0	4,500	4,500
Air Force	Nebraska	Offutt Air Force Base	BASE OPERATIONS/MOBILITY CENTER (P&D)	0	5,000	5,000
Air Force	Nebraska	Offutt Air Force Base	LOGISTICS READINESS SQUADRON TRANSPORTATION FACILITY (P&D)	0	3,500	3,500
Air Force	Nevada	Nellis Air Force Base	F–35 COALITION HANGAR (P&D)	0	5,500	5,500
Air Force	Nevada	Nellis Air Force Base	F–35 DATA LAB SUPPORT FACILITY (P&D)	0	700	700
Air Force	New Mexico	Cannon Air Force Base	SATELLITE FIRE STATION (P&D)	0	5,000	5,000
Air Force	New Mexico	Kirtland Air Force Base	COST TO COMPLETE: WYOMING GATE UPGRADE FOR ANTITERRORISM COMPLIANCE.	0	24,400	24,400
Air Force	Norway	Rygge Air Station	EDI: DABS–FEV STORAGE	88,000	0	88,000
Air Force	Norway	Rygge Air Station	EDI: MUNITIONS STORAGE AREA	31,000	0	31,000
Air Force	Ohio	Wright-Patterson Air Force Base	ACQUISITION MANAGEMENT COMPLEX PHASE V (P&D)	0	19,500	19,500
Air Force	Oklahoma	Tinker Air Force Base	KC–46 3–BAY DEPOT MAINTENANCE HANGAR (INC 3)	78,000	0	78,000
Air Force	Oklahoma	Vance Air Force Base	CONSOLIDATED UNDERGRADUATE PILOT TRAINING CENTER (P&D)	0	8,400	8,400
Air Force	Philippines	Cesar Basa Air Base	PDI: TRANSIENT AIRCRAFT PARKING APRON	35,000	0	35,000
Air Force	South Dakota	Ellsworth Air Force Base	B–21 FUEL SYSTEM MAINTENANCE DOCK	75,000	0	75,000
Air Force	South Dakota	Ellsworth Air Force Base	B–21 PHASE HANGAR	160,000	0	160,000
Air Force	South Dakota	Ellsworth Air Force Base	B–21 WEAPONS GENERATION FACILITY (INC)	160,000	0	160,000
Air Force	Spain	Moron Air Base	EDI: MUNITIONS STORAGE	26,000	0	26,000
Air Force	Texas	Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland	91 CYBER OPERATIONS CENTER	0	48,000	48,000
Air Force	Texas	Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland	BMT—CHAPEL FOR AMERICA'S AIRMEN	0	122,000	122,000
Air Force	Texas	Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland	BMT—CLASSROOM/DINING FACILITY 4	0	124,000	124,000
Air Force	Texas	Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland	CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER	20,000	0	20,000
Air Force	United Kingdom	Royal Air Force Fairford	COST TO COMPLETE: EDI DABS–FEV STORAGE	0	28,000	28,000
Air Force	United Kingdom	Royal Air Force Fairford	COST TO COMPLETE: EDI MUNITIONS HOLDING AREA	0	20,000	20,000
Air Force	United Kingdom	Royal Air Force Fairford	EDI: RADR STORAGE FACILITY	47,000	0	47,000
Air Force	United Kingdom	Royal Air Force Lakenheath	EDI: RADR STORAGE FACILITY	28,000	0	28,000
Air Force	United Kingdom	Royal Air Force Lakenheath	SURETY DORMITORY	50,000	0	50,000

Account	State/Country	Installation	Project Title	FY 2024 Request	Senate Change	Senate Authorized
Air Force	Utah	Hill Air Force Base	F–35 COMPOSITE REPAIR & TRAINING FACILITY, PHASE 1	0	171,000	171,000
Air Force	Utah	Hill Air Force Base	F–35 MAINTENANCE FACILITY, PHASE 1	0	235,000	235,000
Air Force	Utah	Hill Air Force Base	F–35 T–7A EAST CAMPUS INFRASTRUCTURE	82,000	0	82,000
Air Force	Virginia	Langley Air Force Base	COST TO COMPLETE—DORMITORY	0	84,000	84,000
Air Force	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide	BARRACKS REPLACEMENT FUND	0	50,000	50,000
Air Force	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	EDI: PLANNING & DESIGN	5,648	0	5,648
Air Force	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	PLANNING & DESIGN	429,266	0	429,266
Air Force	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	UNSPECIFIED MINOR MILITARY CONSTRUCTION	64,900	0	64,900
Air Force	Wyoming	F.E. Warren Air Force Base	COST TO COMPLETE: CONSOLIDATED HELO/TRF OPS/AMU AND ALERT FACILITY.	0	18,000	18,000
Air Force	Wyoming	F.E. Warren Air Force Base	GBSD INTEGRATED COMMAND CENTER (INC 2)	27,000	0	27,000
Air Force	Wyoming	F.E. Warren Air Force Base	GBSD INTEGRATED TRAINING CENTER	85,000	0	85,000
Air Force	Wyoming	F.E. Warren Air Force Base	GBSD MISSILE HANDLING COMPLEX (INC 2)	28,000	0	28,000
			Subtotal Military Construction, Air Force	**2,605,314**	**1,310,800**	**3,916,114**
DEFENSE–WIDE						
Defense-Wide	Alabama	Redstone Arsenal	GROUND TEST FACILITY INFRASTRUCTURE	147,975	–70,000	77,975
Defense-Wide	California	Marine Corps Air Station Miramar	AMBULATORY CARE CENTER—DENTAL CLINIC ADD//ALT	103,000	–82,400	20,600
Defense-Wide	California	Marine Corps Air Station Miramar	ELECTRICAL INFRASTRUCTURE, ON–SITE GENERATION, AND MICROGRID IMPROVEMENTS.	0	30,550	30,550
Defense-Wide	California	Monterey	COST TO COMPLETE: COGEN PLANT AT B236	0	5,460	5,460
Defense-Wide	California	Mountain View	INSTALL MICROGRID, 750KW PV, 750KWH BESS, & 800KW GENERATOR SYSTEM.	0	15,500	15,500
Defense-Wide	California	Naval Base Coronado	COST TO COMPLETE: ATC OPERATIONS SUPPORT FACILITY	0	11,400	11,400
Defense-Wide	California	Naval Base Coronado	SOF NAVAL SPECIAL WARFARE COMMAND OPERATIONS SUPPORT FACILITY, PHASE 2.	0	51,000	51,000
Defense-Wide	California	Naval Base San Diego	AMBULATORY CARE CENTER—DENTAL CLINIC REPLMT	101,644	–79,460	22,184
Defense-Wide	California	Naval Base San Diego	MICROGRID AND BACKUP POWER	0	6,300	6,300
Defense-Wide	California	Naval Base Ventura County	COST TO COMPLETE: GROUND MOUNTED SOLAR PV	0	16,840	16,840
Defense-Wide	California	Vandenberg Space Force Base	MICROGRID WITH BACKUP POWER	0	57,000	57,000
Defense-Wide	Colorado	Buckley Space Force Base	REDUNDANT ELECTRICAL SUPPLY	0	9,000	9,000
Defense-Wide	Colorado	Buckley Space Force Base	REPLACEMENT WATER WELL	0	5,700	5,700
Defense-Wide	Cuba	Guantanamo Bay Naval Station	AMBULATORY CARE CENTER (INC 1)	60,000	0	60,000
Defense-Wide	Delaware	Dover Air Force Base	ARMED SERVICES WHOLE BLOOD PROCESSING LABORATORY	0	30,500	30,500
Defense-Wide	Diego Garcia	Naval Support Facility Diego Garcia	MICROGRID ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION LINE UPGRADE	0	16,820	16,820
Defense-Wide	Djibouti	Camp Lemonnier	COST TO COMPLETE: ENHANCE ENERGY SECURITY AND CONTROL SYSTEMS.	0	5,200	5,200
Defense-Wide	Florida	Naval Air Station Whiting Field	POTABLE WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM	0	31,220	31,220
Defense-Wide	Georgia	Fort Benning	COST TO COMPLETE: 5.2MW MICROGRID & GENERATION PLANT	0	27,351	27,351
Defense-Wide	Georgia	Kings Bay	COST TO COMPLETE: SCADA MODERNIZATION	0	2,700	2,700
Defense-Wide	Georgia	Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay	COST TO COMPLETE: ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION IMPROVEMENTS (PHAS.	0	25,190	25,190
Defense-Wide	Georgia	Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay	ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE 2	0	49,500	49,500
Defense-Wide	Germany	Baumholder	HUMAN PERFORMANCE TRAINING CENTER	0	16,700	16,700
Defense-Wide	Germany	Baumholder	SOF COMPANY OPERATIONS FACILITY	41,000	0	41,000
Defense-Wide	Germany	Baumholder	SOF JOINT PARACHUTE RIGGING FACILITY	23,000	0	23,000
Defense-Wide	Germany	Kaiserslautern Air Base	KAISERSLAUTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL	21,275	0	21,275
Defense-Wide	Germany	Ramstein Air Base	RAMSTEIN MIDDLE SCHOOL	181,764	0	181,764
Defense-Wide	Germany	Rhine Ordnance Barracks	MEDICAL CENTER REPLACEMENT (INC 11)	77,210	0	77,210
Defense-Wide	Germany	Stuttgart	ROBINSON BARRACKS ELEM SCHOOL REPLACEMENT	8,000	0	8,000
Defense-Wide	Hawaii	Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam	COST TO COMPLETE: FY20 500 KW PV COVERED PARKING EV CHARGING STATION.	0	7,476	7,476
Defense-Wide	Hawaii	Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam	COST TO COMPLETE: PRIMARY ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION	0	13,040	13,040
Defense-Wide	Honduras	Soto Cano Air Base	FUEL FACILITIES	41,300	0	41,300
Defense-Wide	Italy	Naples	COST TO COMPLETE: SMART GRID	0	7,610	7,610
Defense-Wide	Japan	Fleet Activities Yokosuka	KINNICK HIGH SCHOOL (INC)	70,000	0	70,000
Defense-Wide	Japan	Kadena Air Base	PDI: SOF MAINTENANCE HANGAR	88,900	0	88,900
Defense-Wide	Japan	Kadena Air Base	PDI: SOF COMPOSITE MAINTENANCE FACILITY	11,400	0	11,400
Defense-Wide	Kansas	Forbes Field	MICROGRID AND BACKUP POWER	0	5,850	5,850
Defense-Wide	Kansas	Fort Riley	COST TO COMPLETE: POWER GENERATION AND MICROGRID	0	15,468	15,468
Defense-Wide	Korea	K–16 Air Base	K–16 EMERGENCY BACKUP POWER	0	5,650	5,650
Defense-Wide	Kuwait	Camp Arifjan	COST TO COMPLETE: POWER GENERATION AND MICROGRID	0	8,197	8,197
Defense-Wide	Kuwait	Camp Buehring	MICROGRID AND BACKUP POWER	0	18,850	18,850
Defense-Wide	Louisiana	Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans.	COST TO COMPLETE: DISTRIBUTION SWITCHGEAR	0	6,453	6,453
Defense-Wide	Maryland	Bethesda Naval Hospital	MEDICAL CENTER ADDITION/ALTERATION (INC 7)	101,816	0	101,816
Defense-Wide	Maryland	Fort Meade	NSAW MISSION OPS AND RECORDS CENTER (INC)	105,000	0	105,000
Defense-Wide	Maryland	Fort Meade	NSAW RECAP BUILDING 4 (INC)	315,000	0	315,000
Defense-Wide	Maryland	Fort Meade	NSAW RECAP BUILDING 5 (ECB 5) (INC)	65,000	0	65,000
Defense-Wide	Maryland	Joint Base Andrews	HYDRANT FUELING SYSTEM	38,300	0	38,300
Defense-Wide	Missouri	Lake City Army Ammunition Plant	MICROGRID AND BACKUP POWER	0	80,100	80,100
Defense-Wide	Montana	Great Falls International Airport	FUEL FACILITIES	30,000	0	30,000
Defense-Wide	Nebraska	Offutt Air Force Base	DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTABILITY AGENCY LABORATORY (P&D)	0	5,000	5,000
Defense-Wide	Nebraska	Offutt Air Force Base	MICROGRID AND BACKUP POWER	0	41,000	41,000
Defense-Wide	New Jersey	Sea Girt	UNDERGROUND ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM	0	44,000	44,000
Defense-Wide	North Carolina	Fort Liberty	COST TO COMPLETE: FORT LIBERTY EMERGENCY WATER SYSTEM	0	1,418	1,418
Defense-Wide	North Carolina	Fort Liberty (Camp Mackall)	MICROGRID AND BACKUP POWER	0	10,500	10,500
Defense-Wide	North Carolina	Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune	MARINE RAIDER BATTALION OPERATIONS FACILITY	0	70,000	70,000
Defense-Wide	Oklahoma	Fort Sill	MICROGRID AND BACKUP POWER	0	76,650	76,650
Defense-Wide	Pennsylvania	Fort Indiantown Gap	COST TO COMPLETE: GEOTHERMAL AND SOLAR PV	0	9,250	9,250
Defense-Wide	Puerto Rico	Fort Buchanan	MICROGRID AND BACKUP POWER	0	56,000	56,000
Defense-Wide	Puerto Rico	Juana Díaz	COST TO COMPLETE: MICROGRID CONTROLS, 690 KW PV, 275KW GEN, 570 KWH BESS.	0	7,680	7,680
Defense-Wide	Puerto Rico	Ramey	COST TO COMPLETE: MICROGRID CONTROL SYSTEM, 460 KW PV, 275KW GEN, 660 KWH BES.	0	6,360	6,360
Defense-Wide	Spain	Naval Station Rota	BULK TANK FARM, PHASE 1	80,000	0	80,000
Defense-Wide	Texas	Fort Cavazos	CENTRAL CHILLED WATER PLANT	0	32,000	32,000
Defense-Wide	Texas	Fort Cavazos	COST TO COMPLETE: POWER GENERATION AND MICROGRID	0	18,900	18,900
Defense-Wide	Texas	Fort Cavazos	MICROGRID AND BACKUP POWER	0	18,250	18,250
Defense-Wide	Utah	Camp Williams	MICROGRID & WIND TURBINE	0	20,100	20,100
Defense-Wide	Utah	Hill Air Force Base	OPEN STORAGE	14,200	0	14,200
Defense-Wide	Virginia	Fort Belvoir	DIA HEADQUARTERS ANNEX	185,000	–160,000	25,000
Defense-Wide	Virginia	Hampton Roads	COST TO COMPLETE: BACKUP POWER GENERATION	0	1,200	1,200
Defense-Wide	Virginia	Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek—Fort Story.	SOF SDVT2 OPERATIONS SUPPORT FACILITY	61,000	0	61,000
Defense-Wide	Virginia	Fort Belvoir (NGA Campus East)	COST TO COMPLETE: CHILLED WATER REDUNDANCY	0	550	550
Defense-Wide	Virginia	Pentagon	HVAC EFFICIENCY UPGRADES	0	2,250	2,250
Defense-Wide	Virginia	Pentagon	SEC OPS AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS FACS	30,600	0	30,600
Defense-Wide	Washington	Joint Base Lewis-McChord	POWER GENERATION AND MICROGRID	0	49,850	49,850
Defense-Wide	Washington	Joint Base Lewis-McChord	SOF CONSOLIDATED RIGGING FACILITY	62,000	0	62,000
Defense-Wide	Washington	Manchester	BULK STORAGE TANKS, PHASE 2	71,000	0	71,000
Defense-Wide	Washington	Naval Base Kitsap	MAIN SUBSTATION REPLACEMENT AND MICROGRID	0	31,520	31,520
Defense-Wide	Washington	Naval Magazine Indian Island	MICROGRID AND BACKUP POWER	0	37,770	37,770
Defense-Wide	Washington	Naval Undersea Warfare Center Keyport.	SOF COLD WATER TRAINING AUSTERE ENVIRONMENT FACILITY	0	37,000	37,000
Defense-Wide	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide	INDOPACOM UNSPECIFIED MINOR MILITARY CONSTRUCTION	0	62,000	62,000
Defense-Wide	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	ENERGY RESILIENCE AND CONSERV. INVEST. PROG.	548,000	–548,000	0
Defense-Wide	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	ERCIP PLANNING & DESIGN	86,250	0	86,250
Defense-Wide	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	EXERCISE RELATED MINOR CONSTRUCTION	11,107	0	11,107
Defense-Wide	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	PLANNING & DESIGN (DHA)	49,610	0	49,610
Defense-Wide	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	PLANNING & DESIGN (Defense-Wide)	32,579	0	32,579
Defense-Wide	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	PLANNING & DESIGN (CYBERCOM)	30,215	0	30,215
Defense-Wide	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	PLANNING & DESIGN (SOCOM)	25,130	0	25,130

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Defense-Wide	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	PLANNING & DESIGN (DLA)	24,000	0	24,000
Defense-Wide	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	PLANNING & DESIGN (DODEA)	8,568	0	8,568
Defense-Wide	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	PLANNING & DESIGN (NSA)	3,068	0	3,068
Defense-Wide	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	PLANNING & DESIGN (TJS)	2,000	0	2,000
Defense-Wide	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	PLANNING & DESIGN (MDA)	1,035	0	1,035
Defense-Wide	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	PLANNING & DESIGN (WHS)	590	0	590
Defense-Wide	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	UNSPECIFIED MINOR CONSTRUCTION (SOCOM)	19,271	0	19,271
Defense-Wide	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	UNSPECIFIED MINOR CONSTRUCTION (DEFENSE–WIDE)	3,000	0	3,000
Defense-Wide	Worldwide Unspecified	Various Worldwide Locations	UNSPECIFIED MINOR CONSTRUCTION (DLA)	4,875	0	4,875
Defense-Wide	Wyoming	F.E. Warren Air Force Base	MICROGRID AND BATTERY STORAGE	0	25,000	25,000
			Subtotal Military Construction, Defense-Wide	**2,984,682**	**307,013**	**3,291,695**
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD						
Army National Guard	Alabama	Fort McClellan	COST TO COMPLETE: ENLISTED BARRACKS, TT	0	7,000	7,000
Army National Guard	Alabama	Huntsville	COST TO COMPLETE: NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER	0	4,650	4,650
Army National Guard	Arizona	Surprise Readiness Center	NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER	15,000	0	15,000
Army National Guard	Arkansas	Fort Chaffee	COST TO COMPLETE: NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER	0	610	610
Army National Guard	California	Bakersfield	COST TO COMPLETE: VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SHOP	0	1,000	1,000
Army National Guard	California	Camp Roberts	COST TO COMPLETE: AUTOMATED MULTIPURPOSE MACHINE GUN (MPMG) RANGE.	0	5,000	5,000
Army National Guard	Colorado	Peterson Space Force Base	COST TO COMPLETE: NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER	0	3,000	3,000
Army National Guard	Connecticut	Putnam	COST TO COMPLETE: NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER	0	6,125	6,125
Army National Guard	Florida	Camp Blanding	MULTIPURPOSE MACHINE GUN RANGE	0	11,000	11,000
Army National Guard	Guam	Barrigada	COST TO COMPLETE: NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER	0	6,900	6,900
Army National Guard	Idaho	Jerome	COST TO COMPLETE: NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER	0	1,250	1,250
Army National Guard	Idaho	Jerome County Regional Site	NATIONAL GUARD VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SHOP	17,000	0	17,000
Army National Guard	Illinois	Bloomington	COST TO COMPLETE: NATIONAL GUARD VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SHOP	0	5,250	5,250
Army National Guard	Illinois	North Riverside Armory	NATIONAL GUARD VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SHOP	24,000	0	24,000
Army National Guard	Indiana	Shelbyville	COST TO COMPLETE: NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER ADD/ALT	0	5,000	5,000
Army National Guard	Kansas	Topeka	COST TO COMPLETE: NATIONAL GUARD/RESERVE CENTER BUILDING	0	5,856	5,856
Army National Guard	Kentucky	Burlington	VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SHOP	0	16,400	16,400
Army National Guard	Kentucky	Frankfort	COST TO COMPLETE: NATIONAL GUARD/RESERVE CENTER BUILDING	0	2,000	2,000
Army National Guard	Louisiana	Camp Beauregard	COLLECTIVE TRAINING UNACCOMPANIED HOUSING OPEN–BAY (P&D)	0	2,400	2,400
Army National Guard	Louisiana	Camp Beauregard	COST TO COMPLETE: NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER	0	2,000	2,000
Army National Guard	Louisiana	Camp Minden	COST TO COMPLETE: COLLECTIVE TRAINING UNACCOMPANIED HOUSING, OPEN BAY.	0	3,718	3,718
Army National Guard	Maine	Northern Maine Range Complex	AUTOMATED MULTIPURPOSE MACHINE GUN RANGE (P&D)	0	2,800	2,800
Army National Guard	Maine	Saco	COST TO COMPLETE: NATIONAL GUARD VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SHOP	0	7,420	7,420
Army National Guard	Massachusetts	Camp Edwards	COST TO COMPLETE: AUTOMATED MULTIPURPOSE MACHINE GUN (MPMG) RANGE.	0	3,000	3,000
Army National Guard	Mississippi	Camp Shelby	CAMP SHELBY JFTC RAILHEAD EXPANSION (P&D)	0	2,200	2,200
Army National Guard	Mississippi	Camp Shelby	COST TO COMPLETE: MANEUVER AREA TRAINING EQUIPMENT SITE ADDITION.	0	5,425	5,425
Army National Guard	Mississippi	Southaven	NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER	0	22,000	22,000
Army National Guard	Missouri	Belle Fontaine	NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER	28,000	0	28,000
Army National Guard	Nebraska	Bellevue	COST TO COMPLETE: NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER	0	9,090	9,090
Army National Guard	Nebraska	Greenlief Training Site	COLLECTIVE TRAINING UNACCOMPANIED HOUSING OPEN–BAY (P&D)	0	1,200	1,200
Army National Guard	Nebraska	Mead Training Site	COST TO COMPLETE: COLLECTIVE TRAINING UNACCOMPANIED HOUSING, OPEN BAY.	0	1,912	1,912
Army National Guard	Nebraska	North Platte	COST TO COMPLETE: NATIONAL GUARD VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SHOP	0	400	400
Army National Guard	New Hampshire	Concord	COST TO COMPLETE: NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER	0	200	200
Army National Guard	New Hampshire	Littleton	NATIONAL GUARD VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SHOP ADD	23,000	0	23,000
Army National Guard	New Jersey	Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst	COST TO COMPLETE: NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER	0	605	605
Army National Guard	New Mexico	Rio Rancho Training Site	NATIONAL GUARD VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SHOP ADD	11,000	0	11,000
Army National Guard	New York	Lexington Avenue Armory	NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER	0	70,000	70,000
Army National Guard	North Carolina	Salisbury	ARMY AVIATION SUPPORT FACILITIES (P&D)	0	2,200	2,200
Army National Guard	North Dakota	Camp Grafton	INSTITUTIONAL POST–INITIAL MILITARY TRAINING, UNACCOMPANIED HOUSING (P&D).	0	1,950	1,950
Army National Guard	North Dakota	Dickinson	COST TO COMPLETE: NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER	0	5,425	5,425
Army National Guard	Ohio	Camp Perry Joint Training Center	NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER	19,200	0	19,200
Army National Guard	Ohio	Columbus	COST TO COMPLETE: NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER	0	4,000	4,000
Army National Guard	Oklahoma	Ardmore	COST TO COMPLETE: VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SHOP	0	400	400
Army National Guard	Oregon	Washington County Readiness Center	NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER	26,000	0	26,000
Army National Guard	Pennsylvania	Hermitage Readiness Center	NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER	13,600	0	13,600
Army National Guard	Pennsylvania	Moon Township	COST TO COMPLETE: COMBINED SUPPORT MAINTENANCE SHOP	0	3,100	3,100
Army National Guard	Puerto Rico	Fort Allen	COST TO COMPLETE: NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER	0	3,678	3,678
Army National Guard	Rhode Island	Camp Fogarty Training Site	COLLECTIVE TRAINING UNACCOMPANIED HOUSING OPEN–BAY (P&D)	0	1,990	1,990
Army National Guard	Rhode Island	North Kingstown	NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER	0	30,000	30,000
Army National Guard	South Carolina	Aiken County Readiness Center	NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER	20,000	0	20,000
Army National Guard	South Carolina	Joint Base Charleston	COST TO COMPLETE: NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER	0	4,373	4,373
Army National Guard	South Carolina	McCrady Training Center	AUTOMATED MULTIPURPOSE MACHINE GUN RANGE	7,900	0	7,900
Army National Guard	South Dakota	Sioux Falls	COST TO COMPLETE: NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER	0	5,250	5,250
Army National Guard	Tennessee	Campbell Army Air Field	ARMY AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWERS (P&D)	0	2,500	2,500
Army National Guard	Tennessee	McMinnville	COST TO COMPLETE: NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER	0	500	500
Army National Guard	Texas	Fort Cavazos	GENERAL INSTRUCTION BUILDING (P&D)	0	2,685	2,685
Army National Guard	Texas	Fort Worth	COST TO COMPLETE: AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE HANGAR ADD/ALT	0	6,489	6,489
Army National Guard	Texas	Fort Worth	COST TO COMPLETE: NATIONAL GUARD VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SHOP	0	381	381
Army National Guard	Utah	Camp Williams	COLLECTIVE TRAINING UNACCOMPANIED HOUSING, SENIOR NCO AND OFFICER (P&D).	0	2,875	2,875
Army National Guard	Vermont	Bennington	COST TO COMPLETE: NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER	0	3,415	3,415
Army National Guard	Virgin Islands	St. Croix	COST TO COMPLETE: ARMY AVIATION SUPPORT FACILITY	0	4,200	4,200
Army National Guard	Virgin Islands	St. Croix	COST TO COMPLETE: READY BUILDING	0	1,710	1,710
Army National Guard	Virginia	Sandston RC & FMS 1	AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE HANGAR	20,000	0	20,000
Army National Guard	Virginia	Troutville	COST TO COMPLETE: COMBINED SUPPORT MAINTENANCE SHOP ADDITION	0	2,415	2,415
Army National Guard	Virginia	Troutville	COST TO COMPLETE: NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER ADDITION	0	2,135	2,135
Army National Guard	West Virginia	Parkersburg	NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER (P&D)	0	3,300	3,300
Army National Guard	Wisconsin	Viroqua	NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER	18,200	0	18,200
Army National Guard	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	PLANNING & DESIGN	34,286	0	34,286
Army National Guard	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	UNSPECIFIED MINOR CONSTRUCTION	63,000	0	63,000
			Subtotal Military Construction, Army National Guard	**340,186**	**310,382**	**650,568**
ARMY RESERVE						
Army Reserve	Alabama	Birmingham	ARMY RESERVE CENTER/AMSA/LAND	57,000	0	57,000
Army Reserve	Arizona	San Tan Valley	AREA MAINTENANCE SUPPORT ACTIVITY	12,000	0	12,000
Army Reserve	California	Camp Pendleton	COST TO COMPLETE: AREA MAINTENANCE SUPPORT ACTIVITY	0	3,000	3,000
Army Reserve	California	Fort Hunter Liggett	NETWORK ENTERPRISE CENTER	0	40,000	40,000
Army Reserve	California	Parks Reserve Forces Training Area	ADVANCED SKILLS TRAINING BARRACKS	0	35,000	35,000
Army Reserve	Georgia	Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany	ARMY RESERVE CENTER	0	40,000	40,000
Army Reserve	Florida	Perrine	COST TO COMPLETE: ARMY RESERVE CENTER	0	3,000	3,000
Army Reserve	Massachusetts	Devens Reserve Forces Training Area	COLLECTIVE TRAINING ENLISTED BARRACKS	0	39,000	39,000
Army Reserve	North Carolina	Asheville	COST TO COMPLETE: ARMY RESERVE CENTER	0	12,000	12,000
Army Reserve	Ohio	Wright-Patterson Air Force Base	COST TO COMPLETE: ARMY RESERVE CENTER	0	5,000	5,000
Army Reserve	Puerto Rico	Fort Buchanan	ADVANCED SKILLS TRAINING BARRACKS	0	39,000	39,000
Army Reserve	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	PLANNING & DESIGN	23,389	0	23,389
Army Reserve	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	UNSPECIFIED MINOR CONSTRUCTION	14,687	0	14,687
			Subtotal Military Construction, Army Reserve	**107,076**	**216,000**	**323,076**
NAVY RESERVE & MARINE CORPS RESERVE						
Navy Reserve & Marine Corps Reserve.	Michigan	Battle Creek	ORGANIC SUPPLY FACILITIES	24,549	0	24,549
Navy Reserve & Marine Corps Reserve.	Virginia	Marine Forces Reserve Dam Neck Virginia Beach.	G/ATOR SUPPORT FACILITIES	12,400	0	12,400
Navy Reserve & Marine Corps Reserve.	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	MCNR PLANNING & DESIGN	6,495	0	6,495

Account	State/Country	Installation	Project Title	FY 2024 Request	Senate Change	Senate Authorized
Navy Reserve & Marine Corps Reserve.	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	MCNR UNSPECIFIED MINOR CONSTRUCTION	7,847	0	7,847
			Subtotal Military Construction, Navy Reserve & Marine Corps Reserve	**51,291**	**0**	**51,291**
AIR NATIONAL GUARD						
Air National Guard	Alabama	Montgomery Regional Airport	F–35 ADAL SQ OPS BLDG 1303	7,000	0	7,000
Air National Guard	Alaska	Eielson Air Force Base	AMC STANDARD DUAL BAY HANGAR (P&D)	0	3,700	3,700
Air National Guard	Alaska	Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson	ADAL ALERT CREW FACILITY HGR 18	0	7,000	7,000
Air National Guard	Arizona	Tucson International Airport	MCCA: AIRCRAFT ARRESTING SYSTEM (NEW RWY)	11,600	0	11,600
Air National Guard	Arkansas	Ebbing Air National Guard Base	3–BAY HANGAR	0	54,000	54,000
Air National Guard	Arkansas	Ebbing Air National Guard Base	AIRCREW FLIGHT EQUIPMENT/STEP	0	9,300	9,300
Air National Guard	Arkansas	Ebbing Air National Guard Base	SPECIAL ACCESS PROGRAM FACILITY	0	12,700	12,700
Air National Guard	Colorado	Buckley Space Force Base	AIRCRAFT CORROSION CONTROL	12,000	0	12,000
Air National Guard	Georgia	Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport.	DINING HALL AND SERVICES TRAINING FACILITY	0	27,000	27,000
Air National Guard	Indiana	Fort Wayne International Airport	FIRE STATION	8,900	0	8,900
Air National Guard	Mississippi	Field Air National Guard Base	COST TO COMPLETE: 172ND AIRLIFT WING FIRE/CRASH RESCUE STATION	0	8,000	8,000
Air National Guard	Missouri	Rosecrans Air National Guard Base	139TH AIRLIFT WING ENTRY CONTROL POINT (P&D)	0	2,000	2,000
Air National Guard	Missouri	Rosecrans Air National Guard Base	ENTRY CONTROL POINT (P&D)	0	2,000	2,000
Air National Guard	Oregon	Portland International Airport	SPECIAL TACTICS COMPLEX, PHASE 1	22,000	0	22,000
Air National Guard	Oregon	Portland International Airport	SPECIAL TACTICS COMPLEX, PHASE 2	18,500	0	18,500
Air National Guard	Oregon	Portland International Airport	SPECIAL TACTICS COMPLEX, PHASE 3	0	20,000	20,000
Air National Guard	Oregon	Portland International Airport	SPECIAL TACTICS COMPLEX, PHASE 4	0	11,000	11,000
Air National Guard	Pennsylvania	Harrisburg International Airport	ENTRY CONTROL FACILITY	0	8,000	8,000
Air National Guard	Wisconsin	Truax Field	F–35: MM&I FAC, B701	0	5,200	5,200
Air National Guard	Wisconsin	Volk Air National Guard Base	FIRE/CRASH RESCUE STATION (P&D)	0	670	670
Air National Guard	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	PLANNING & DESIGN	35,600	0	35,600
Air National Guard	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	UNSPECIFIED MINOR CONSTRUCTION	63,122	0	63,122
			Subtotal Military Construction, Air National Guard	**178,722**	**170,570**	**349,292**
AIR FORCE RESERVE						
Air Force Reserve	Arizona	Davis-Monthan Air Force Base	GUARDIAN ANGEL POTFF FACILITY	0	8,500	8,500
Air Force Reserve	California	March Air Reserve Base	KC–46 ADD/ALTER B1244 FUT/CARGO PALLET STORAGE	17,000	0	17,000
Air Force Reserve	California	March Air Reserve Base	KC–46 ADD/ALTER B6000 SIMULATOR FACILITY	8,500	0	8,500
Air Force Reserve	California	March Air Reserve Base	KC–46 TWO BAY MAINTENANCE/FUEL HANGAR	201,000	0	201,000
Air Force Reserve	Guam	Joint Region Marianas	AERIAL PORT FACILITY	27,000	0	27,000
Air Force Reserve	Louisiana	Barksdale Air Force Base	307 BW MEDICAL FACILITY ADDITION	0	7,000	7,000
Air Force Reserve	Ohio	Youngstown Air Reserve Station	BASE FIRE STATION (P&D)	0	2,500	2,500
Air Force Reserve	Texas	Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth.	LRS WAREHOUSE	16,000	0	16,000
Air Force Reserve	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	PLANNING & DESIGN	12,146	0	12,146
Air Force Reserve	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	UNSPECIFIED MINOR MILITARY CONSTRUCTION	9,926	0	9,926
			Subtotal Military Construction, Air Force Reserve	**291,572**	**18,000**	**309,572**
NATO SECURITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM						
NATO	Worldwide Unspecified	NATO Security Investment Program	NATO SECURITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM	293,434	0	293,434
			Subtotal NATO Security Investment Program	**293,434**	**0**	**293,434**
INDOPACIFIC COMBATANT COMMAND						
MILCON, INDOPACOM	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	INDOPACOM MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PILOT PROGRAM	0	150,000	150,000
			Subtotal Base Realignment and Closure—Defense-Wide	**0**	**150,000**	**150,000**
			TOTAL INDOPACIFIC COMBATANT COMMAND	**0**	**150,000**	**150,000**
			TOTAL MILITARY CONSTRUCTION	**14,345,019**	**2,359,215**	**16,704,234**
FAMILY HOUSING						
FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, ARMY						
Fam Hsg Con, Army	Georgia	Fort Eisenhower	FORT EISENHOWER MHPI EQUITY INVESTMENT	50,000	0	50,000
Fam Hsg Con, Army	Germany	Baumholder	FAMILY HOUSING NEW CONSTRUCTION	78,746	0	78,746
Fam Hsg Con, Army	Kwajalein	Kwajalein Atoll	FAMILY HOUSING REPLACEMENT CONSTRUCTION	98,600	0	98,600
Fam Hsg Con, Army	Missouri	Fort Leonard Wood	FORT LEONARD WOOD MHPI EQUITY INVESTMENT	50,000	0	50,000
Fam Hsg Con, Army	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	FAMILY HOUSING P&D	27,549	0	27,549
			Subtotal Family Housing Construction, Army	**304,895**	**0**	**304,895**
FAMILY HOUSING O&M, ARMY						
Fam Hsg O&M, Army	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	FURNISHINGS	12,121	0	12,121
Fam Hsg O&M, Army	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	HOUSING PRIVATIZATION SUPPORT	86,019	0	86,019
Fam Hsg O&M, Army	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	LEASING	112,976	0	112,976
Fam Hsg O&M, Army	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	MAINTENANCE	86,706	0	86,706
Fam Hsg O&M, Army	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	MANAGEMENT	41,121	0	41,121
Fam Hsg O&M, Army	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	MISCELLANEOUS	554	0	554
Fam Hsg O&M, Army	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	SERVICES	7,037	0	7,037
Fam Hsg O&M, Army	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	UTILITIES	38,951	0	38,951
			Subtotal Family Housing Operation And Maintenance, Army	**385,485**	**0**	**385,485**
FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, NAVY & MARINE CORPS						
Fam Hsg Con, Navy & Marine Corps.	Guam	Joint Region Marianas	REPLACE ANDERSEN HOUSING, PHASE 8	121,906	0	121,906
Fam Hsg Con, Navy & Marine Corps.	Guam	Naval Support Activity Andersen	REPLACE ANDERSEN HOUSING (AF), PHASE 7	83,126	0	83,126
Fam Hsg Con, Navy & Marine Corps.	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	DESIGN, WASHINGTON DC	4,782	0	4,782
Fam Hsg Con, Navy & Marine Corps.	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	IMPROVEMENTS, WASHINGTON DC	57,740	0	57,740
Fam Hsg Con, Navy & Marine Corps.	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	USMC DPRI/GUAM PLANNING & DESIGN	9,588	0	9,588
			Subtotal Family Housing Construction, Navy & Marine Corps	**277,142**	**0**	**277,142**
FAMILY HOUSING O&M, NAVY & MARINE CORPS						
Fam Hsg O&M, Navy & Marine Corps.	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	FURNISHINGS	17,744	0	17,744
Fam Hsg O&M, Navy & Marine Corps.	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	HOUSING PRIVATIZATION SUPPORT	65,655	0	65,655
Fam Hsg O&M, Navy & Marine Corps.	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	LEASING	60,214	0	60,214
Fam Hsg O&M, Navy & Marine Corps.	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	MAINTENANCE	101,356	0	101,356
Fam Hsg O&M, Navy & Marine Corps.	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	MANAGEMENT	61,896	0	61,896
Fam Hsg O&M, Navy & Marine Corps.	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	MISCELLANEOUS	419	0	419
Fam Hsg O&M, Navy & Marine Corps.	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	SERVICES	13,250	0	13,250
Fam Hsg O&M, Navy & Marine Corps.	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	UTILITIES	43,320	0	43,320
			Subtotal Family Housing Operation & Maintenance, Navy & Marine Corps.	**363,854**	**0**	**363,854**
FAMILY HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, AIR FORCE						
Fam Hsg Con, Air Force	Alabama	Maxwell Air Force Base	MHPI RESTRUCTURE–AETC GROUP II	65,000	0	65,000

Account	State/Country	Installation	Project Title	FY 2024 Request	Senate Change	Senate Authorized
Fam Hsg Con, Air Force	Colorado	U.S. Air Force Academy	CONSTRUCTION IMPROVEMENT—CARLTON HOUSE	9,282	0	9,282
Fam Hsg Con, Air Force	Hawaii	Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam	MHPI RESTRUCTURE–JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR–HICKAM	75,000	0	75,000
Fam Hsg Con, Air Force	Mississippi	Keesler Air Force Base	MHPI RESTRUCTURE–SOUTHERN GROUP	80,000	0	80,000
Fam Hsg Con, Air Force	Japan	Yokota Air Base	IMPROVE FAMILY HOUSING PAIP 9, PHASE 1 (24 UNITS)	0	27,000	27,000
Fam Hsg Con, Air Force	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	PLANNING & DESIGN	7,815	0	7,815
			Subtotal Family Housing Construction, Air Force	**237,097**	**27,000**	**264,097**
FAMILY HOUSING O&M, AIR FORCE						
Fam Hsg O&M, Air Force	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	FURNISHINGS	12,884	11,000	23,884
Fam Hsg O&M, Air Force	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	HOUSING PRIVATIZATION SUPPORT	31,803	0	31,803
Fam Hsg O&M, Air Force	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	LEASING	5,143	0	5,143
Fam Hsg O&M, Air Force	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	MAINTENANCE	135,410	–11,000	124,410
Fam Hsg O&M, Air Force	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	MANAGEMENT	68,023	0	68,023
Fam Hsg O&M, Air Force	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	MISCELLANEOUS	2,377	0	2,377
Fam Hsg O&M, Air Force	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	SERVICES	10,692	0	10,692
Fam Hsg O&M, Air Force	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	UTILITIES	48,054	0	48,054
			Subtotal Family Housing Operation And Maintenance, Air Force	**314,386**	**0**	**314,386**
FAMILY HOUSING O&M, DEFENSE–WIDE						
Fam Hsg O&M, Defense-Wide	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	FURNISHINGS (DIA)	673	0	673
Fam Hsg O&M, Defense-Wide	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	FURNISHINGS (NSA)	89	0	89
Fam Hsg O&M, Defense-Wide	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	LEASING (DIA)	32,042	0	32,042
Fam Hsg O&M, Defense-Wide	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	LEASING (NSA)	13,658	0	13,658
Fam Hsg O&M, Defense-Wide	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	MAINTENANCE	35	0	35
Fam Hsg O&M, Defense-Wide	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	UTILITIES (DIA)	4,273	0	4,273
Fam Hsg O&M, Defense-Wide	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	UTILITIES (NSA)	15	0	15
			Subtotal Family Housing Operation And Maintenance, Defense-Wide	**50,785**	**0**	**50,785**
FAMILY HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND						
Family Housing Improvement Fund	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES—FHIF	6,611	0	6,611
			Subtotal Family Housing Improvement Fund	**6,611**	**0**	**6,611**
UNACCOMPANIED HOUSING IMPROVEMENT FUND						
Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund.	Worldwide Unspecified Unspecified Worldwide Locations.	ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES—UHIF	496	0	496	
			Subtotal Unaccompanied Housing Improvement Fund	**496**	**0**	**496**
			TOTAL FAMILY HOUSING	**1,940,751**	**27,000**	**1,967,751**
DEFENSE BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE						
BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE, ARMY						
BRAC, Army	Worldwide Unspecified Unspecified Worldwide Locations.	BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE	150,640	0	150,640	
			Subtotal Base Realignment and Closure—Army	**150,640**	**0**	**150,640**
BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE, NAVY						
BRAC, Navy	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE	108,818	0	108,818
			Subtotal Base Realignment and Closure—Navy	**108,818**	**0**	**108,818**
BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE, AIR FORCE						
BRAC, Air Force	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE	123,990	0	
			Subtotal Base Realignment and Closure—Air Force	**123,990**	**0**	**123,990**
BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE, DEFENSE–WIDE						
BRAC, Defense-Wide	Worldwide Unspecified	Unspecified Worldwide Locations	INT–4: DLA ACTIVITIES	5,726	0	5,726
			Subtotal Base Realignment and Closure—Defense-Wide	**5,726**	**0**	**5,726**
			TOTAL DEFENSE BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE	**389,174**	**0**	**389,174**
			TOTAL MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, FAMILY HOUSING, AND BRAC	**16,674,944**	2,386,215	19,061,159

TITLE XXI—ARMY MILITARY CONSTRUCTION

SEC. 2101. AUTHORIZED ARMY CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS.

(a) INSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2103(a) and available for military construction projects inside the United States as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of the Army may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the installations or locations inside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Army: Inside the United States

State	Installation or Location	Amount
Alabama	Redstone Arsenal	$50,000,000
Florida	Eglin Air Force Base	$75,000,000
Georgia	Fort Eisenhower	$163,000,000
Hawaii	Aliamanu Military Reservation	$20,000,000
	Fort Shafter	$23,000,000
	Helemano Military Reservation	$33,000,000
	Schofield Barracks	$37,000,000
Illinois	Rock Island Arsenal	$44,000,000
Kansas	Fort Riley	$105,000,000
Kentucky	Fort Campbell	$38,000,000
Louisiana	Fort Johnson	$119,400,000
Maryland	Fort Meade	$50,000,000
Massachusetts	Soldier Systems Center Natick	$18,500,000
Michigan	Detroit Arsenal	$72,000,000
New York	Fort Hamilton	$25,000,000
North Carolina	Fort Liberty	$193,500,000
Pennsylvania	Letterkenny Army Depot	$89,000,000

Army: Inside the United States—Continued

State	Installation or Location	Amount
South Carolina	Fort Jackson	$41,000,000
Texas	Fort Bliss	$74,000,000
	Red River Army Depot	$113,000,000
Virginia	Fort Belvoir	$40,000,000
	Joint Base Myer – Henderson Hall	$177,000,000
Washington	Joint Base Lewis – McChord	$100,000,000

(b) OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2103(a) and available for military construction projects outside the United States as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of the Army may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the installations or locations outside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Army: Outside the United States

Country	Installation or Location	Amount
Germany	Grafenwoehr	$10,400,000
	Hohenfels	$56,000,000
	Pulaski Barracks	$25,000,000

(c) PROTOTYPE PROJECT.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2103(a) and available for military construction projects as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of the Army may carry out a military construction project for the installation, and in the amount, set forth in the following table as a prototype project under the pilot program under section 4022(i) of title 10, United States Code, notwithstanding subchapters I and III of chapter 169 and chapters 221 and 223 of title 10, United States Code:

Army Prototype Project

State	Installation	Amount
North Carolina	Fort Liberty	$85,000,000

SEC. 2102. FAMILY HOUSING.

(a) CONSTRUCTION AND ACQUISITION.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2103(a) and available for military family housing functions as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of the Army may construct or acquire family housing units (including land acquisition and supporting facilities) at the installations or locations, in the number of units, and in the amounts set forth in the following table:

Army: Family Housing

Country	Installation or Location	Units	Amount
Germany	Baumholder	Family Housing New Construction	$78,746,000
Kwajalein	Kwajalein Atoll	Family Housing Replacement Construction	$98,600,000

(b) IMPROVEMENTS TO MILITARY FAMILY HOUSING UNITS.—Subject to section 2825 of title 10, United States Code, and using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2103(a) and available for military family housing functions as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of the Army may improve existing military family housing units in an amount not to exceed $100,000,000.

(c) PLANNING AND DESIGN.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2103(a) and available for military family housing functions as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of the Army may carry out architectural and engineering services and construction design activities with respect to the construction or improvement of family housing units in an amount not to exceed $27,549,000.

SEC. 2103. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS, ARMY.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years beginning after September 30, 2023, for military construction, land acquisition, and military family housing functions of the Department of the Army as specified in the funding table in section 4601.

(b) LIMITATION ON TOTAL COST OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.—Notwithstanding the cost variations authorized by section 2853 of title 10, United States Code, and any other cost variation authorized by law, the total cost of all projects carried out under section 2101 of this Act may not exceed the total amount authorized to be appropriated under subsection (a), as specified in the funding table in section 4601.

SEC. 2104. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO USE CASH PAYMENTS IN SPECIAL ACCOUNT FROM LAND CONVEYANCE, NATICK SOLDIER SYSTEMS CENTER, MASSACHUSETTS.

Section 2844(c)(2)(C) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (division B of Public Law 115–91; 131 Stat. 1865) is amended by striking ''October 1, 2025'' and inserting ''October 1, 2027''.

SEC. 2105. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT FISCAL YEAR 2018 PROJECT AT KUNSAN AIR BASE, KOREA.

(a) EXTENSION.—Notwithstanding section 2002 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (division B of Public Law 115–91; 131 Stat. 1817), the authorization set forth in the table in subsection (b), as provided in section 2101(b) of that Act (131 Stat. 1819) and extended and modified by subsections (a) and (b) of section 2106 of the Military Construction Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (division B of Public Law 117–263), shall remain in effect until October 1, 2024, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2025, whichever is later.

(b) TABLE.—The table referred to in subsection (a) is as follows:

Army: Extension of 2018 Project Authorization

Country	Installation or Location	Project	Original Authorized Amount
Korea	Kunsan Air Base	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Hangar	$53,000,000

SEC. 2106. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2019 PROJECTS.

(a) ARMY CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION.—

(1) EXTENSION.—Notwithstanding section 2002 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (division B of Public Law 115–232; 132 Stat. 2240), the authorizations set forth in the table in paragraph (2), as provided in section 2101 of that Act (132 Stat. 2241), shall remain in effect until October 1, 2024, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2025, whichever is later.

(2) TABLE.—The table referred to in paragraph (1) is as follows:

Army: Extension of 2019 Project Authorizations

State/Country	Installation or Location	Project	Original Authorized Amount
Korea	Camp Tango	Command and Control Facility	$17,500,000
Maryland	Fort Meade	Cantonment Area Roads	$16,500,000

(b) OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS.—

(1) EXTENSION.—Notwithstanding section 2002 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (division B of Public Law 115–232; 132 Stat. 2240), the authorizations set forth in the table in paragraph (2), as provided in section 2901 of that Act (132 Stat. 2286), shall remain in effect until October 1, 2024, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2025, whichever is later.

(2) TABLE.—The table referred to in paragraph (1) is as follows:

Army: Extension of 2019 Project Authorizations

Country	Installation or Location	Project	Original Authorized Amount
Bulgaria	Nevo Selo FOS	EDI: Ammunition Holding Area	$5,200,000
Romania	Mihail Kogalniceanu FOS	EDI: Explosives & Ammo Load/Unload Apron.	$21,651,000

SEC. 2107. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2021 PROJECTS.

(a) ARMY CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION.—

(1) EXTENSION.—Notwithstanding section 2002 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (division B of Public Law 116–283; 134 Stat. 4294), the authorizations set forth in the table in paragraph (2), as provided in section 2101(a) of that Act (134 Stat. 4295), shall remain in effect until October 1, 2024, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2025, whichever is later.

(2) TABLE.—The table referred to in paragraph (1) is as follows:

Army: Extension of 2021 Project Authorizations

State	Installation or Location	Project	Original Authorized Amount
Arizona	Yuma Proving Ground	Ready Building	$14,000,000
Georgia	Fort Gillem	Forensic Lab	$71,000,000
Louisiana	Fort Johnson	Information Systems Facility	$25,000,000

(b) CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER, GEORGIA.—

(1) EXTENSION.—Notwithstanding section 2002 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (division B of Public Law 116–283; 134 Stat. 4294), the authorization under section 2865 of that Act (10 U.S.C. 2802 note) for the project described in paragraph (2) in Fort Eisenhower, Georgia, shall remain in effect until October 1, 2024, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2025, whichever is later.

(2) PROJECT DESCRIBED.—The project described in this paragraph is the following:

Army: Extension of 2021 Project Authorization

State	Installation or Location	Project	Original Authorized Amount
Georgia	Fort Eisenhower	Child Development Center	$21,000,000

TITLE XXII—NAVY MILITARY CONSTRUCTION

SEC. 2201. AUTHORIZED NAVY CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS.

(a) INSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2203(a) and available for military construction projects inside the United States as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of the Navy may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the installations or locations inside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Navy: Inside the United States

State	Installation or Location	Amount
California	Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms	$42,100,000
	Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton	$26,825,000
	Port Hueneme	$110,000,000
Connecticut	Naval Submarine Base New London	$331,718,000
District of Columbia	Marine Barracks Washington	$131,800,000
Florida	Naval Air Station Whiting Field	$141,500,000
Georgia	Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany	$63,970,000
Guam	Andersen Air Force Base	$497,620,000
	Joint Region Marianas	$174,540,000
	Naval Base Guam	$946,500,000
Hawaii	Marine Corps Base Kaneohe Bay	$227,350,000
Maryland	Fort Meade	$186,480,000
	Naval Air Station Patuxent River	$141,700,000
North Carolina	Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point	$270,150,000
	Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune	$215,670,000
Pennsylvania	Naval Surface Warfare Center Philadelphia	$88,200,000
Virginia	Dam Neck Annex	$109,680,000
	Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek – Fort Story	$35,000,000
	Marine Corps Base Quantico	$127,120,000
	Naval Station Norfolk	$158,095,000
	Naval Weapons Station Yorktown	$221,920,000
Washington	Naval Base Kitsap	$245,000,000

(b) OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2203(a) and available for military construction projects outside the United States as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of the Navy may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the installations or locations outside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Navy: Outside the United States

Country	Installation or Location	Amount
Djibouti	Camp Lemonnier	$106,600,000
Italy	Naval Air Station Sigonella	$77,072,000

(c) PROTOTYPE PROJECT.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2203(a) and available for military construction projects as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of the Navy may carry out a military construction project for the installation, and in the amount, set forth in the following table as a prototype project under the pilot program under section 4022(i) of title 10, United States Code, notwithstanding subchapters I and III of chapter 169 and chapters 221 and 223 of title 10, United States Code:

Navy Prototype Project

State	Installation	Amount
Virginia	Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek – Fort Story	$35,000,000

SEC. 2202. FAMILY HOUSING.

(a) CONSTRUCTION AND ACQUISITION.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2203(a) and available for military family housing functions as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of the Navy may construct or acquire family housing units (including land acquisition and supporting facilities) at the installations or locations, in the number of units, and in the amounts set forth in the following table:

Navy: Family Housing

Country	Installation or Location	Units	Amount
Guam	Joint Region Marianas	Replace Andersen Housing Ph 8	$121,906,000
	Mariana Islands	Replace Andersen Housing (AF) PH7	$83,126,000

(b) IMPROVEMENTS TO MILITARY FAMILY HOUSING UNITS.—Subject to section 2825 of title 10, United States Code, and using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2203(a) and available for military family housing functions as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of the Navy may improve existing military family housing units in an amount not to exceed $57,740,000.

(c) PLANNING AND DESIGN.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2203(a) and available for military family housing functions as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of the Navy may carry out architectural and engineering services and construction design activities with respect to the construction or improvement of family housing units in an amount not to exceed $14,370,000.

SEC. 2203. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS, NAVY.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years beginning after September 30, 2023, for military construction, land acquisition, and military family housing functions of the Department of the Navy, as specified in the funding table in section 4601.

(b) LIMITATION ON TOTAL COST OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.—Notwithstanding the cost variations authorized by section 2853 of title 10, United States Code, and any other cost variation authorized by law, the total cost of all projects carried out under section 2201 of this Act may not exceed the total amount authorized to be appropriated under subsection (a), as specified in the funding table in section 4601.

SEC. 2204. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2019 PROJECTS.

(a) NAVY CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS.—

(1) EXTENSION.—Notwithstanding section 2002 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (division B of Public Law 115–232; 132 Stat. 2240), the authorizations set forth in the table in paragraph (2), as provided in section 2201 of that Act (132 Stat. 2243), shall remain in effect

until October 1, 2024, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2025, whichever is later.

(2) TABLE.—The table referred to in paragraph (1) is as follows:

Navy: Extension of 2019 Project Authorizations

State/Country	Installation or Location	Project	Original Authorized Amount
Bahrain	SW Asia	Fleet Maintenance Facility & TOC	$26,340,000
North Carolina	Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune.	2nd Radio BN Complex, Phase 2	$51,300,000
South Carolina	Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort.	Recycling/Hazardous Waste Facility	$9,517,000
Washington	Bangor	Pier and Maintenance Facility	$88,960,000

(b) LAUREL BAY FIRE STATION, SOUTH CAROLINA.—

(1) EXTENSION.—Notwithstanding section 2002 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (division B of Public Law 115–232; 132 Stat. 2240), the authorization under section 2810 of that Act (132 Stat. 2266) for the project described in paragraph (2) shall remain in effect until October 1, 2024, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2025, whichever is later.

(2) PROJECT DESCRIBED.—The project described in this paragraph is the following::

Navy: Extension of 2019 Project Authorization

State	Installation or Location	Project	Original Authorized Amount
South Carolina	Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort.	Laurel Bay Fire Station	$10,750,000

(c) OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS.—

(1) EXTENSION.—Notwithstanding section 2002 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (division B of Public Law 115–232; 132 Stat. 2240), the authorization set forth in the table in paragraph (2), as provided in section 2902 of that Act (132 Stat. 2286), shall remain in effect until October 1, 2024, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2025, whichever is later.

(2) TABLE.—The table referred to in paragraph (1) is as follows:

Navy: Extension of 2019 Project Authorizations

Country	Installation or Location	Project	Original Authorized Amount
Greece	Naval Support Activity Souda Bay.	EDI: Joint Mobility Processing Center	$41,650,000

SEC. 2205. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2021 PROJECTS.

(a) EXTENSION.—Notwithstanding section 2002 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (division B of Public Law 116–283; 134 Stat. 4294), the authorizations set forth in the table in subsection (b), as provided in section 2201 of that Act (134 Stat. 4297), shall remain in effect until October 1, 2024, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2025, whichever is later.

(b) TABLE.—The table referred to in subsection (a) is as follows:

Navy: Extension of 2021 Project Authorizations

State/Country	Installation or Location	Project	Original Authorized Amount
California	Twentynine Palms	Wastewater Treatment Plant	$76,500,000
Guam	Joint Region Marianas	Joint Communication Upgrade	$166,000,000
Maine	NCTAMS LANT Detachment Cutler.	Perimeter Security	$26,100,000
Nevada	Fallon	Range Training Complex, Phase I	$29,040,000

TITLE XXIII—AIR FORCE MILITARY CONSTRUCTION

SEC. 2301. AUTHORIZED AIR FORCE CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS.

(a) INSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2303(a) and available for military construction projects inside the United States as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of the Air Force may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the installations or locations inside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Air Force: Inside the United States

State	Installation or Location	Amount
District of Columbia	Joint Base Anacostia – Bolling	$50,000,000
Florida	MacDill Air Force Base	$131,000,000
	Patrick Space Force Base	$27,000,000
	Tyndall Air Force Base	$252,000,000
Georgia	Robins Air Force Base	$115,000,000
Guam	Joint Region Marianas	$411,000,000
Massachusetts	Hanscom Air Force Base	$37,000,000
Mississippi	Columbus Air Force Base	$39,500,000
Montana	Malmstrom Air Force Base	$10,300,000
South Dakota	Ellsworth Air Force Base	$235,000,000

Air Force: Inside the United States—Continued

State	Installation or Location	Amount
Texas	Joint Base San Antonio – Lackland	$314,000,000
Utah	Hill Air Force Base	$488,000,000
Wyoming	F.E. Warren Air Force Base	$85,000,000

(b) OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2303(a) and available for military construction projects outside the United States as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of the Air Force may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the installations or locations outside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Air Force: Outside the United States

Country	Installation or Location	Amount
Australia	Royal Australian Air Force Base Darwin	$26,000,000
	Royal Australian Air Force Base Tindal	$130,500,000
Norway	Rygge Air Station	$119,000,000
Philippines	Cesar Basa Air Base	$35,000,000
Spain	Morón Air Base	$26,000,000
United Kingdom	Royal Air Force Fairford	$47,000,000
	Royal Air Force Lakenheath	$78,000,000

(c) PROTOTYPE PROJECT.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2303(a) and available for military construction projects as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of the Air Force may carry out a military construction project for the installation, and in the amount, set forth in the following table as a prototype project under the pilot program under section 4022(i) of title 10, United States Code, notwithstanding subchapters I and III of chapter 169 and chapters 221 and 223 of title 10, United States Code:

Air Force Prototype Project

State	Installation	Amount
Massachusetts	Hanscom Air Force Base	$37,000,000

SEC. 2302. FAMILY HOUSING.

(a) IMPROVEMENTS TO MILITARY FAMILY HOUSING UNITS.—Subject to section 2825 of title 10, United States Code, and using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2303(a) and available for military family housing functions as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of the Air Force may improve existing military family housing units in an amount not to exceed $249,928,200.

(b) PLANNING AND DESIGN.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2303(a) and available for military family housing functions as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of the Air Force may carry out architectural and engineering services and construction design activities with respect to the construction or improvement of family housing units in an amount not to exceed $7,815,000.

(c) CONSTRUCTION AND ACQUISITION.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2303(a) and available for military family housing functions as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of the Air Force may construct or acquire family housing units (including land acquisition and supporting facilities) at the installation and in the amount set forth in the following table:

Air Force: Family Housing

Country	Installation	Amount
Japan	Yokota Air Base	$27,000,000

SEC. 2303. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS, AIR FORCE.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years beginning after September 30, 2023, for military construction, land acquisition, and military family housing functions of the Department of the Air Force, as specified in the funding table in section 4601.

(b) LIMITATION ON TOTAL COST OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.—Notwithstanding the cost variations authorized by section 2853 of title 10, United States Code, and any other cost variation authorized by law, the total cost of all projects carried out under section 2301 of this Act may not exceed the total amount authorized to be appropriated under subsection (a), as specified in the funding table in section 4601.

SEC. 2304. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2017 PROJECTS.

(a) AIR FORCE CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS.—

(1) EXTENSION.—Notwithstanding section 2002 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (division B of Public Law 114–328; 130 Stat. 2688), the authorizations set forth in the table in paragraph (2), as provided in section 2301(b) of that Act (130 Stat. 2697) and extended by section 2304 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (division B of Public Law 117–181; 135 Stat. 2169), shall remain in effect until October 1, 2024, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2025, whichever is later.

(2) TABLE.—The table referred to in paragraph (1) is as follows:

Air Force: Extension of 2017 Project Authorizations

Country	Installation or Location	Project	Original Authorized Amount
Germany	Ramstein Air Base	37 AS Squadron Operations/Aircraft Maintenance Unit	$13,437,000
	Spangdahlem Air Base	Upgrade Hardened Aircraft Shelters for F/A–22	$2,700,000
Japan	Yokota Air Force Base	C–130J Corrosion Control Hangar	$23,777,000

(b) OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS.—

(1) EXTENSION.—Notwithstanding section 2002 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (division B of Public Law 114–328; 130 Stat. 2688), the authorization set forth in the table in paragraph (2), as provided in section 2902 of that Act (130 Stat. 2743) and extended by section 2304 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (division B of Public Law 117–181; 135 Stat. 2169), shall remain in effect until October 1, 2024, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2025, whichever is later.

(2) TABLE.—The table referred to in paragraph (1) is as follows:

Air Force: Extension of 2017 Project Authorizations

Country	Installation or Location	Project	Original Authorized Amount
Germany	Spangdahlem Air Base	F/A–22 Low Observable/Composite Repair Facility	$12,000,000

SEC. 2305. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2018 PROJECTS.

(a) AIR FORCE CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS.—

(1) EXTENSION.—Notwithstanding section 2002 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (division B of Public Law 115–91; 131 Stat. 1817), the authorization set forth in the table in paragraph (2), as provided in section 2301(a) of that Act (131 Stat. 1825) and extended by section 2304(a) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (division B of Public Law 117–263), shall remain in effect until October 1, 2024, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2025, whichever is later.

(2) TABLE.—The table referred to in paragraph (1) is as follows:

Air Force: Extension of 2018 Project Authorizations

State	Installation or Location	Project	Original Authorized Amount
Florida	Tyndall Air Force Base	Fire Station	$17,000,000

(b) OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS.—

(1) EXTENSION.—Notwithstanding section 2002 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (division B of Public Law 115–91; 131 Stat. 1817), the authorizations set forth in the table in paragraph (2), as provided in section 2903 of that Act (131 Stat. 1876) and extended by section 2304(b) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (division B of Public Law 117–263), shall remain in effect until October 1, 2024, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2025, whichever is later.

(2) TABLE.—The table referred to in paragraph (1) is as follows:

Air Force: Extension of 2018 Project Authorizations

Country	Installation or Location	Project	Original Authorized Amount
Hungary	Kecskemet Air Base	ERI: Airfield Upgrades	$12,900,000
	Kecskemet Air Base	ERI: Construct Parallel Taxiway	$30,000,000
	Kecskemet Air Base	ERI: Increase POL Storage Capacity	$12,500,000
Luxembourg	Sanem	ERI: ECAOS Deployable Airbase System Storage.	$67,400,000
Slovakia	Malacky	ERI: Airfield Upgrades	$4,000,000
	Malacky	ERI: Increase POL Storage Capacity	$20,000,000

SEC. 2306. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2019 PROJECTS.

(a) AIR FORCE CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS.—

(1) EXTENSION.—Notwithstanding section 2002 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (division B of Public Law 115–232; 132 Stat. 2240), the authorizations set forth in the table in paragraph (2), as provided in section 2301 of that Act (132 Stat. 2246), shall remain in effect until October 1, 2024, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2025, whichever is later.

(2) TABLE.—The table referred to in paragraph (1) is as follows:

Air Force: Extension of 2019 Project Authorizations

State/Country	Installation or Location	Project	Original Authorized Amount
Mariana Islands	Tinian	APR–Cargo Pad with Taxiway Extension.	$46,000,000
	Tinian	APR–Maintenance Support Facility	$4,700,000
Maryland	Joint Base Andrews	Child Development Center	$13,000,000
	Joint Base Andrews	PAR Relocate Haz Cargo Pad and EOD Range.	$37,000,000
New Mexico	Holloman Air Force Base	MQ–9 FTU Ops Facility	$85,000,000
	Kirtland Air Force Base	Wyoming Gate Upgrade for Anti-Terrorism Compliance	$7,000,000
United Kingdom	Royal Air Force Lakenheath	F–35 ADAL Conventional Munitions MX	$9,204,000
Utah	Hill Air Force Base	Composite Aircraft Antenna Calibration Fac.	$26,000,000

(b) OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS.—

(1) EXTENSION.—Notwithstanding section 2002 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (division B of Public Law 115–232; 132 Stat. 2240), the authorizations set forth in the table in paragraph (2), as provided in section 2903 of that Act (132 Stat. 2287), shall remain in effect

until October 1, 2024, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2025, whichever is later.

(2) TABLE.—The table referred to in paragraph (1) is as follows:

Air Force: Extension of 2019 Project Authorizations

Country	Installation or Location	Project	Original Authorized Amount
Slovakia	Malacky	EDI: Regional Munitions Storage Area	$59,000,000
United Kingdom	RAF Fairford	EDI: Construct DABS–FEV Storage	$87,000,000
	RAF Fairford	EDI: Munitions Holding Area	$19,000,000

SEC. 2307. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2021 PROJECTS.

(a) AIR FORCE CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT.—

(1) EXTENSION.—Notwithstanding section 2002 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (division B of Public Law 116–283; 134 Stat. 4294), the authorization set forth in the table in paragraph (2), as provided in section 2301 of that Act (134 Stat. 4299), shall remain in effect until October 1, 2024, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2025, whichever is later.

(2) TABLE.—The table referred to in paragraph (1) is as follows:

Air Force: Extension of 2021 Project Authorization

State	Installation or Location	Project	Original Authorized Amount
Virginia	Joint Base Langley – Eustis	Access Control Point Main Gate with Lang Acq.	$19,500,00

(b) OVERSEAS CONTINGENCY OPERATIONS.—

(1) EXTENSION.—Notwithstanding section 2002 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (division B of Public Law 116–283; 134 Stat. 4294), the authorizations set forth in the table in paragraph (2), as provided in section 2902 of that Act (134 Stat. 4373), shall remain in effect until October 1, 2024, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2025, whichever is later.

(2) TABLE.—The table referred to in paragraph (1) is as follows:

Air Force: Extension of 2021 Project Authorizations

Country	Installation or Location	Project	Original Authorized Amount
Germany	Ramstein	EDI: Rapid Airfield Damage Repair Storage	$36,345,000
	Spangdahlem Air Base	EDI: Rapid Airfield Damage Repair Storage	$25,824,000

TITLE XXIV—DEFENSE AGENCIES MILITARY CONSTRUCTION

SEC. 2401. AUTHORIZED DEFENSE AGENCIES CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS.

(a) INSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2403(a) and available for military construction projects inside the United States as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of Defense may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the installations or locations inside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Defense Agencies: Inside the United States

State	Installation or Location	Amount
Alabama	Redstone Arsenal	$147,975,000
California	Marine Corps Air Station Miramar	$103,000,000
	Naval Base Coronado	$51,000,000
	Naval Base San Diego	$101,644,000
Delaware	Dover Air Force Base	$30,500,000
Maryland	Fort Meade	$885,000,000
	Joint Base Andrews	$38,300,000
Montana	Great Falls International Airport	$30,000,000
North Carolina	Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune	$70,000,000
Utah	Hill Air Force Base	$14,200,000
Virginia	Fort Belvoir	$185,000,000
	Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek – Fort Story	$61,000,000
	Pentagon	$30,600,000
Washington	Joint Base Lewis – McChord	$62,000,000
	Manchester	$71,000,000
	Naval Undersea Warfare Center Keyport	$37,000,000

(b) OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2403(a) and available for military construction projects outside the United States as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of Defense may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the installations or locations outside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Defense Agencies: Outside the United States

Country	Installation or Location	Amount
Cuba	Guantanamo Bay Naval Station	$257,000,000
Germany	Baumholder	$57,700,000
	Ramstein Air Base	$181,764,000
Honduras	Soto Cano Air Base	$41,300,000
Japan	Kadena Air Base	$100,300,000
Spain	Naval Station Rota	$80,000,000

SEC. 2402. AUTHORIZED ENERGY RESILIENCE AND CONSERVATION INVESTMENT PROGRAM PROJECTS.

(a) INSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2403(a) and available for energy conservation projects as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of Defense may carry out energy conservation projects under chapter 173 of title 10, United States Code, for the installations or locations inside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

ERCIP Projects: Inside the United States

State	Installation or Location	Amount
California	Marine Corps Air Station Miramar	$30,550,000
	Mountain View	$15,500,000
	Naval Base San Diego	$6,300,000
	Vandenberg Space Force Base	$57,000,000
Colorado	Buckley Space Force Base	$14,700,000
Florida	Naval Air Station Whiting Field	$31,220,000
Georgia	Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay	$49,500,000
Kansas	Forbes Field	$5,850,000
Missouri	Lake City Army Ammunition Plant	$80,100,000
Nebraska	Offutt Air Force Base	$41,000,000
New Jersey	Sea Girt	$44,000,000
North Carolina	Fort Liberty (Camp Mackall)	$10,500,000
Oklahoma	Fort Sill	$76,650,000
Puerto Rico	Fort Buchanan	$56,000,000
Texas	Fort Cavazos	$50,250,000
Utah	Camp Williams	$20,100,000
Virginia	Pentagon	$2,250,000
Washington	Joint Base Lewis – McChord	$49,850,000
	Naval Base Kitsap	$31,520,000
	Naval Magazine Indian Island	$37,770,000
Wyoming	F.E. Warren Air Force Base	$25,000,000

(b) OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2403(a) and available for energy conservation projects as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of Defense may carry out energy conservation projects under chapter 173 of title 10, United States Code, for the installations or locations outside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

ERCIP Projects: Outside the United States

Country	Installation or Location	Amount
Diego Garcia	Naval Support Facility Diego Garcia	$16,820,000
Korea	K–16 Air Base	$5,650,000
Kuwait	Camp Buehring	$18,850,000

(c) IMPROVEMENT OF CONVEYED UTILITY SYSTEMS.—In the case of a utility system that is conveyed under section 2688 of title 10, United States Code, and that only provides utility services to a military installation, notwithstanding subchapters I and III of chapter 169 and chapters 221 and 223 of title 10, United States Code, the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of a military department may authorize a contract with the conveyee of the utility system to carry out the military construction projects set forth in the following table:

Improvement of Conveyed Utility Systems

State	Installation or Location	Project
Nebraska	Offutt Air Force Base	Microgrid and Backup Power
North Carolina	Fort Liberty (Camp Mackall)	Microgrid and Backup Power
Texas	Fort Cavazos	Microgrid and Backup Power
Washington	Joint Base Lewis – McChord	Power Generation and Microgrid

SEC. 2403. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS, DEFENSE AGENCIES.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years beginning after September 30, 2023, for military construction, land acquisition, and military family housing functions of the Department of Defense (other than the military departments), as specified in the funding table in section 4601.

(b) LIMITATION ON TOTAL COST OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.—Notwithstanding the cost variations authorized by section 2853 of title 10, United States Code, and any other cost variation authorized by law, the total cost of all projects carried out under section 2401 of this Act may not exceed the total amount authorized to be appropriated under subsection (a), as specified in the funding table in section 4601.

SEC. 2404. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2018 PROJECTS.

(a) EXTENSION.—Notwithstanding section 2002 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (division B of Public Law 115–91; 131 Stat. 1817), the authorizations set forth in the table in subsection (b), as provided in section 2401(b) of that Act (131 Stat. 1829) and extended by section 2404 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (division B of Public Law 117–263), shall remain in effect until October 1, 2024, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2025, whichever is later.

(b) TABLE.—The table referred to in subsection (a) is as follows:

Defense Agencies: Extension of 2018 Project Authorizations

Country	Installation or Location	Project	Original Authorized Amount
Japan	Iwakuni	Construct Bulk Storage Tanks PH 1	$30,800,000
Puerto Rico	Punta Borinquen	Ramey Unit School Replacement	$61,071,000

SEC. 2405. EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2019 PROJECTS.

(a) EXTENSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 2002 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (division B of Public Law 115–232; 132 Stat. 2240), the authorizations set forth in the table in paragraph (2), as provided in section 2401(b) of that Act (132 Stat. 2249), shall remain in effect until October 1, 2024, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2025, whichever is later.

(2) TABLE.—The table referred to in paragraph (1) is as follows:

Defense Agencies: Extension of 2019 Project Authorizations

Country	Installation or Location	Project	Original Authorized Amount
Germany	Baumholder	SOF Joint Parachute Rigging Facility	$11,504,000
Japan	Camp McTureous	Betchel Elementary School	$94,851,000
	Iwakuni	Fuel Pier	$33,200,000

(b) MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT FISCAL YEAR 2019 PROJECT IN BAUMHOLDER, GERMANY.—

(1) MODIFICATION OF PROJECT AUTHORITY.—In the case of the authorization contained in the table in section 2401(b) of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (division B of Public Law 115–232; 132 Stat. 2249) for Baumholder, Germany, for construction of a SOF Joint Parachute Rigging Facility, the Secretary of Defense may construct a 3,200 square meter facility.

(2) MODIFICATION OF PROJECT AMOUNTS.—

(A) DIVISION B TABLE.—The authorization table in section 2401(b) of the Military Construction Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (division B of Public Law 115–232; 132 Stat. 2249), as extended pursuant to subsection (a), is amended in the item relating to Baumholder, Germany, by striking ''$11,504,000'' and inserting ''$23,000,000'' to reflect the project modification made by paragraph (1).

(B) DIVISION D TABLE.—The funding table in section 4601 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115–232; 132 Stat. 2406) is amended in the item relating to Defense-wide, Baumholder, Germany, SOF Joint Parachute Rigging Facility, by striking ''$11,504'' in the Conference Authorized column and inserting ''$23,000'' to reflect the project modification made by paragraph (1).

SEC. 2406. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2021 PROJECTS.

(a) DEFENSE AGENCIES CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT.—

(1) EXTENSION.—Notwithstanding section 2002 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (division B of Public Law 116–283; 134 Stat. 4294), the authorization set forth in the table in paragraph (2), as provided in section 2401(b) of that Act (134 Stat. 4305), shall remain in effect until October 1, 2024, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2025, whichever is later.

(2) TABLE.—The table referred to in paragraph (1) is as follows:

Defense Agencies: Extension of 2021 Project Authorization

Country	Installation or Location	Project	Original Authorized Amount
Japan	Def Fuel Support Point Tsurumi	Fuel Wharf	$49,500,000

(b) ENERGY RESILIENCE AND CONSERVATION INVESTMENT PROGRAM PROJECTS.—

(1) EXTENSION.—Notwithstanding section 2002 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (division B of Public Law 116–283; 134 Stat. 4294), the authorizations set forth in the table in paragraph (2), as provided in section 2402 of that Act (134 Stat. 4306), shall remain in effect until October 1, 2024, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2025, whichever is later.

(2) TABLE.—The table referred to in subsection (a) is as follows:

ERCIP Projects: Extension of 2021 Project Authorizations

State/Country	Installation or Location	Project	Original Authorized Amount
Arkansas	Ebbing Air National Guard Base	PV Arrays and Battery Storage	$2,600,000
California	Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms	Install 10 Mw Battery Energy Storage for Various Buildings	$11,646,000

ERCIP Projects: Extension of 2021 Project Authorizations—Continued

State/Country	Installation or Location	Project	Original Authorized Amount
	Military Ocean Terminal Concord	Military Ocean Terminal Concord Microgrid	$29,000,000
	Naval Support Activity Monterey	Cogeneration Plant at B236	$10,540,000
Italy	Naval Support Activity Naples	Smart Grid	$3,490,000
Nevada	Creech Air Force Base	Central Standby Generators	$32,000,000
Virginia	Naval Medical Center Portsmouth	Retro Air Handling Units From Constant Volume; Reheat to Variable Air Volume	$611,000

SEC. 2407. ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2022 PROJECTS.

In the case of a utility system that is conveyed under section 2688 of title 10, United States Code, and that only provides utility services to a military installation, notwithstanding subchapters I and III of chapter 169 and chapters 221 and 223 of title 10, United States Code, the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of a military department may authorize a contract with the conveyee of the utility system to carry out the military construction projects set forth in the following table:

Improvement of Conveyed Utility Systems

State	Installation or Location	Project
Alabama	Fort Novosel	Construct a 10 MW RICE Generator Plant and Micro-Grid Controls
Georgia	Fort Moore	Construct 4.8MW Generation and Microgrid
	Fort Stewart	Construct a 10 MW Generation Plant, with Microgrid Controls
New York	Fort Drum	Well Field Expansion Project
North Carolina	Fort Liberty	Construct 10 MW Microgrid Utilizing Existing and New Generators
	Fort Liberty	Fort Liberty Emergency Water System

SEC. 2408. ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2023 PROJECTS.

In the case of a utility system that is conveyed under section 2688 of title 10, United States Code, and that only provides utility services to a military installation, notwithstanding subchapters I and III of chapter 169 and chapters 221 and 223 of title 10, United States Code, the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of a military department may authorize a contract with the conveyee of the utility system to carry out the military construction projects set forth in the following table:

Improvement of Conveyed Utility Systems

State	Installation or Location	Project
Georgia	Fort Stewart – Hunter Army Airfield	Power Generation and Microgrid
Kansas	Fort Riley	Power Generation and Microgrid
Texas	Fort Cavazos	Power Generation and Microgrid

TITLE XXVI—GUARD AND RESERVE FORCES FACILITIES

SEC. 2601. AUTHORIZED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS.

Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2606 and available for the National Guard and Reserve as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of the Army may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the Army National Guard locations inside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Army National Guard

State	Location	Amount
Arizona	Surprise Readiness Center	$15,000,000
Florida	Camp Blanding	$11,000,000
Idaho	Jerome County Regional Site	$17,000,000
Illinois	North Riverside Armory	$24,000,000
Kentucky	Burlington	$16,400,000
Mississippi	Southaven	$22,000,000
Missouri	Belle Fontaine	$28,000,000
New Hampshire	Littleton	$23,000,000
New Mexico	Rio Rancho Training Site	$11,000,000
New York	Lexington Avenue Armory	$90,000,000
Ohio	Camp Perry Joint Training Center	$19,200,000
Oregon	Washington County Readiness Center	$26,000,000
Pennsylvania	Hermitage Readiness Center	$13,600,000
Rhode Island	North Kingstown	$30,000,000
South Carolina	Aiken County Readiness Center	$20,000,000
	McCrady Training Center	$7,900,000
Virginia	Sandston RC & FMS 1	$20,000,000
Wisconsin	Viroqua	$18,200,000

SEC. 2602. AUTHORIZED ARMY RESERVE CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS.

Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2606 and available for the National Guard and Reserve as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of the Army may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the Army Reserve locations inside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Army Reserve

State	Location	Amount
Alabama	Birmingham	$57,000,000
Arizona	San Tan Valley	$12,000,000
California	Fort Hunter Liggett	$40,000,000
	Parks Reserve Forces Training Area	$35,000,000
Georgia	Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany	$40,000,000
Massachusetts	Devens Reserve Forces Training Area	$39,000,000
Puerto Rico	Fort Buchanan	$39,000,000

SEC. 2603. AUTHORIZED NAVY RESERVE AND MARINE CORPS RESERVE CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS.

Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2606 and available for the National Guard and Reserve as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of the Navy may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the Navy Reserve and Marine Corps Reserve locations inside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Navy Reserve and Marine Corps Reserve

State	Location	Amount
Michigan	Battle Creek	$24,549,000
Virginia	Marine Forces Reserve Dam Neck Virginia Beach	$12,400,000

SEC. 2604. AUTHORIZED AIR NATIONAL GUARD CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS.

Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2606 and available for the National Guard and Reserve as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of the Air Force may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the Air National Guard locations inside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Air National Guard

State	Location	Amount
Alabama	Montgomery Regional Airport	$7,000,000
Alaska	Joint Base Elmendorf – Richardson	$7,000,000
Arizona	Tucson International Airport	$11,600,000
Arkansas	Ebbing Air National Guard Base	$76,000,000
Colorado	Buckley Space Force Base	$12,000,000
Georgia	Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport	$27,000,000
Indiana	Fort Wayne International Airport	$8,900,000
Oregon	Portland International Airport	$71,500,000
Pennsylvania	Harrisburg International Airport	$8,000,000
Wisconsin	Truax Field	$5,200,000

SEC. 2605. AUTHORIZED AIR FORCE RESERVE CONSTRUCTION AND LAND ACQUISITION PROJECTS.

Using amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2606 and available for the National Guard and Reserve as specified in the funding table in section 4601, the Secretary of the Air Force may acquire real property and carry out military construction projects for the Air Force Reserve locations inside the United States, and in the amounts, set forth in the following table:

Air Force Reserve

State	Location	Amount
Arizona	Davis – Monthan Air Force Base	$8,500,000
California	March Air Reserve Base	$226,500,000
Guam	Joint Region Marianas	$27,000,000
Louisiana	Barksdale Air Force Base	$7,000,000
Texas	Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth	$16,000,000

SEC. 2606. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS, NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVE.

Funds are hereby authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years beginning after September 30, 2023, for the costs of acquisition, architectural and engineering services, and construction of facilities for the Guard and Reserve Forces, and for contributions therefor, under chapter 1803 of title 10, United States Code (including the cost of acquisition of land for those facilities), as specified in the funding table in section 4601.

SEC. 2607. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT FISCAL YEAR 2018 PROJECT AT HULMAN REGIONAL AIRPORT, INDIANA.

(a) EXTENSION.—Notwithstanding section 2002 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (division B of Public Law 115–91; 131 Stat. 1817), the authorization set forth in the table in subsection (b), as provided in section 2604 of that Act (131 Stat. 1836) and extended by section 2608 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (division B of Public Law 117–263), shall remain in effect until October 1, 2024, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2025, whichever is later.

(b) TABLE.—The table referred to in subsection (a) is as follows:

National Guard and Reserve: Extension of 2018 Project Authorization

State	Installation or Location	Project	Original Authorized Amount
Indiana	Hulman Regional Airport	Construct Small Arms Range	$8,000,000

SEC. 2608. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT FISCAL YEAR 2019 PROJECT AT FRANCIS S. GABRESKI AIRPORT, NEW YORK.

(a) EXTENSION.—Notwithstanding section 2002 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (division B of Public Law 115–232; 132 Stat. 2240), the authorization set forth in the table in subsection (b), as provided in section 2604 of that Act (132 Stat. 2255), shall remain in effect until October 1, 2024, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2025, whichever is later.

(b) TABLE.—The table referred to in subsection (a) is as follows:

National Guard and Reserve: Extension of 2019 Project Authorization

State	Installation or Location	Project	Original Authorized Amount
New York	Francis S. Gabreski Airport	Security Forces/Comm. Training Facility	$20,000,000

SEC. 2609. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT CERTAIN FISCAL YEAR 2021 PROJECTS.

(a) EXTENSION.—Notwithstanding section 2002 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (division B of Public Law 116–283; 134 Stat. 4294), the authorizations set forth in the table in subsection (b), as provided in sections 2601, 2602, and 2604 of that Act (134 Stat. 4312, 4313, 4314), shall remain in effect until October 1, 2024, or the date of the enactment of an Act authorizing funds for military construction for fiscal year 2025, whichever is later.

(b) TABLE.—The table referred to in subsection (a) is as follows:

National Guard and Reserve: Extension of 2021 Project Authorizations

State/Country	Installation or Location	Project	Original Authorized Amount
Arkansas	Fort Chaffee	National Guard Readiness Center	$15,000,000
California	Bakersfield	National Guard Vehicle Maintenance Shop	$9,300,000
Colorado	Peterson Space Force Base	National Guard Readiness Center	$15,000,000
Guam	Joint Region Marianas	Space Control Facility #5	$20,000,000
Ohio	Columbus	National Guard Readiness Center	$15,000,000
Massachusetts	Devens Reserve Forces Training Area	Automated Multipurpose Machine Gun Range	$8,700,000
North Carolina	Asheville	Army Reserve Center/Land	$24,000,000
Puerto Rico	Fort Allen	National Guard Readiness Center	$37,000,000
South Carolina	Joint Base Charleston	National Guard Readiness Center	$15,000,000
Texas	Fort Worth	Aircraft Maintenance Hangar Addition/Alt.	$6,000,000
	Joint Base San Antonio	F–16 Mission Training Center	$10,800,000
Virgin Islands	St. Croix	Army Aviation Support Facility (AASF)	$28,000,000
		CST Ready Building	$11,400,000

SEC. 2610. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT FISCAL YEAR 2022 PROJECT AT NICKELL MEMORIAL ARMORY, KANSAS.

(a) TRANSFER AUTHORITY.—From amounts appropriated for ''Military Construction, Army National Guard'' pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in section 2606 and available as specified in the funding table in section 4601 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117–81, 135 Stat. 2315), the Secretary of Defense may transfer not more than $420,000 to an appropriation for ''Military Construction, Air National Guard'' for use for studying, planning, designing, and architect and engineer services for a sensitive compartmented information facility project at Nickell Memorial Armory, Kansas.

(b) MERGER OF AMOUNTS TRANSFERRED.—Any amount transferred under subsection (a) shall be merged with and available for the same purposes, and for the same time period, as the ''Military Construction, Air National Guard'' appropriation to which transferred.

(c) AUTHORITY.—Using amounts transferred pursuant to subsection (a), the Secretary of the Air Force may carry out study, planning, design, and architect and engineer services activities for a sensitive compartmented information facility project at Nickell Memorial Armory, Kansas.

SEC. 2611. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT FISCAL YEAR 2023 PROJECT AT CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA.

In the case of the authorization contained in the table in section 2602 of the Military

Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (division B of Public Law 117–263) and specified in the funding table in section 4601 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117–263) for Camp Pendleton, California, for construction of an Area Maintenance Support Activity, the Secretary of the Army may construct a 15,000 square foot facility.

SA 1057. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2226, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in subtitle G of title X, insert the following:

SEC. _____. 9/11 RESPONDER AND SURVIVOR HEALTH FUNDING CORRECTION ACT OF 2023.

(a) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, ARMED FORCES, OR OTHER FEDERAL WORKER RESPONDERS TO THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS AT THE PENTAGON AND SHANKSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA.—Title XXXIII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300mm et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 3306 (42 U.S.C. 300mm–5)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (5) through (11) and paragraphs (12) through (17) as paragraphs (6) through (12) and paragraphs (14) through (19), respectively;

(B) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

''(5) The term 'Federal agency' means an agency, office, or other establishment in the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of the Federal Government.''; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (12), as so redesignated, the following:

''(13) The term 'uniformed services' has the meaning given the term in section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code.''; and

(2) in section 3311(a) (42 U.S.C. 300mm–21(a))—

(A) in paragraph (2)(C)(i)—

(i) in subclause (I), by striking ''; or'' and inserting a semicolon;

(ii) in subclause (II), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(III) was an employee of the Department of Defense or any other Federal agency, worked during the period beginning on September 11, 2001, and ending on September 18, 2001, for a contractor of the Department of Defense or any other Federal agency, or was a member of a regular or reserve component of the uniformed services; and performed rescue, recovery, demolition, debris cleanup, or other related services at the Pentagon site of the terrorist-related aircraft crash of September 11, 2001, during the period beginning on September 11, 2001, and ending on the date on which the cleanup of the site was concluded, as determined by the WTC Program Administrator; or

''(IV) was an employee of the Department of Defense or any other Federal agency, worked during the period beginning on September 11, 2001, and ending on September 18, 2001, for a contractor of the Department of Defense or any other Federal agency, or was a member of a regular or reserve component of the uniformed services; and performed rescue, recovery, demolition, debris cleanup, or other related services at the Shanksville, Pennsylvania, site of the terrorist-related aircraft crash of September 11, 2001, during the period beginning on September 11, 2001, and ending on the date on which the cleanup of the site was concluded, as determined by the WTC Program Administrator; and''; and

(B) in paragraph (4)(A)—

(i) by striking ''(A) IN GENERAL.—The'' and inserting the following:

''(A) LIMIT.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The'';

(ii) by inserting ''or subclause (III) or (IV) of paragraph (2)(C)(i)'' after ''or (2)(A)(ii)''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(ii) CERTAIN RESPONDERS TO THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS AT THE PENTAGON AND SHANKSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA.—The total number of individuals who may be enrolled under paragraph (3)(A)(ii) based on eligibility criteria described in subclause (III) or (IV) of paragraph (2)(C)(i) shall not exceed 500 at any time.''.

(b) ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE WORLD TRADE CENTER HEALTH PROGRAM.—Title XXXIII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300mm et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 3353. SPECIAL FUND.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established a fund to be known as the World Trade Center Health Program Special Fund (referred to in this section as the 'Special Fund'), consisting of amounts deposited into the Special Fund under subsection (b).

''(b) AMOUNT.—Out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2024 $419,000,000 for deposit into the Special Fund, which amounts shall remain available in such Fund through fiscal year 2033.

''(c) USES OF FUNDS.—Amounts deposited into the Special Fund under subsection (b) shall be available, without further appropriation and without regard to any spending limitation under section 3351(c), to the WTC Program Administrator as needed at the discretion of such Administrator, for carrying out any provision in this title (including sections 3303 and 3341(c)).

''(d) REMAINING AMOUNTS.—Any amounts that remain in the Special Fund on September 30, 2033, shall be deposited into the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts.

''SEC. 3354. PENTAGON/SHANKSVILLE FUND.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established a fund to be known as the World Trade Center Health Program Fund for Certain WTC Responders at the Pentagon and Shanksville, Pennsylvania (referred to in this section as the 'Pentagon/Shanksville Fund'), consisting of amounts deposited into the Pentagon/Shanksville Fund under subsection (b).

''(b) AMOUNT.—Out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2024 $232,000,000 for deposit into the Pentagon/Shanksville Fund, which amounts shall remain available in such Fund through fiscal year 2033.

''(c) USES OF FUNDS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Amounts deposited into the Pentagon/Shanksville Fund under subsection (b) shall be available, without further appropriation and without regard to any spending limitation under section 3351(c), to the WTC Program Administrator for the purpose of carrying out section 3312 with regard to WTC responders enrolled in the WTC Program based on eligibility criteria described in subclause (III) or (IV) of section 3311(a)(2)(C)(i).

''(2) LIMITATION ON OTHER FUNDING.—Notwithstanding sections 3331(a), 3351(b)(1), 3352(c), and 3353(c), and any other provision in this title, for the period of fiscal years 2024 through 2033, no amounts made available under this title other than those amounts appropriated under subsection (b) may be available for the purpose described in paragraph (1).

''(d) REMAINING AMOUNTS.—Any amounts that remain in the Pentagon/Shanksville Fund on September 30, 2033, shall be deposited into the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Title XXXIII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300mm et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 3311(a)(4)(B)(i)(II) (42 U.S.C. 300mm–21(a)(4)(B)(i)(II)), by striking ''sections 3351 and 3352'' and inserting ''this title'';

(2) in section 3321(a)(3)(B)(i)(II) (42 U.S.C. 300mm–31(a)(3)(B)(i)(II)), by striking ''sections 3351 and 3352'' and inserting ''this title'';

(3) in section 3331 (42 U.S.C. 300mm–41)—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking ''the World Trade Center Health Program Fund and the World Trade Center Health Program Supplemental Fund'' and inserting ''(as applicable) the Funds established under sections 3351, 3352, 3353, and 3354''; and

(B) in subsection (d)—

(i) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting ''or the World Trade Center Health Program Special Fund under section 3353'' after ''section 3351'';

(ii) in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting ''or the World Trade Center Health Program Fund for Certain WTC Responders at the Pentagon and Shanksville, Pennsylvania under section 3354'' after ''section 3352''; and

(iii) in paragraph (2), in the flush text following subparagraph (C), by inserting ''or the World Trade Center Health Program Fund for Certain WTC Responders at the Pentagon and Shanksville, Pennsylvania under section 3354'' after ''section 3352''; and

(4) in section 3351(b) (42 U.S.C. 300mm–61(b))—

(A) in paragraph (2), by inserting '', the World Trade Center Health Program Special Fund under section 3353, or the World Trade Center Health Program Fund for Certain WTC Responders at the Pentagon and Shanksville, Pennsylvania under section 3354'' before the period at the end; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by inserting '', the World Trade Center Health Program Special Fund under section 3353, or the World Trade Center Health Program Fund for Certain WTC Responders at the Pentagon and Shanksville, Pennsylvania under section 3354'' before the period at the end.

(d) ENSURING TIMELY ACCESS TO GENERICS.—Section 505(q) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(q)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(i), by inserting '', 10.31,'' after ''10.30'';

(B) in subparagraph (E)—

(i) by striking ''application and'' and inserting ''application or'';

(ii) by striking ''If the Secretary'' and inserting the following:

''(i) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary''; and

(iii) by striking the second sentence and inserting the following:

''(ii) PRIMARY PURPOSE OF DELAYING.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—In determining whether a petition was submitted with the primary purpose of delaying an application, the Secretary may consider the following factors:

''(aa) Whether the petition was submitted in accordance with paragraph (2)(B), based on when the petitioner knew the relevant information relied upon to form the basis of such petition.

''(bb) When the petition was submitted in relation to when the petitioner reasonably should have known the relevant information relied upon to form the basis of such petition.

''(cc) Whether the petitioner has submitted multiple or serial petitions or supplements to petitions raising issues that reasonably

could have been known to the petitioner at the time of submission of the earlier petition or petitions.

''(dd) Whether the petition was submitted close in time to a known, first date upon which an application under subsection (b)(2) or (j) of this section or section 351(k) of the Public Health Service Act could be approved.

''(ee) Whether the petition was submitted without relevant data or information in support of the scientific positions forming the basis of such petition.

''(ff) Whether the petition raises the same or substantially similar issues as a prior petition to which the Secretary has responded substantively already, including if the subsequent submission follows such response from the Secretary closely in time.

''(gg) Whether the petition requests changing the applicable standards that other applicants are required to meet, including requesting testing, data, or labeling standards that are more onerous or rigorous than the standards the Secretary has determined to be applicable to the listed drug, reference product, or petitioner's version of the same drug.

''(hh) The petitioner's record of submitting petitions to the Food and Drug Administration that have been determined by the Secretary to have been submitted with the primary purpose of delay.

''(ii) Other relevant and appropriate factors, which the Secretary shall describe in guidance.

''(II) GUIDANCE.—The Secretary may issue or update guidance, as appropriate, to describe factors the Secretary considers in accordance with subclause (I).'';

(C) by striking subparagraph (F);

(D) by redesignating subparagraphs (G) through (I) as subparagraphs (F) through (H), respectively; and

(E) in subparagraph (H), as so redesignated, by striking ''submission of this petition'' and inserting ''submission of this document'';

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (C) as subparagraphs (C) through (E), respectively;

(B) by inserting before subparagraph (C), as so redesignated, the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A person shall submit a petition to the Secretary under paragraph (1) before filing a civil action in which the person seeks to set aside, delay, rescind, withdraw, or prevent submission, review, or approval of an application submitted under subsection (b)(2) or (j) of this section or section 351(k) of the Public Health Service Act. Such petition and any supplement to such a petition shall describe all information and arguments that form the basis of the relief requested in any civil action described in the previous sentence.

''(B) TIMELY SUBMISSION OF CITIZEN PETITION.—A petition and any supplement to a petition shall be submitted within 180 days after the person knew the information that forms the basis of the request made in the petition or supplement.'';

(C) in subparagraph (C), as so redesignated—

(i) in the heading, by striking ''WITHIN 150 DAYS'';

(ii) in clause (i), by striking ''during the 150-day period referred to in paragraph (1)(F),''; and

(iii) by amending clause (ii) to read as follows:

''(ii) on or after the date that is 151 days after the date of submission of the petition, the Secretary approves or has approved the application that is the subject of the petition without having made such a final decision.'';

(D) by amending subparagraph (D), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

''(D) DISMISSAL OF CERTAIN CIVIL ACTIONS.—

''(i) PETITION.—If a person files a civil action against the Secretary in which a person seeks to set aside, delay, rescind, withdraw, or prevent submission, review, or approval of an application submitted under subsection (b)(2) or (j) of this section or section 351(k) of the Public Health Service Act without complying with the requirements of subparagraph (A), the court shall dismiss without prejudice the action for failure to exhaust administrative remedies.

''(ii) TIMELINESS.—If a person files a civil action against the Secretary in which a person seeks to set aside, delay, rescind, withdraw, or prevent submission, review, or approval of an application submitted under subsection (b)(2) or (j) of this section or section 351(k) of the Public Health Service Act without complying with the requirements of subparagraph (B), the court shall dismiss with prejudice the action for failure to timely file a petition.

''(iii) FINAL RESPONSE.—If a civil action is filed against the Secretary with respect to any issue raised in a petition timely filed under paragraph (1) in which the petitioner requests that the Secretary take any form of action that could, if taken, set aside, delay, rescind, withdraw, or prevent submission, review, or approval of an application submitted under subsection (b)(2) or (j) of this section or section 351(k) of the Public Health Service Act before the Secretary has taken final agency action on the petition within the meaning of subparagraph (C), the court shall dismiss without prejudice the action for failure to exhaust administrative remedies.''; and

(E) in clause (iii) of subparagraph (E), as so redesignated, by striking ''as defined under subparagraph (2)(A)'' and inserting ''within the meaning of subparagraph (C)''; and

(3) in paragraph (4)—

(A) by striking ''EXCEPTIONS'' in the paragraph heading and all that follows through ''This subsection does'' and inserting ''EXCEPTIONS.—This subsection does'';

(B) by striking subparagraph (B); and

(C) by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly.

SA 1058. Mr. HAWLEY (for himself, Mr. LUJÁN, and Mr. CRAPO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title X, insert the following:

Subtitle H—Radiation Exposure Compensation Act

PART I—MANHATTAN PROJECT WASTE

SEC. 10_____. CLAIMS RELATING TO MANHATTAN PROJECT WASTE.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the ''Radiation Exposure Compensation Expansion Act''.

(b) CLAIMS RELATING TO MANHATTAN PROJECT WASTE.—The Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (Public Law 101–426; 42 U.S.C. 2210 note) is amended by inserting after section 5 the following:

''SEC. 5A. CLAIMS RELATING TO MANHATTAN PROJECT WASTE.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—A claimant shall receive compensation for a claim made under this Act, as described in subsection (b) or (c), if—

''(1) a claim for compensation is filed with the Attorney General—

''(A) by an individual described in paragraph (2); or

''(B) on behalf of that individual by an authorized agent of that individual, if the individual is deceased or incapacitated, such as—

''(i) an executor of estate of that individual; or

''(ii) a legal guardian or conservator of that individual;

''(2) that individual, or if applicable, an authorized agent of that individual, demonstrates that the individual—

''(A) was physically present in an affected area for a period of at least 2 years after January 1, 1949; and

''(B) contracted a specified disease after such period of physical presence;

''(3) the Attorney General certifies that the identity of that individual, and if applicable, the authorized agent of that individual, is not fraudulent or otherwise misrepresented; and

''(4) the Attorney General determines that the claimant has satisfied the applicable requirements of this Act.

''(b) LOSSES AVAILABLE TO LIVING AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In the event of a claim qualifying for compensation under subsection (a) that is submitted to the Attorney General to be eligible for compensation under this section at a time when the individual described in subsection (a)(2) is living, the amount of compensation under this section shall be in an amount that is the greater of $50,000 or the total amount of compensation for which the individual is eligible under paragraph (2).

''(2) LOSSES DUE TO MEDICAL EXPENSES.—A claimant described in paragraph (1) shall be eligible to receive, upon submission of contemporaneous written medical records, reports, or billing statements created by or at the direction of a licensed medical professional who provided contemporaneous medical care to the claimant, additional compensation in the amount of all documented out-of-pocket medical expenses incurred as a result of the specified disease suffered by that claimant, such as any medical expenses not covered, paid for, or reimbursed through—

''(A) any public or private health insurance;

''(B) any employee health insurance;

''(C) any workers' compensation program; or

''(D) any other public, private, or employee health program or benefit.

''(c) PAYMENTS TO BENEFICIARIES OF DECEASED INDIVIDUALS.—In the event that an individual described in subsection (a)(2) who qualifies for compensation under subsection (a) is deceased at the time of submission of the claim—

''(1) a surviving spouse may, upon submission of a claim and records sufficient to satisfy the requirements of subsection (a) with respect to the deceased individual, receive compensation in the amount of $25,000; or

''(2) in the event that there is no surviving spouse, the surviving children, minor or otherwise, of the deceased individual may, upon submission of a claim and records sufficient to satisfy the requirements of subsection (a) with respect to the deceased individual, receive compensation in the total amount of $25,000, paid in equal shares to each surviving child.

''(d) AFFECTED AREA.—For purposes of this section, the term 'affected area' means, in the State of Missouri, the ZIP Codes of 63031, 63033, 63034, 63042, 63045, 63074, 63114, 63135, 63138, 63044, 63140, 63145, 63147, 63102, 63304, 63134, 63043, 63341, 63368, and 63367.

''(e) SPECIFIED DISEASE.—For purposes of this section, the term 'specified disease' means any of the following:

''(1) Any leukemia, other than chronic lymphocytic leukemia, provided that the initial exposure occurred after the age of 20 and the onset of the disease was at least 2 years after first exposure.

''(2) Any of the following diseases, provided that the onset was at least 2 years after the initial exposure:

''(A) Multiple myeloma.

''(B) Lymphoma, other than Hodgkin's disease.

''(C) Type 1 or type 2 diabetes.

''(D) Systemic lupus erythematosus.

''(E) Multiple sclerosis.

''(F) Hashimoto's disease.

''(G) Primary cancer of the—

''(i) thyroid;

''(ii) male or female breast;

''(iii) esophagus;

''(iv) stomach;

''(v) pharynx;

''(vi) small intestine;

''(vii) pancreas;

''(viii) bile ducts;

''(ix) gall bladder;

''(x) salivary gland;

''(xi) urinary bladder;

''(xii) brain;

''(xiii) colon;

''(xiv) ovary;

''(xv) liver, except if cirrhosis or hepatitis B is indicated;

''(xvi) lung;

''(xvii) bone; or

''(xviii) kidney.

''(f) PHYSICAL PRESENCE.—For purposes of this section, the Attorney General shall not determine that a claimant has satisfied the requirements of subsection (a) unless demonstrated by submission of contemporaneous written residential documentation and at least one additional employer-issued or government-issued document or record that the claimant, for a period of at least 2 years after January 1, 1949, was physically present in an affected area.

''(g) DISEASE CONTRACTION IN AFFECTED AREAS.—For purposes of this section, the Attorney General shall not determine that a claimant has satisfied the requirements of subsection (a) unless demonstrated by submission of contemporaneous written medical records or reports created by or at the direction of a licensed medical professional who provided contemporaneous medical care to the claimant, that the claimant, after such period of physical presence, contracted a specified disease.''.

PART II—COMPENSATION FOR WORKERS INVOLVED IN URANIUM MINING

SEC. 10_____. SHORT TITLE.

This part may be cited as the ''Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments of 2023''.

SEC. 10_____. REFERENCES.

Except as otherwise specifically provided, whenever in this part an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to or repeal of a section or other provision of law, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (Public Law 101–426; 42 U.S.C. 2210 note).

SEC. 10_____. EXTENSION OF FUND.

Section 3(d) is amended—

(1) by striking the first sentence and inserting ''The Fund shall terminate 19 years after the date of the enactment of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments of 2023.''; and

(2) by striking ''2-year'' and inserting ''19-year''.

SEC. 10____. CLAIMS RELATING TO ATMOSPHERIC TESTING.

(a) LEUKEMIA CLAIMS RELATING TO TRINITY TEST IN NEW MEXICO AND TESTS AT THE NEVADA SITE AND IN THE PACIFIC.—Section 4(a)(1)(A) is amended—

(1) in clause (i)—

(A) in subclause (I), by striking ''October 31, 1958'' and inserting ''November 6, 1962'';

(B) in subclause (II)—

(i) by striking ''in the affected area'' and inserting ''in an affected area''; and

(ii) by striking ''or'' after the semicolon;

(C) by redesignating subclause (III) as subclause (V); and

(D) by inserting after subclause (II) the following:

''(III) was physically present in an affected area for a period of at least 1 year during the period beginning on September 24, 1944, and ending on November 6, 1962;

''(IV) was physically present in an affected area—

''(aa) for a period of at least 1 year during the period beginning on July 1, 1946, and ending on November 6, 1962; or

''(bb) for the period beginning on April 25, 1962, and ending on November 6, 1962; or''; and

(2) in clause (ii)(I), by striking ''physical presence described in subclause (I) or (II) of clause (i) or onsite participation described in clause (i)(III)'' and inserting ''physical presence described in subclause (I), (II), (III), or (IV) of clause (i) or onsite participation described in clause (i)(V)''.

(b) AMOUNTS FOR CLAIMS RELATED TO LEUKEMIA.—Section 4(a)(1) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''an amount'' and inserting ''the amount''; and

(2) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

''(B) AMOUNT.—If the conditions described in subparagraph (C) are met, an individual who is described in subparagraph (A) shall receive $150,000.''.

(c) CONDITIONS FOR CLAIMS RELATED TO LEUKEMIA.—Section 4(a)(1)(C) is amended—

(1) by striking clause (i); and

(2) by redesignating clauses (ii) and (iii) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively.

(d) SPECIFIED DISEASES CLAIMS RELATING TO TRINITY TEST IN NEW MEXICO AND TESTS AT THE NEVADA SITE AND IN THE PACIFIC.—Section 4(a)(2) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by striking ''in the affected area'' and inserting ''in an affected area'';

(B) by striking ''2 years'' and inserting ''1 year''; and

(C) by striking ''October 31, 1958'' and inserting ''November 6, 1962'';

(2) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) by striking ''in the affected area'' and inserting ''in an affected area''; and

(B) by striking ''or'' at the end;

(3) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (E); and

(4) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

''(C) was physically present in an affected area for a period of at least 1 year during the period beginning on September 24, 1944, and ending on November 6, 1962;

''(D) was physically present in an affected area—

''(i) for a period of at least 1 year during the period beginning on July 1, 1946, and ending on November 6, 1962; or

''(ii) for the period beginning on April 25, 1962, and ending on November 6, 1962; or''.

(e) AMOUNTS FOR CLAIMS RELATED TO SPECIFIED DISEASES.—Section 4(a)(2) is amended in the matter following subparagraph (E) (as redesignated by subsection (d) of this section) by striking ''$50,000 (in the case of an individual described in subparagraph (A) or (B)) or $75,000 (in the case of an individual described in subparagraph (C)),'' and inserting ''$150,000''.

(f) MEDICAL BENEFITS.—Section 4(a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(5) MEDICAL BENEFITS.—An individual receiving a payment under this section shall be eligible to receive medical benefits in the same manner and to the same extent as an individual eligible to receive medical benefits under section 3629 of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 7384t).''.

(g) DOWNWIND STATES.—Section 4(b)(1) is amended to read as follows:

''(1) 'affected area' means—

''(A) except as provided under subparagraphs (B) and (C), Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Guam;

''(B) with respect to a claim by an individual under subsection (a)(1)(A)(i)(III) or subsection (a)(2)(C), only New Mexico; and

''(C) with respect to a claim by an individual under subsection (a)(1)(A)(i)(IV) or subsection (a)(2)(D), only Guam.''.

(h) CHRONIC LYMPHOCYTIC LEUKEMIA AS A SPECIFIED DISEASE.—Section 4(b)(2) is amended by striking ''other than chronic lymphocytic leukemia'' and inserting ''including chronic lymphocytic leukemia''.

SEC. 10____. CLAIMS RELATING TO URANIUM MINING.

(a) EMPLOYEES OF MINES AND MILLS.—Section 5(a)(1)(A)(i) is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(I)'' after ''(i)'';

(2) by striking ''December 31, 1971; and'' and inserting ''December 31, 1990; or''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(II) was employed as a core driller in a State referred to in subclause (I) during the period described in such subclause; and''.

(b) MINERS.—Section 5(a)(1)(A)(ii)(I) is amended by inserting ''or renal cancer or any other chronic renal disease, including nephritis and kidney tubal tissue injury'' after ''nonmalignant respiratory disease''.

(c) MILLERS, CORE DRILLERS, AND ORE TRANSPORTERS.—Section 5(a)(1)(A)(ii)(II) is amended—

(1) by inserting '', core driller,'' after ''was a miller'';

(2) by inserting '', or was involved in remediation efforts at such a uranium mine or uranium mill,'' after ''ore transporter'';

(3) by inserting ''(I)'' after ''clause (i)''; and

(4) by striking all that follows ''nonmalignant respiratory disease'' and inserting ''or renal cancer or any other chronic renal disease, including nephritis and kidney tubal tissue injury; or''.

(d) COMBINED WORK HISTORIES.—Section 5(a)(1)(A)(ii) is further amended—

(1) by striking ''or'' at the end of subclause (I); and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(III)(aa) does not meet the conditions of subclause (I) or (II);

''(bb) worked, during the period described in clause (i)(I), in two or more of the following positions: miner, miller, core driller, and ore transporter;

''(cc) meets the requirements of paragraph (4) or (5), or both; and

''(dd) submits written medical documentation that the individual developed lung cancer or a nonmalignant respiratory disease or renal cancer or any other chronic renal disease, including nephritis and kidney tubal tissue injury after exposure to radiation through work in one or more of the positions referred to in item (bb);''.

(e) DATES OF OPERATION OF URANIUM MINE.—Section 5(a)(2)(A) is amended by striking ''December 31, 1971'' and inserting ''December 31, 1990''.

(f) SPECIAL RULES RELATING TO COMBINED WORK HISTORIES.—Section 5(a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(4) SPECIAL RULE RELATING TO COMBINED WORK HISTORIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH AT LEAST ONE YEAR OF EXPERIENCE.—An individual meets the requirements of this paragraph if the individual worked in one or

more of the positions referred to in paragraph (1)(A)(ii)(III)(bb) for a period of at least one year during the period described in paragraph (1)(A)(i)(I).

''(5) SPECIAL RULE RELATING TO COMBINED WORK HISTORIES FOR MINERS.—An individual meets the requirements of this paragraph if the individual, during the period described in paragraph (1)(A)(i)(I), worked as a miner and was exposed to such number of working level months that the Attorney General determines, when combined with the exposure of such individual to radiation through work as a miller, core driller, or ore transporter during the period described in paragraph (1)(A)(i)(I), results in such individual being exposed to a total level of radiation that is greater or equal to the level of exposure of an individual described in paragraph (4).''.

(g) DEFINITION OF CORE DRILLER.—Section 5(b) is amended—

(1) by striking ''and'' at the end of paragraph (7);

(2) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (8) and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(9) the term 'core driller' means any individual employed to engage in the act or process of obtaining cylindrical rock samples of uranium or vanadium by means of a borehole drilling machine for the purpose of mining uranium or vanadium.''.

SEC. 10___. EXPANSION OF USE OF AFFIDAVITS IN DETERMINATION OF CLAIMS; REGULATIONS.

(a) AFFIDAVITS.—Section 6(b) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3) AFFIDAVITS.—

''(A) EMPLOYMENT HISTORY.—For purposes of this Act, the Attorney General shall accept a written affidavit or declaration as evidence to substantiate the employment history of an individual as a miner, miller, core driller, or ore transporter if the affidavit—

''(i) is provided in addition to other material that may be used to substantiate the employment history of the individual;

''(ii) attests to the employment history of the individual;

''(iii) is made subject to penalty for perjury; and

''(iv) is made by a person other than the individual filing the claim.

''(B) PHYSICAL PRESENCE IN AFFECTED AREA.—For purposes of this Act, the Attorney General shall accept a written affidavit or declaration as evidence to substantiate an individual's physical presence in an affected area during a period described in section 4(a)(1)(A)(i) or section 4(a)(2) if the affidavit—

''(i) is provided in addition to other material that may be used to substantiate the individual's presence in an affected area during that time period;

''(ii) attests to the individual's presence in an affected area during that period;

''(iii) is made subject to penalty for perjury; and

''(iv) is made by a person other than the individual filing the claim.

''(C) PARTICIPATION AT TESTING SITE.—For purposes of this Act, the Attorney General shall accept a written affidavit or declaration as evidence to substantiate an individual's participation onsite in a test involving the atmospheric detonation of a nuclear device if the affidavit—

''(i) is provided in addition to other material that may be used to substantiate the individual's participation onsite in a test involving the atmospheric detonation of a nuclear device;

''(ii) attests to the individual's participation onsite in a test involving the atmospheric detonation of a nuclear device;

''(iii) is made subject to penalty for perjury; and

''(iv) is made by a person other than the individual filing the claim.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 6 is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2)(C), by striking ''section 4(a)(2)(C)'' and inserting ''section 4(a)(2)(E)'';

(2) in subsection (c)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''subsection (a)(1), (a)(2)(A), or (a)(2)(B) of section 4'' and inserting ''subsection (a)(1), (a)(2)(A), (a)(2)(B), (a)(2)(C), or (a)(2)(D) of section 4''; and

(ii) in clause (i), by striking ''subsection (a)(1), (a)(2)(A), or (a)(2)(B) of section 4'' and inserting ''subsection (a)(1), (a)(2)(A), (a)(2)(B), (a)(2)(C), or (a)(2)(D) of section 4''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''section 4(a)(2)(C)'' and inserting ''section 4(a)(2)(E)''; and

(3) in subsection (e), by striking ''subsection (a)(1), (a)(2)(A), or (a)(2)(B) of section 4'' and inserting ''subsection (a)(1), (a)(2)(A), (a)(2)(B), (a)(2)(C), or (a)(2)(D) of section 4''.

(c) REGULATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 6(k) is amended by adding at the end the following: ''Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments of 2023, the Attorney General shall issue revised regulations to carry out this Act.''.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS IN REVISIONS.—In issuing revised regulations under section 6(k) of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (Public Law 101–426; 42 U.S.C. 2210 note), as amended under paragraph (1), the Attorney General shall ensure that procedures with respect to the submission and processing of claims under such Act take into account and make allowances for the law, tradition, and customs of Indian tribes, including by accepting as a record of proof of physical presence for a claimant a grazing permit, a homesite lease, a record of being a holder of a post office box, a letter from an elected leader of an Indian tribe, or a record of any recognized tribal association or organization.

SEC. 10___. LIMITATION ON CLAIMS.

(a) EXTENSION OF FILING TIME.—Section 8(a) is amended—

(1) by striking ''2 years'' and inserting ''19 years''; and

(2) by striking ''2022'' and inserting ''2023''.

(b) RESUBMITTAL OF CLAIMS.—Section 8(b) is amended to read as follows:

''(b) RESUBMITTAL OF CLAIMS.—

''(1) DENIED CLAIMS.—After the date of enactment of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments of 2023, any claimant who has been denied compensation under this Act may resubmit a claim for consideration by the Attorney General in accordance with this Act not more than three times. Any resubmittal made before the date of the enactment of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments of 2023 shall not be applied to the limitation under the preceding sentence.

''(2) PREVIOUSLY SUCCESSFUL CLAIMS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—After the date of enactment of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments of 2023, any claimant who received compensation under this Act may submit a request to the Attorney General for additional compensation and benefits. Such request shall contain—

''(i) the claimant's name, social security number, and date of birth;

''(ii) the amount of award received under this Act before the date of enactment of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments of 2023;

''(iii) any additional benefits and compensation sought through such request; and

''(iv) any additional information required by the Attorney General.

''(B) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION.—If the claimant received compensation under this Act before the date of enactment of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments of 2023 and submits a request under subparagraph (A), the Attorney General shall—

''(i) pay the claimant the amount that is equal to any excess of—

''(I) the amount the claimant is eligible to receive under this Act (as amended by the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments of 2023); minus

''(II) the aggregate amount paid to the claimant under this Act before the date of enactment of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments of 2023; and

''(ii) in any case in which the claimant was compensated under section 4, provide the claimant with medical benefits under section 4(a)(5).''.

SEC. 10___. GRANT PROGRAM ON EPIDEMIOLOGICAL IMPACTS OF URANIUM MINING AND MILLING.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term ''institution of higher education'' has the meaning given under section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001);

(2) the term ''program'' means the grant program established under subsection (b); and

(3) the term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a grant program relating to the epidemiological impacts of uranium mining and milling. Grants awarded under the program shall be used for the study of the epidemiological impacts of uranium mining and milling among non-occupationally exposed individuals, including family members of uranium miners and millers.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall administer the program through the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

(d) ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION.—Any institution of higher education or nonprofit private entity shall be eligible to apply for a grant. To apply for a grant an eligible institution or entity shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing or accompanied by such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2026.

SEC. 10___. ENERGY EMPLOYEES OCCUPATIONAL ILLNESS COMPENSATION PROGRAM.

(a) COVERED EMPLOYEES WITH CANCER.—Section 3621(9) of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 7384l(9)) is amended by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

''(A) An individual with a specified cancer who is a member of the Special Exposure Cohort, if and only if—

''(i) that individual contracted that specified cancer after beginning employment at a Department of Energy facility (in the case of a Department of Energy employee or Department of Energy contractor employee) or at an atomic weapons employer facility (in the case of an atomic weapons employee); or

''(ii) that individual—

''(I) contracted that specified cancer after beginning employment in a uranium mine or uranium mill described under section 5(a)(1)(A)(i) of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (42 U.S.C. 2210 note) (including any individual who was employed in core drilling or the transport of uranium ore or

vanadium-uranium ore from such mine or mill) located in Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Wyoming, South Dakota, Washington, Utah, Idaho, North Dakota, Oregon, Texas, or any State the Attorney General makes a determination under section 5(a)(2) of that Act for inclusion of eligibility under section 5(a)(1) of that Act; and

''(II) was employed in a uranium mine or uranium mill described under subclause (I) (including any individual who was employed in core drilling or the transport of uranium ore or vanadium-uranium ore from such mine or mill) at any time during the period beginning on January 1, 1942, and ending on December 31, 1990.''.

(b) MEMBERS OF SPECIAL EXPOSURE COHORT.—Section 3626 of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 7384q) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

''(1) The Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health under section 3624 shall advise the President whether there is a class of employees—

''(A) at any Department of Energy facility who likely were exposed to radiation at that facility but for whom it is not feasible to estimate with sufficient accuracy the radiation dose they received; and

''(B) employed in a uranium mine or uranium mill described under section 5(a)(1)(A)(i) of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (42 U.S.C. 2210 note) (including any individual who was employed in core drilling or the transport of uranium ore or vanadium-uranium ore from such mine or mill) located in Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Wyoming, South Dakota, Washington, Utah, Idaho, North Dakota, Oregon, Texas, and any State the Attorney General makes a determination under section 5(a)(2) of that Act for inclusion of eligibility under section 5(a)(1) of that Act, at any time during the period beginning on January 1, 1942, and ending on December 31, 1990, who likely were exposed to radiation at that mine or mill but for whom it is not feasible to estimate with sufficient accuracy the radiation dose they received.''; and

(2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

''(b) DESIGNATION OF ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.—

''(1) Subject to the provisions of section 3621(14)(C), the members of a class of employees at a Department of Energy facility, or at an atomic weapons employer facility, may be treated as members of the Special Exposure Cohort for purposes of the compensation program if the President, upon recommendation of the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health, determines that—

''(A) it is not feasible to estimate with sufficient accuracy the radiation dose that the class received; and

''(B) there is a reasonable likelihood that such radiation dose may have endangered the health of members of the class.

''(2) Subject to the provisions of section 3621(14)(C), the members of a class of employees employed in a uranium mine or uranium mill described under section 5(a)(1)(A)(i) of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (42 U.S.C. 2210 note) (including any individual who was employed in core drilling or the transport of uranium ore or vanadium-uranium ore from such mine or mill) located in Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Wyoming, South Dakota, Washington, Utah, Idaho, North Dakota, Oregon, Texas, and any State the Attorney General makes a determination under section 5(a)(2) of that Act for inclusion of eligibility under section 5(a)(1) of that Act, at any time during the period beginning on January 1, 1942, and ending on December 31, 1990, may be treated as members of the Special Exposure Cohort for purposes of the compensation program if the President, upon recommendation of the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health, determines that—

''(A) it is not feasible to estimate with sufficient accuracy the radiation dose that the class received; and

''(B) there is a reasonable likelihood that such radiation dose may have endangered the health of members of the class.''.

SA 1059. Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. LUJÁN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 823. PROHIBITION ON THE PURCHASE OF COMMERCIAL OFF-THE-SHELF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ITEMS INVOLVING ENTITIES OWNED OR CONTROLLED BY PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense may not acquire, purchase, lease, or enter into any contract or agreement for the acquisition of computers, printers, televisions, or cameras if the manufacturer is owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by the Government of the People's Republic of China, as determined by the Secretary under subsection (b).

(b) LIST OF COVERED MANUFACTURERS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall compile a list of manufacturers covered by the prohibition under subsection (a). The list shall be updated not less than annually.

(c) WAIVER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense may waive the prohibition under subsection (a) for specific acquisitions in exceptional circumstances.

(2) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 30 days after exercising a waiver under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall notify the congressional defense committees of the waiver. The notification shall include—

(A) a detailed justification and reasons for the waiver;

(B) an assessment of the national security risks involved and a description of the measures taken to mitigate them; and

(C) a description of the specific entities or acquisitions affected.

(d) ESTABLISHMENT OF RISK-BASED APPROACH.—The Secretary of Defense shall—

(1) establish controls to prevent the purchase of high-risk commercial off-the-shelf information technology items with known cybersecurity risks similar to the controls implemented through the use of the national security systems-restricted list; and

(2) update the Department of Defense acquisition policy to require organizations to review and evaluate cybersecurity risks for high-risk commercial off-the-shelf items before purchase, regardless of the purchase method.

SA 1060. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

DIVISION I—SMALL BUSINESS MATTERS

SEC. 11001. DEFINITIONS.

In this division:

(1) ADMINISTRATION.—The term ''Administration'' means the Small Business Administration.

(2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Administration.

(3) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.—The term ''small business concern'' has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

TITLE LXIX—COMMUNITY ADVANTAGE LOAN PROGRAM AND SMALL BUSINESS LENDING COMPANIES

Subtitle A—Community Advantage Loan Program Act of 2023

SEC. 11101. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Community Advantage Loan Program Act of 2023''.

SEC. 11102. COMMUNITY ADVANTAGE LOAN PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(38) COMMUNITY ADVANTAGE LOAN PROGRAM.—

''(A) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Community Advantage Loan Program are—

''(i) to create a mission-oriented loan guarantee program;

''(ii) to increase lending to small business concerns in underserved and rural markets, including to new businesses;

''(iii) to ensure that the program under this subsection expands inclusion and more broadly meets congressional intent to reach borrowers who are unable to get credit elsewhere on reasonable terms and conditions;

''(iv) to help underserved small business concerns become bankable by utilizing the small dollar financing and business support experience of mission-oriented lenders;

''(v) to allow certain mission-oriented lenders, primarily financial intermediaries focused on economic development in underserved markets, access to guarantees for loans under this subsection (referred to in this paragraph as '7(a) loans') and provide management and technical assistance to small business concerns as needed; and

''(vi) to assist covered institutions with providing business support services and technical assistance to small business concerns, when needed.

''(B) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

''(i) COMMUNITY ADVANTAGE NETWORK PARTNER.—The term 'Community Advantage Network Partner'—

''(I) means a nonprofit, mission-oriented organization that acts as a Referral Agent to covered institutions in order to expand the reach of the program to small business concerns in underserved markets; and

''(II) does not include a covered institution making loans under the program.

''(ii) COVERED INSTITUTION.—The term 'covered institution' means an entity that—

''(I) is—

''(aa) a development company, as defined in section 103 of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 662), participating in the 504 Loan Guaranty program established under title V of that Act (15 U.S.C. 695 et seq.);

''(bb) a nonprofit intermediary, as defined in subsection (m)(11), participating in the microloan program under subsection (m);

''(cc) a non-Federally regulated entity certified as a community development financial institution by the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund established under section 104(a) of the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4703(a)); or

''(dd) an eligible intermediary, as defined in subsection (l)(1), participating in the small business intermediary lending program established under subsection (l)(2); and

''(II) has approved and disbursed 10 similarly sized loans in the preceding 24-month period and is servicing not less than 10 similarly sized loans to small business concerns in the portfolio of the entity.

''(iii) EXISTING BUSINESS.—The term 'existing business' means a small business concern that has been in existence for not less than 2 years on the date on which a loan is made to the small business concern under the program.

''(iv) NEW BUSINESS.—The term 'new business' means a small business concern that has been in existence for not more than 2 years on the date on which a loan is made to the small business concern under the program.

''(v) PROGRAM.—The term 'program' means the Community Advantage Loan Program established under subparagraph (C).

''(vi) REFERRAL AGENT.—The term 'Referral Agent' has the meaning given the term in section 103.1(f) of title 13, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

''(vii) RURAL AREA.—The term 'rural area' means any county that the Bureau of the Census has defined as mostly rural or completely rural in the most recent decennial census.

''(viii) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN IN AN UNDERSERVED MARKET.—The term 'small business concern in an underserved market' means a small business concern—

''(I) that is located in—

''(aa) a low- to moderate-income community;

''(bb) a HUBZone, as that term is defined in section 31(b);

''(cc) a rural area;

''(dd) a community that has been designated as an empowerment zone or enterprise community under section 1391 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

''(ee) a community that has been designated as a qualified opportunity zone under section 1400Z–1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; or

''(ff) a community that has been designated as a promise zone by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development;

''(II) for which more than 50 percent of the employees reside in a low- or moderate-income community;

''(III) that is a new business; or

''(IV) that is owned and controlled by veterans or spouses of veterans.

''(C) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a Community Advantage Loan Program under which the Administration may guarantee loans closed by covered institutions under this subsection, with an emphasis on loans made to small business concerns in underserved markets.

''(D) PROGRAM LEVELS.—In fiscal year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter, not more than 10 percent of the number of loans guaranteed under this subsection may be guaranteed under the program.

''(E) GRANDFATHERING OF EXISTING LENDERS.—Any covered institution that was licensed by the Administrator as a Community Advantage small business lending company, or that participated in the Community Advantage Pilot Program of the Administration, during the period beginning on May 1, 2023, and ending on September 30, 2023, and was in good standing during that period, as determined by the Administration—

''(i) shall be designated as participants in the program;

''(ii) shall not be required to submit an application to participate in the program; and

''(iii) for the purpose of determining the loan loss reserve amount of the covered institution, shall have participation in the Community Advantage Pilot Program included in the calculation under subparagraph (J).

''(F) REQUIREMENT TO MAKE LOANS TO UNDERSERVED MARKETS.—Not less than 60 percent of loans closed by a covered institution under the program shall consist of loans made to small business concerns in underserved markets.

''(G) MAXIMUM LOAN AMOUNT; COLLATERAL.—

''(i) MAXIMUM LOAN AMOUNT.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subclause (II), the maximum loan amount for a loan guaranteed under the program is $350,000.

''(II) EXPERIENCED LENDERS.—

''(aa) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may approve not more than 8 covered institutions (referred to in this subclause as the 'experienced lenders'), each of which has not less than 5 years of experience making loans under the Community Advantage Pilot Program of the Administration or the program established under this paragraph, to be eligible to make loans under this subclause.

''(bb) MAXIMUM LOAN AMOUNT.—Subject to item (dd), an experienced lender may make a loan guaranteed under the program in an amount that is not more than $750,000.

''(cc) PARTICIPATION BY THE ADMINISTRATION.—With respect to an agreement to participate in a loan made under this subclause on a deferred basis, the participation by the Administration shall be—

''(AA) 75 percent of the balance of the financing outstanding at the time of the disbursement of the loan, if that balance is more than $350,000;

''(BB) as described in clause (i) of paragraph (2)(G), if the balance of the financing outstanding at the time of the disbursement of the loan is as described in that clause; or

''(CC) as described in clause (ii) of paragraph (2)(G), if the balance of the financing outstanding at the time of the disbursement of the loan is as described in that clause.

''(dd) REQUIREMENTS TO MAKE LOANS IN CERTAIN AMOUNTS.—Not less than 60 percent of loans closed by each experienced lender under the program shall consist of loans in an amount that is not more than $350,000.

''(ii) COLLATERAL.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—A covered institution shall not be required to take collateral with respect to a loan guaranteed under the program if the amount of that loan is not more than $50,000.

''(II) POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OF COVERED INSTITUTION.—In determining the amount of collateral required with respect to a loan guaranteed under the program, a covered institution may use the collateral policies and procedures of the covered institution with respect to similarly sized commercial loans closed by the covered institution that are not guaranteed by the Administration.

''(H) INTEREST RATES.—The maximum allowable interest rate prescribed by the Administration on any financing made on a deferred basis pursuant to the program shall not exceed the maximum allowable interest rate under sections 120.213 and 120.214 of title 13, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulations.

''(I) REFINANCING OF COMMUNITY ADVANTAGE PROGRAM LOANS.—A loan guaranteed under the program or guaranteed under the Community Advantage Pilot Program of the Administration may be refinanced into another 7(a) loan made by a lender that does not participate in the program.

''(J) LOAN LOSS RESERVE REQUIREMENTS.—

''(i) LOAN LOSS RESERVE ACCOUNT FOR COVERED INSTITUTIONS.—A covered institution—

''(I) with not more than 5 years of participation in the program shall maintain a loan loss reserve account with an amount equal to 5 percent of the outstanding amount of the unguaranteed portion of the loan portfolio of the covered institution under the program; and

''(II) with more than 5 years of participation in the program shall maintain a loan loss reserve account with an amount equal to the average repurchase rate of the covered institution over the preceding 36-month period, except that such amount shall not be less than 3 percent of the outstanding amount of the unguaranteed portion of the loan portfolio of the covered institution under the program.

''(ii) ADDITIONAL LOAN LOSS RESERVE AMOUNT FOR SELLING LOANS ON THE SECONDARY MARKET.—In addition to the amount required in the loan loss reserve account under clause (i), a covered institution that sells a program loan on the secondary market shall be required to maintain the following additional amounts in the loan loss reserve account:

''(I) For a covered institution with less than 5 years of experience selling program loans on the secondary market, an amount equal to 3 percent of the guaranteed portion of each program loan sold on the secondary market.

''(II) For a covered institution with more than 5 years of experience selling program loans on the secondary market, an amount equal to the average repurchase rate for loans sold by the covered institution on the secondary market over the preceding 36 months, except that such amount shall be not less than 2 percent of the guaranteed portion of each program loan sold into the secondary market.

''(iii) RECALCULATION.—On October 1 of each year, the Administrator shall recalculate the loan loss reserve required under clauses (i) and (ii).

''(K) TRAINING.—The Administration—

''(i) shall provide accessible upfront and ongoing training for covered institutions making loans under the program to support program compliance and improve the interface between the covered institutions and the Administration, which shall include—

''(I) guidance for following the regulations of the Administration; and

''(II) guidance specific to mission-oriented lending that is intended to help lenders effectively reach and support small business concerns in underserved markets, including management and technical assistance delivery;

''(ii) may enter into a contract to provide the training described in clause (i) with an organization—

''(I) with expertise in lending under this subsection; and

''(II) primarily specializing in—

''(aa) mission-oriented lending; and

''(bb) lending to small business concerns in underserved markets; and

''(iii) shall provide training for the employees and contractors of the Administration that regularly engage with covered institutions or borrowers under the program.

''(L) COMMUNITY ADVANTAGE OUTREACH AND EDUCATION.—The Administrator—

''(i) shall develop and implement a program to promote to, conduct outreach to, and educate prospective covered institutions about the program; and

''(ii) may enter into a contract with 1 or more nonprofit organizations experienced in

working with and training mission-oriented lenders to provide the promotion, outreach, and education described in clause (i).

''(M) COMMUNITY ADVANTAGE NETWORK PARTNER PARTICIPATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—A covered institution that uses a Community Advantage Network Partner shall abide by policies and procedures of the Administration concerning the use of Referral Agent fees permitted by the Administration and disclosure of those fees.

''(ii) PAYMENT OF FEES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all fees described in clause (i) shall be paid by the covered institution to the Community Advantage Network Partner upon disbursement of the applicable program loan.

''(N) DELEGATED AUTHORITY.—A covered institution is not eligible to receive delegated authority from the Administration under the program until the covered institution has satisfied the following applicable requirements:

''(i) For a covered institution actively participating in the Community Advantage Pilot Program of the Administration, as of the day before the date of enactment of this paragraph—

''(I) the covered institution has approved and fully disbursed not fewer than 10 loans under that Pilot Program; and

''(II) the Administration has evaluated the ability of the covered institution to fulfill program requirements.

''(ii) For any covered institution not described in clause (i)—

''(I) the covered institution has approved and fully disbursed not fewer than 20 loans under the program; and

''(II) the Administration has evaluated the ability of the covered institution to fulfill program requirements.

''(O) REPORTING.—

''(i) WEEKLY REPORTS.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—The Administration shall report on the website of the Administration, as part of the weekly reports on lending approvals under this subsection—

''(aa) on and after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the number and dollar amount of loans guaranteed under the Community Advantage Pilot Program of the Administration; and

''(bb) on and after the date on which the Administration begins to approve loans under the program, the number and dollar amount of loans guaranteed under the program.

''(II) SEPARATE ACCOUNTING.—The number and dollar amount of loans reported in a weekly report under subclause (I) for loans guaranteed under the Community Advantage Pilot Program of the Administration and under the program shall include a breakdown by the demographic information of the owners of the small business concerns, by whether the small business concern is a new business or an existing business, and by whether the small business concern is located in an urban or rural area, and broken down by—

''(aa) loans of not more than $50,000;

''(bb) loans of more than $50,000 and not more than $150,000;

''(cc) loans of more than $150,000 and not more than $250,000;

''(dd) loans of more than $250,000 and not more than $350,000; and

''(ee) loans of more than $350,000 and not more than $750,000.

''(ii) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year in which the program is in effect, the Administration shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives, and make publicly available on the internet, information about loans provided under the program and under the Community Advantage Pilot Program of the Administration.

''(II) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted and made publicly available under subclause (I) shall include—

''(aa) the number and dollar amounts of loans provided to small business concerns under the program, including a breakdown by—

''(AA) the demographic information of the owners of the small business concern;

''(BB) whether the small business concern is located in an urban or rural area; and

''(CC) whether the small business concern is an existing business or a new business, as provided in the weekly reports on lending approvals under this subsection;

''(bb) the proportion of loans described in item (aa) compared to—

''(AA) other 7(a) loans of any amount;

''(BB) other 7(a) loans of similar amounts;

''(CC) express loans provided under paragraph (31) of similar amounts; and

''(DD) other 7(a) loans of similar amounts provided to small business concerns in underserved markets;

''(cc) the number and dollar amounts of loans provided to small business concerns under each category described in subitems (AA), (BB), and (CC) of item (aa), which shall be broken down by—

''(AA) loans of not more than $50,000;

''(BB) loans of more than $50,000 and not more than $150,000;

''(CC) loans of more than $150,000 and not more than $250,000;

''(DD) loans of more than $250,000 and not more than $350,000; and

''(EE) loans of more than $350,000 and not more than $750,000;

''(dd) the number and dollar amounts of loans provided to small business concerns under the program by State, and the jobs created or retained within each State; and

''(ee) a list of covered institutions participating in the program and the Community Advantage Pilot Program of the Administration, including—

''(AA) the name, location, and contact information, such as the website and telephone number, of each covered institution; and

''(BB) a breakdown by the number and dollar amount of the loans approved for small business concerns.

''(III) TIMING.—An annual report required under this clause shall—

''(aa) be submitted and made publicly available not later than December 1 of each year; and

''(bb) cover the lending activity for the fiscal year that ended on September 30 of that same year.

''(P) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Administrator, the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate, and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report—

''(i) assessing—

''(I) the extent to which the program fulfills the requirements of this paragraph; and

''(II) the performance of covered institutions participating in the program; and

''(ii) providing recommendations on the administration of the program and the findings under subclauses (I) and (II) of clause (i).

''(Q) REGULATIONS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Administrator shall promulgate regulations governing the program, including metrics for lender performance, metrics of success and benchmarks of the program, and criteria for appropriate management and technical assistance.

''(ii) UPDATES.—The Administrator shall consult the report submitted under subparagraph (P) and, not later than 180 days after the date on which the Comptroller General of the United States submits the report, promulgate any necessary changes to existing regulations of the Administration based on the recommendations contained in the report.''.

(b) PARTICIPATION.—Section 7(a)(2) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''and (F)'' and inserting ''(F), and (G)''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(G) PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY ADVANTAGE LOAN PROGRAM.—Subject to subparagraph (G)(i)(II)(cc) of paragraph (38), in an agreement to participate in a loan on a deferred basis under that paragraph, the participation by the Administration shall be—

''(i) 80 percent of the balance of the financing outstanding at the time of the disbursement of the loan, if that balance is more than $150,000 and not more than $350,000; or

''(ii) 90 percent of the balance of the financing outstanding at the time of the disbursement of the loan, if that balance is not more than $150,000.''.

Subtitle B—Modernizing SBA's Loan Programs Act of 2023

SEC. 11111. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Modernizing SBA's Business Loan Programs Act of 2023''.

SEC. 11112. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) in 1982, the Administration placed a moratorium on licensing new small business lending companies because the Administration lacked the resources to effectively service and supervise additional small business lending companies;

(2) according to the Office of the Inspector General of the Administration, the reduction in staff in the Office of Credit Risk Management of the Administration from 42 full-time employees to 29 full-time employees could affect the fiscal year 2023 goals of the Administration for oversight reviews;

(3) the Administration has finalized a rulemaking to lift the moratorium on the licensing new small business lending companies and establish a new Community Advantage small business lending company license, and there is no cap on the number of small business lending companies licenses that could be issued by the Administration;

(4) the increased costs and fees for an existing Community Advantage lender in the Community Advantage Pilot Program of the Administration to obtain and maintain a Community Advantage small business lending company license could be cost prohibitive for a majority of current Community Advantage lenders to transition to a Community Advantage small business lending company;

(5) on May 1, 2023, the Administration announced that the Community Advantage Pilot Program would sunset on September 30, 2023, and the authority of a Community Advantage lender to make loans under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)) under the pilot program will terminate;

(6) the Administration does not have adequate resources to issue either more than 3 new small business lending company licenses or new Community Advantage small business lending company licenses, as the Office of Credit Risk Management does not have the capacity to assume additional oversight responsibilities; and

(7) in order to increase small dollar lending in underserved areas, the Community Advantage Pilot Program should be made permanent, giving lenders certainty to continue to make loans under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)).

SEC. 11113. LENDING CRITERIA.

(a) 7(A) LOANS.—Section 7(a)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(D) UNDERWRITING REQUIREMENTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a loan guaranteed under this subsection—

''(I) the applicant (including an operating company) shall be creditworthy;

''(II) the loan must be so sound as to reasonably assure repayment; and

''(III) subject to the approval of the Administrator, the Director of the Office of Credit Risk Management may require additional criteria.

''(ii) LENDING CRITERIA FOR LOANS OF $350,000 OR MORE.—With respect to a loan guaranteed under this section that is not less than $350,000, the Administration and lenders shall, as applicable, consider the following:

''(I) Credit history of the applicant (and the operating company, if applicable), and the associates and guarantors of the applicant.

''(II) Experience and depth of management.

''(III) Strength of the business.

''(IV) Past earnings, projected cash flow, and future prospects.

''(V) Ability to repay the loan with earnings from the business of the applicant.

''(VI) Sufficient invested equity to operate on a sound financial basis.

''(VII) Potential for long-term success.

''(VIII) Nature and value of collateral (although inadequate collateral may not be the sole reason for denial of a loan application).

''(IX) The effect any affiliate of the applicant may have on the ultimate repayment ability of the applicant.

''(iii) LENDING CRITERIA FOR LOANS OF LESS THAN $350,000.—With respect to a loan guaranteed under this section that is less than $350,000—

''(I) lenders shall use appropriate and generally acceptable commercial credit analysis processes and procedures consistent with those used for similarly-sized commercial loans that are not guaranteed by the Administration;

''(II) the Administration and lenders may use a business credit scoring model; and

''(III) the Administration and lenders shall, as applicable, consider—

''(aa) the credit score or credit history of the applicant (and the operating company, if applicable), and the associates and guarantors of the applicant;

''(bb) the earnings or cash flow of the applicant;

''(cc) any equity or collateral of the applicant; and

''(dd) the effect any affiliates of the applicant may have on the ultimate repayment ability of the applicant.''.

(b) 504/CDC LOANS.—Section 502 of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 696) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(8) UNDERWRITING REQUIREMENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a loan made under this section—

''(i) the applicant (including an operating company) shall be creditworthy; and

''(ii) the loan must be so sound as to reasonably assure repayment.

''(B) LENDING CRITERIA.—With respect to a loan made under this section—

''(i) lenders and certified development companies shall use appropriate and generally acceptable commercial credit analysis processes and procedures consistent with those used for similarly-sized commercial loans that are not guaranteed by the Administration;

''(ii) the Administration, lenders, and certified development companies may use a business credit scoring model; and

''(iii) the Administration, lenders, and certified development companies shall, as applicable, consider—

''(I) the credit score or credit history of the applicant (and the operating company, if applicable), and the associates and guarantors of the applicant;

''(II) the earnings or cash flow of the applicant; and

''(III) any equity or collateral of the applicant.''.

SEC. 11114. AFFILIATION AND FRANCHISE DIRECTORY.

(a) AFFILIATION PRINCIPLES.—

(1) BUSINESS LOANS.—Section 7(a)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(1)), as amended by this subtitle, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(E) AFFILIATION PRINCIPLES.—Affiliation under any of the circumstances described below is sufficient to establish affiliation for applicants for a loan guaranteed under this subsection:

''(i) AFFILIATION BASED ON OWNERSHIP.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—For determining affiliation based on equity ownership, a concern is an affiliate of an individual, concern, or entity that owns or has the power to control more than 50 percent of the voting equity of the concern.

''(II) OTHER OFFICERS.—If no individual, concern, or entity is found to control a concern under subclause (I), the Administrator shall deem the board of directors, president, or chief executive officer (or other officers, managing members, or partners who control the management of the concern) to be in control of the concern.

''(III) MINORITY SHAREHOLDER.—The Administrator shall deem a minority shareholder of a concern to be in control of the concern if that individual or entity has the ability, under the charter, by-laws, or shareholder agreement of the concern, to prevent a quorum or otherwise block action by the board of directors or shareholders of the concern.

''(ii) AFFILIATION ARISING UNDER STOCK OPTIONS, CONVERTIBLE SECURITIES, AND AGREEMENTS TO MERGE.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—In determining the size of a concern, the Administrator shall—

''(aa) consider stock options, convertible securities, and agreements to merge (including agreements in principle) to have a present effect on the power to control a concern; and

''(bb) treat options, convertible securities, and agreements described in item (aa) as though the rights granted have been exercised.

''(II) AGREEMENTS TO OPEN OR CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS.—An agreement to open or continue negotiations towards the possibility of a merger or a sale of stock at some later date is not considered an 'agreement in principle' and is not given present effect.

''(III) CONDITIONS PRECEDENT.—Stock options, convertible securities, and agreements that are subject to conditions precedent that are incapable of fulfillment, speculative, conjectural, or unenforceable under State or Federal law, or where the probability of the transaction (or exercise of the rights) occurring is shown to be extremely remote, are not given present effect.

''(IV) TERMINATION OF CONTROL.—

''(aa) IN GENERAL.—An individual, concern, or other entity that controls 1 or more other concerns cannot use stock options, convertible securities, or agreements to appear to terminate such control before actually doing so.

''(bb) DIVESTING.—The Administrator shall not give present effect to the ability of an individual, concern, or other entity to divest all or part of their ownership interest in a concern in order to avoid a finding of affiliation.

''(iii) AFFILIATION BASED ON MANAGEMENT.—Affiliation arises where—

''(I) the chief executive officer or president of the applicant concern (or other officers, managing members, or partners who control the management of the concern) also controls the management of 1 or more other concerns;

''(II) a single individual, concern, or entity that controls the board of directors or management of 1 concern also controls the board of directors or management of 1 of more other concerns; or

''(III) a single individual, concern, or entity controls the management of the applicant concern through a management agreement.

''(iv) AFFILIATION BASED ON IDENTITY OF INTEREST.—

''(I) DEFINITION.—In this clause, the term 'close relative' means—

''(aa) a spouse, parent, child, or sibling; and

''(bb) the spouse of any individual described in item (aa).

''(II) CLOSE RELATIVES.—Affiliation arises when there is an identity of interest between close relatives with identical or substantially identical business or economic interests, such as where the close relatives operate concerns in the same or similar industry in the same geographic area.

''(III) AGGREGATED INTERESTS.—If the Administrator determines that interests described in subclause (II) should be aggregated, an individual or firm may rebut that determination with evidence showing that the interests deemed to be affiliated are in fact separate.

''(v) AFFILIATION BASED ON FRANCHISE AND LICENSE AGREEMENTS.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—The restraints imposed on a franchisee or licensee by its franchise or license agreement generally shall not be considered in determining whether the franchisor or licensor is affiliated with an applicant franchisee or licensee, if the applicant franchisee or licensee has the right to profit from its efforts and bears the risk of loss commensurate with ownership.

''(II) NATURE OF AGREEMENT.—For purposes of subclause (I), the Administrator shall only consider the franchise or license agreements of the applicant concern.

''(vi) DETERMINING THE CONCERN'S SIZE.—In determining the size of a concern, the Administrator counts the receipts, employees, or the alternate size standard (if applicable) of the concern whose size is at issue and all of the domestic and foreign affiliates of the concern, regardless of whether the affiliates are organized for profit.

''(vii) EXCEPTIONS TO AFFILIATION.—The exceptions to affiliation described in section 121.103(b) of title 13, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation, shall apply.''.

(2) 504/CDC LOANS.—Section 502 of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 696), as amended by this subtitle, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(9) AFFILIATION PRINCIPLES.—Affiliation under any of the circumstances described below is sufficient to establish affiliation for applicants for a loan under this section:

''(A) AFFILIATION BASED ON OWNERSHIP.—

''(i) OWNERSHIP OF ANOTHER BUSINESS.—When the applicant owns more than 50 percent of another business, the applicant and the other business are affiliated.

''(ii) OWNERSHIP BY OTHER BUSINESSES.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—When a business owns more than 50 percent of an applicant, the business that owns the applicant is affiliated with the applicant.

''(II) OTHER BUSINESS OWNED BY OWNER OF APPLICANT.—If a business entity owner that owns more than 50 percent of an applicant also owns more than 50 percent of another business that operates in the same 3-digit North American Industry Classification System subsector as the applicant, then the business entity owner, the other business, and the applicant are all affiliated.

''(iii) OWNERSHIP BY INDIVIDUALS.—When an individual owns more than 50 percent of the applicant and the individual also owns more than 50 percent of another business entity that operates in the same 3-digit North American Industry Classification System subsector as the applicant, the applicant and the individual owner's other business entity are affiliated.

''(iv) LESS THAN 50 PERCENT.—When an applicant does not have an owner that owns more than 50 percent of the applicant, if an owner of 20 percent or more of the applicant also owns more than 50 percent of another business entity that operates in the same 3-digit North American Industry Classification System subsector as the applicant, the applicant and the owner's other business entity are affiliated.

''(v) SPOUSE AND MINOR CHILDREN.—Ownership interests of spouses and minor children shall be combined when determining amount of ownership interest.

''(vi) PERCENTAGE OF OWNERSHIP.—When determining the percentage of ownership that an individual owns in a business, the Administrator shall consider the pro rata ownership of entities.

''(B) AFFILIATION ARISING UNDER STOCK OPTIONS, CONVERTIBLE SECURITIES, AND AGREEMENTS TO MERGE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall—

''(I) consider stock options, convertible securities, and agreements to merge (including agreements in principle) to have a present effect on the ownership of an entity; and

''(II) treat options, convertible securities, and agreements described in subclause (I) as though the rights granted have been exercised.

''(ii) AGREEMENTS TO OPEN OR CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS.—An agreement to open or continue negotiations towards the possibility of a merger or a sale of stock at some later date is not considered an 'agreement in principle' and is not given present effect.

''(iii) CONDITIONS PRECEDENT.—Stock options, convertible securities, and agreements that are subject to conditions precedent that are incapable of fulfillment, speculative, conjectural, or unenforceable under State or Federal law, or where the probability of the transaction (or exercise of the rights) occurring is shown to be extremely remote, are not given present effect.

''(iv) ABILITY TO DIVEST.—The Administrator shall not give present effect to individuals', concerns', or other entities' ability to divest all or part of their ownership interest to avoid a finding of affiliation.

''(C) DETERMINING THE CONCERN'S SIZE.—In determining the size of a concern, the Administrator counts the receipts, employees, or the alternate size standard (if applicable) of the concern whose size is at issue and all of the domestic and foreign affiliates of the concern, regardless of whether the affiliates are organized for profit.

''(D) EXCEPTIONS TO AFFILIATION.—The exceptions to affiliation described in section 121.103(b) of title 13, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation, shall apply.''.

(b) FRANCHISE DIRECTORY.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administration shall publish and maintain on the website of the Administration a Franchise Directory, which shall contain a list that lenders and certified development companies may use in evaluating whether a franchise is eligible for financing from the Administration.

SEC. 11115. LOAN AUTHORIZATION.

(a) 7(A) LOANS.—Section 7(a)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(1)), as amended by this subtitle, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(F) LOAN AUTHORIZATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a loan made or guaranteed under this subsection, the Administration shall issue a written agreement providing the terms and conditions under which the Administration will make or guarantee the loan.

''(ii) NOT A CONTRACT.—A written agreement issued under clause (i) is not a contract to make a loan.''.

(b) 504/CDC LOANS.—Section 502 of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 696), as amended by this subtitle, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(10) LOAN AUTHORIZATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a loan made under this section, the Administration shall issue a written agreement providing the terms and conditions under which the Administration will make the loan.

''(B) NOT A CONTRACT.—A written agreement issued under subparagraph (A) is not a contract to make a loan.''.

SEC. 11116. OVERSIGHT OF SMALL BUSINESS LENDING COMPANIES.

(a) DEFINITION.—Section 3(r) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(r)) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''As used in section 23 of this Act'' and inserting ''In this Act''.

(b) CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS; MAXIMUM NUMBER.—Section 7(a)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(1)), as amended by this subtitle, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(G) ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO SMALL BUSINESS LENDING COMPANIES.—

''(i) MAXIMUM NUMBER.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Not more than 17 small business lending companies may be authorized to make loans under this subsection at any time.

''(II) EXISTING SMALL BUSINESS LENDING COMPANIES.—

''(aa) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subclause (III), each of the 14 small business lending companies authorized to make loans under this subsection as of June 1, 2023 shall retain such authorization on and after the date of enactment of this subparagraph.

''(bb) LOSS OF AUTHORIZATION.—With respect to a lender that, as of the date of enactment of this subparagraph, is authorized as a Community Advantage small business lending company, that lender shall, beginning on that date of enactment—

''(AA) no longer have that authorization; and

''(BB) be designated as a lender under the Community Advantage Loan Program established under paragraph (38).

''(III) TRANSFER OR SALE.—The Administrator shall have the discretion to authorize the transfer or sale of a license of a small business lending company to make loans under this subsection to another small business lending company.

''(IV) LIMITATION OF DELEGATED AUTHORITY.—

''(aa) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding paragraph (31), any small business lending company that the Administration authorizes after June 1, 2023 to make loans under this subsection shall be ineligible for delegated authority from the Administration to process, close, service, and liquidate certain loans made under this subsection for the 5-year period beginning on the date on which the Administration authorizes the small business lending company to make loans under this subsection.

''(bb) EXISTING SBLCS.—Item (aa) shall not apply with respect to each of the 14 small business lending companies authorized to make loans under this subsection as of June 1, 2023.

''(ii) MINIMUM CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subclauses (II) and (III), to be authorized to make loans under this subsection, a small business lending company shall comply with the minimum capital requirements in effect on January 3, 2021.

''(II) APPROVED ON OR AFTER JANUARY 4, 2021.—Any small business lending company authorized by the Administration to make loans under this subsection on or after January 4, 2021, including in the event of a change of ownership or control, shall maintain, at a minimum, the greater of—

''(aa) unencumbered paid-in capital and paid-in surplus of not less than $5,000,000; or

''(bb) an amount equal to 10 percent of the aggregate of its share of all outstanding loans.

''(III) REQUIREMENTS ON AND AFTER JANUARY 4, 2024.—On and after January 4, 2024, each small business lending company that makes or acquires a loan under this subsection shall maintain, at a minimum, the greater of—

''(aa) unencumbered paid-in capital and paid-in surplus of not less than $5,000,000; or

''(bb) an amount equal to 10 percent of the aggregate of its share of all outstanding loans.

''(iii) CRITERIA FOR LICENSING SMALL BUSINESS LENDING COMPANIES.—The Administrator shall use uniform terms for the licensing of business concerns as small business lending companies and the participation of those companies in the programs under this subsection.''.

(c) ANNUAL STRESS TESTING AND REVIEWS.—Section 23(d) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 650(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''IN GENERAL.—'' after ''(1)'';

(2) in paragraph (2), by inserting ''HEARING.—'' after ''(2)'';

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively;

(4) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

''(3) SPECIAL SUPERVISORY AUTHORITIES RELATED TO SMALL BUSINESS LENDING COMPANIES.—

''(A) REVIEW AND REVOCATION OF AUTHORITY.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of Credit Risk Management (in this paragraph referred to as the 'Director')—

''(I) may review and revoke the authority of a small business lending company to make, service, or liquidate business loans under section 7(a) for performance, excessive losses, or predatory lending;

''(II) shall review and may revoke the authority of a small business lending company to make, service, or liquidate business loans under section 7(a) if—

''(aa) the early default rate for the small business lending company exceeds the average default rate for all small business lending companies participating in the loan program under section 7(a);

''(bb) the small business lending company fails to comply with the requirements under subparagraph (B); or

''(cc) the Director finds in an audit conducted under subparagraph (C)(ii) that the

small business lending company is not in compliance with 1 or more of the requirements described in subparagraph (C); and

''(III) shall revoke the authority of a small business lending company to make, service, or liquidate business loans under section 7(a) if the Director has determined the small business lending company has failed to comply with the requirements in subclause (II) or (III) of subparagraph (B)(ii) for 2 or more years in a row.

''(ii) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—If the Director revokes the authority of a small business lending company to make, service, or liquidate business loans under section 7(a), the Director shall report the revocation, along with details and information describing why that decision was made, to the Office of the Inspector General of the Administration.

''(B) ANNUAL STRESS TESTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Each small business lending company shall—

''(I) conduct an annual stress test of the portfolio of the small business lending company under section 7(a) in accordance with the requirements under clause (ii); and

''(II) report to the Director the findings of each annual stress test conducted under subclause (I).

''(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—Each stress test conducted under clause (i) shall comply with the following requirements:

''(I) The small business lending company shall use financial data as of December 31 of the calendar year prior to the reporting year.

''(II) The small business lending company shall use the scenarios provided by the Director, which shall reflect a minimum of 2 sets of economic and financial conditions, including baseline and severely adverse scenarios that incorporate consideration of interest rate risk. The Director shall provide a description of the scenarios required to be used by each small business lending company not later than February 15 of the reporting year.

''(III) The board of directors and senior management of each small business lending company shall consider the results of the stress tests conducted under this subsection in the normal course of business, including capital planning, assessment of capital adequacy, and risk management practices of the small business lending company.

''(C) COMPLIANCE WITH BANK SECRECY ACT AND ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING REQUIREMENTS.—

''(i) DEFINITION.—In this subparagraph, the term 'Bank Secrecy Act' means—

''(I) section 21 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1829b);

''(II) chapter 2 of title I of Public Law 91–508 (12 U.S.C. 1951 et seq.); and

''(III) subchapter II of chapter 53 of title 31, United States Code.

''(ii) ANNUAL REVIEWS.—The Director—

''(I) shall conduct annual reviews to ensure that small business lending companies are in compliance with the requirements contained in the regulations issued under clause (iii); and

''(II) in conducting a review under subclause (I), may not rely on self-certification by a small business lending company that the small business lending company is in compliance with those requirements.

''(iii) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Modernizing SBA's Business Loan Programs Act of 2023, the Administrator shall, in consultation with other appropriate Federal agencies, issue regulations to provide a framework to ensure that small business lending companies are in compliance with the requirements under the Bank Secrecy Act, including Know Your Customer and anti-money laundering requirements, and any applicable consumer protection laws, including the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15 U.S.C. 1691 et seq.), and the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (Public Law 106–102; 113 Stat. 1338).'';

(5) in paragraph (4), as so redesignated, by inserting ''NOTIFICATION.—'' after ''(4)''; and

(6) in paragraph (5), as so redesignated, by inserting ''DELEGATION.—'' after ''(5)''.

SEC. 11117. OFFICE OF CREDIT RISK MANAGEMENT.

Section 47 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657t) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting before the period at the end the following: ''with a demonstrated career in or outstanding qualifications or expertise related to finance and financial risk management. The Director shall report directly to the Administrator''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) COMPENSATION.—The Administrator shall fix the compensation of the Director—

''(A) as necessary to carry out the duties of the Office; and

''(B) in an amount that is not less than the highest rate of basic pay for the Senior Executive Service under section 5382(b) of title 5, United States Code.''; and

(2) in subsection (h)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (I), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (J), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(K) the number of 7(a) lenders that had an early default rate of more than 3 percent; and

''(L) an analysis of the median and average credit scores of borrowers relating to early default rates, purchase rates, and charge offs.''.

SEC. 11118. DENIED LOAN OR LOAN MODIFICATION REQUEST.

(a) 7(A) LOANS.—Section 7(a)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(1)), as amended by this subtitle, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(H) DENIED LOAN OR LOAN MODIFICATION REQUEST.—

''(i) ROLE OF ADMINISTRATOR.—The Administrator may not intervene or make a final decision with respect to a request for reconsideration of a denied loan or loan modification request made by an applicant or recipient of a loan under this subsection.

''(ii) FINAL DECISION.—Only the Director of the Office of Financial Assistance may make a final decision with respect to a request for reconsideration of a denied loan or loan modification request made by an applicant or recipient of a loan under this subsection.''.

(b) 504/CDC LOANS.—Section 502 of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 696), as amended by this subtitle, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(11) DENIED LOAN OR LOAN MODIFICATION REQUEST.—

''(A) ROLE OF ADMINISTRATOR.—The Administrator may not intervene or make a final decision with respect to a request for reconsideration of a denied loan or loan modification request made by an applicant or recipient of a loan under this section.

''(B) FINAL DECISION.—Only the Director of the Office of Financial Assistance may make a final decision with respect to a request for reconsideration of a denied loan or loan modification request made by an applicant or recipient of a loan under this section.''.

SEC. 11119. DIRECT LENDING.

Section 7(a)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(1)), as amended by this subtitle, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(I) NOTIFICATION REQUIRED BEFORE DIRECT LENDING.—Not later than 60 days before the Administration implements any policy or pilot program that would allow the Administration to directly make a loan under this subsection, the Administrator shall submit a notification to Congress for review.''.

SEC. 11120. RESTRICTION ON REFINANCING DEBT.

Section 7(a)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(1)), as amended by this subtitle, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(J) RESTRICTION ON REFINANCING DEBT.—

''(i) DEFINITION.—In this subparagraph, the term 'delegated authority' means status granted by the Administration to a lender to allow the lender to process, close, service, and liquidate certain loans made under this subsection without prior review by the Administration.

''(ii) RESTRICTION.—A lender shall be prohibited from using any delegated authority under this subsection to refinance any debt held by the lender, including any loan made under this subsection.''.

SEC. 11121. GAO STUDY.

Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study and submit to the Administrator, the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate, and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

(1) an analysis of the use of alternative credit models for loans made under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)) in an amount of less than $350,000, including—

(A) an analysis of whether appropriate guardrails are in place to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse and provide protections for the borrower;

(B) an evaluation of the effectiveness of those credit models in reducing barriers to access to capital to underserved and rural communities; and

(C) recommendations as to whether improvements can be made by Administration in its use of alternative credit models to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse and to improve access to capital to underserved and rural communities;

(2) an audit of the operations, staffing, and resources of the Office of Credit Risk Management of the Administration, including the efforts of the Office to implement the new oversight provisions under the amendments made by this title; and

(3) a survey of the practices of lenders under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)) relating to the use of criminal history when determining whether to approve a loan under that section or a similarly sized commercial loan that is not guaranteed by the Administration.

TITLE LXX—VETERAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING ACT OF 2023

SEC. 11201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Act of 2023''.

SEC. 11202. BOOTS TO BUSINESS PROGRAM.

Section 32 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657b) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(h) BOOTS TO BUSINESS PROGRAM.—

''(1) COVERED INDIVIDUAL DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'covered individual' means—

''(A) a member of the Armed Forces, including the National Guard or Reserves;

''(B) an individual who is participating in the Transition Assistance Program established under section 1144 of title 10, United States Code;

''(C) an individual who—

''(i) served on active duty in any branch of the Armed Forces, including the National Guard or Reserves; and

''(ii) was discharged or released from such service under conditions other than dishonorable; and

''(D) a spouse or dependent of an individual described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C).

''(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—During the period beginning on the date of enactment of this subsection and ending on September 30, 2028, the Administrator shall carry out a program to be known as the 'Boots to Business Program' to provide entrepreneurship training to covered individuals.

''(3) GOALS.—The goals of the Boots to Business Program are to—

''(A) provide assistance and in-depth training to covered individuals interested in business ownership; and

''(B) provide covered individuals with the tools, skills, and knowledge necessary to identify a business opportunity, draft a business plan, identify sources of capital, connect with local resources for small business concerns, and start up a small business concern.

''(4) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Boots to Business Program may include—

''(i) an in-person and virtual, as applicable, presentation providing exposure to the considerations involved in self-employment and ownership of a small business concern;

''(ii) an online, self-study course focused on the basic skills of entrepreneurship, the language of business, and the considerations involved in self-employment and ownership of a small business concern;

''(iii) an in-person and virtual, as applicable, classroom instruction component providing an introduction to the foundations of self employment and ownership of a small business concern; and

''(iv) in-depth training delivered through online instruction, including an online course that leads to the creation of a business plan.

''(B) TRAVEL COSTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the other provisions of this subparagraph, of the total amount of grant funding that a Veteran Business Outreach Center participating in the Boots to Business Program receives from the Administration, the center may not expend more than 35 percent of that funding on costs relating to international travel with respect to the Boots to Business Program.

''(ii) COSTS NOT INCLUDED IN CAP.—Costs relating to the salaries of, or stipends for, instructors under the Boots to Business Program shall not be included for the purposes of the limitation under clause (i).

''(iii) PETITION.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—A Veteran Business Outreach Center may petition the Administrator for the center to expend additional funds beyond the limitation under clause (i) for the purposes described in that clause.

''(II) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—If the Administrator grants any petition submitted under subclause (I), the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a notification regarding that decision by the Administrator.

''(C) COLLABORATION.—The Administrator may—

''(i) collaborate with public and private entities to develop course curricula for the Boots to Business Program;

''(ii) modify program components in coordination with entities participating in a Warriors in Transition program, as defined in section 738(e) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (10 U.S.C. 1071 note); and

''(iii) consult with Directors of Veteran Business Outreach Centers regarding the necessity of instructor international travel and the feasibility of incorporating virtual classroom components.

''(D) USE OF RESOURCE PARTNERS AND DISTRICT OFFICES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall—

''(I) ensure that Veteran Business Outreach Centers regularly participate, on a nationwide basis, in the Boots to Business Program; and

''(II) to the maximum extent practicable, use district offices of the Administration and a variety of other resource partners and entities in administering the Boots to Business Program.

''(ii) GRANT AUTHORITY.—In carrying out clause (i), the Administrator may make grants to Veteran Business Outreach Centers, other resource partners, or other entities to carry out components of the Boots to Business Program.

''(E) AVAILABILITY TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.—The Administrator shall make available to the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Labor information regarding the Boots to Business Program, including all course materials and outreach materials related to the Boots to Business Program, for inclusion on the websites of the Department of Defense and the Department of Labor relating to the Transition Assistance Program, in the Transition Assistance Program manual, and in other relevant materials available for distribution from the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Labor.

''(F) AVAILABILITY TO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—In consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Administrator shall make available for distribution and display on the website of the Department of Veterans Affairs and at local facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs outreach materials regarding the Boots to Business Program, which shall, at a minimum—

''(i) describe the Boots to Business Program and the services provided; and

''(ii) include eligibility requirements for participating in the Boots to Business Program.

''(G) AVAILABILITY TO OTHER PARTICIPATING AGENCIES.—The Administrator shall ensure information regarding the Boots to Business program, including all course materials and outreach materials related to the Boots to Business Program, is made available to other participating agencies in the Transition Assistance Program and upon request of other agencies.

''(5) COMPETITIVE BIDDING PROCEDURES.—The Administration shall use relevant competitive bidding procedures with respect to any contract or cooperative agreement executed by the Administration under the Boots to Business Program.

''(6) PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY.—Not later than 30 days before the deadline for submitting applications for any funding opportunity under the Boots to Business Program, the Administration shall publish a notice of the funding opportunity.

''(7) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, and not less frequently than annually thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report on the performance and effectiveness of the Boots to Business Program, which—

''(A) may be included as part of another report submitted to such committees by the Administrator related to the Office of Veterans Business Development; and

''(B) shall summarize available information relating to—

''(i) grants awarded under paragraph (4)(D);

''(ii) the total cost of the Boots to Business Program;

''(iii) the amount of program funds used for domestic and international travel expenses;

''(iv) each domestic location and international location traveled to for Boots to Business program instruction;

''(v) the number of program participants using each component of the Boots to Business Program;

''(vi) the completion rates for each component of the Boots to Business Program; and

''(vii) to the extent possible—

''(I) the demographics of program participants, to include gender, age, race, ethnicity, and relationship to the Armed Forces;

''(II) the number of program participants that connect with a district office of the Administration, a Veteran Business Outreach Center, or another resource partner of the Administration;

''(III) the number of program participants that start a small business concern;

''(IV) the results of the Boots to Business and Boots to Business Reboot course quality surveys conducted by the Office of Veterans Business Development before and after attending each of those courses, including a summary of any comments received from program participants;

''(V) the results of the Boots to Business Program outcome surveys conducted by the Office of Veterans Business Development, including a summary of any comments received from program participants; and

''(VI) the results of other germane participant satisfaction surveys;

''(C) an evaluation of the overall effectiveness of the Boots to Business Program based on each geographic region covered by the Administration during the most recent fiscal year;

''(D) an assessment of additional performance outcome measures for the Boots to Business Program, as identified by the Administrator;

''(E) any recommendations of the Administrator for improvement of the Boots to Business Program, which may include expansion of the types of individuals who are covered individuals;

''(F) an explanation of how the Boots to Business Program has been integrated with other transition programs and related resources of the Administration and other Federal agencies; and

''(G) any additional information the Administrator determines necessary.''.

TITLE LXXI—SMALL BUSINESS CHILD CARE INVESTMENT ACT

SEC. 11301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Small Business Child Care Investment Act''.

SEC. 11302. SMALL BUSINESS LOANS FOR NONPROFIT CHILD CARE PROVIDERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(10) NONPROFIT CHILD CARE PROVIDERS.—

''(A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term 'covered nonprofit child care provider' means an organization—

''(i) that—

''(I) is in compliance with licensing requirements for child care providers of the State in which the organization is located;

''(II) is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code;

''(III) is primarily engaged in providing child care for children from birth to compulsory school age; and

''(IV) is in compliance with the size standards established under this subsection for business concerns in the applicable industry;

''(ii) for which each employee and regular volunteer complies with the criminal background check requirements under section 658H(b) of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858f(b));

''(iii) that may—

''(I) provide care for school-age children outside of school hours or outside of the school year; or

''(II) offer preschool or prekindergarten educational programs; and

''(iv) subject to any exemption under Federal law applicable to the organization, that certifies to the Administrator that the organization will not discriminate in any business practice, including providing services to the public, on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, disability, or national origin.

''(B) ELIGIBILITY FOR CERTAIN LOAN PROGRAMS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection, a covered nonprofit child care provider shall be deemed to be a small business concern for purposes of loans under section 7(a) of this Act or financing under title V of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 695 et seq.).

''(ii) LOAN GUARANTEE.—A covered nonprofit child care center provider—

''(I) shall obtain a guarantee of timely payment of the loan or financing from another person or entity to be eligible for a loan or financing of more than $500,000 under the authority under clause (i); and

''(II) shall not be required to obtain a guarantee of timely payment of the loan or financing to be eligible for a loan or financing that is not more than $500,000 under the authority under clause (i).

''(C) LIMITATION ON BASIS FOR INELIGIBILITY.—The Administrator may not determine that a covered nonprofit child care center provider is not eligible for a loan or financing described in subparagraph (B)(i) on the basis that the proceeds of the loan or financing will be used for a religious activity protected under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, as interpreted by the courts of the United States.''.

(b) REPORTING.—

(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ''covered nonprofit child care provider'' has the meaning given the term in paragraph (10) of section 3(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a)), as added by subsection (a).

(2) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report that contains—

(A) for the year covered by the report—

(i) the number of loans made under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)) and the number of financings provided under title V of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 695 et seq.) to covered nonprofit child care providers; and

(ii) the amount of such loans made and the amount of such financings provided to covered nonprofit child care providers; and

(B) any other information determined relevant by the Administrator.

TITLE LXXII—SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESS AND CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION ACT OF 2023

SEC. 11401. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Supporting Small Business and Career and Technical Education Act of 2023''.

SEC. 11402. INCLUSION OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

(a) DEFINITION.—Section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(gg) CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.—The term 'career and technical education' has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302).''.

(b) SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS.—Section 21(c)(3) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(c)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (T), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in clause (v) of the first subparagraph (U) (relating to succession planning), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(3) by redesignating the second subparagraph (U) (relating to training on domestic and international intellectual property protections) as subparagraph (V);

(4) in subparagraph (V)(ii)(II), as so redesignated, by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

''(W) assisting small business concerns in hiring graduates from career and technical education programs or programs of study; and

''(X) assisting graduates of career and technical education programs or programs of study in starting up a small business concern.''.

(c) WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTERS.—Section 29(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) assistance for small business concerns to hire graduates from career and technical education programs or programs of study; and

''(5) assistance for graduates of career and technical education programs or programs of study to start up a small business concern.''.

TITLE LXXIII—SMALL BUSINESS DISASTER DAMAGE FAIRNESS ACT OF 2023

SEC. 11501. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Small Business Disaster Damage Fairness Act of 2023''.

SEC. 11502. COLLATERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DISASTER LOANS.

Section 7(d)(6) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(d)(6)) is amended, in the third proviso—

(1) by striking ''$14,000'' and inserting ''$25,000''; and

(2) by striking ''major disaster'' and inserting ''disaster''.

SEC. 11503. GAO REPORT ON DEFAULT RATES.

Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report on the performance, including the default rate, of loans made under section 7(b)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(1)), and the impact of the amendments to collateral amounts made under section 11502 on the performance of those loans, during the period—

(1) beginning on September 30, 2020; and

(2) ending on the date on that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

TITLE LXXIV—NATIVE AMERICAN ENTREPRENEURIAL AND OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2023

SEC. 11601. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Native American Entrepreneurial and Opportunity Act of 2023''.

SEC. 11602. OFFICE OF NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS.

The Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 49 (15 U.S.C. 631 note) as section 50; and

(2) by inserting after section 48 (15 U.S.C. 657u) the following:

''SEC. 49. OFFICE OF NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR.—The term 'Associate Administrator' means the Associate Administrator for Native American Affairs appointed under subsection (c).

''(2) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term 'Indian Tribe' has the meaning given the term 'Indian tribe' in section 8(a)(13).

''(3) NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATION.—The term 'Native Hawaiian Organization' has the meaning given the term in section 8(a)(15).

''(4) OFFICE.—The term 'Office' means the Office of Native American Affairs described in this section.

''(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established within the Administration the Office of Native American Affairs, which shall be responsible for establishing a working relationship with Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian Organizations by targeting programs of the Administration relating to entrepreneurial development, contracting, and capital access to revitalize Native businesses and economic development in Indian country.

''(2) CONNECTION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS.—To the extent reasonable, the Office shall connect Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian Organizations to programs administered by other Federal agencies related to the interests described in paragraph (1).

''(3) ALTERNATIVE WORK SITES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Office may establish alternative work sites within such regional offices of the Administration as may be necessary, with initial focus on those parts of Indian Country most economically disadvantaged, to perform efficiently the functions and responsibilities of the Office.

''(B) PROHIBITION.—The alternative work sites established under subparagraph (A) shall not be field offices of the Administration.

''(c) ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR.—The Office shall be headed by an Associate Administrator for Native American Affairs, who shall—

''(1) be appointed by and report to the Administrator;

''(2) have knowledge of Native American cultures and experience providing culturally tailored small business development assistance to Native Americans;

''(3) carry out the program to provide assistance to Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian Organizations and small business concerns owned and controlled by individuals who are members of those groups;

''(4) administer and manage Native American outreach expansion;

''(5) enhance assistance to Native Americans by formulating and promoting policies, programs, and assistance that better address their entrepreneurial, capital access, business development, and contracting needs, and collaborate with other Associate Administrators and intergovernmental leaders with similar missions across Federal agencies on the development of policies and plans to implement new programs of the Administration, while supplementing existing Federal programs to holistically serve those needs;

''(6) provide grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, or other financial assistance to Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian Organizations, or to private nonprofit organizations governed by members of those entities, that have the experience and capability to—

''(A) deploy training, counseling, workshops, educational outreach, and supplier events; and

''(B) access the entrepreneurial, capital, and contracting programs of the Administration;

''(7) assist the Administrator in conducting, or conduct, Tribal consultation to solicit input and facilitate discussion of potential modifications to programs and procedures of the Administration; and

''(8) recommend annual budgets for the Office.

''(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Office such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028 to carry out this section.''.

TITLE LXXV—RESEARCH ADVANCING TO MARKET PRODUCTION FOR INNOVATORS ACT

SEC. 11701. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Research Advancing to Market Production for Innovators Act''.

SEC. 11702. IMPROVEMENTS TO COMMERCIALIZATION SELECTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638) is amended—

(1) in subsection (g)—

(A) in paragraph (4)(B)(i), by striking ''1 year'' and inserting ''180 days'';

(B) in paragraph (16), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(C) in paragraph (17), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(18) with respect to peer review carried out under the SBIR program, to the extent practicable, include in the peer review—

''(A) the likelihood of commercialization in addition to scientific and technical merit and feasibility; and

''(B) not less than 1 reviewer with commercialization expertise who is capable of assessing the likelihood of commercialization.'';

(2) in subsection (o)—

(A) in paragraph (4)(B)(i), by striking ''1 year'' and inserting ''180 days'';

(B) in paragraph (20), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(C) in paragraph (21), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(22) with respect to peer review carried out under the STTR program, to the extent practicable, include in the peer review—

''(A) the likelihood of commercialization in addition to scientific and technical merit and feasibility; and

''(B) not less than 1 reviewer with commercialization expertise who is capable of assessing the likelihood of commercialization.'';

(3) in subsection (cc)—

(A) by striking ''During fiscal years 2012 through 2025, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Education'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—During fiscal years 2024 and 2025, each Federal agency with an SBIR or STTR program''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) LIMITATION.—The total value of awards provided by a Federal agency under this subsection in a fiscal year shall be—

''(A) except as provided in subparagraph (B), not more than 10 percent of the total funds allocated to the SBIR and STTR programs of the Federal agency during that fiscal year; and

''(B) with respect to the National Institutes of Health, not more than 15 percent of the total funds allocated to the SBIR and STTR programs of the National Institutes of Health during that fiscal year.

''(3) EXTENSION.—During fiscal year 2025, each Federal agency with an SBIR or STTR program may continue phase flexibility as described in this subsection only if the reports required under subsection (tt)(1) have been submitted to the appropriate committees.'';

(4) in subsection (hh)(2)(A)(i), by striking ''simplified and standardized procedures and model contracts'' and inserting ''a simplified and standardized application process and requirements, procedures, and model contracts''; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

''(yy) TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION OFFICIAL.—Each Federal agency participating in the SBIR or STTR program shall designate a Technology Commercialization Official in the Federal agency, who shall—

''(1) have sufficient commercialization experience;

''(2) provide assistance to SBIR and STTR program awardees in commercializing and transitioning technologies;

''(3) identify SBIR and STTR program technologies with sufficient technology and commercialization readiness to advance to Phase III awards or other non-SBIR or STTR program contracts;

''(4) coordinate with the Technology Commercialization Officials of other Federal agencies to identify additional markets and commercialization pathways for promising SBIR and STTR program technologies;

''(5) submit to the Administration an annual report on the number of technologies from the SBIR or STTR program that have advanced commercialization activities, including information required in the commercialization impact assessment under subsection (aaa);

''(6) submit to the Administration an annual report on actions taken by the Federal agency, and the results of those actions, to simplify, standardize, and expedite the application process and requirements, procedures, and contracts as required under subsection (hh) and described in subsection (aaa)(1)(E); and

''(7) carry out such other duties as the Federal agency determines necessary.''.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report summarizing the metrics relating to and an evaluation of the authority provided under section 9(cc) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(cc)), as amended by subsection (a), which shall include the size and location of the small business concerns receiving awards under the SBIR or STTR program.

SEC. 11703. IMPROVEMENTS TO TECHNICAL AND BUSINESS ASSISTANCE; COMMERCIALIZATION IMPACT ASSESSMENT; PATENT ASSISTANCE.

Section 9 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638), as amended by this title, is amended—

(1) in subsection (q)—

(A) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking ''may enter into an agreement with 1 or more vendors selected under paragraph (2)(A) to provide small business concerns engaged in SBIR or STTR projects with technical and business assistance services'' and inserting ''shall authorize recipients of awards under the SBIR or STTR program to select, if desired, technical and business assistance provided under subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of paragraph (2) with respect to SBIR or STTR projects'';

(ii) by inserting ''cybersecurity assistance,'' after ''intellectual property protections,''; and

(iii) by striking ''such concerns'' and inserting ''such recipients'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the following:

''(C) STAFF.—A small business concern may, by contract or otherwise, use funding provided under this section to hire new staff, augment staff, or direct staff to conduct or participate in training activities consistent with the goals listed in paragraph (1).'';

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

''(A) PHASE I.—A Federal agency described in paragraph (1) shall authorize a recipient of a Phase I SBIR or STTR award to utilize not more than $6,500 per project, included as part of the award of the recipient or in addition to the amount of the award of the recipient as determined appropriate by the head of the Federal agency, for the services described in paragraph (1)—

''(i) provided through a vendor selected under paragraph (2)(A);

''(ii) provided through a vendor other than a vendor selected under paragraph (2)(A);

''(iii) achieved through the activities described in paragraph (2)(C); or

''(iv) provided or achieved through any combination of clauses (i), (ii), and (iii).

''(B) PHASE II.—A Federal agency described in paragraph (1) shall authorize a recipient of a Phase II SBIR or STTR award to utilize not more than $50,000 per project, included as part of the award of the recipient or in addition to the amount of the award of the recipient as determined appropriate by the head of the Federal agency, for the services described in paragraph (1)—

''(i) provided through a vendor selected under paragraph (2)(A);

''(ii) provided through a vendor other than a vendor selected under paragraph (2)(A);

''(iii) achieved through the activities described in paragraph (2)(C); or

''(iv) provided or achieved through any combination of clauses (i), (ii), and (iii).'';

and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) TARGETED REVIEW.—A Federal agency may perform targeted reviews of technical and business assistance funding as described in subsection (mm)(1)(F).''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(zz) I-CORPS PARTICIPATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Each Federal agency that is required to conduct an SBIR or STTR program with an Innovation Corps (commonly known as 'I-Corps') program shall—

''(A) provide an option for participation in an I-Corps teams course by recipients of an award under the SBIR or STTR program; and

''(B) authorize the recipients described in subparagraph (A) to use an award provided under subsection (q) to provide additional technical assistance for participation in the I-Corps teams course.

''(2) COST OF PARTICIPATION.—The cost of participation by a recipient described in paragraph (1)(A) in an I-Corps course may be provided by—

''(A) an I-Corps team grant;

''(B) funds awarded to the recipient under subsection (q);

''(C) the participating teams or other sources as appropriate; or

''(D) any combination of sources described in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C).

''(aaa) COMMERCIALIZATION IMPACT ASSESSMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall coordinate with each Federal agency with an SBIR or STTR program to develop an annual commercialization impact assessment report of the Federal agency, which shall measure, for the 5-year period preceding the report (except with respect to subparagraph (A)(x))—

''(A) for Phase II contracts—

''(i) the total amount of sales of new products and services to the Federal Government or other commercial markets;

''(ii) the total outside investment from partnerships, joint ventures, or other private sector funding sources;

''(iii) the total number of technologies licensed to other companies;

''(iv) the total number of acquisitions of small business concerns participating in the SBIR program or the STTR program that are acquired by other entities;

''(v) the total number of new spin-out companies;

''(vi) the total outside investment from venture capital or angel investments;

''(vii) the total number of patent applications;

''(viii) the total number of patents acquired;

''(ix) the year of first Phase I award and the total number of employees at time of first Phase I award;

''(x) the total number of employees, as of October 1 of the year preceding the year in which the report is submitted; and

''(xi) the percent of revenue, as of the date of the report, generated through SBIR or STTR program funding;

''(B) the total number and value of subsequent Phase II awards, as described in subsection (bb), awarded for each particular project or technology;

''(C) the total number and value of Phase III awards awarded subsequent to a Phase II award;

''(D) the total number and value of non-SBIR and STTR program Federal awards and contracts; and

''(E) actions taken by the Federal agency, and the results of those actions, relating to developing a simplified and standardized application process and requirements, procedures, and model contracts throughout the Federal agency for Phase I, Phase II, and Phase III SBIR program awards in subsection (hh).

''(2) REPORTING BY CERTAIN CONCERNS.—For each fiscal year, each small business concern that has received more than 50 Phase II awards on or after October 1 of the ninth fiscal year before that fiscal year shall report to the Administration—

''(A) the rate of transition of the small business concern to Federal contracts outside of the SBIR and STTR program; and

''(B) the gross revenue of the small business concern and the amount of gross revenue derived from SBIR and STTR Phase I and Phase II awards.

''(3) PUBLICATION.—A commercialization impact assessment report described in paragraph (1) of a Federal agency shall be—

''(A) included in the annual report of the Federal agency required under this section; and

''(B) published on the website of the Administration.

''(bbb) PATENT ASSISTANCE.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

''(A) the term 'Director' means the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO; and

''(B) the term 'USPTO' means the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

''(2) ASSISTANCE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall enter into an interagency agreement with the Director under which the Director shall assist recipients of an award under the SBIR or STTR program (in this paragraph referred to as 'SBIR and STTR recipients') relating to intellectual property protection by establishing a prioritized patent examination program for SBIR and STTR recipients.

''(B) PROGRAM DETAILS.—The program established by the Director under subparagraph (A) shall have the following characteristics:

''(i) The program shall incorporate all existing (as of the date on which the Director establishes the program) benefits under the procedures for prioritized examination described in section 11(h) of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (35 U.S.C. 41 note).

''(ii) Under the program, with respect to prioritized examination, an SBIR or STTR recipient shall not be required to pay any prioritized examination fee or processing fee otherwise required under section 11(h) of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act (35 U.S.C. 41 note).

''(iii) Under the program, the Director shall ensure that, of the total number of requests for prioritized examination accepted by the USPTO in a fiscal year, the greater of the following shall be reserved for prioritized examinations for SBIR and STTR recipients:

''(I) 5 percent of the total number of such requests that may be accepted during that fiscal year.

''(II) 500 requests for prioritized examination.

''(iv) Under the program, the Director may not grant more than 2 prioritized examination requests to any individual recipient.

''(v) Under the program, the Director may increase the number of requests for prioritized examination that may be accepted in any fiscal year (as described in section 1.102(e) of title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation) by the number determined under clause (iii) for that fiscal year.

''(C) RULES.—The Director shall issue rules to carry out the prioritized patent examination program established under this paragraph.

''(3) OUTREACH.—The Administrator shall coordinate with the Director to provide outreach regarding the Pro Se Assistance Program of, and scam prevention services provided by, the USPTO.''.

TITLE LXXVI—SUPPORTING COMMUNITY LENDERS ACT

SEC. 11801. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Supporting Community Lenders Act''.

SEC. 11802. COORDINATOR FOR COMMUNITY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

Section 7 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(o) COORDINATOR FOR COMMUNITY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

''(A) the term 'Associate Administrator' means the Associate Administrator of the Office of Capital Access of the Administration;

''(B) the term 'community financial institution' has the meaning given the term in paragraph (36); and

''(C) the term 'Coordinator' means the Coordinator for Community Financial Institutions.

''(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Office of Capital Access of the Administration the position of Coordinator for Community Financial Institutions, the occupant of which shall be responsible for the planning, coordination, implementation, evaluation, and improvement of the efforts of the Administrator to enhance the performance of community financial institutions and support access to capital for small business concerns.

''(3) COORDINATOR.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Supporting Community Lenders Act, the Administrator shall designate an individual to serve as Coordinator, who shall—

''(i) report to the Associate Administrator; and

''(ii) have knowledge of community financial institutions and experience providing access to capital to small business concerns in underserved communities.

''(B) DUTIES.—The Coordinator shall—

''(i) create and implement strategies and programs that support the activities, development, and growth of community financial institutions;

''(ii) administer and manage outreach, technical support, and training programs to existing, and potential, community financial institutions;

''(iii) establish partnerships within the Administration and with relevant Federal agencies, including the Department of the Treasury, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Department of Agriculture, and the Minority Business Development Agency, to advance the goal of supporting the economic success of small business concerns through community financial institutions;

''(iv) review the effectiveness and impact of community financial institutions;

''(v) when appropriate, advocate on behalf of community financial institutions within the Administration, and to outside organizations, including other relevant Federal agencies;

''(vi) hold public meetings with relevant stakeholders not less frequently than once every 6 months beginning 1 year after the date of enactment of the Supporting Community Lenders Act; and

''(vii) not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of the Supporting Community Lenders Act, and not less frequently than once every 3 years thereafter, submit to Congress a report on the major activities of the Coordinator, recommendations for congressional action based on the expertise of the Coordinator, and potential for growth within the areas in which the Coordinator operates.

''(C) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the duties under this paragraph, the Coordinator shall consult with—

''(i) district offices of the Administration; and

''(ii) other relevant Federal agencies, including the Department of the Treasury, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and the Minority Business Development Agency.''.

SEC. 11803. OFFICE OF ADVOCACY EMPLOYEE ELIGIBILITY FOR FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE.

The Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Administration shall immediately notify the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives if, at any point, an employee, including a contracted employee, of the Office of Advocacy who has been employed at the Office of Advocacy for more than 1 year is not eligible for paid leave under subchapter V of chapter 63 of title 5, United States Code.

TITLE LXXVII—SBIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT OF 2023

SEC. 11901. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''SBIC Advisory Committee Act of 2023''.

SEC. 11902. SBIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term ''Advisory Committee'' means the SBIC Advisory Committee established under subsection (b);

(2) the term ''covered Members'' means the Chair and Ranking Member of—

(A) the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives;

(3) the terms ''licensee'', ''small business investment company'', and ''underlicensed State'' have the meanings given those terms in section 103 of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 662);

(4) the term ''low-income community'' has the meaning given the term in section 45D(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

(5) the term ''rural area'' has the meaning given the term by the Bureau of the Census;

(6) the terms ''small business concern owned and controlled by veterans'' and ''small business concern owned and controlled by women'' have the meanings given those terms in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632);

(7) the term ''socially or economically disadvantaged individual'' means a socially disadvantaged individual or economically disadvantaged individual, as described in paragraphs (5) and (6)(A), respectively, of section 8(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(a));

(8) the term ''underfinanced State'' means a State that has below median financing, as determined by the Administrator; and

(9) the term ''underserved community'' means—

(A) a HUBZone, as defined in section 31(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657a(b));

(B) a community that has been designated as an empowerment zone or an enterprise community under section 1391 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

(C) a community that has been designated as a promise zone by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; or

(D) a community that has been designated as a qualified opportunity zone under section 1400Z–1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator shall establish an SBIC Advisory Committee to convene outside experts to advise on the small business investment program under title III of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 681 et seq.).

(c) COMPOSITION.—

(1) MEMBERSHIP.—The Advisory Committee shall be composed of 16 members appointed by the Administrator as follows:

(A) The Associate Administrator of the Office of Investment and Innovation of the Administration, or another designee of the Associate Administrator, as determined by the Administrator.

(B) 7 members with competence regarding, interest in, or knowledge of the small business investment program under title III of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 681 et seq.), of whom—

(i) not fewer than 3 shall have a demonstrated record of expertise in investing in—

(I) low-income communities;

(II) communities that have been designated as qualified opportunity zones under section 1400Z–1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

(III) businesses primarily engaged in research and development;

(IV) manufacturers;

(V) businesses primarily owned or controlled by individuals in underserved communities before receiving capital from the licensee;

(VI) rural areas; or

(VII) underfinanced States; and

(ii) not less than 1 shall be a representative from a trade association for the small business investment program under title III of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 681 et seq.).

(C) 8 members appointed by the Administrator as follows:

(i) 2 members shall be selected from among the individuals in the list submitted by the Chair of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate under paragraph (2).

(ii) 2 members shall be selected from among the individuals in the list submitted by the Ranking Member of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate under paragraph (2).

(iii) 2 members shall be selected from among the individuals in the list submitted by the Chair of the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives under paragraph (2).

(iv) 2 members shall be selected from among the individuals in the list submitted by the Ranking Member of the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives under paragraph (2).

(2) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, each of the covered Members shall provide to the Administrator a list of 3 candidates for membership on the Advisory Committee, who shall be individuals who have no conflict of interest in the small business investment program under title III of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 681 et seq.) and hold a high-ranking position or senior leadership role in—

(A) a relevant industry trade association;

(B) the investment industry with expertise in pensions, endowments, and other nonbanking institutions;

(C) academia with expertise in the investment industry; or

(D) a nonprofit institution, including a nonprofit institution that serves any of the entities described in subclauses (I) through (VII) of paragraph (1)(B)(i).

(3) PRIVATE SECTOR MEMBERS.—Not fewer than 2 and not more than 4 of the members of the Advisory Committee shall be investors in the private sector who—

(A) invest in small business concerns; and

(B) as of the date of appointment, do not participate in the small business investment program under title III of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 681 et seq.).

(4) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the Advisory Committee shall be the member of the Advisory Committee appointed under paragraph (1)(A).

(5) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—Members of the Advisory Committee shall be appointed for the life of the Advisory Committee.

(6) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the Advisory Committee shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(d) DEADLINE FOR APPOINTMENT.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the covered Members provide the lists to the Administrator under subsection (c)(2), the Administrator shall—

(1) appoint the members of the Advisory Committee; and

(2) submit to Congress a list of the members so appointed.

(e) DUTIES.—The Advisory Committee shall provide advice and recommendations to the Administrator concerning—

(1) policy and program development and other matters of significance concerning activities under the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), including diversifying management teams or companies;

(2) incentives for small business investment companies to—

(A) invest and locate in underlicensed States and underfinanced States; and

(B) invest in small business concerns, including small business concerns owned and controlled by socially or economically disadvantaged individuals, small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans, and small business concerns owned and controlled by women;

(3) metrics of success, and benchmarks for success, with respect to the goals described in this section; and

(4) the impact of the small business investment program under title III of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 681 et seq.) on the private investment market, including whether investments under the program compete with the private sector.

(f) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date on which the Administrator establishes the Advisory Committee under subsection (b), the Advisory Committee shall submit to the Administrator, the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate, and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report that includes the recommendations of the Advisory Committee described in subsection (e).

(g) TERMINATION.—The Advisory Committee shall terminate on the date on which the Advisory Committee submits the report required under subsection (f).

SA 1061. Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. DAINES) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2226, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. CREDIT MONITORING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 605A(k) (15 U.S.C. 1681c–1(k)) is amended—

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

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

''(A) UNIFORMED SERVICES.—The term 'uniformed services' has the meaning given the term in section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code.

''(B) UNIFORMED SERVICES MEMBER CONSUMER.—The term 'uniformed services member consumer' means a consumer who, regardless of duty status, is—

''(i) a member of the uniformed services; or

''(ii) a spouse, or a dependent who is not less than 18 years old, of a member of the uniformed services.''; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking ''active duty military consumer'' and inserting ''uniformed services member consumer''; and

(2) in section 625(b)(1)(K) (15 U.S.C. 1681t(b)(1)(K)), by striking ''active duty military consumers'' and inserting ''uniformed services member consumer''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is 1 year after the date on which the agency described in section 605A(k)(3) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 1681c–1(k)) issues a final rule that updates existing rules to implement the amendments made by subsection (a).

SA 1062. Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

DIVISION I—NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2023

SEC. 11001. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the ''Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Reauthorization Act of 2023''.

SEC. 11002. CONSOLIDATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW REQUIREMENTS.

Section 105 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4115) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) CONSOLIDATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a recipient of grant amounts under this Act that is carrying out a project that qualifies as an affordable housing activity under section 202, if the recipient is using 1 or more additional sources of Federal funds to carry out the project, and the grant amounts received under this Act constitute the largest single source of Federal funds that the recipient reasonably expects to commit to the project at the time of environmental review, the Indian tribe of the recipient may assume, in addition to all of the responsibilities for environmental review, decision making, and action under subsection (a), all of the additional responsibilities for environmental review, decision making, and action under provisions of law that would apply to each Federal agency providing additional funding were the Federal agency to carry out the project as a Federal project.

''(2) DISCHARGE.—The assumption by the Indian tribe of the additional responsibilities for environmental review, decision making, and action under paragraph (1) with respect to a project shall be deemed to discharge the responsibility of the applicable Federal agency for environmental review, decision making, and action with respect to the project.

''(3) CERTIFICATION.—An Indian tribe that assumes the additional responsibilities under paragraph (1), shall certify, in addition to the requirements under subsection (c)—

''(A) the additional responsibilities that the Indian tribe has fully carried out under this subsection; and

''(B) that the certifying officer consents to assume the status of a responsible Federal official under the provisions of law that would apply to each Federal agency providing additional funding under paragraph (1).

''(4) LIABILITY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—An Indian tribe that completes an environmental review under this subsection shall assume sole liability for the content and quality of the review.

''(B) REMEDIES AND SANCTIONS.—Except as provided in subparagraph (C), if the Secretary approves a certification and release of funds to an Indian tribe for a project in accordance with subsection (b), but the Secretary or the head of another Federal agency providing funding for the project subsequently learns that the Indian tribe failed to carry out the responsibilities of the Indian tribe as described in subsection (a) or paragraph (1), as applicable, the Secretary or other head, as applicable, may impose appropriate remedies and sanctions in accordance with—

''(i) the regulations issued pursuant to section 106; or

''(ii) such regulations as are issued by the other head.

''(C) STATUTORY VIOLATION WAIVERS.—If the Secretary waives the requirements under this section in accordance with subsection (d) with respect to a project for which an Indian tribe assumes additional responsibilities under paragraph (1), the waiver shall prohibit any other Federal agency providing additional funding for the project from imposing remedies or sanctions for failure to comply with requirements for environmental review, decision making, and action under provisions of law that would apply to the Federal agency.''.

SEC. 11003. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 108 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4117) is amended, in the first sentence, by striking ''2009 through 2013'' and inserting ''2024 through 2034''.

SEC. 11004. STUDENT HOUSING ASSISTANCE.

Section 202(3) of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4132(3)) is amended by inserting ''including college housing assistance'' after ''self-sufficiency and other services,''.

SEC. 11005. APPLICATION OF RENT RULE ONLY TO UNITS OWNED OR OPERATED BY INDIAN TRIBE OR TRIBALLY DESIGNATED HOUSING ENTITY.

Section 203(a)(2) of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4133(a)(2)) is amended by inserting ''owned or operated by a recipient and'' after ''residing in a dwelling unit''.

SEC. 11006. DE MINIMIS EXEMPTION FOR PROCUREMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICES.

Section 203(g) of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4133(g)) is amended by striking ''$5,000'' and inserting ''$10,000''.

SEC. 11007. HOMEOWNERSHIP OR LEASE-TO-OWN LOW-INCOME REQUIREMENT AND INCOME TARGETING.

Section 205 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4135) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''and'' at the end; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(E) notwithstanding any other provision of this paragraph, in the case of rental housing that is made available to a current rental family for conversion to a homebuyer or a lease-purchase unit, that the current rental family can purchase through a contract of sale, lease-purchase agreement, or any other sales agreement, is made available for purchase only by the current rental family, if the rental family was a low-income family at the time of their initial occupancy of such unit; and''; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking ''The provisions'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The provisions''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) APPLICABILITY TO IMPROVEMENTS.—The provisions of subsection (a)(2) regarding binding commitments for the remaining useful life of property shall not apply to improvements of privately owned homes if the cost of the improvements do not exceed 10 percent of the maximum total development cost for the home.''.

SEC. 11008. LEASE REQUIREMENTS AND TENANT SELECTION.

Section 207 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4137) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) NOTICE OF TERMINATION.—The notice period described in subsection (a)(3) shall apply to projects and programs funded in part by amounts authorized under this Act.''.

SEC. 11009. INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title II of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4131 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 211. IHS SANITATION FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION.

''Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Director of the Indian Health Service, or a recipient receiving funding for a housing construction or renovation project under this title, may use funding from the Indian Health Service for the construction of sanitation facilities under that project.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–330; 110 Stat. 4016) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 210 the following:

''Sec. 211. IHS sanitation facilities construction.''.

SEC. 11010. STATUTORY AUTHORITY TO SUSPEND GRANT FUNDS IN EMERGENCIES.

Section 401(a)(4) of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4161(a)(4)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''may take an action described in paragraph (1)(C)'' and inserting ''may immediately take an action described in paragraph (1)(C)''; and

(2) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

''(B) PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary takes an action described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall provide notice to the recipient at the time that the Secretary takes that action.

''(ii) NOTICE REQUIREMENTS.—The notice under clause (i) shall inform the recipient that the recipient may request a hearing by not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary provides the notice.

''(iii) HEARING REQUIREMENTS.—A hearing requested under clause (ii) shall be conducted—

''(I) in accordance with subpart A of part 26 of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations); and

''(II) to the maximum extent practicable, on an expedited basis.

''(iv) FAILURE TO CONDUCT A HEARING.—If a hearing requested under clause (ii) is not completed by the date that is 180 days after the date on which the recipient requests the hearing, the action of the Secretary to limit the availability of payments shall no longer be effective.''.

SEC. 11011. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

Section 407 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4167) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''Congress'' and inserting ''Committee on Indian Affairs and the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The report described in subsection (a) shall be made publicly available, including to recipients.''.

SEC. 11012. 99-YEAR LEASEHOLD INTEREST IN TRUST OR RESTRICTED LANDS FOR HOUSING PURPOSES.

Section 702 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4211) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**50-YEAR**'' and inserting ''**99-YEAR**'';

(2) in subsection (b), by striking ''50 years'' and inserting ''99 years''; and

(3) in subsection (c)(2), by striking ''50 years'' and inserting ''99 years''.

SEC. 11013. AMENDMENTS FOR BLOCK GRANTS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING ACTIVITIES.

Section 802(e) of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4222(e)) is amended by—

(1) by striking ''The Director'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) SUBAWARDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including provisions of State law requiring competitive procurement, the Director may make subawards to subrecipients, except for for-profit entities, using amounts provided under this title to carry out affordable housing activities upon a determination by the Director that such subrecipients have adequate capacity to carry out activities in accordance with this Act.''.

SEC. 11014. REAUTHORIZATION OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN HOMEOWNERSHIP PROVISIONS.

Section 824 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act

of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4243) is amended by striking ''such sums as may be necessary'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2034.''.

SEC. 11015. TOTAL DEVELOPMENT COST MAXIMUM PROJECT COST.

Affordable housing (as defined in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103)) that is developed, acquired, or assisted under the block grant program established under section 101 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4111) shall not exceed by more than 20 percent, without prior approval of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the total development cost maximum cost for all housing assisted under an affordable housing activity, including development and model activities.

SEC. 11016. COMMUNITY-BASED DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS AND SPECIAL ACTIVITIES BY INDIAN TRIBES.

Section 105 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5305) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(i) INDIAN TRIBES AND TRIBALLY DESIGNATED HOUSING ENTITIES AS COMMUNITY-BASED DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS.—

''(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term 'tribally designated housing entity' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103).

''(2) QUALIFICATION.—An Indian tribe, a tribally designated housing entity, or a tribal organization shall qualify as a community-based development organization for purposes of carrying out new housing construction under this subsection under a grant made under section 106(a)(1).

''(j) SPECIAL ACTIVITIES BY INDIAN TRIBES.—An Indian tribe receiving a grant under paragraph (1) of section 106(a)(1) shall be authorized to directly carry out activities described in paragraph (15) of such section 106(a)(1).''.

SEC. 11017. INDIAN TRIBE ELIGIBILITY FOR HUD HOUSING COUNSELING GRANTS.

Section 106(a)(4) of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. 1701x(a)(4)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by striking ''and'' and inserting a comma; and

(B) by inserting before the period at the end the following: '', Indian tribes, and tribally designated housing entities'';

(2) in subparagraph (B), by inserting '', Indian tribes, and tribally designated housing entities'' after ''organizations)'';

(3) by redesignating subparagraph (F) as subparagraph (G); and

(4) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the following:

''(F) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph, the terms 'Indian tribe' and 'tribally designated housing entity' have the meanings given those terms in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103).''.

SEC. 11018. SECTION 184 INDIAN HOME LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 184 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 1715z–13a) is amended—

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

''(a) AUTHORITY.—To provide access to sources of private financing to Indian families, Indian housing authorities, and Indian Tribes, who otherwise could not acquire housing financing because of the unique legal status of Indian lands and the unique nature of tribal economies, and to expand homeownership opportunities to Indian families, Indian housing authorities and Indian tribes on fee simple lands, the Secretary may guarantee not to exceed 100 percent of the unpaid principal and interest due on any loan eligible under subsection (b) made to an Indian family, Indian housing authority, or Indian Tribe on trust land and fee simple land.''; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

''(2) ELIGIBLE HOUSING.—The loan shall be used to construct, acquire, refinance, or rehabilitate 1- to 4-family dwellings that are standard housing.'';

(B) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (D) as clauses (i) through (iv), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly;

(ii) by striking ''The loan'' and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The loan'';

(iii) in subparagraph (A), as so designated, by adding at the end the following:

''(v) Any entity certified as a community development financial institution by the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund established under section 104(a) of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4703(a)).''; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) DIRECT GUARANTEE PROCESS.—

''(i) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may authorize qualifying lenders to participate in a direct guarantee process for approving loans under this section.

''(ii) INDEMNIFICATION.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary determines that a mortgage guaranteed through a direct guarantee process under this subparagraph was not originated in accordance with the requirements established by the Secretary, the Secretary may require the lender approved under this subparagraph to indemnify the Secretary for the loss, irrespective of whether the violation caused the mortgage default.

''(II) FRAUD OR MISREPRESENTATION.—If fraud or material misrepresentation is involved in a direct guarantee process under this subparagraph, the Secretary shall require the original lender approved under this subparagraph to indemnify the Secretary for the loss regardless of when an insurance claim is paid.

''(C) REVIEW OF MORTGAGEES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may periodically review the mortgagees originating, underwriting, or servicing single family mortgage loans under this section.

''(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—In conducting a review under clause (i), the Secretary—

''(I) shall compare the mortgagee with other mortgagees originating or underwriting loan guarantees for Indian housing based on the rates of defaults and claims for guaranteed mortgage loans originated, underwritten, or serviced by that mortgagee;

''(II) may compare the mortgagee with such other mortgagees based on underwriting quality, geographic area served, or any commonly used factors the Secretary determines necessary for comparing mortgage default risk, provided that the comparison is of factors that the Secretary would expect to affect the default risk of mortgage loans guaranteed by the Secretary;

''(iii) shall implement such comparisons by regulation, notice, or mortgagee letter; and

''(I) may terminate the approval of a mortgagee to originate, underwrite, or service loan guarantees for housing under this section if the Secretary determines that the mortgage loans originated, underwritten, or serviced by the mortgagee present an unacceptable risk to the Indian Housing Loan Guarantee Fund established under subsection (i)—

''(aa) based on a comparison of any of the factors set forth in this subparagraph; or

''(bb) by a determination that the mortgagee engaged in fraud or misrepresentation.''; and

(C) in paragraph (5)(A), by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: ''except, as determined by the Secretary, when there is a loan modification under subsection (h)(1)(B), the term of the loan shall not exceed 40 years''.

(b) LOAN GUARANTEES FOR INDIAN HOUSING.—Section 184(i)(5) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 1715z–13a(i)(5)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by inserting after the first sentence the following: ''There are authorized to be appropriated for those costs such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2034.''; and

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''2008 through 2012'' and inserting ''2024 through 2034''.

SEC. 11019. LOAN GUARANTEES FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN HOUSING.

Section 184A of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 1715z–13b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by inserting '', and to expand homeownership opportunities to Native Hawaiian families who are eligible to receive a homestead under the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920 (42 Stat. 108) on fee simple lands in the State of Hawaii'' after ''markets'';

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

''(2) ELIGIBLE HOUSING.—The loan shall be used to construct, acquire, refinance, or rehabilitate 1- to 4-family dwellings that are standard housing.'';

(B) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by redesignating clause (iv) as clause (v); and

(II) by adding after clause (iii) the following:

''(iv) Any entity certified as a community development financial institution by the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund established under section 104(a) of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4703(a)).''; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) INDEMNIFICATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary determines that a mortgage guaranteed through a direct guarantee process under this section was not originated in accordance with the requirements established by the Secretary, the Secretary may require the lender approved under this section to indemnify the Secretary for the loss, irrespective of whether the violation caused the mortgage default.

''(ii) DIRECT GUARANTEE ENDORSEMENT.—The Secretary may, dependent on the availability of systems development and staffing resources, delegate to eligible lenders the authority to directly endorse loans under this section.

''(iii) FRAUD OR MISREPRESENTATION.—If fraud or material misrepresentation was involved in the direct guarantee endorsement process by a lender under this section, the Secretary shall require the approved direct guarantee endorsement lender to indemnify the Secretary for any loss or potential loss, regardless of whether the fraud or misrepresentation caused or may cause the loan default.

''(iv) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary may implement any requirements described

in this subparagraph by regulation, notice, or Dear Lender Letter.''.

(C) in paragraph (5)(A), by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: ''except, as determined by the Secretary, when there is a loan modification under subsection (i)(1)(B), the term of the loan shall not exceed 40 years'';

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following:

''(C) EXCEPTION.—When the Secretary exercises its discretion to delegate direct guarantee endorsement authority pursuant to subsection (c)(4)(C)(ii), subparagraphs (A) and (B) of this paragraph shall not apply.'';

(B) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

''(2) STANDARD FOR APPROVAL.—

''(A) APPROVAL.—The Secretary may approve a loan for guarantee under this section and issue a certificate under this subsection only if the Secretary determines that there is a reasonable prospect of repayment of the loan.

''(B) EXCEPTIONS.—When the Secretary exercises its discretion to delegate direct guarantee endorsement authority pursuant to subsection (c)(4)(C)(ii)—

''(i) subparagraph (A) shall not apply; and

''(ii) the direct guarantee endorsement lender may issue a certificate under this paragraph as evidence of the guarantee in accordance with requirements prescribed by the Secretary.''; and

(C) in paragraph (3)(A), by inserting ''or, where applicable, the direct guarantee endorsement lender,'' after ''Secretary'' and

(4) in subsection (j)(5)(B), by inserting after the first sentence the following: ''There are authorized to be appropriated for those costs such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2034.''.

SEC. 11020. DRUG ELIMINATION PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE.—The term ''controlled substance'' has the meaning given the term in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802).

(2) DRUG-RELATED CRIME.—The term ''drug-related crime'' means the illegal manufacture, sale, distribution, use, or possession with intent to manufacture, sell, distribute, or use a controlled substance.

(3) RECIPIENT.—The term ''recipient''—

(A) has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103); and

(B) includes a recipient of funds under title VIII of that Act (25 U.S.C. 4221 et seq.).

(4) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary may make grants under this section to recipients of assistance under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4101 et seq.) for use in eliminating drug-related and violent crime.

(c) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—Grants under this section may be used for—

(1) the employment of security personnel;

(2) reimbursement of State, local, Tribal, or Bureau of Indian Affairs law enforcement agencies for additional security and protective services;

(3) physical improvements which are specifically designed to enhance security;

(4) the employment of 1 or more individuals—

(A) to investigate drug-related or violent crime in and around the real property comprising housing assisted under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4101 et seq.); and

(B) to provide evidence relating to such crime in any administrative or judicial proceeding;

(5) the provision of training, communications equipment, and other related equipment for use by voluntary tenant patrols acting in cooperation with law enforcement officials;

(6) programs designed to reduce use of drugs in and around housing communities funded under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4101 et seq.), including drug-abuse prevention, intervention, referral, and treatment programs;

(7) providing funding to nonprofit resident management corporations and resident councils to develop security and drug abuse prevention programs involving site residents;

(8) sports programs and sports activities that serve primarily youths from housing communities funded through and are operated in conjunction with, or in furtherance of, an organized program or plan designed to reduce or eliminate drugs and drug-related problems in and around those communities; and

(9) other programs for youth in school settings that address drug prevention and positive alternatives for youth, including education and activities related to science, technology, engineering, and math.

(d) APPLICATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant under this subsection, an eligible applicant shall submit an application to the Secretary, at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by—

(A) a plan for addressing the problem of drug-related or violent crime in and around of the housing administered or owned by the applicant for which the application is being submitted; and

(B) such additional information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

(2) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall approve applications submitted under paragraph (1) on the basis of thresholds or criteria such as—

(A) the extent of the drug-related or violent crime problem in and around the housing or projects proposed for assistance;

(B) the quality of the plan to address the crime problem in the housing or projects proposed for assistance, including the extent to which the plan includes initiatives that can be sustained over a period of several years;

(C) the capability of the applicant to carry out the plan; and

(D) the extent to which tenants, the Tribal government, and the Tribal community support and participate in the design and implementation of the activities proposed to be funded under the application.

(e) HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREAS.—In evaluating the extent of the drug-related crime problem pursuant to subsection (d)(2), the Secretary may consider whether housing or projects proposed for assistance are located in a high intensity drug trafficking area designated pursuant to section 707(b) of the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1706(b)).

(f) REPORTS.—

(1) GRANTEE REPORTS.—The Secretary shall require grantees under this section to provide periodic reports that include the obligation and expenditure of grant funds, the progress made by the grantee in implementing the plan described in subsection (d)(1)(A), and any change in the incidence of drug-related crime in projects assisted under section.

(2) HUD REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describing the system used to distribute funding to grantees under this section, which shall include descriptions of—

(A) the methodology used to distribute amounts made available under this section; and

(B) actions taken by the Secretary to ensure that amounts made available under section are not used to fund baseline local government services, as described in subsection (h)(2).

(g) NOTICE OF FUNDING AWARDS.—The Secretary shall publish on the website of the Department a notice of all grant awards made pursuant to section, which shall identify the grantees and the amount of the grants.

(h) MONITORING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall audit and monitor the program funded under this subsection to ensure that assistance provided under this subsection is administered in accordance with the provisions of section.

(2) PROHIBITION OF FUNDING BASELINE SERVICES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Amounts provided under this section may not be used to reimburse or support any local law enforcement agency or unit of general local government for the provision of services that are included in the baseline of services required to be provided by any such entity pursuant to a local cooperative agreement pursuant under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) or any provision of an annual contributions contract for payments in lieu of taxation with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

(B) DESCRIPTION.—Each grantee under this section shall describe, in the report under subsection (f)(1), such baseline of services for the unit of Tribal government in which the jurisdiction of the grantee is located.

(3) ENFORCEMENT.—The Secretary shall provide for the effective enforcement of this section, as specified in the program requirements published in a notice by the Secretary, which may include—

(A) the use of on-site monitoring, independent public audit requirements, certification by Tribal or Federal law enforcement or Tribal government officials regarding the performance of baseline services referred to in paragraph (2);

(B) entering into agreements with the Attorney General to achieve compliance, and verification of compliance, with the provisions of this section; and

(C) adopting enforcement authority that is substantially similar to the authority provided to the Secretary under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4101 et seq.)

(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for each fiscal years 2024 through 2034 to carry out this section.

SEC. 11021. RENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR HOMELESS OR AT-RISK INDIAN VETERANS.

Section 8(o)(19) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(19)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(E) INDIAN VETERANS HOUSING RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

''(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this subparagraph:

''(I) ELIGIBLE INDIAN VETERAN.—The term 'eligible Indian veteran' means an Indian veteran who is—

''(aa) homeless or at risk of homelessness; and

''(bb) living—

''(AA) on or near a reservation; or

''(BB) in or near any other Indian area.

''(II) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The term 'eligible recipient' means a recipient eligible to

receive a grant under section 101 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4111).

''(III) INDIAN; INDIAN AREA.—The terms 'Indian' and 'Indian area' have the meanings given those terms in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103).

''(IV) INDIAN VETERAN.—The term 'Indian veteran' means an Indian who is a veteran.

''(V) PROGRAM.—The term 'Program' means the Tribal HUD–VASH program carried out under clause (ii).

''(VI) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term 'tribal organization' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

''(ii) PROGRAM SPECIFICATIONS.—The Secretary shall use not less than 5 percent of the amounts made available for rental assistance under this paragraph to carry out a rental assistance and supported housing program, to be known as the 'Tribal HUD–VASH program', in conjunction with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, by awarding grants for the benefit of eligible Indian veterans.

''(iii) MODEL.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subclause (II), the Secretary shall model the Program on the rental assistance and supported housing program authorized under subparagraph (A) and applicable appropriations Acts, including administration in conjunction with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

''(II) EXCEPTIONS.—

''(aa) SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.—After consultation with Indian tribes, eligible recipients, and any other appropriate tribal organizations, the Secretary may make necessary and appropriate modifications to facilitate the use of the Program by eligible recipients to serve eligible Indian veterans.

''(bb) SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—After consultation with Indian tribes, eligible recipients, and any other appropriate tribal organizations, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may make necessary and appropriate modifications to facilitate the use of the Program by eligible recipients to serve eligible Indian veterans.

''(iv) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.—The Secretary shall make amounts for rental assistance and associated administrative costs under the Program available in the form of grants to eligible recipients.

''(v) FUNDING CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall award grants under the Program based on—

''(I) need;

''(II) administrative capacity; and

''(III) any other funding criteria established by the Secretary in a notice published in the Federal Register after consulting with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

''(vi) ADMINISTRATION.—Grants awarded under the Program shall be administered in accordance with the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4101 et seq.), except that recipients shall—

''(I) submit to the Secretary, in a manner prescribed by the Secretary, reports on the utilization of rental assistance provided under the Program; and

''(II) provide to the Secretary information specified by the Secretary to assess the effectiveness of the Program in serving eligible Indian veterans.

''(vii) CONSULTATION.—

''(I) GRANT RECIPIENTS; TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall consult with eligible recipients and any other appropriate tribal organization on the design of the Program to ensure the effective delivery of rental assistance and supportive services to eligible Indian veterans under the Program.

''(II) INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE.—The Director of the Indian Health Service shall provide any assistance requested by the Secretary or the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in carrying out the Program.

''(viii) WAIVER.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subclause (II), the Secretary may waive or specify alternative requirements for any provision of law (including regulations) that the Secretary administers in connection with the use of rental assistance made available under the Program if the Secretary finds that the waiver or alternative requirement is necessary for the effective delivery and administration of rental assistance under the Program to eligible Indian veterans.

''(II) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may not waive or specify alternative requirements under subclause (I) for any provision of law (including regulations) relating to labor standards or the environment.

''(ix) RENEWAL GRANTS.—The Secretary may—

''(I) set aside, from amounts made available for tenant-based rental assistance under this subsection and without regard to the amounts used for new grants under clause (ii), such amounts as may be necessary to award renewal grants to eligible recipients that received a grant under the Program in a previous year; and

''(II) specify criteria that an eligible recipient must satisfy to receive a renewal grant under subclause (I), including providing data on how the eligible recipient used the amounts of any grant previously received under the Program.

''(x) REPORTING.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subparagraph, and every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Director of the Indian Health Service, shall—

''(aa) conduct a review of the implementation of the Program, including any factors that may have limited its success; and

''(bb) submit a report describing the results of the review under item (aa) to—

''(AA) the Committee on Indian Affairs, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

''(BB) the Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs of the Committee on Natural Resources, the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

''(II) ANALYSIS OF HOUSING STOCK LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall include in the initial report submitted under subclause (I) a description of—

''(aa) any regulations governing the use of formula current assisted stock (as defined in section 1000.314 of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation)) within the Program;

''(bb) the number of recipients of grants under the Program that have reported the regulations described in item (aa) as a barrier to implementation of the Program; and

''(cc) proposed alternative legislation or regulations developed by the Secretary in consultation with recipients of grants under the Program to allow the use of formula current assisted stock within the Program.''.

SEC. 11022. CONTINUUM OF CARE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the terms ''collaborative applicant'' and ''eligible entity'' have the meanings given those terms in section 401 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360); and

(2) the terms ''Indian tribe'' and ''tribally designated housing entity'' have the meanings given those terms in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103).

(b) NONAPPLICATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS.—With respect to the funds made available for the Continuum of Care program authorized under subtitle C of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11381 et seq.) under the heading ''Homeless Assistance Grants'' in the Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260) and under section 231 of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2020 (42 U.S.C. 11364a), title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.) and title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.) shall not apply to applications by or awards for projects to be carried out—

(1) on or off reservation or trust lands for awards made to Indian tribes or tribally designated housing entities; or

(2) on reservation or trust lands for awards made to eligible entities.

(c) CERTIFICATION.—With respect to funds made available for the Continuum of Care program authorized under subtitle C of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11381 et seq.) under the heading ''Homeless Assistance Grants'' under section 231 of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2020 (42 U.S.C. 11364a)—

(1) applications for projects to be carried out on reservations or trust land shall contain a certification of consistency with an approved Indian housing plan developed under section 102 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (25 U.S.C. 4112), notwithstanding section 106 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12706) and section 403 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11361);

(2) Indian tribes and tribally designated housing entities that are recipients of awards for projects on reservations or trust land shall certify that they are following an approved housing plan developed under section102 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (25 U.S.C. 4112); and

(3) a collaborative applicant for a Continuum of Care whose geographic area includes only reservation and trust land is not required to meet the requirement in section 402(f)(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360a(f)(2)).

SEC. 11023. LEVERAGING.

All funds provided under a grant made pursuant to this division or the amendments made by this division may be used for purposes of meeting matching or cost participation requirements under any other Federal housing program, provided that such grants made pursuant to the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4101 et seq.) are spent in accordance with that Act.

SA 1063. Ms. SINEMA submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2226, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title X of division A, add the following:

Subtitle H—Combating Cartels on Social Media Act of 2023

SEC. 1091. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Combating Cartels on Social Media Act of 2023''.

SEC. 1092. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

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

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) COVERED OPERATOR.—The term ''covered operator'' means the operator, developer, or publisher of a covered service.

(3) COVERED SERVICE.—The term ''covered service'' means—

(A) a social media platform;

(B) a mobile or desktop service with direct or group messaging capabilities, but not including text messaging services without other substantial social functionalities or electronic mail services, that the Secretary of Homeland Security determines is being or has been used by transnational criminal organizations in connection with matters described in section 1093; and

(C) a digital platform, or an electronic application utilizing the digital platform, involving real-time interactive communication between multiple individuals, including multi-player gaming services and immersive technology platforms or applications, that the Secretary of Homeland Security determines is being or has been used by transnational criminal organizations in connection with matters described in section 1093.

(4) CRIMINAL ENTERPRISE.—The term ''criminal enterprise'' has the meaning given the term ''continuing criminal enterprise'' in section 408 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 848).

(5) ILLICIT ACTIVITIES.—The term ''illicit activities'' means the following criminal activities that transcend national borders:

(A) A violation of section 401 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 841).

(B) Narcotics trafficking, as defined in section 808 of the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (21 U.S.C. 1907).

(C) Trafficking of weapons, as defined in section 922 of title 18, United States Code.

(D) Migrant smuggling, defined as a violation of section 274(a)(1)(A)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii)).

(E) Human trafficking, defined as—

(i) a violation of section 1590, 1591, or 1592 of title 18, United States Code; or

(ii) engaging in severe forms of trafficking in persons, as defined in section 103 of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

(F) Cyber crime, defined as a violation of section 1030 of title 18, United States Code.

(G) A violation of any provision that is subject to intellectual property enforcement, as defined in section 302 of the Prioritizing Resources and Organization for Intellectual Property Act of 2008 (15 U.S.C. 8112).

(H) Bulk cash smuggling of currency, defined as a violation of section 5332 of title 31, United States Code.

(I) Laundering the proceeds of the criminal activities described in subparagraphs (A) through (H).

(6) TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION.—The term ''transnational criminal organization'' means groups, networks, and associated individuals who operate transnationally for the purposes of obtaining power, influence, or monetary or commercial gain, wholly or in part by certain illegal means, while advancing their activities through a pattern of crime, corruption, or violence, and while protecting their illegal activities through a transnational organizational structure and the exploitation of public corruption or transnational logistics, financial, or communication mechanisms.

SEC. 1093. ASSESSMENT OF ILLICIT USAGE.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a joint assessment describing—

(1) the use of covered services by transnational criminal organizations, or criminal enterprises acting on behalf of transnational criminal organizations, to engage in recruitment efforts, including the recruitment of individuals, including individuals under the age of 18, located in the United States to engage in or provide support with respect to illicit activities occurring in the United States, Mexico, or otherwise in proximity to an international boundary of the United States;

(2) the use of covered services by transnational criminal organizations to engage in illicit activities or conduct in support of illicit activities, including—

(A) smuggling or trafficking involving narcotics, other controlled substances, precursors thereof, or other items prohibited under the laws of the United States, Mexico, or another relevant jurisdiction, including firearms;

(B) human smuggling or trafficking, including the exploitation of children; and

(C) transportation of bulk currency or monetary instruments in furtherance of smuggling activity; and

(3) the existing efforts of the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of State, and relevant government and law enforcement entities to counter, monitor, or otherwise respond to the usage of covered services described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

SEC. 1094. STRATEGY TO COMBAT CARTEL RECRUITMENT ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND ONLINE PLATFORMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a joint strategy, to be known as the National Strategy to Combat Illicit Recruitment Activity by Transnational Criminal Organizations on Social Media and Online Platforms, to combat the use of covered services by transnational criminal organizations, or criminal enterprises acting on behalf of transnational criminal organizations, to recruit individuals located in the United States to engage in or provide support with respect to illicit activities occurring in the United States, Mexico, or otherwise in proximity to an international boundary of the United States.

(b) ELEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall, at a minimum, include the following:

(A) A proposal to improve cooperation and thereafter maintain cooperation between the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of State, and relevant law enforcement entities with respect to the matters described in subsection (a).

(B) Recommendations to implement a process for the voluntary reporting of information regarding the recruitment efforts of transnational criminal organizations in the United States involving covered services.

(C) A proposal to improve intragovernmental coordination with respect to the matters described in subsection (a), including between the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of State, and State, Tribal, and local governments.

(D) A proposal to improve coordination within the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of State and between the components of those Departments with respect to the matters described in subsection (a).

(E) Activities to facilitate increased intelligence analysis for law enforcement purposes of efforts of transnational criminal organizations to utilize covered services for recruitment to engage in or provide support with respect to illicit activities.

(F) Activities to foster international partnerships and enhance collaboration with foreign governments and, as applicable, multilateral institutions with respect to the matters described in subsection (a).

(G) Activities to specifically increase engagement and outreach with youth in border communities, including regarding the recruitment tactics of transnational criminal organizations and the consequences of participation in illicit activities.

(H) A detailed description of the measures used to ensure—

(i) law enforcement and intelligence activities focus on the recruitment activities of transitional criminal organizations not individuals the transnational criminal organizations attempt to or successfully recruit; and

(ii) the privacy rights, civil rights, and civil liberties protections in carrying out the activities described in clause (i), with a particular focus on the protections in place to protect minors and constitutionally protected activities.

(2) LIMITATION.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall not include legislative recommendations or elements predicated on the passage of legislation that is not enacted as of the date on which the strategy is submitted under subsection (a).

(c) CONSULTATION.—In drafting and implementing the strategy required under subsection (a), the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of State shall, at a minimum, consult and engage with—

(1) the heads of relevant components of the Department of Homeland Security, including—

(A) the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis;

(B) the Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans;

(C) the Under Secretary for Science and Technology;

(D) the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection;

(E) the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement;

(F) the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties;

(G) the Privacy Officer; and

(H) the Assistant Secretary of the Office for State and Local Law Enforcement;

(2) the heads of relevant components of the Department of State, including—

(A) the Assistant Secretary for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs;

(B) the Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs; and

(C) the Coordinator of the Global Engagement Center;

(3) the Attorney General;

(4) the Secretary of Health and Human Services; and

(5) the Secretary of Education; and

(6) as selected by the Secretary of Homeland Security, or his or her designee in the Office of Public Engagement, representatives

of border communities, including representatives of—

(A) State, Tribal, and local governments, including school districts and local law enforcement; and

(B) nongovernmental experts in the fields of—

(i) civil rights and civil liberties;

(ii) online privacy;

(iii) humanitarian assistance for migrants; and

(iv) youth outreach and rehabilitation.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the strategy required under subsection (a) is submitted to the appropriate congressional committees, the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of State shall commence implementation of the strategy.

(2) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the strategy required under subsection (a) is implemented under paragraph (1), and semiannually thereafter for 5 years, the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a joint report describing the efforts of the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of State to implement the strategy required under subsection (a) and the progress of those efforts, which shall include a description of—

(i) the recommendations, and corresponding implementation of those recommendations, with respect to the matters described in subsection (b)(1)(B);

(ii) the interagency posture with respect to the matters covered by the strategy required under subsection (a), which shall include a description of collaboration between the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of State, other Federal entities, State, local, and Tribal entities, and foreign governments; and

(iii) the threat landscape, including new developments related to the United States recruitment efforts of transnational criminal organizations and the use by those organizations of new or emergent covered services and recruitment methods.

(B) FORM.—Each report required under subparagraph (A) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

(3) CIVIL RIGHTS, CIVIL LIBERTIES, AND PRIVACY ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which the strategy required under subsection (a) is implemented under paragraph (1), the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and the Privacy Office of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a joint report that includes—

(A) a detailed assessment of the measures used to ensure the protection of civil rights, civil liberties, and privacy rights in carrying out this section; and

(B) recommendations to improve the implementation of the strategy required under subsection (a).

SEC. 1095. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this subtitle shall be construed to expand the statutory law enforcement or regulatory authority of the Department of Homeland Security or the Department of State.

SEC. 1096. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subtitle.

SA 1064. Mrs. HYDE–SMITH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2226, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle G of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1083. READMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR SERVICEMEMBERS.

Section 484C(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1091c(a)) is amended to read as follows:

''(a) DEFINITION OF SERVICE IN THE UNIFORMED SERVICES.—In this section, the term 'service in the uniformed services' means service (whether voluntary or involuntary) on active duty in the Armed Forces, including such service by a member of the National Guard or Reserve.

SA 1065. Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. BRAUN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2226, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in subtitle G of title X, insert the following:

SEC. _____. 9/11 RESPONDER AND SURVIVOR HEALTH FUNDING CORRECTION ACT OF 2023.

(a) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, ARMED FORCES, OR OTHER FEDERAL WORKER RESPONDERS TO THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS AT THE PENTAGON AND SHANKSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA.—Title XXXIII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300mm et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 3306 (42 U.S.C. 300mm–5)—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (5) through (11) and paragraphs (12) through (17) as paragraphs (6) through (12) and paragraphs (14) through (19), respectively;

(B) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following:

''(5) The term 'Federal agency' means an agency, office, or other establishment in the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of the Federal Government.''; and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (12), as so redesignated, the following:

''(13) The term 'uniformed services' has the meaning given the term in section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code.''; and

(2) in section 3311(a) (42 U.S.C. 300mm–21(a))—

(A) in paragraph (2)(C)(i)—

(i) in subclause (I), by striking ''; or'' and inserting a semicolon;

(ii) in subclause (II), by striking ''; and'' and inserting a semicolon; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(III) was an employee of the Department of Defense or any other Federal agency, worked during the period beginning on September 11, 2001, and ending on September 18, 2001, for a contractor of the Department of Defense or any other Federal agency, or was a member of a regular or reserve component of the uniformed services; and performed rescue, recovery, demolition, debris cleanup, or other related services at the Pentagon site of the terrorist-related aircraft crash of September 11, 2001, during the period beginning on September 11, 2001, and ending on the date on which the cleanup of the site was concluded, as determined by the WTC Program Administrator; or

''(IV) was an employee of the Department of Defense or any other Federal agency, worked during the period beginning on September 11, 2001, and ending on September 18, 2001, for a contractor of the Department of Defense or any other Federal agency, or was a member of a regular or reserve component of the uniformed services; and performed rescue, recovery, demolition, debris cleanup, or other related services at the Shanksville, Pennsylvania, site of the terrorist-related aircraft crash of September 11, 2001, during the period beginning on September 11, 2001, and ending on the date on which the cleanup of the site was concluded, as determined by the WTC Program Administrator; and''; and

(B) in paragraph (4)(A)—

(i) by striking ''(A) IN GENERAL.—The'' and inserting the following:

''(A) LIMIT.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The'';

(ii) by inserting ''or subclause (III) or (IV) of paragraph (2)(C)(i)'' after ''or (2)(A)(ii)''; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

''(ii) CERTAIN RESPONDERS TO THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS AT THE PENTAGON AND SHANKSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA.—The total number of individuals who may be enrolled under paragraph (3)(A)(ii) based on eligibility criteria described in subclause (III) or (IV) of paragraph (2)(C)(i) shall not exceed 500 at any time.''.

(b) ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE WORLD TRADE CENTER HEALTH PROGRAM.—Title XXXIII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300mm et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 3353. SPECIAL FUND.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established a fund to be known as the World Trade Center Health Program Special Fund (referred to in this section as the 'Special Fund'), consisting of amounts deposited into the Special Fund under subsection (b).

''(b) AMOUNT.—Out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2024 $444,000,000 for deposit into the Special Fund, which amounts shall remain available in such Fund through fiscal year 2033.

''(c) USES OF FUNDS.—Amounts deposited into the Special Fund under subsection (b) shall be available, without further appropriation and without regard to any spending limitation under section 3351(c), to the WTC Program Administrator as needed at the discretion of such Administrator, for carrying out any provision in this title (including sections 3303 and 3341(c)).

''(d) REMAINING AMOUNTS.—Any amounts that remain in the Special Fund on September 30, 2033, shall be deposited into the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts.

''SEC. 3354. PENTAGON/SHANKSVILLE FUND.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established a fund to be known as the World Trade Center Health Program Fund for Certain WTC Responders at the Pentagon and Shanksville, Pennsylvania (referred to in this section as the 'Pentagon/Shanksville Fund'), consisting of amounts deposited into the Pentagon/Shanksville Fund under subsection (b).

''(b) AMOUNT.—Out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there is appropriated for fiscal year 2024 $232,000,000 for deposit into the Pentagon/Shanksville Fund, which amounts shall remain available in such Fund through fiscal year 2033.

''(c) USES OF FUNDS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Amounts deposited into the Pentagon/Shanksville Fund under subsection (b) shall be available, without further appropriation and without regard to

any spending limitation under section 3351(c), to the WTC Program Administrator for the purpose of carrying out section 3312 with regard to WTC responders enrolled in the WTC Program based on eligibility criteria described in subclause (III) or (IV) of section 3311(a)(2)(C)(i).

''(2) LIMITATION ON OTHER FUNDING.—Notwithstanding sections 3331(a), 3351(b)(1), 3352(c), and 3353(c), and any other provision in this title, for the period of fiscal years 2024 through 2033, no amounts made available under this title other than those amounts appropriated under subsection (b) may be available for the purpose described in paragraph (1).

''(d) REMAINING AMOUNTS.—Any amounts that remain in the Pentagon/Shanksville Fund on September 30, 2033, shall be deposited into the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts.''.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Title XXXIII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300mm et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 3311(a)(4)(B)(i)(II) (42 U.S.C. 300mm–21(a)(4)(B)(i)(II)), by striking ''sections 3351 and 3352'' and inserting ''this title'';

(2) in section 3321(a)(3)(B)(i)(II) (42 U.S.C. 300mm–31(a)(3)(B)(i)(II)), by striking ''sections 3351 and 3352'' and inserting ''this title'';

(3) in section 3331 (42 U.S.C. 300mm–41)—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking ''the World Trade Center Health Program Fund and the World Trade Center Health Program Supplemental Fund'' and inserting ''(as applicable) the Funds established under sections 3351, 3352, 3353, and 3354''; and

(B) in subsection (d)—

(i) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting ''or the World Trade Center Health Program Special Fund under section 3353'' after ''section 3351'';

(ii) in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting ''or the World Trade Center Health Program Fund for Certain WTC Responders at the Pentagon and Shanksville, Pennsylvania under section 3354'' after ''section 3352''; and

(iii) in paragraph (2), in the flush text following subparagraph (C), by inserting ''or the World Trade Center Health Program Fund for Certain WTC Responders at the Pentagon and Shanksville, Pennsylvania under section 3354'' after ''section 3352''; and

(4) in section 3351(b) (42 U.S.C. 300mm–61(b))—

(A) in paragraph (2), by inserting '', the World Trade Center Health Program Special Fund under section 3353, or the World Trade Center Health Program Fund for Certain WTC Responders at the Pentagon and Shanksville, Pennsylvania under section 3354'' before the period at the end; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by inserting '', the World Trade Center Health Program Special Fund under section 3353, or the World Trade Center Health Program Fund for Certain WTC Responders at the Pentagon and Shanksville, Pennsylvania under section 3354'' before the period at the end.

(d) ENSURING TIMELY ACCESS TO GENERICS.—Section 505(q) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(q)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)(i), by inserting '', 10.31,'' after ''10.30'';

(B) in subparagraph (E)—

(i) by striking ''application and'' and inserting ''application or'';

(ii) by striking ''If the Secretary'' and inserting the following:

''(i) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary''; and

(iii) by striking the second sentence and inserting the following:

''(ii) PRIMARY PURPOSE OF DELAYING.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—In determining whether a petition was submitted with the primary purpose of delaying an application, the Secretary may consider the following factors:

''(aa) Whether the petition was submitted in accordance with paragraph (2)(B), based on when the petitioner knew the relevant information relied upon to form the basis of such petition.

''(bb) When the petition was submitted in relation to when the petitioner reasonably should have known the relevant information relied upon to form the basis of such petition.

''(cc) Whether the petitioner has submitted multiple or serial petitions or supplements to petitions raising issues that reasonably could have been known to the petitioner at the time of submission of the earlier petition or petitions.

''(dd) Whether the petition was submitted close in time to a known, first date upon which an application under subsection (b)(2) or (j) of this section or section 351(k) of the Public Health Service Act could be approved.

''(ee) Whether the petition was submitted without relevant data or information in support of the scientific positions forming the basis of such petition.

''(ff) Whether the petition raises the same or substantially similar issues as a prior petition to which the Secretary has responded substantively already, including if the subsequent submission follows such response from the Secretary closely in time.

''(gg) Whether the petition requests changing the applicable standards that other applicants are required to meet, including requesting testing, data, or labeling standards that are more onerous or rigorous than the standards the Secretary has determined to be applicable to the listed drug, reference product, or petitioner's version of the same drug.

''(hh) The petitioner's record of submitting petitions to the Food and Drug Administration that have been determined by the Secretary to have been submitted with the primary purpose of delay.

''(ii) Other relevant and appropriate factors, which the Secretary shall describe in guidance.

''(II) GUIDANCE.—The Secretary may issue or update guidance, as appropriate, to describe factors the Secretary considers in accordance with subclause (I).'';

(C) by striking subparagraph (F);

(D) by redesignating subparagraphs (G) through (I) as subparagraphs (F) through (H), respectively; and

(E) in subparagraph (H), as so redesignated, by striking ''submission of this petition'' and inserting ''submission of this document'';

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (C) as subparagraphs (C) through (E), respectively;

(B) by inserting before subparagraph (C), as so redesignated, the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A person shall submit a petition to the Secretary under paragraph (1) before filing a civil action in which the person seeks to set aside, delay, rescind, withdraw, or prevent submission, review, or approval of an application submitted under subsection (b)(2) or (j) of this section or section 351(k) of the Public Health Service Act. Such petition and any supplement to such a petition shall describe all information and arguments that form the basis of the relief requested in any civil action described in the previous sentence.

''(B) TIMELY SUBMISSION OF CITIZEN PETITION.—A petition and any supplement to a petition shall be submitted within 180 days after the person knew the information that forms the basis of the request made in the petition or supplement.'';

(C) in subparagraph (C), as so redesignated—

(i) in the heading, by striking ''WITHIN 150 DAYS'';

(ii) in clause (i), by striking ''during the 150-day period referred to in paragraph (1)(F),''; and

(iii) by amending clause (ii) to read as follows:

''(ii) on or after the date that is 151 days after the date of submission of the petition, the Secretary approves or has approved the application that is the subject of the petition without having made such a final decision.'';

(D) by amending subparagraph (D), as so redesignated, to read as follows:

''(D) DISMISSAL OF CERTAIN CIVIL ACTIONS.—

''(i) PETITION.—If a person files a civil action against the Secretary in which a person seeks to set aside, delay, rescind, withdraw, or prevent submission, review, or approval of an application submitted under subsection (b)(2) or (j) of this section or section 351(k) of the Public Health Service Act without complying with the requirements of subparagraph (A), the court shall dismiss without prejudice the action for failure to exhaust administrative remedies.

''(ii) TIMELINESS.—If a person files a civil action against the Secretary in which a person seeks to set aside, delay, rescind, withdraw, or prevent submission, review, or approval of an application submitted under subsection (b)(2) or (j) of this section or section 351(k) of the Public Health Service Act without complying with the requirements of subparagraph (B), the court shall dismiss with prejudice the action for failure to timely file a petition.

''(iii) FINAL RESPONSE.—If a civil action is filed against the Secretary with respect to any issue raised in a petition timely filed under paragraph (1) in which the petitioner requests that the Secretary take any form of action that could, if taken, set aside, delay, rescind, withdraw, or prevent submission, review, or approval of an application submitted under subsection (b)(2) or (j) of this section or section 351(k) of the Public Health Service Act before the Secretary has taken final agency action on the petition within the meaning of subparagraph (C), the court shall dismiss without prejudice the action for failure to exhaust administrative remedies.''; and

(E) in clause (iii) of subparagraph (E), as so redesignated, by striking ''as defined under subparagraph (2)(A)'' and inserting ''within the meaning of subparagraph (C)''; and

(3) in paragraph (4)—

(A) by striking ''EXCEPTIONS'' in the paragraph heading and all that follows through ''This subsection does'' and inserting ''EXCEPTIONS.—This subsection does'';

(B) by striking subparagraph (B); and

(C) by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly.

SA 1066. Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for Mr. CRUZ) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 166, honoring the efforts of the Coast Guard for excellence in maritime border security; as follows:

In the third whereas clause, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), strike ''through'' and insert ''executing Coast Guard missions across the world, including the''.

In the third whereas clause, in paragraph (1), strike ''15,000'' and insert ''17,000''.

In the third whereas clause, in paragraph (2), strike ''6,300'' and insert ''6,000 at sea''.

In the third whereas clause, in paragraph (2), strike ''100'' and insert ''90''.

In the third whereas clause, in paragraph (3), strike ''interdicted approximately 12,500 illegal immigrants'' and insert ''conducted approximately 12,500 migrant interdictions''.

In the third whereas clause, in paragraph (3), strike ''150'' and insert ''over 350''.

SA 1067. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in subtitle G of title X, insert the following:

SEC. 10_____. NOTIFICATIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE USE OF FACIAL RECOGNITION TECHNOLOGY IN AIRPORTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall, at each airport where the Transportation Security Administration provides the screening of passengers, notify such passengers of the option to refuse to be identified through the use of facial recognition technology or facial matching software in such airport.

(b) SIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall use available funds to post at each location specified in paragraph (2)(C) a sign that reads as follows: ''Identification Choices: Passengers have two options for matching their face to their ID. The first option is to hand your ID to the TSA agent who will compare it to your face. The second option is completely voluntary and uses facial recognition software, which will take a photo of you to match your identity with your ID.''.

(2) SIGN SPECIFICATIONS.—

(A) ACCESSIBILITY.—A sign posted in accordance with paragraph (1) shall be—

(i) printed in a large, easy to read font; and

(ii) accessible to individuals with visual disabilities.

(B) PRINTING SPECIFICATIONS.—For each sign posted in accordance with paragraph (1), the words ''completely voluntary'' shall be printed in bold type.

(C) LOCATION SPECIFICATION.—For each checkpoint or kiosk of an airport where the Transportation Security Administration screens passengers through the use of facial recognition technology or facial matching software, the locations specified in this subparagraph are the following:

(i) A location that is visible from the security line and is not fewer than 10 feet and not more than 20 feet from the checkpoint or kiosk.

(ii) The checkpoint or kiosk.

(iii) Directly under any camera that is used for facial recognition or facial matching.

SA 1068. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

DIVISION I—SMALL BUSINESS MATTERS

SEC. 11001. DEFINITIONS.

In this division:

(1) ADMINISTRATION.—The term ''Administration'' means the Small Business Administration.

(2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of the Administration.

(3) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.—The term ''small business concern'' has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

TITLE LXIX—COMMUNITY ADVANTAGE LOAN PROGRAM AND SMALL BUSINESS LENDING COMPANIES

Subtitle A—Community Advantage Loan Program Act of 2023

SEC. 11101. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Community Advantage Loan Program Act of 2023''.

SEC. 11102. COMMUNITY ADVANTAGE LOAN PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(38) COMMUNITY ADVANTAGE LOAN PROGRAM.—

''(A) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Community Advantage Loan Program are—

''(i) to create a mission-oriented loan guarantee program;

''(ii) to increase lending to small business concerns in underserved and rural markets, including to new businesses;

''(iii) to ensure that the program under this subsection expands inclusion and more broadly meets congressional intent to reach borrowers who are unable to get credit elsewhere on reasonable terms and conditions;

''(iv) to help underserved small business concerns become bankable by utilizing the small dollar financing and business support experience of mission-oriented lenders;

''(v) to allow certain mission-oriented lenders, primarily financial intermediaries focused on economic development in underserved markets, access to guarantees for loans under this subsection (referred to in this paragraph as '7(a) loans') and provide management and technical assistance to small business concerns as needed; and

''(vi) to assist covered institutions with providing business support services and technical assistance to small business concerns, when needed.

''(B) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

''(i) COMMUNITY ADVANTAGE NETWORK PARTNER.—The term 'Community Advantage Network Partner'—

''(I) means a nonprofit, mission-oriented organization that acts as a Referral Agent to covered institutions in order to expand the reach of the program to small business concerns in underserved markets; and

''(II) does not include a covered institution making loans under the program.

''(ii) COVERED INSTITUTION.—The term 'covered institution' means an entity that—

''(I) is—

''(aa) a development company, as defined in section 103 of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 662), participating in the 504 Loan Guaranty program established under title V of that Act (15 U.S.C. 695 et seq.);

''(bb) a nonprofit intermediary, as defined in subsection (m)(11), participating in the microloan program under subsection (m);

''(cc) a non-Federally regulated entity certified as a community development financial institution by the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund established under section 104(a) of the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4703(a)); or

''(dd) an eligible intermediary, as defined in subsection (l)(1), participating in the small business intermediary lending program established under subsection (l)(2); and

''(II) has approved and disbursed 10 similarly sized loans in the preceding 24-month period and is servicing not less than 10 similarly sized loans to small business concerns in the portfolio of the entity.

''(iii) EXISTING BUSINESS.—The term 'existing business' means a small business concern that has been in existence for not less than 2 years on the date on which a loan is made to the small business concern under the program.

''(iv) NEW BUSINESS.—The term 'new business' means a small business concern that has been in existence for not more than 2 years on the date on which a loan is made to the small business concern under the program.

''(v) PROGRAM.—The term 'program' means the Community Advantage Loan Program established under subparagraph (C).

''(vi) REFERRAL AGENT.—The term 'Referral Agent' has the meaning given the term in section 103.1(f) of title 13, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

''(vii) RURAL AREA.—The term 'rural area' means any county that the Bureau of the Census has defined as mostly rural or completely rural in the most recent decennial census.

''(viii) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN IN AN UNDERSERVED MARKET.—The term 'small business concern in an underserved market' means a small business concern—

''(I) that is located in—

''(aa) a low- to moderate-income community;

''(bb) a HUBZone, as that term is defined in section 31(b);

''(cc) a rural area;

''(dd) a community that has been designated as an empowerment zone or enterprise community under section 1391 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

''(ee) a community that has been designated as a qualified opportunity zone under section 1400Z–1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; or

''(ff) a community that has been designated as a promise zone by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development;

''(II) for which more than 50 percent of the employees reside in a low- or moderate-income community;

''(III) that is a new business; or

''(IV) that is owned and controlled by veterans or spouses of veterans.

''(C) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a Community Advantage Loan Program under which the Administration may guarantee loans closed by covered institutions under this subsection, with an emphasis on loans made to small business concerns in underserved markets.

''(D) PROGRAM LEVELS.—In fiscal year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter, not more than 10 percent of the number of loans guaranteed under this subsection may be guaranteed under the program.

''(E) GRANDFATHERING OF EXISTING LENDERS.—Any covered institution that was licensed by the Administrator as a Community Advantage small business lending company, or that participated in the Community Advantage Pilot Program of the Administration, during the period beginning on May 1, 2023, and ending on September 30, 2023, and was in good standing during that period, as determined by the Administration—

''(i) shall be designated as participants in the program;

''(ii) shall not be required to submit an application to participate in the program; and

''(iii) for the purpose of determining the loan loss reserve amount of the covered institution, shall have participation in the Community Advantage Pilot Program included in the calculation under subparagraph (J).

''(F) REQUIREMENT TO MAKE LOANS TO UNDERSERVED MARKETS.—Not less than 60 percent of loans closed by a covered institution

under the program shall consist of loans made to small business concerns in underserved markets.

''(G) MAXIMUM LOAN AMOUNT; COLLATERAL.—

''(i) MAXIMUM LOAN AMOUNT.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subclause (II), the maximum loan amount for a loan guaranteed under the program is $350,000.

''(II) EXPERIENCED LENDERS.—

''(aa) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may approve not more than 8 covered institutions (referred to in this subclause as the 'experienced lenders'), each of which has not less than 5 years of experience making loans under the Community Advantage Pilot Program of the Administration or the program established under this paragraph, to be eligible to make loans under this subclause.

''(bb) MAXIMUM LOAN AMOUNT.—Subject to item (dd), an experienced lender may make a loan guaranteed under the program in an amount that is not more than $750,000.

''(cc) PARTICIPATION BY THE ADMINISTRATION.—With respect to an agreement to participate in a loan made under this subclause on a deferred basis, the participation by the Administration shall be—

''(AA) 75 percent of the balance of the financing outstanding at the time of the disbursement of the loan, if that balance is more than $350,000;

''(BB) as described in clause (i) of paragraph (2)(G), if the balance of the financing outstanding at the time of the disbursement of the loan is as described in that clause; or

''(CC) as described in clause (ii) of paragraph (2)(G), if the balance of the financing outstanding at the time of the disbursement of the loan is as described in that clause.

''(dd) REQUIREMENTS TO MAKE LOANS IN CERTAIN AMOUNTS.—Not less than 60 percent of loans closed by each experienced lender under the program shall consist of loans in an amount that is not more than $350,000.

''(ii) COLLATERAL.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—A covered institution shall not be required to take collateral with respect to a loan guaranteed under the program if the amount of that loan is not more than $50,000.

''(II) POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OF COVERED INSTITUTION.—In determining the amount of collateral required with respect to a loan guaranteed under the program, a covered institution may use the collateral policies and procedures of the covered institution with respect to similarly sized commercial loans closed by the covered institution that are not guaranteed by the Administration.

''(H) INTEREST RATES.—The maximum allowable interest rate prescribed by the Administration on any financing made on a deferred basis pursuant to the program shall not exceed the maximum allowable interest rate under sections 120.213 and 120.214 of title 13, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulations.

''(I) REFINANCING OF COMMUNITY ADVANTAGE PROGRAM LOANS.—A loan guaranteed under the program or guaranteed under the Community Advantage Pilot Program of the Administration may be refinanced into another 7(a) loan made by a lender that does not participate in the program.

''(J) LOAN LOSS RESERVE REQUIREMENTS.—

''(i) LOAN LOSS RESERVE ACCOUNT FOR COVERED INSTITUTIONS.—A covered institution—

''(I) with not more than 5 years of participation in the program shall maintain a loan loss reserve account with an amount equal to 5 percent of the outstanding amount of the unguaranteed portion of the loan portfolio of the covered institution under the program; and

''(II) with more than 5 years of participation in the program shall maintain a loan loss reserve account with an amount equal to the average repurchase rate of the covered institution over the preceding 36-month period, except that such amount shall not be less than 3 percent of the outstanding amount of the unguaranteed portion of the loan portfolio of the covered institution under the program.

''(ii) ADDITIONAL LOAN LOSS RESERVE AMOUNT FOR SELLING LOANS ON THE SECONDARY MARKET.—In addition to the amount required in the loan loss reserve account under clause (i), a covered institution that sells a program loan on the secondary market shall be required to maintain the following additional amounts in the loan loss reserve account:

''(I) For a covered institution with less than 5 years of experience selling program loans on the secondary market, an amount equal to 3 percent of the guaranteed portion of each program loan sold on the secondary market.

''(II) For a covered institution with more than 5 years of experience selling program loans on the secondary market, an amount equal to the average repurchase rate for loans sold by the covered institution on the secondary market over the preceding 36 months, except that such amount shall be not less than 2 percent of the guaranteed portion of each program loan sold into the secondary market.

''(iii) RECALCULATION.—On October 1 of each year, the Administrator shall recalculate the loan loss reserve required under clauses (i) and (ii).

''(K) TRAINING.—The Administration—

''(i) shall provide accessible upfront and ongoing training for covered institutions making loans under the program to support program compliance and improve the interface between the covered institutions and the Administration, which shall include—

''(I) guidance for following the regulations of the Administration; and

''(II) guidance specific to mission-oriented lending that is intended to help lenders effectively reach and support small business concerns in underserved markets, including management and technical assistance delivery;

''(ii) may enter into a contract to provide the training described in clause (i) with an organization—

''(I) with expertise in lending under this subsection; and

''(II) primarily specializing in—

''(aa) mission-oriented lending; and

''(bb) lending to small business concerns in underserved markets; and

''(iii) shall provide training for the employees and contractors of the Administration that regularly engage with covered institutions or borrowers under the program.

''(L) COMMUNITY ADVANTAGE OUTREACH AND EDUCATION.—The Administrator—

''(i) shall develop and implement a program to promote to, conduct outreach to, and educate prospective covered institutions about the program; and

''(ii) may enter into a contract with 1 or more nonprofit organizations experienced in working with and training mission-oriented lenders to provide the promotion, outreach, and education described in clause (i).

''(M) COMMUNITY ADVANTAGE NETWORK PARTNER PARTICIPATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—A covered institution that uses a Community Advantage Network Partner shall abide by policies and procedures of the Administration concerning the use of Referral Agent fees permitted by the Administration and disclosure of those fees.

''(ii) PAYMENT OF FEES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all fees described in clause (i) shall be paid by the covered institution to the Community Advantage Network Partner upon disbursement of the applicable program loan.

''(N) DELEGATED AUTHORITY.—A covered institution is not eligible to receive delegated authority from the Administration under the program until the covered institution has satisfied the following applicable requirements:

''(i) For a covered institution actively participating in the Community Advantage Pilot Program of the Administration, as of the day before the date of enactment of this paragraph—

''(I) the covered institution has approved and fully disbursed not fewer than 10 loans under that Pilot Program; and

''(II) the Administration has evaluated the ability of the covered institution to fulfill program requirements.

''(ii) For any covered institution not described in clause (i)—

''(I) the covered institution has approved and fully disbursed not fewer than 20 loans under the program; and

''(II) the Administration has evaluated the ability of the covered institution to fulfill program requirements.

''(O) REPORTING.—

''(i) WEEKLY REPORTS.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—The Administration shall report on the website of the Administration, as part of the weekly reports on lending approvals under this subsection—

''(aa) on and after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the number and dollar amount of loans guaranteed under the Community Advantage Pilot Program of the Administration; and

''(bb) on and after the date on which the Administration begins to approve loans under the program, the number and dollar amount of loans guaranteed under the program.

''(II) SEPARATE ACCOUNTING.—The number and dollar amount of loans reported in a weekly report under subclause (I) for loans guaranteed under the Community Advantage Pilot Program of the Administration and under the program shall include a breakdown by the demographic information of the owners of the small business concerns, by whether the small business concern is a new business or an existing business, and by whether the small business concern is located in an urban or rural area, and broken down by—

''(aa) loans of not more than $50,000;

''(bb) loans of more than $50,000 and not more than $150,000;

''(cc) loans of more than $150,000 and not more than $250,000;

''(dd) loans of more than $250,000 and not more than $350,000; and

''(ee) loans of more than $350,000 and not more than $750,000.

''(ii) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year in which the program is in effect, the Administration shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives, and make publicly available on the internet, information about loans provided under the program and under the Community Advantage Pilot Program of the Administration.

''(II) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted and made publicly available under subclause (I) shall include—

''(aa) the number and dollar amounts of loans provided to small business concerns under the program, including a breakdown by—

''(AA) the demographic information of the owners of the small business concern;

''(BB) whether the small business concern is located in an urban or rural area; and

''(CC) whether the small business concern is an existing business or a new business, as

provided in the weekly reports on lending approvals under this subsection;

''(bb) the proportion of loans described in item (aa) compared to—

''(AA) other 7(a) loans of any amount;

''(BB) other 7(a) loans of similar amounts;

''(CC) express loans provided under paragraph (31) of similar amounts; and

''(DD) other 7(a) loans of similar amounts provided to small business concerns in underserved markets;

''(cc) the number and dollar amounts of loans provided to small business concerns under each category described in subitems (AA), (BB), and (CC) of item (aa), which shall be broken down by—

''(AA) loans of not more than $50,000;

''(BB) loans of more than $50,000 and not more than $150,000;

''(CC) loans of more than $150,000 and not more than $250,000;

''(DD) loans of more than $250,000 and not more than $350,000; and

''(EE) loans of more than $350,000 and not more than $750,000;

''(dd) the number and dollar amounts of loans provided to small business concerns under the program by State, and the jobs created or retained within each State; and

''(ee) a list of covered institutions participating in the program and the Community Advantage Pilot Program of the Administration, including—

''(AA) the name, location, and contact information, such as the website and telephone number, of each covered institution; and

''(BB) a breakdown by the number and dollar amount of the loans approved for small business concerns.

''(III) TIMING.—An annual report required under this clause shall—

''(aa) be submitted and made publicly available not later than December 1 of each year; and

''(bb) cover the lending activity for the fiscal year that ended on September 30 of that same year.

''(P) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Administrator, the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate, and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report—

''(i) assessing—

''(I) the extent to which the program fulfills the requirements of this paragraph; and

''(II) the performance of covered institutions participating in the program; and

''(ii) providing recommendations on the administration of the program and the findings under subclauses (I) and (II) of clause (i).

''(Q) REGULATIONS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Administrator shall promulgate regulations governing the program, including metrics for lender performance, metrics of success and benchmarks of the program, and criteria for appropriate management and technical assistance.

''(ii) UPDATES.—The Administrator shall consult the report submitted under subparagraph (P) and, not later than 180 days after the date on which the Comptroller General of the United States submits the report, promulgate any necessary changes to existing regulations of the Administration based on the recommendations contained in the report.''.

(b) PARTICIPATION.—Section 7(a)(2) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking ''and (F)'' and inserting ''(F), and (G)''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(G) PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY ADVANTAGE LOAN PROGRAM.—Subject to subparagraph (G)(i)(II)(cc) of paragraph (38), in an agreement to participate in a loan on a deferred basis under that paragraph, the participation by the Administration shall be—

''(i) 80 percent of the balance of the financing outstanding at the time of the disbursement of the loan, if that balance is more than $150,000 and not more than $350,000; or

''(ii) 90 percent of the balance of the financing outstanding at the time of the disbursement of the loan, if that balance is not more than $150,000.''.

Subtitle B—Modernizing SBA's Loan Programs Act of 2023

SEC. 11111. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Modernizing SBA's Business Loan Programs Act of 2023''.

SEC. 11112. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) in 1982, the Administration placed a moratorium on licensing new small business lending companies because the Administration lacked the resources to effectively service and supervise additional small business lending companies;

(2) according to the Office of the Inspector General of the Administration, the reduction in staff in the Office of Credit Risk Management of the Administration from 42 full-time employees to 29 full-time employees could affect the fiscal year 2023 goals of the Administration for oversight reviews;

(3) the Administration has finalized a rulemaking to lift the moratorium on the licensing new small business lending companies and establish a new Community Advantage small business lending company license, and there is no cap on the number of small business lending companies licenses that could be issued by the Administration;

(4) the increased costs and fees for an existing Community Advantage lender in the Community Advantage Pilot Program of the Administration to obtain and maintain a Community Advantage small business lending company license could be cost prohibitive for a majority of current Community Advantage lenders to transition to a Community Advantage small business lending company;

(5) on May 1, 2023, the Administration announced that the Community Advantage Pilot Program would sunset on September 30, 2023, and the authority of a Community Advantage lender to make loans under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)) under the pilot program will terminate;

(6) the Administration does not have adequate resources to issue either more than 3 new small business lending company licenses or new Community Advantage small business lending company licenses, as the Office of Credit Risk Management does not have the capacity to assume additional oversight responsibilities; and

(7) in order to increase small dollar lending in underserved areas, the Community Advantage Pilot Program should be made permanent, giving lenders certainty to continue to make loans under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)).

SEC. 11113. LENDING CRITERIA.

(a) 7(A) LOANS.—Section 7(a)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(D) UNDERWRITING REQUIREMENTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a loan guaranteed under this subsection—

''(I) the applicant (including an operating company) shall be creditworthy;

''(II) the loan must be so sound as to reasonably assure repayment; and

''(III) subject to the approval of the Administrator, the Director of the Office of Credit Risk Management may require additional criteria.

''(ii) LENDING CRITERIA FOR LOANS OF $350,000 OR MORE.—With respect to a loan guaranteed under this section that is not less than $350,000, the Administration and lenders shall, as applicable, consider the following:

''(I) Credit history of the applicant (and the operating company, if applicable), and the associates and guarantors of the applicant.

''(II) Experience and depth of management.

''(III) Strength of the business.

''(IV) Past earnings, projected cash flow, and future prospects.

''(V) Ability to repay the loan with earnings from the business of the applicant.

''(VI) Sufficient invested equity to operate on a sound financial basis.

''(VII) Potential for long-term success.

''(VIII) Nature and value of collateral (although inadequate collateral may not be the sole reason for denial of a loan application).

''(IX) The effect any affiliate of the applicant may have on the ultimate repayment ability of the applicant.

''(iii) LENDING CRITERIA FOR LOANS OF LESS THAN $350,000.—With respect to a loan guaranteed under this section that is less than $350,000—

''(I) lenders shall use appropriate and generally acceptable commercial credit analysis processes and procedures consistent with those used for similarly-sized commercial loans that are not guaranteed by the Administration;

''(II) the Administration and lenders may use a business credit scoring model; and

''(III) the Administration and lenders shall, as applicable, consider—

''(aa) the credit score or credit history of the applicant (and the operating company, if applicable), and the associates and guarantors of the applicant;

''(bb) the earnings or cash flow of the applicant;

''(cc) any equity or collateral of the applicant; and

''(dd) the effect any affiliates of the applicant may have on the ultimate repayment ability of the applicant.''.

(b) 504/CDC LOANS.—Section 502 of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 696) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(8) UNDERWRITING REQUIREMENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a loan made under this section—

''(i) the applicant (including an operating company) shall be creditworthy; and

''(ii) the loan must be so sound as to reasonably assure repayment.

''(B) LENDING CRITERIA.—With respect to a loan made under this section—

''(i) lenders and certified development companies shall use appropriate and generally acceptable commercial credit analysis processes and procedures consistent with those used for similarly-sized commercial loans that are not guaranteed by the Administration;

''(ii) the Administration, lenders, and certified development companies may use a business credit scoring model; and

''(iii) the Administration, lenders, and certified development companies shall, as applicable, consider—

''(I) the credit score or credit history of the applicant (and the operating company, if applicable), and the associates and guarantors of the applicant;

''(II) the earnings or cash flow of the applicant; and

''(III) any equity or collateral of the applicant.''.

SEC. 11114. AFFILIATION AND FRANCHISE DIRECTORY.

(a) AFFILIATION PRINCIPLES.—

(1) BUSINESS LOANS.—Section 7(a)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(1)), as amended by this subtitle, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(E) AFFILIATION PRINCIPLES.—Affiliation under any of the circumstances described below is sufficient to establish affiliation for applicants for a loan guaranteed under this subsection:

''(i) AFFILIATION BASED ON OWNERSHIP.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—For determining affiliation based on equity ownership, a concern is an affiliate of an individual, concern, or entity that owns or has the power to control more than 50 percent of the voting equity of the concern.

''(II) OTHER OFFICERS.—If no individual, concern, or entity is found to control a concern under subclause (I), the Administrator shall deem the board of directors, president, or chief executive officer (or other officers, managing members, or partners who control the management of the concern) to be in control of the concern.

''(III) MINORITY SHAREHOLDER.—The Administrator shall deem a minority shareholder of a concern to be in control of the concern if that individual or entity has the ability, under the charter, by-laws, or shareholder agreement of the concern, to prevent a quorum or otherwise block action by the board of directors or shareholders of the concern.

''(ii) AFFILIATION ARISING UNDER STOCK OPTIONS, CONVERTIBLE SECURITIES, AND AGREEMENTS TO MERGE.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—In determining the size of a concern, the Administrator shall—

''(aa) consider stock options, convertible securities, and agreements to merge (including agreements in principle) to have a present effect on the power to control a concern; and

''(bb) treat options, convertible securities, and agreements described in item (aa) as though the rights granted have been exercised.

''(II) AGREEMENTS TO OPEN OR CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS.—An agreement to open or continue negotiations towards the possibility of a merger or a sale of stock at some later date is not considered an 'agreement in principle' and is not given present effect.

''(III) CONDITIONS PRECEDENT.—Stock options, convertible securities, and agreements that are subject to conditions precedent that are incapable of fulfillment, speculative, conjectural, or unenforceable under State or Federal law, or where the probability of the transaction (or exercise of the rights) occurring is shown to be extremely remote, are not given present effect.

''(IV) TERMINATION OF CONTROL.—

''(aa) IN GENERAL.—An individual, concern, or other entity that controls 1 or more other concerns cannot use stock options, convertible securities, or agreements to appear to terminate such control before actually doing so.

''(bb) DIVESTING.—The Administrator shall not give present effect to the ability of an individual, concern, or other entity to divest all or part of their ownership interest in a concern in order to avoid a finding of affiliation.

''(iii) AFFILIATION BASED ON MANAGEMENT.—Affiliation arises where—

''(I) the chief executive officer or president of the applicant concern (or other officers, managing members, or partners who control the management of the concern) also controls the management of 1 or more other concerns;

''(II) a single individual, concern, or entity that controls the board of directors or management of 1 concern also controls the board of directors or management of 1 of more other concerns; or

''(III) a single individual, concern, or entity controls the management of the applicant concern through a management agreement.

''(iv) AFFILIATION BASED ON IDENTITY OF INTEREST.—

''(I) DEFINITION.—In this clause, the term 'close relative' means—

''(aa) a spouse, parent, child, or sibling; and

''(bb) the spouse of any individual described in item (aa).

''(II) CLOSE RELATIVES.—Affiliation arises when there is an identity of interest between close relatives with identical or substantially identical business or economic interests, such as where the close relatives operate concerns in the same or similar industry in the same geographic area.

''(III) AGGREGATED INTERESTS.—If the Administrator determines that interests described in subclause (II) should be aggregated, an individual or firm may rebut that determination with evidence showing that the interests deemed to be affiliated are in fact separate.

''(v) AFFILIATION BASED ON FRANCHISE AND LICENSE AGREEMENTS.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—The restraints imposed on a franchisee or licensee by its franchise or license agreement generally shall not be considered in determining whether the franchisor or licensor is affiliated with an applicant franchisee or licensee, if the applicant franchisee or licensee has the right to profit from its efforts and bears the risk of loss commensurate with ownership.

''(II) NATURE OF AGREEMENT.—For purposes of subclause (I), the Administrator shall only consider the franchise or license agreements of the applicant concern.

''(vi) DETERMINING THE CONCERN'S SIZE.—In determining the size of a concern, the Administrator counts the receipts, employees, or the alternate size standard (if applicable) of the concern whose size is at issue and all of the domestic and foreign affiliates of the concern, regardless of whether the affiliates are organized for profit.

''(vii) EXCEPTIONS TO AFFILIATION.—The exceptions to affiliation described in section 121.103(b) of title 13, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation, shall apply.''.

(2) 504/CDC LOANS.—Section 502 of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 696), as amended by this subtitle, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(9) AFFILIATION PRINCIPLES.—Affiliation under any of the circumstances described below is sufficient to establish affiliation for applicants for a loan under this section:

''(A) AFFILIATION BASED ON OWNERSHIP.—

''(i) OWNERSHIP OF ANOTHER BUSINESS.—When the applicant owns more than 50 percent of another business, the applicant and the other business are affiliated.

''(ii) OWNERSHIP BY OTHER BUSINESSES.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—When a business owns more than 50 percent of an applicant, the business that owns the applicant is affiliated with the applicant.

''(II) OTHER BUSINESS OWNED BY OWNER OF APPLICANT.—If a business entity owner that owns more than 50 percent of an applicant also owns more than 50 percent of another business that operates in the same 3-digit North American Industry Classification System subsector as the applicant, then the business entity owner, the other business, and the applicant are all affiliated.

''(iii) OWNERSHIP BY INDIVIDUALS.—When an individual owns more than 50 percent of the applicant and the individual also owns more than 50 percent of another business entity that operates in the same 3-digit North American Industry Classification System subsector as the applicant, the applicant and the individual owner's other business entity are affiliated.

''(iv) LESS THAN 50 PERCENT.—When an applicant does not have an owner that owns more than 50 percent of the applicant, if an owner of 20 percent or more of the applicant also owns more than 50 percent of another business entity that operates in the same 3-digit North American Industry Classification System subsector as the applicant, the applicant and the owner's other business entity are affiliated.

''(v) SPOUSE AND MINOR CHILDREN.—Ownership interests of spouses and minor children shall be combined when determining amount of ownership interest.

''(vi) PERCENTAGE OF OWNERSHIP.—When determining the percentage of ownership that an individual owns in a business, the Administrator shall consider the pro rata ownership of entities.

''(B) AFFILIATION ARISING UNDER STOCK OPTIONS, CONVERTIBLE SECURITIES, AND AGREEMENTS TO MERGE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall—

''(I) consider stock options, convertible securities, and agreements to merge (including agreements in principle) to have a present effect on the ownership of an entity; and

''(II) treat options, convertible securities, and agreements described in subclause (I) as though the rights granted have been exercised.

''(ii) AGREEMENTS TO OPEN OR CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS.—An agreement to open or continue negotiations towards the possibility of a merger or a sale of stock at some later date is not considered an 'agreement in principle' and is not given present effect.

''(iii) CONDITIONS PRECEDENT.—Stock options, convertible securities, and agreements that are subject to conditions precedent that are incapable of fulfillment, speculative, conjectural, or unenforceable under State or Federal law, or where the probability of the transaction (or exercise of the rights) occurring is shown to be extremely remote, are not given present effect.

''(iv) ABILITY TO DIVEST.—The Administrator shall not give present effect to individuals', concerns', or other entities' ability to divest all or part of their ownership interest to avoid a finding of affiliation.

''(C) DETERMINING THE CONCERN'S SIZE.—In determining the size of a concern, the Administrator counts the receipts, employees, or the alternate size standard (if applicable) of the concern whose size is at issue and all of the domestic and foreign affiliates of the concern, regardless of whether the affiliates are organized for profit.

''(D) EXCEPTIONS TO AFFILIATION.—The exceptions to affiliation described in section 121.103(b) of title 13, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation, shall apply.''.

(b) FRANCHISE DIRECTORY.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administration shall publish and maintain on the website of the Administration a Franchise Directory, which shall contain a list that lenders and certified development companies may use in evaluating whether a franchise is eligible for financing from the Administration.

SEC. 11115. LOAN AUTHORIZATION.

(a) 7(A) LOANS.—Section 7(a)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(1)), as amended by this subtitle, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(F) LOAN AUTHORIZATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a loan made or guaranteed under this subsection, the Administration shall issue a written

agreement providing the terms and conditions under which the Administration will make or guarantee the loan.

''(ii) NOT A CONTRACT.—A written agreement issued under clause (i) is not a contract to make a loan.''.

(b) 504/CDC LOANS.—Section 502 of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 696), as amended by this subtitle, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(10) LOAN AUTHORIZATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a loan made under this section, the Administration shall issue a written agreement providing the terms and conditions under which the Administration will make the loan.

''(B) NOT A CONTRACT.—A written agreement issued under subparagraph (A) is not a contract to make a loan.''.

SEC. 11116. OVERSIGHT OF SMALL BUSINESS LENDING COMPANIES.

(a) DEFINITION.—Section 3(r) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(r)) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking ''As used in section 23 of this Act'' and inserting ''In this Act''.

(b) CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS; MAXIMUM NUMBER.—Section 7(a)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(1)), as amended by this subtitle, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(G) ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO SMALL BUSINESS LENDING COMPANIES.—

''(i) MAXIMUM NUMBER.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Not more than 17 small business lending companies may be authorized to make loans under this subsection at any time.

''(II) EXISTING SMALL BUSINESS LENDING COMPANIES.—

''(aa) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subclause (III), each of the 14 small business lending companies authorized to make loans under this subsection as of June 1, 2023 shall retain such authorization on and after the date of enactment of this subparagraph.

''(bb) LOSS OF AUTHORIZATION.—With respect to a lender that, as of the date of enactment of this subparagraph, is authorized as a Community Advantage small business lending company, that lender shall, beginning on that date of enactment—

''(AA) no longer have that authorization; and

''(BB) be designated as a lender under the Community Advantage Loan Program established under paragraph (38).

''(III) TRANSFER OR SALE.—The Administrator shall have the discretion to authorize the transfer or sale of a license of a small business lending company to make loans under this subsection to another small business lending company.

''(IV) LIMITATION OF DELEGATED AUTHORITY.—

''(aa) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding paragraph (31), any small business lending company that the Administration authorizes after June 1, 2023 to make loans under this subsection shall be ineligible for delegated authority from the Administration to process, close, service, and liquidate certain loans made under this subsection for the 5-year period beginning on the date on which the Administration authorizes the small business lending company to make loans under this subsection.

''(bb) EXISTING SBLCS.—Item (aa) shall not apply with respect to each of the 14 small business lending companies authorized to make loans under this subsection as of June 1, 2023.

''(ii) MINIMUM CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subclauses (II) and (III), to be authorized to make loans under this subsection, a small business lending company shall comply with the minimum capital requirements in effect on January 3, 2021.

''(II) APPROVED ON OR AFTER JANUARY 4, 2021.—Any small business lending company authorized by the Administration to make loans under this subsection on or after January 4, 2021, including in the event of a change of ownership or control, shall maintain, at a minimum, the greater of—

''(aa) unencumbered paid-in capital and paid-in surplus of not less than $5,000,000; or

''(bb) an amount equal to 10 percent of the aggregate of its share of all outstanding loans.

''(III) REQUIREMENTS ON AND AFTER JANUARY 4, 2024.—On and after January 4, 2024, each small business lending company that makes or acquires a loan under this subsection shall maintain, at a minimum, the greater of—

''(aa) unencumbered paid-in capital and paid-in surplus of not less than $5,000,000; or

''(bb) an amount equal to 10 percent of the aggregate of its share of all outstanding loans.

''(iii) CRITERIA FOR LICENSING SMALL BUSINESS LENDING COMPANIES.—The Administrator shall use uniform terms for the licensing of business concerns as small business lending companies and the participation of those companies in the programs under this subsection.''.

(c) ANNUAL STRESS TESTING AND REVIEWS.—Section 23(d) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 650(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting ''IN GENERAL.—'' after ''(1)'';

(2) in paragraph (2), by inserting ''HEARING.—'' after ''(2)'';

(3) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively;

(4) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

''(3) SPECIAL SUPERVISORY AUTHORITIES RELATED TO SMALL BUSINESS LENDING COMPANIES.—

''(A) REVIEW AND REVOCATION OF AUTHORITY.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of Credit Risk Management (in this paragraph referred to as the 'Director')—

''(I) may review and revoke the authority of a small business lending company to make, service, or liquidate business loans under section 7(a) for performance, excessive losses, or predatory lending;

''(II) shall review and may revoke the authority of a small business lending company to make, service, or liquidate business loans under section 7(a) if—

''(aa) the early default rate for the small business lending company exceeds the average default rate for all small business lending companies participating in the loan program under section 7(a);

''(bb) the small business lending company fails to comply with the requirements under subparagraph (B); or

''(cc) the Director finds in an audit conducted under subparagraph (C)(ii) that the small business lending company is not in compliance with 1 or more of the requirements described in subparagraph (C); and

''(III) shall revoke the authority of a small business lending company to make, service, or liquidate business loans under section 7(a) if the Director has determined the small business lending company has failed to comply with the requirements in subclause (II) or (III) of subparagraph (B)(ii) for 2 or more years in a row.

''(ii) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—If the Director revokes the authority of a small business lending company to make, service, or liquidate business loans under section 7(a), the Director shall report the revocation, along with details and information describing why that decision was made, to the Office of the Inspector General of the Administration.

''(B) ANNUAL STRESS TESTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Each small business lending company shall—

''(I) conduct an annual stress test of the portfolio of the small business lending company under section 7(a) in accordance with the requirements under clause (ii); and

''(II) report to the Director the findings of each annual stress test conducted under subclause (I).

''(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—Each stress test conducted under clause (i) shall comply with the following requirements:

''(I) The small business lending company shall use financial data as of December 31 of the calendar year prior to the reporting year.

''(II) The small business lending company shall use the scenarios provided by the Director, which shall reflect a minimum of 2 sets of economic and financial conditions, including baseline and severely adverse scenarios that incorporate consideration of interest rate risk. The Director shall provide a description of the scenarios required to be used by each small business lending company not later than February 15 of the reporting year.

''(III) The board of directors and senior management of each small business lending company shall consider the results of the stress tests conducted under this subsection in the normal course of business, including capital planning, assessment of capital adequacy, and risk management practices of the small business lending company.

''(C) COMPLIANCE WITH BANK SECRECY ACT AND ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING REQUIREMENTS.—

''(i) DEFINITION.—In this subparagraph, the term 'Bank Secrecy Act' means—

''(I) section 21 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1829b);

''(II) chapter 2 of title I of Public Law 91–508 (12 U.S.C. 1951 et seq.); and

''(III) subchapter II of chapter 53 of title 31, United States Code.

''(ii) ANNUAL REVIEWS.—The Director—

''(I) shall conduct annual reviews to ensure that small business lending companies are in compliance with the requirements contained in the regulations issued under clause (iii); and

''(II) in conducting a review under subclause (I), may not rely on self-certification by a small business lending company that the small business lending company is in compliance with those requirements.

''(iii) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Modernizing SBA's Business Loan Programs Act of 2023, the Administrator shall, in consultation with other appropriate Federal agencies, issue regulations to provide a framework to ensure that small business lending companies are in compliance with the requirements under the Bank Secrecy Act, including Know Your Customer and anti-money laundering requirements, and any applicable consumer protection laws, including the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15 U.S.C. 1691 et seq.), and the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (Public Law 106–102; 113 Stat. 1338).''.

(5) in paragraph (4), as so redesignated, by inserting ''NOTIFICATION.—'' after ''(4)''; and

(6) in paragraph (5), as so redesignated, by inserting ''DELEGATION.—'' after ''(5)''.

SEC. 11117. OFFICE OF CREDIT RISK MANAGEMENT.

Section 47 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657t) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting before the period at the end the following: ''with a

demonstrated career in or outstanding qualifications or expertise related to finance and financial risk management. The Director shall report directly to the Administrator''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) COMPENSATION.—The Administrator shall fix the compensation of the Director—

''(A) as necessary to carry out the duties of the Office; and

''(B) in an amount that is not less than the highest rate of basic pay for the Senior Executive Service under section 5382(b) of title 5, United States Code.''; and

(2) in subsection (h)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (I), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (J), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(K) the number of 7(a) lenders that had an early default rate of more than 3 percent; and

''(L) an analysis of the median and average credit scores of borrowers relating to early default rates, purchase rates, and charge offs.''.

SEC. 11118. DENIED LOAN OR LOAN MODIFICATION REQUEST.

(a) 7(A) LOANS.—Section 7(a)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(1)), as amended by this subtitle, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(H) DENIED LOAN OR LOAN MODIFICATION REQUEST.—

''(i) ROLE OF ADMINISTRATOR.—The Administrator may not intervene or make a final decision with respect to a request for reconsideration of a denied loan or loan modification request made by an applicant or recipient of a loan under this subsection.

''(ii) FINAL DECISION.—Only the Director of the Office of Financial Assistance may make a final decision with respect to a request for reconsideration of a denied loan or loan modification request made by an applicant or recipient of a loan under this subsection.''.

(b) 504/CDC LOANS.—Section 502 of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 696), as amended by this subtitle, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(11) DENIED LOAN OR LOAN MODIFICATION REQUEST.—

''(A) ROLE OF ADMINISTRATOR.—The Administrator may not intervene or make a final decision with respect to a request for reconsideration of a denied loan or loan modification request made by an applicant or recipient of a loan under this section.

''(B) FINAL DECISION.—Only the Director of the Office of Financial Assistance may make a final decision with respect to a request for reconsideration of a denied loan or loan modification request made by an applicant or recipient of a loan under this section.''.

SEC. 11119. DIRECT LENDING.

Section 7(a)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(1)), as amended by this subtitle, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(I) NOTIFICATION REQUIRED BEFORE DIRECT LENDING.—Not later than 60 days before the Administration implements any policy or pilot program that would allow the Administration to directly make a loan under this subsection, the Administrator shall submit a notification to Congress for review.''.

SEC. 11120. RESTRICTION ON REFINANCING DEBT.

Section 7(a)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(1)), as amended by this subtitle, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(J) RESTRICTION ON REFINANCING DEBT.—

''(i) DEFINITION.—In this subparagraph, the term 'delegated authority' means status granted by the Administration to a lender to allow the lender to process, close, service, and liquidate certain loans made under this subsection without prior review by the Administration.

''(ii) RESTRICTION.—A lender shall be prohibited from using any delegated authority under this subsection to refinance any debt held by the lender, including any loan made under this subsection.''.

SEC. 11121. GAO STUDY.

Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study and submit to the Administrator, the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate, and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

(1) an analysis of the use of alternative credit models for loans made under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)) in an amount of less than $350,000, including—

(A) an analysis of whether appropriate guardrails are in place to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse and provide protections for the borrower;

(B) an evaluation of the effectiveness of those credit models in reducing barriers to access to capital to underserved and rural communities; and

(C) recommendations as to whether improvements can be made by Administration in its use of alternative credit models to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse and to improve access to capital to underserved and rural communities;

(2) an audit of the operations, staffing, and resources of the Office of Credit Risk Management of the Administration, including the efforts of the Office to implement the new oversight provisions under the amendments made by this title; and

(3) a survey of the practices of lenders under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)) relating to the use of criminal history when determining whether to approve a loan under that section or a similarly sized commercial loan that is not guaranteed by the Administration.

TITLE LXX—VETERAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING ACT OF 2023

SEC. 11201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Act of 2023''.

SEC. 11202. BOOTS TO BUSINESS PROGRAM.

Section 32 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657b) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(h) BOOTS TO BUSINESS PROGRAM.—

''(1) COVERED INDIVIDUAL DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'covered individual' means—

''(A) a member of the Armed Forces, including the National Guard or Reserves;

''(B) an individual who is participating in the Transition Assistance Program established under section 1144 of title 10, United States Code;

''(C) an individual who—

''(i) served on active duty in any branch of the Armed Forces, including the National Guard or Reserves; and

''(ii) was discharged or released from such service under conditions other than dishonorable; and

''(D) a spouse or dependent of an individual described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C).

''(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—During the period beginning on the date of enactment of this subsection and ending on September 30, 2028, the Administrator shall carry out a program to be known as the 'Boots to Business Program' to provide entrepreneurship training to covered individuals.

''(3) GOALS.—The goals of the Boots to Business Program are to—

''(A) provide assistance and in-depth training to covered individuals interested in business ownership; and

''(B) provide covered individuals with the tools, skills, and knowledge necessary to identify a business opportunity, draft a business plan, identify sources of capital, connect with local resources for small business concerns, and start up a small business concern.

''(4) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Boots to Business Program may include—

''(i) an in-person and virtual, as applicable, presentation providing exposure to the considerations involved in self-employment and ownership of a small business concern;

''(ii) an online, self-study course focused on the basic skills of entrepreneurship, the language of business, and the considerations involved in self-employment and ownership of a small business concern;

''(iii) an in-person and virtual, as applicable, classroom instruction component providing an introduction to the foundations of self employment and ownership of a small business concern; and

''(iv) in-depth training delivered through online instruction, including an online course that leads to the creation of a business plan.

''(B) TRAVEL COSTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the other provisions of this subparagraph, of the total amount of grant funding that a Veteran Business Outreach Center participating in the Boots to Business Program receives from the Administration, the center may not expend more than 35 percent of that funding on costs relating to international travel with respect to the Boots to Business Program.

''(ii) COSTS NOT INCLUDED IN CAP.—Costs relating to the salaries of, or stipends for, instructors under the Boots to Business Program shall not be included for the purposes of the limitation under clause (i).

''(iii) PETITION.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—A Veteran Business Outreach Center may petition the Administrator for the center to expend additional funds beyond the limitation under clause (i) for the purposes described in that clause.

''(II) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—If the Administrator grants any petition submitted under subclause (I), the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a notification regarding that decision by the Administrator.

''(C) COLLABORATION.—The Administrator may—

''(i) collaborate with public and private entities to develop course curricula for the Boots to Business Program;

''(ii) modify program components in coordination with entities participating in a Warriors in Transition program, as defined in section 738(e) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (10 U.S.C. 1071 note); and

''(iii) consult with Directors of Veteran Business Outreach Centers regarding the necessity of instructor international travel and the feasibility of incorporating virtual classroom components.

''(D) USE OF RESOURCE PARTNERS AND DISTRICT OFFICES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall—

''(I) ensure that Veteran Business Outreach Centers regularly participate, on a nationwide basis, in the Boots to Business Program; and

''(II) to the maximum extent practicable, use district offices of the Administration and

a variety of other resource partners and entities in administering the Boots to Business Program.

''(ii) GRANT AUTHORITY.—In carrying out clause (i), the Administrator may make grants to Veteran Business Outreach Centers, other resource partners, or other entities to carry out components of the Boots to Business Program.

''(E) AVAILABILITY TO DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.—The Administrator shall make available to the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Labor information regarding the Boots to Business Program, including all course materials and outreach materials related to the Boots to Business Program, for inclusion on the websites of the Department of Defense and the Department of Labor relating to the Transition Assistance Program, in the Transition Assistance Program manual, and in other relevant materials available for distribution from the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Labor.

''(F) AVAILABILITY TO DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—In consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Administrator shall make available for distribution and display on the website of the Department of Veterans Affairs and at local facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs outreach materials regarding the Boots to Business Program, which shall, at a minimum—

''(i) describe the Boots to Business Program and the services provided; and

''(ii) include eligibility requirements for participating in the Boots to Business Program.

''(G) AVAILABILITY TO OTHER PARTICIPATING AGENCIES.—The Administrator shall ensure information regarding the Boots to Business program, including all course materials and outreach materials related to the Boots to Business Program, is made available to other participating agencies in the Transition Assistance Program and upon request of other agencies.

''(5) COMPETITIVE BIDDING PROCEDURES.—The Administration shall use relevant competitive bidding procedures with respect to any contract or cooperative agreement executed by the Administration under the Boots to Business Program.

''(6) PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY.—Not later than 30 days before the deadline for submitting applications for any funding opportunity under the Boots to Business Program, the Administration shall publish a notice of the funding opportunity.

''(7) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, and not less frequently than annually thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report on the performance and effectiveness of the Boots to Business Program, which—

''(A) may be included as part of another report submitted to such committees by the Administrator related to the Office of Veterans Business Development; and

''(B) shall summarize available information relating to—

''(i) grants awarded under paragraph (4)(D);

''(ii) the total cost of the Boots to Business Program;

''(iii) the amount of program funds used for domestic and international travel expenses;

''(iv) each domestic location and international location traveled to for Boots to Business program instruction;

''(v) the number of program participants using each component of the Boots to Business Program;

''(vi) the completion rates for each component of the Boots to Business Program; and

''(vii) to the extent possible—

''(I) the demographics of program participants, to include gender, age, race, ethnicity, and relationship to the Armed Forces;

''(II) the number of program participants that connect with a district office of the Administration, a Veteran Business Outreach Center, or another resource partner of the Administration;

''(III) the number of program participants that start a small business concern;

''(IV) the results of the Boots to Business and Boots to Business Reboot course quality surveys conducted by the Office of Veterans Business Development before and after attending each of those courses, including a summary of any comments received from program participants;

''(V) the results of the Boots to Business Program outcome surveys conducted by the Office of Veterans Business Development, including a summary of any comments received from program participants; and

''(VI) the results of other germane participant satisfaction surveys;

''(C) an evaluation of the overall effectiveness of the Boots to Business Program based on each geographic region covered by the Administration during the most recent fiscal year;

''(D) an assessment of additional performance outcome measures for the Boots to Business Program, as identified by the Administrator;

''(E) any recommendations of the Administrator for improvement of the Boots to Business Program, which may include expansion of the types of individuals who are covered individuals;

''(F) an explanation of how the Boots to Business Program has been integrated with other transition programs and related resources of the Administration and other Federal agencies; and

''(G) any additional information the Administrator determines necessary.''.

TITLE LXXI—SMALL BUSINESS CHILD CARE INVESTMENT ACT

SEC. 11301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Small Business Child Care Investment Act''.

SEC. 11302. SMALL BUSINESS LOANS FOR NONPROFIT CHILD CARE PROVIDERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(10) NONPROFIT CHILD CARE PROVIDERS.—

''(A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the term 'covered nonprofit child care provider' means an organization—

''(i) that—

''(I) is in compliance with licensing requirements for child care providers of the State in which the organization is located;

''(II) is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code;

''(III) is primarily engaged in providing child care for children from birth to compulsory school age; and

''(IV) is in compliance with the size standards established under this subsection for business concerns in the applicable industry;

''(ii) for which each employee and regular volunteer complies with the criminal background check requirements under section 658H(b) of the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858f(b));

''(iii) that may—

''(I) provide care for school-age children outside of school hours or outside of the school year; or

''(II) offer preschool or prekindergarten educational programs; and

''(iv) subject to any exemption under Federal law applicable to the organization, that certifies to the Administrator that the organization will not discriminate in any business practice, including providing services to the public, on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, disability, or national origin.

''(B) ELIGIBILITY FOR CERTAIN LOAN PROGRAMS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection, a covered nonprofit child care provider shall be deemed to be a small business concern for purposes of loans under section 7(a) of this Act or financing under title V of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 695 et seq.).

''(ii) LOAN GUARANTEE.—A covered nonprofit child care center provider—

''(I) shall obtain a guarantee of timely payment of the loan or financing from another person or entity to be eligible for a loan or financing of more than $500,000 under the authority under clause (i); and

''(II) shall not be required to obtain a guarantee of timely payment of the loan or financing to be eligible for a loan or financing that is not more than $500,000 under the authority under clause (i).

''(C) LIMITATION ON BASIS FOR INELIGIBILITY.—The Administrator may not determine that a covered nonprofit child care center provider is not eligible for a loan or financing described in subparagraph (B)(i) on the basis that the proceeds of the loan or financing will be used for a religious activity protected under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, as interpreted by the courts of the United States.''.

(b) REPORTING.—

(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ''covered nonprofit child care provider'' has the meaning given the term in paragraph (10) of section 3(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a)), as added by subsection (a).

(2) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report that contains—

(A) for the year covered by the report—

(i) the number of loans made under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)) and the number of financings provided under title V of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 695 et seq.) to covered nonprofit child care providers; and

(ii) the amount of such loans made and the amount of such financings provided to covered nonprofit child care providers; and

(B) any other information determined relevant by the Administrator.

TITLE LXXII—SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESS AND CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION ACT OF 2023

SEC. 11401. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Supporting Small Business and Career and Technical Education Act of 2023''.

SEC. 11402. INCLUSION OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

(a) DEFINITION.—Section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(gg) CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.—The term 'career and technical education' has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302).''.

(b) SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTERS.—Section 21(c)(3) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(c)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (T), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in clause (v) of the first subparagraph (U) (relating to succession planning), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(3) by redesignating the second subparagraph (U) (relating to training on domestic

and international intellectual property protections) as subparagraph (V);

(4) in subparagraph (V)(ii)(II), as so redesignated, by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

''(W) assisting small business concerns in hiring graduates from career and technical education programs or programs of study; and

''(X) assisting graduates of career and technical education programs or programs of study in starting up a small business concern.''.

(c) WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTERS.—Section 29(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) assistance for small business concerns to hire graduates from career and technical education programs or programs of study; and

''(5) assistance for graduates of career and technical education programs or programs of study to start up a small business concern.''.

TITLE LXXIII—SMALL BUSINESS DISASTER DAMAGE FAIRNESS ACT OF 2023

SEC. 11501. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Small Business Disaster Damage Fairness Act of 2023''.

SEC. 11502. COLLATERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR DISASTER LOANS.

Section 7(d)(6) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(d)(6)) is amended, in the third proviso—

(1) by striking ''$14,000'' and inserting ''$25,000''; and

(2) by striking ''major disaster'' and inserting ''disaster''.

SEC. 11503. GAO REPORT ON DEFAULT RATES.

Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report on the performance, including the default rate, of loans made under section 7(b)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)(1)), and the impact of the amendments to collateral amounts made under section 11502 on the performance of those loans, during the period—

(1) beginning on September 30, 2020; and

(2) ending on the date on that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

TITLE LXXIV—NATIVE AMERICAN ENTREPRENEURIAL AND OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2023

SEC. 11601. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Native American Entrepreneurial and Opportunity Act of 2023''.

SEC. 11602. OFFICE OF NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS.

The Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 49 (15 U.S.C. 631 note) as section 50; and

(2) by inserting after section 48 (15 U.S.C. 657u) the following:

''SEC. 49. OFFICE OF NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR.—The term 'Associate Administrator' means the Associate Administrator for Native American Affairs appointed under subsection (c).

''(2) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term 'Indian Tribe' has the meaning given the term 'Indian tribe' in section 8(a)(13).

''(3) NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATION.—The term 'Native Hawaiian Organization' has the meaning given the term in section 8(a)(15).

''(4) OFFICE.—The term 'Office' means the Office of Native American Affairs described in this section.

''(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established within the Administration the Office of Native American Affairs, which shall be responsible for establishing a working relationship with Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian Organizations by targeting programs of the Administration relating to entrepreneurial development, contracting, and capital access to revitalize Native businesses and economic development in Indian country.

''(2) CONNECTION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS.—To the extent reasonable, the Office shall connect Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian Organizations to programs administered by other Federal agencies related to the interests described in paragraph (1).

''(3) ALTERNATIVE WORK SITES.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Office may establish alternative work sites within such regional offices of the Administration as may be necessary, with initial focus on those parts of Indian Country most economically disadvantaged, to perform efficiently the functions and responsibilities of the Office.

''(B) PROHIBITION.—The alternative work sites established under subparagraph (A) shall not be field offices of the Administration.

''(c) ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR.—The Office shall be headed by an Associate Administrator for Native American Affairs, who shall—

''(1) be appointed by and report to the Administrator;

''(2) have knowledge of Native American cultures and experience providing culturally tailored small business development assistance to Native Americans;

''(3) carry out the program to provide assistance to Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian Organizations and small business concerns owned and controlled by individuals who are members of those groups;

''(4) administer and manage Native American outreach expansion;

''(5) enhance assistance to Native Americans by formulating and promoting policies, programs, and assistance that better address their entrepreneurial, capital access, business development, and contracting needs, and collaborate with other Associate Administrators and intergovernmental leaders with similar missions across Federal agencies on the development of policies and plans to implement new programs of the Administration, while supplementing existing Federal programs to holistically serve those needs;

''(6) provide grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, or other financial assistance to Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian Organizations, or to private nonprofit organizations governed by members of those entities, that have the experience and capability to—

''(A) deploy training, counseling, workshops, educational outreach, and supplier events; and

''(B) access the entrepreneurial, capital, and contracting programs of the Administration;

''(7) assist the Administrator in conducting, or conduct, Tribal consultation to solicit input and facilitate discussion of potential modifications to programs and procedures of the Administration; and

''(8) recommend annual budgets for the Office.

''(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Office such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028 to carry out this section.''.

TITLE LXXV—SUPPORTING COMMUNITY LENDERS ACT

SEC. 11701. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Supporting Community Lenders Act''.

SEC. 11702. COORDINATOR FOR COMMUNITY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

Section 7 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(o) COORDINATOR FOR COMMUNITY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.—

''(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

''(A) the term 'Associate Administrator' means the Associate Administrator of the Office of Capital Access of the Administration;

''(B) the term 'community financial institution' has the meaning given the term in paragraph (36); and

''(C) the term 'Coordinator' means the Coordinator for Community Financial Institutions.

''(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Office of Capital Access of the Administration the position of Coordinator for Community Financial Institutions, the occupant of which shall be responsible for the planning, coordination, implementation, evaluation, and improvement of the efforts of the Administrator to enhance the performance of community financial institutions and support access to capital for small business concerns.

''(3) COORDINATOR.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Supporting Community Lenders Act, the Administrator shall designate an individual to serve as Coordinator, who shall—

''(i) report to the Associate Administrator; and

''(ii) have knowledge of community financial institutions and experience providing access to capital to small business concerns in underserved communities.

''(B) DUTIES.—The Coordinator shall—

''(i) create and implement strategies and programs that support the activities, development, and growth of community financial institutions;

''(ii) administer and manage outreach, technical support, and training programs to existing, and potential, community financial institutions;

''(iii) establish partnerships within the Administration and with relevant Federal agencies, including the Department of the Treasury, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Department of Agriculture, and the Minority Business Development Agency, to advance the goal of supporting the economic success of small business concerns through community financial institutions;

''(iv) review the effectiveness and impact of community financial institutions;

''(v) when appropriate, advocate on behalf of community financial institutions within the Administration, and to outside organizations, including other relevant Federal agencies;

''(vi) hold public meetings with relevant stakeholders not less frequently than once every 6 months beginning 1 year after the date of enactment of the Supporting Community Lenders Act; and

''(vii) not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of the Supporting Community Lenders Act, and not less frequently than once every 3 years thereafter, submit to Congress a report on the major activities of the Coordinator, recommendations for congressional action based on the expertise of the Coordinator, and potential for growth within the areas in which the Coordinator operates.

''(C) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the duties under this paragraph, the Coordinator shall consult with—

''(i) district offices of the Administration; and

''(ii) other relevant Federal agencies, including the Department of the Treasury, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and the Minority Business Development Agency.''.

SEC. 11703. OFFICE OF ADVOCACY EMPLOYEE ELIGIBILITY FOR FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE.

The Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Administration shall immediately notify the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives if, at any point, an employee, including a contracted employee, of the Office of Advocacy who has been employed at the Office of Advocacy for more than 1 year is not eligible for paid leave under subchapter V of chapter 63 of title 5, United States Code.

TITLE LXXVI—SBIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT OF 2023

SEC. 11801. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''SBIC Advisory Committee Act of 2023''.

SEC. 11802. SBIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term ''Advisory Committee'' means the SBIC Advisory Committee established under subsection (b);

(2) the term ''covered Members'' means the Chair and Ranking Member of—

(A) the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives;

(3) the terms ''licensee'', ''small business investment company'', and ''underlicensed State'' have the meanings given those terms in section 103 of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 662);

(4) the term ''low-income community'' has the meaning given the term in section 45D(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

(5) the term ''rural area'' has the meaning given the term by the Bureau of the Census;

(6) the terms ''small business concern owned and controlled by veterans'' and ''small business concern owned and controlled by women'' have the meanings given those terms in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632);

(7) the term ''socially or economically disadvantaged individual'' means a socially disadvantaged individual or economically disadvantaged individual, as described in paragraphs (5) and (6)(A), respectively, of section 8(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(a));

(8) the term ''underfinanced State'' means a State that has below median financing, as determined by the Administrator; and

(9) the term ''underserved community'' means—

(A) a HUBZone, as defined in section 31(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657a(b));

(B) a community that has been designated as an empowerment zone or an enterprise community under section 1391 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

(C) a community that has been designated as a promise zone by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; or

(D) a community that has been designated as a qualified opportunity zone under section 1400Z–1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator shall establish an SBIC Advisory Committee to convene outside experts to advise on the small business investment program under title III of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 681 et seq.).

(c) COMPOSITION.—

(1) MEMBERSHIP.—The Advisory Committee shall be composed of 16 members appointed by the Administrator as follows:

(A) The Associate Administrator of the Office of Investment and Innovation of the Administration, or another designee of the Associate Administrator, as determined by the Administrator.

(B) 7 members with competence regarding, interest in, or knowledge of the small business investment program under title III of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 681 et seq.), of whom—

(i) not fewer than 3 shall have a demonstrated record of expertise in investing in—

(I) low-income communities;

(II) communities that have been designated as qualified opportunity zones under section 1400Z–1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

(III) businesses primarily engaged in research and development;

(IV) manufacturers;

(V) businesses primarily owned or controlled by individuals in underserved communities before receiving capital from the licensee;

(VI) rural areas; or

(VII) underfinanced States; and

(ii) not less than 1 shall be a representative from a trade association for the small business investment program under title III of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 681 et seq.).

(C) 8 members appointed by the Administrator as follows:

(i) 2 members shall be selected from among the individuals in the list submitted by the Chair of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate under paragraph (2).

(ii) 2 members shall be selected from among the individuals in the list submitted by the Ranking Member of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate under paragraph (2).

(iii) 2 members shall be selected from among the individuals in the list submitted by the Chair of the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives under paragraph (2).

(iv) 2 members shall be selected from among the individuals in the list submitted by the Ranking Member of the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives under paragraph (2).

(2) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, each of the covered Members shall provide to the Administrator a list of 3 candidates for membership on the Advisory Committee, who shall be individuals who have no conflict of interest in the small business investment program under title III of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 681 et seq.) and hold a high-ranking position or senior leadership role in—

(A) a relevant industry trade association;

(B) the investment industry with expertise in pensions, endowments, and other nonbanking institutions;

(C) academia with expertise in the investment industry; or

(D) a nonprofit institution, including a nonprofit institution that serves any of the entities described in subclauses (I) through (VII) of paragraph (1)(B)(i).

(3) PRIVATE SECTOR MEMBERS.—Not fewer than 2 and not more than 4 of the members of the Advisory Committee shall be investors in the private sector who—

(A) invest in small business concerns; and

(B) as of the date of appointment, do not participate in the small business investment program under title III of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 681 et seq.).

(4) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the Advisory Committee shall be the member of the Advisory Committee appointed under paragraph (1)(A).

(5) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—Members of the Advisory Committee shall be appointed for the life of the Advisory Committee.

(6) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the Advisory Committee shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(d) DEADLINE FOR APPOINTMENT.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the covered Members provide the lists to the Administrator under subsection (c)(2), the Administrator shall—

(1) appoint the members of the Advisory Committee; and

(2) submit to Congress a list of the members so appointed.

(e) DUTIES.—The Advisory Committee shall provide advice and recommendations to the Administrator concerning—

(1) policy and program development and other matters of significance concerning activities under the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), including diversifying management teams or companies;

(2) incentives for small business investment companies to—

(A) invest and locate in underlicensed States and underfinanced States; and

(B) invest in small business concerns, including small business concerns owned and controlled by socially or economically disadvantaged individuals, small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans, and small business concerns owned and controlled by women;

(3) metrics of success, and benchmarks for success, with respect to the goals described in this section; and

(4) the impact of the small business investment program under title III of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 681 et seq.) on the private investment market, including whether investments under the program compete with the private sector.

(f) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date on which the Administrator establishes the Advisory Committee under subsection (b), the Advisory Committee shall submit to the Administrator, the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate, and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report that includes the recommendations of the Advisory Committee described in subsection (e).

(g) TERMINATION.—The Advisory Committee shall terminate on the date on which the Advisory Committee submits the report required under subsection (f).

SA 1069. Mr. WHITEHOUSE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title X, insert the following:

SEC. _____. AMENDMENT TO DEPARTMENT OF STATE REWARDS PROGRAM.

Section 36(b) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2708(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (13), by striking ''; or'' and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (14), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(15) the conviction of any individual for a criminal violation of United States sanctions.''.

SA 1070. Ms. SINEMA (for herself and Mr. LANKFORD) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2226, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title X of division A, add the following:

Subtitle H—Combating Cartels on Social Media Act of 2023

SEC. 1091. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the ''Combating Cartels on Social Media Act of 2023''.

SEC. 1092. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

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

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) COVERED OPERATOR.—The term ''covered operator'' means the operator, developer, or publisher of a covered service.

(3) COVERED SERVICE.—The term ''covered service'' means—

(A) a social media platform;

(B) a mobile or desktop service with direct or group messaging capabilities, but not including text messaging services without other substantial social functionalities or electronic mail services, that the Secretary of Homeland Security determines is being or has been used by transnational criminal organizations in connection with matters described in section 1093; and

(C) a digital platform, or an electronic application utilizing the digital platform, involving real-time interactive communication between multiple individuals, including multi-player gaming services and immersive technology platforms or applications, that the Secretary of Homeland Security determines is being or has been used by transnational criminal organizations in connection with matters described in section 1093.

(4) CRIMINAL ENTERPRISE.—The term ''criminal enterprise'' has the meaning given the term ''continuing criminal enterprise'' in section 408 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 848).

(5) ILLICIT ACTIVITIES.—The term ''illicit activities'' means the following criminal activities that transcend national borders:

(A) A violation of section 401 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 841).

(B) Narcotics trafficking, as defined in section 808 of the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (21 U.S.C. 1907).

(C) Trafficking of weapons, as defined in section 922 of title 18, United States Code.

(D) Migrant smuggling, defined as a violation of section 274(a)(1)(A)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii)).

(E) Human trafficking, defined as—

(i) a violation of section 1590, 1591, or 1592 of title 18, United States Code; or

(ii) engaging in severe forms of trafficking in persons, as defined in section 103 of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

(F) Cyber crime, defined as a violation of section 1030 of title 18, United States Code.

(G) A violation of any provision that is subject to intellectual property enforcement, as defined in section 302 of the Prioritizing Resources and Organization for Intellectual Property Act of 2008 (15 U.S.C. 8112).

(H) Bulk cash smuggling of currency, defined as a violation of section 5332 of title 31, United States Code.

(I) Laundering the proceeds of the criminal activities described in subparagraphs (A) through (H).

(6) TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION.—The term ''transnational criminal organization'' means groups, networks, and associated individuals who operate transnationally for the purposes of obtaining power, influence, or monetary or commercial gain, wholly or in part by certain illegal means, while advancing their activities through a pattern of crime, corruption, or violence, and while protecting their illegal activities through a transnational organizational structure and the exploitation of public corruption or transnational logistics, financial, or communication mechanisms.

SEC. 1093. ASSESSMENT OF ILLICIT USAGE.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a joint assessment describing—

(1) the use of covered services by transnational criminal organizations, or criminal enterprises acting on behalf of transnational criminal organizations, to engage in recruitment efforts, including the recruitment of individuals, including individuals under the age of 18, located in the United States to engage in or provide support with respect to illicit activities occurring in the United States, Mexico, or otherwise in proximity to an international boundary of the United States;

(2) the use of covered services by transnational criminal organizations to engage in illicit activities or conduct in support of illicit activities, including—

(A) smuggling or trafficking involving narcotics, other controlled substances, precursors thereof, or other items prohibited under the laws of the United States, Mexico, or another relevant jurisdiction, including firearms;

(B) human smuggling or trafficking, including the exploitation of children; and

(C) transportation of bulk currency or monetary instruments in furtherance of smuggling activity; and

(3) the existing efforts of the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of State, and relevant government and law enforcement entities to counter, monitor, or otherwise respond to the usage of covered services described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

SEC. 1094. STRATEGY TO COMBAT CARTEL RECRUITMENT ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND ONLINE PLATFORMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a joint strategy, to be known as the National Strategy to Combat Illicit Recruitment Activity by Transnational Criminal Organizations on Social Media and Online Platforms, to combat the use of covered services by transnational criminal organizations, or criminal enterprises acting on behalf of transnational criminal organizations, to recruit individuals located in the United States to engage in or provide support with respect to illicit activities occurring in the United States, Mexico, or otherwise in proximity to an international boundary of the United States.

(b) ELEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall, at a minimum, include the following:

(A) A proposal to improve cooperation and thereafter maintain cooperation between the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of State, and relevant law enforcement entities with respect to the matters described in subsection (a).

(B) Recommendations to implement a process for the voluntary reporting of information regarding the recruitment efforts of transnational criminal organizations in the United States involving covered services.

(C) A proposal to improve intragovernmental coordination with respect to the matters described in subsection (a), including between the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of State, and State, Tribal, and local governments.

(D) A proposal to improve coordination within the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of State and between the components of those Departments with respect to the matters described in subsection (a).

(E) Activities to facilitate increased intelligence analysis for law enforcement purposes of efforts of transnational criminal organizations to utilize covered services for recruitment to engage in or provide support with respect to illicit activities.

(F) Activities to foster international partnerships and enhance collaboration with foreign governments and, as applicable, multilateral institutions with respect to the matters described in subsection (a).

(G) Activities to specifically increase engagement and outreach with youth in border communities, including regarding the recruitment tactics of transnational criminal organizations and the consequences of participation in illicit activities.

(H) A detailed description of the measures used to ensure—

(i) law enforcement and intelligence activities focus on the recruitment activities of transitional criminal organizations not individuals the transnational criminal organizations attempt to or successfully recruit; and

(ii) the privacy rights, civil rights, and civil liberties protections in carrying out the activities described in clause (i), with a particular focus on the protections in place to protect minors and constitutionally protected activities.

(2) LIMITATION.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall not include legislative recommendations or elements predicated on the passage of legislation that is not enacted as of the date on which the strategy is submitted under subsection (a).

(c) CONSULTATION.—In drafting and implementing the strategy required under subsection (a), the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of State shall, at a minimum, consult and engage with—

(1) the heads of relevant components of the Department of Homeland Security, including—

(A) the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis;

(B) the Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans;

(C) the Under Secretary for Science and Technology;

(D) the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection;

(E) the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement;

(F) the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties;

(G) the Privacy Officer; and

(H) the Assistant Secretary of the Office for State and Local Law Enforcement;

(2) the heads of relevant components of the Department of State, including—

(A) the Assistant Secretary for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs;

(B) the Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs; and

(C) the Coordinator of the Global Engagement Center;

(3) the Attorney General;

(4) the Secretary of Health and Human Services; and

(5) the Secretary of Education; and

(6) as selected by the Secretary of Homeland Security, or his or her designee in the Office of Public Engagement, representatives of border communities, including representatives of—

(A) State, Tribal, and local governments, including school districts and local law enforcement; and

(B) nongovernmental experts in the fields of—

(i) civil rights and civil liberties;

(ii) online privacy;

(iii) humanitarian assistance for migrants; and

(iv) youth outreach and rehabilitation.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the strategy required under subsection (a) is submitted to the appropriate congressional committees, the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of State shall commence implementation of the strategy.

(2) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the strategy required under subsection (a) is implemented under paragraph (1), and semiannually thereafter for 5 years, the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a joint report describing the efforts of the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Secretary of State to implement the strategy required under subsection (a) and the progress of those efforts, which shall include a description of—

(i) the recommendations, and corresponding implementation of those recommendations, with respect to the matters described in subsection (b)(1)(B);

(ii) the interagency posture with respect to the matters covered by the strategy required under subsection (a), which shall include a description of collaboration between the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of State, other Federal entities, State, local, and Tribal entities, and foreign governments; and

(iii) the threat landscape, including new developments related to the United States recruitment efforts of transnational criminal organizations and the use by those organizations of new or emergent covered services and recruitment methods.

(B) FORM.—Each report required under subparagraph (A) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

(3) CIVIL RIGHTS, CIVIL LIBERTIES, AND PRIVACY ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which the strategy required under subsection (a) is implemented under paragraph (1), the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and the Privacy Office of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a joint report that includes—

(A) a detailed assessment of the measures used to ensure the protection of civil rights, civil liberties, and privacy rights in carrying out this section; and

(B) recommendations to improve the implementation of the strategy required under subsection (a).

(4) RULEMAKING.—Prior to implementation of the strategy required under subsection (a) at the Department of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall issue rules to carry out this section in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 1095. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this subtitle shall be construed to expand the statutory law enforcement or regulatory authority of the Department of Homeland Security or the Department of State.

SEC. 1096. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of carrying out this subtitle.

SA 1071. Mr. DAINES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1049. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR ADULT CABARET PERFORMANCES.

(a) PROHIBITION.—None of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act for fiscal year 2024 for the Department of Defense and no facilities owned or operated by Department of Defense may be used to host, advertise, or otherwise support an adult cabaret performance.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADULT CABARET PERFORMANCE.—The term ''adult cabaret performance'' means a performance that features topless dancers, go-go dancers, exotic dances, strippers, or male or female impersonators who provide entertainment that appeals to prurient interest.

(2) FACILITIES OWNED OR OPERATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE.—The term ''facilities owned or operated by the Department of Defense'' means any facility owned, operated, or defended by members of the Armed Forces or civilian employees of the Department of Defense, including maritime vessels, OCONUS installations, Department of State facilities, intelligence community facilities, and cemeteries.

(3) HOST, ADVERTISE, OR OTHERWISE SUPPORT.—The term ''host, advertise, or otherwise support'' includes such activities as social media, background checks, transportation or escort, meal services, event venues, non-governmental or non-military related flags, banners, and fliers.

SA 1072. Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2226, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

DIVISION I—NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2023

SEC. 11001. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the ''Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Reauthorization Act of 2023''.

SEC. 11002. CONSOLIDATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW REQUIREMENTS.

Section 105 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4115) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(e) CONSOLIDATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW REQUIREMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a recipient of grant amounts under this Act that is carrying out a project that qualifies as an affordable housing activity under section 202, if the recipient is using 1 or more additional sources of Federal funds to carry out the project, and the grant amounts received under this Act constitute the largest single source of Federal funds that the recipient reasonably expects to commit to the project at the time of environmental review, the Indian tribe of the recipient may assume, in addition to all of the responsibilities for environmental review, decision making, and action under subsection (a), all of the additional responsibilities for environmental review, decision making, and action under provisions of law that would apply to each Federal agency providing additional funding were the Federal agency to carry out the project as a Federal project.

''(2) DISCHARGE.—The assumption by the Indian tribe of the additional responsibilities for environmental review, decision making, and action under paragraph (1) with respect to a project shall be deemed to discharge the responsibility of the applicable Federal agency for environmental review, decision making, and action with respect to the project.

''(3) CERTIFICATION.—An Indian tribe that assumes the additional responsibilities under paragraph (1), shall certify, in addition to the requirements under subsection (c)—

''(A) the additional responsibilities that the Indian tribe has fully carried out under this subsection; and

''(B) that the certifying officer consents to assume the status of a responsible Federal official under the provisions of law that would apply to each Federal agency providing additional funding under paragraph (1).

''(4) LIABILITY.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—An Indian tribe that completes an environmental review under this subsection shall assume sole liability for the content and quality of the review.

''(B) REMEDIES AND SANCTIONS.—Except as provided in subparagraph (C), if the Secretary approves a certification and release of funds to an Indian tribe for a project in accordance with subsection (b), but the Secretary or the head of another Federal agency providing funding for the project subsequently learns that the Indian tribe failed to carry out the responsibilities of the Indian tribe as described in subsection (a) or paragraph (1), as applicable, the Secretary or other head, as applicable, may impose appropriate remedies and sanctions in accordance with—

''(i) the regulations issued pursuant to section 106; or

''(ii) such regulations as are issued by the other head.

''(C) STATUTORY VIOLATION WAIVERS.—If the Secretary waives the requirements under this section in accordance with subsection (d) with respect to a project for which an Indian tribe assumes additional responsibilities under paragraph (1), the waiver shall prohibit any other Federal agency providing

additional funding for the project from imposing remedies or sanctions for failure to comply with requirements for environmental review, decision making, and action under provisions of law that would apply to the Federal agency.''.

SEC. 11003. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 108 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4117) is amended, in the first sentence, by striking ''2009 through 2013'' and inserting ''2024 through 2030''.

SEC. 11004. STUDENT HOUSING ASSISTANCE.

Section 202(3) of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4132(3)) is amended by inserting ''including college housing assistance'' after ''self-sufficiency and other services,''.

SEC. 11005. APPLICATION OF RENT RULE ONLY TO UNITS OWNED OR OPERATED BY INDIAN TRIBE OR TRIBALLY DESIGNATED HOUSING ENTITY.

Section 203(a)(2) of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4133(a)(2)) is amended by inserting ''owned or operated by a recipient and'' after ''residing in a dwelling unit''.

SEC. 11006. DE MINIMIS EXEMPTION FOR PROCUREMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICES.

Section 203(g) of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4133(g)) is amended by striking ''$5,000'' and inserting ''$10,000''.

SEC. 11007. HOMEOWNERSHIP OR LEASE-TO-OWN LOW-INCOME REQUIREMENT AND INCOME TARGETING.

Section 205 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4135) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''and'' at the end; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(E) notwithstanding any other provision of this paragraph, in the case of rental housing that is made available to a current rental family for conversion to a homebuyer or a lease-purchase unit, that the current rental family can purchase through a contract of sale, lease-purchase agreement, or any other sales agreement, is made available for purchase only by the current rental family, if the rental family was a low-income family at the time of their initial occupancy of such unit; and''; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking ''The provisions'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The provisions''; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) APPLICABILITY TO IMPROVEMENTS.—The provisions of subsection (a)(2) regarding binding commitments for the remaining useful life of property shall not apply to improvements of privately owned homes if the cost of the improvements do not exceed 10 percent of the maximum total development cost for the home.''.

SEC. 11008. LEASE REQUIREMENTS AND TENANT SELECTION.

Section 207 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4137) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) NOTICE OF TERMINATION.—The notice period described in subsection (a)(3) shall apply to projects and programs funded in part by amounts authorized under this Act.''.

SEC. 11009. INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title II of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4131 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 211. IHS SANITATION FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION.

''Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Director of the Indian Health Service, or a recipient receiving funding for a housing construction or renovation project under this title, may use funding from the Indian Health Service for the construction of sanitation facilities under that project.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–330; 110 Stat. 4016) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 210 the following:

''Sec. 211. IHS sanitation facilities construction.''.

SEC. 11010. STATUTORY AUTHORITY TO SUSPEND GRANT FUNDS IN EMERGENCIES.

Section 401(a)(4) of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4161(a)(4)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''may take an action described in paragraph (1)(C)'' and inserting ''may immediately take an action described in paragraph (1)(C)''; and

(2) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

''(B) PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary takes an action described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall provide notice to the recipient at the time that the Secretary takes that action.

''(ii) NOTICE REQUIREMENTS.—The notice under clause (i) shall inform the recipient that the recipient may request a hearing by not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary provides the notice.

''(iii) HEARING REQUIREMENTS.—A hearing requested under clause (ii) shall be conducted—

''(I) in accordance with subpart A of part 26 of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations); and

''(II) to the maximum extent practicable, on an expedited basis.

''(iv) FAILURE TO CONDUCT A HEARING.—If a hearing requested under clause (ii) is not completed by the date that is 180 days after the date on which the recipient requests the hearing, the action of the Secretary to limit the availability of payments shall no longer be effective.''.

SEC. 11011. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

Section 407 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4167) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking ''Congress'' and inserting ''Committee on Indian Affairs and the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The report described in subsection (a) shall be made publicly available, including to recipients.''.

SEC. 11012. 99-YEAR LEASEHOLD INTEREST IN TRUST OR RESTRICTED LANDS FOR HOUSING PURPOSES.

Section 702 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4211) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**50-YEAR**'' and inserting ''**99-YEAR**'';

(2) in subsection (b), by striking ''50 years'' and inserting ''99 years''; and

(3) in subsection (c)(2), by striking ''50 years'' and inserting ''99 years''.

SEC. 11013. AMENDMENTS FOR BLOCK GRANTS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING ACTIVITIES.

Section 802(e) of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4222(e)) is amended by—

(1) by striking ''The Director'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(2) SUBAWARDS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including provisions of State law requiring competitive procurement, the Director may make subawards to subrecipients, except for for-profit entities, using amounts provided under this title to carry out affordable housing activities upon a determination by the Director that such subrecipients have adequate capacity to carry out activities in accordance with this Act.''.

SEC. 11014. REAUTHORIZATION OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN HOMEOWNERSHIP PROVISIONS.

Section 824 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4243) is amended by striking ''such sums as may be necessary'' and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting ''such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2030.''.

SEC. 11015. TOTAL DEVELOPMENT COST MAXIMUM PROJECT COST.

Affordable housing (as defined in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103)) that is developed, acquired, or assisted under the block grant program established under section 101 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4111) shall not exceed by more than 20 percent, without prior approval of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the total development cost maximum cost for all housing assisted under an affordable housing activity, including development and model activities.

SEC. 11016. COMMUNITY-BASED DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS AND SPECIAL ACTIVITIES BY INDIAN TRIBES.

Section 105 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5305) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(i) INDIAN TRIBES AND TRIBALLY DESIGNATED HOUSING ENTITIES AS COMMUNITY-BASED DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS.—

''(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term 'tribally designated housing entity' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103).

''(2) QUALIFICATION.—An Indian tribe, a tribally designated housing entity, or a tribal organization shall qualify as a community-based development organization for purposes of carrying out new housing construction under this subsection under a grant made under section 106(a)(1).

''(j) SPECIAL ACTIVITIES BY INDIAN TRIBES.—An Indian tribe receiving a grant under paragraph (1) of section 106(a)(1) shall be authorized to directly carry out activities described in paragraph (15) of such section 106(a)(1).''.

SEC. 11017. SECTION 184 INDIAN HOME LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 184 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 1715z–13a) is amended—

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

''(a) AUTHORITY.—To provide access to sources of private financing to Indian families, Indian housing authorities, and Indian Tribes, who otherwise could not acquire housing financing because of the unique legal status of Indian lands and the unique nature of tribal economies, and to expand homeownership opportunities to Indian families, Indian housing authorities and Indian tribes on fee simple lands, the Secretary may guarantee not to exceed 100 percent of the unpaid principal and interest due on any

loan eligible under subsection (b) made to an Indian family, Indian housing authority, or Indian Tribe on trust land and fee simple land.''; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

''(2) ELIGIBLE HOUSING.—The loan shall be used to construct, acquire, refinance, or rehabilitate 1- to 4-family dwellings that are standard housing.'';

(B) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (D) as clauses (i) through (iv), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly;

(ii) by striking ''The loan'' and inserting the following:

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The loan'';

(iii) in subparagraph (A), as so designated, by adding at the end the following:

''(v) Any other lender that is supervised, approved, regulated, or insured by any agency of the Federal Government, including any entity certified as a community development financial institution by the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund established under section 104(a) of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4703(a)).''; and

(iv) by adding at the end the following:

''(B) DIRECT GUARANTEE PROCESS.—

''(i) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may authorize qualifying lenders to participate in a direct guarantee process for approving loans under this section.

''(ii) INDEMNIFICATION.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary determines that a mortgage guaranteed through a direct guarantee process under this subparagraph was not originated in accordance with the requirements established by the Secretary, the Secretary may require the lender approved under this subparagraph to indemnify the Secretary for the loss, irrespective of whether the violation caused the mortgage default.

''(II) FRAUD OR MISREPRESENTATION.—If fraud or misrepresentation is involved in a direct guarantee process under this subparagraph, the Secretary shall require the original lender approved under this subparagraph to indemnify the Secretary for the loss regardless of when an insurance claim is paid.

''(C) REVIEW OF MORTGAGEES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may periodically review the mortgagees originating, underwriting, or servicing single family mortgage loans under this section.

''(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—In conducting a review under clause (i), the Secretary—

''(I) shall compare the mortgagee with other mortgagees originating or underwriting loan guarantees for Indian housing based on the rates of defaults and claims for guaranteed mortgage loans originated, underwritten, or serviced by that mortgagee;

''(II) may compare the mortgagee with such other mortgagees based on underwriting quality, geographic area served, or any commonly used factors the Secretary determines necessary for comparing mortgage default risk, provided that the comparison is of factors that the Secretary would expect to affect the default risk of mortgage loans guaranteed by the Secretary;

''(iii) shall implement such comparisons by regulation, notice, or mortgagee letter; and

''(I) may terminate the approval of a mortgagee to originate, underwrite, or service loan guarantees for housing under this section if the Secretary determines that the mortgage loans originated, underwritten, or serviced by the mortgagee present an unacceptable risk to the Indian Housing Loan Guarantee Fund established under subsection (i)—

''(aa) based on a comparison of any of the factors set forth in this subparagraph; or

''(bb) by a determination that the mortgagee engaged in fraud or misrepresentation.''; and

(C) in paragraph (5)(A), by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: ''except, as determined by the Secretary, when there is a loan modification under subsection (h)(1)(B), the term of the loan shall not exceed 40 years''.

(b) LOAN GUARANTEES FOR INDIAN HOUSING.—Section 184(i)(5) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 1715z–13a(i)(5)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by inserting after the first sentence the following: ''There are authorized to be appropriated for those costs such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2030.''; and

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking ''2008 through 2012'' and inserting ''2024 through 2030''.

SEC. 11018. LOAN GUARANTEES FOR NATIVE HAWAIIAN HOUSING.

Section 184A of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 1715z–13b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by inserting '', and to expand homeownership opportunities to Native Hawaiian families who are eligible to receive a homestead under the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920 (42 Stat. 108) on fee simple lands in the State of Hawaii'' after ''markets'';

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

''(2) ELIGIBLE HOUSING.—The loan shall be used to construct, acquire, refinance, or rehabilitate 1- to 4-family dwellings that are standard housing.'';

(B) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by redesignating clause (iv) as clause (v); and

(II) by adding after clause (iii) the following:

''(iv) Any other lender that is supervised, approved, regulated, or insured by any agency of the Federal Government, including any entity certified as a community development financial institution by the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund established under section 104(a) of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4703(a)).''; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

''(C) INDEMNIFICATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary determines that a mortgage guaranteed through a direct guarantee process under this section was not originated in accordance with the requirements established by the Secretary, the Secretary may require the lender approved under this section to indemnify the Secretary for the loss, irrespective of whether the violation caused the mortgage default.

''(ii) DIRECT GUARANTEE ENDORSEMENT.—The Secretary may, dependent on the availability of systems development and staffing resources, delegate to eligible lenders the authority to directly endorse loans under this section.

''(iii) FRAUD OR MISREPRESENTATION.—If fraud or misrepresentation was involved in the direct guarantee endorsement process by a lender under this section, the Secretary shall require the approved direct guarantee endorsement lender to indemnify the Secretary for any loss or potential loss, regardless of whether the fraud or misrepresentation caused or may cause the loan default.

''(iv) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary may implement any requirements described in this subparagraph by regulation, notice, or Dear Lender Letter.''.

(C) in paragraph (5)(A), by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: ''except, as determined by the Secretary, when there is a loan modification under subsection (i)(1)(B), the term of the loan shall not exceed 40 years'';

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following:

''(C) EXCEPTION.—When the Secretary exercises its discretion to delegate direct guarantee endorsement authority pursuant to subsection (c)(4)(C)(ii), subparagraphs (A) and (B) of this paragraph shall not apply.'';

(B) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

''(2) STANDARD FOR APPROVAL.—

''(A) APPROVAL.—The Secretary may approve a loan for guarantee under this section and issue a certificate under this subsection only if the Secretary determines that there is a reasonable prospect of repayment of the loan.

''(B) EXCEPTIONS.—When the Secretary exercises its discretion to delegate direct guarantee endorsement authority pursuant to subsection (c)(4)(C)(ii)—

''(i) subparagraph (A) shall not apply; and

''(ii) the direct guarantee endorsement lender may issue a certificate under this paragraph as evidence of the guarantee in accordance with requirements prescribed by the Secretary.''; and

(C) in paragraph (3)(A), by inserting ''or, where applicable, the direct guarantee endorsement lender,'' after ''Secretary'' and

(4) in subsection (j)(5)(B), by inserting after the first sentence the following: ''There are authorized to be appropriated for those costs such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2030.''.

SEC. 11019. DRUG ELIMINATION PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE.—The term ''controlled substance'' has the meaning given the term in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802).

(2) DRUG-RELATED CRIME.—The term ''drug-related crime'' means the illegal manufacture, sale, distribution, use, or possession with intent to manufacture, sell, distribute, or use a controlled substance.

(3) RECIPIENT.—The term ''recipient''—

(A) has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103); and

(B) includes a recipient of funds under title VIII of that Act (25 U.S.C. 4221 et seq.).

(4) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary may, in consultation with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and relevant Tribal law enforcement agencies, make grants under this section to recipients of assistance under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4101 et seq.) for use in eliminating drug-related and violent crime.

(c) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—Grants under this section may be used for—

(1) the employment of security personnel;

(2) reimbursement of State, local, Tribal, or Bureau of Indian Affairs law enforcement agencies for additional security and protective services;

(3) physical improvements which are specifically designed to enhance security;

(4) the employment of 1 or more individuals—

(A) to investigate drug-related or violent crime in and around the real property comprising housing assisted under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4101 et seq.); and

(B) to provide evidence relating to such crime in any administrative or judicial proceeding;

(5) the provision of training, communications equipment, and other related equipment for use by voluntary tenant patrols acting in cooperation with law enforcement officials;

(6) programs designed to reduce use of drugs in and around housing communities funded under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4101 et seq.), including drug-abuse prevention, intervention, referral, and treatment programs;

(7) providing funding to nonprofit resident management corporations and resident councils to develop security and drug abuse prevention programs involving site residents;

(8) sports programs and sports activities that serve primarily youths from housing communities funded through and are operated in conjunction with, or in furtherance of, an organized program or plan designed to reduce or eliminate drugs and drug-related problems in and around those communities; and

(9) other programs for youth in school settings that address drug prevention and positive alternatives for youth, including education and activities related to science, technology, engineering, and math.

(d) APPLICATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant under this subsection, an eligible applicant shall submit an application to the Secretary, at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by—

(A) a plan for addressing the problem of drug-related or violent crime in and around of the housing administered or owned by the applicant for which the application is being submitted; and

(B) such additional information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

(2) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall approve applications submitted under paragraph (1) on the basis of thresholds or criteria such as—

(A) the extent of the drug-related or violent crime problem in and around the housing or projects proposed for assistance;

(B) the quality of the plan to address the crime problem in the housing or projects proposed for assistance, including the extent to which the plan includes initiatives that can be sustained over a period of several years;

(C) the capability of the applicant to carry out the plan; and

(D) the extent to which tenants, the Tribal government, and the Tribal community support and participate in the design and implementation of the activities proposed to be funded under the application.

(e) HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREAS.—In evaluating the extent of the drug-related crime problem pursuant to subsection (d)(2), the Secretary may consider whether housing or projects proposed for assistance are located in a high intensity drug trafficking area designated pursuant to section 707(b) of the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1706(b)).

(f) REPORTS.—

(1) GRANTEE REPORTS.—The Secretary shall require grantees under this section to provide periodic reports that include the obligation and expenditure of grant funds, the progress made by the grantee in implementing the plan described in subsection (d)(1)(A), and any change in the incidence of drug-related crime in projects assisted under section.

(2) HUD REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describing the system used to distribute funding to grantees under this section, which shall include descriptions of—

(A) the methodology used to distribute amounts made available under this section; and

(B) actions taken by the Secretary to ensure that amounts made available under section are not used to fund baseline local government services, as described in subsection (h)(2).

(g) NOTICE OF FUNDING AWARDS.—The Secretary shall publish on the website of the Department a notice of all grant awards made pursuant to section, which shall identify the grantees and the amount of the grants.

(h) MONITORING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall audit and monitor the program funded under this subsection to ensure that assistance provided under this subsection is administered in accordance with the provisions of section.

(2) PROHIBITION OF FUNDING BASELINE SERVICES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Amounts provided under this section may not be used to reimburse or support any local law enforcement agency or unit of general local government for the provision of services that are included in the baseline of services required to be provided by any such entity pursuant to a local cooperative agreement pursuant under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) or any provision of an annual contributions contract for payments in lieu of taxation with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

(B) DESCRIPTION.—Each grantee under this section shall describe, in the report under subsection (f)(1), such baseline of services for the unit of Tribal government in which the jurisdiction of the grantee is located.

(3) ENFORCEMENT.—The Secretary shall provide for the effective enforcement of this section, as specified in the program requirements published in a notice by the Secretary, which may include—

(A) the use of on-site monitoring, independent public audit requirements, certification by Tribal or Federal law enforcement or Tribal government officials regarding the performance of baseline services referred to in paragraph (2);

(B) entering into agreements with the Attorney General to achieve compliance, and verification of compliance, with the provisions of this section; and

(C) adopting enforcement authority that is substantially similar to the authority provided to the Secretary under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4101 et seq.)

(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for each fiscal years 2024 through 2030 to carry out this section.

SEC. 11020. RENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR HOMELESS OR AT-RISK INDIAN VETERANS.

Section 8(o)(19) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(19)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(E) INDIAN VETERANS HOUSING RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

''(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this subparagraph:

''(I) ELIGIBLE INDIAN VETERAN.—The term 'eligible Indian veteran' means an Indian veteran who is—

''(aa) homeless or at risk of homelessness; and

''(bb) living—

''(AA) on or near a reservation; or

''(BB) in or near any other Indian area.

''(II) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The term 'eligible recipient' means a recipient eligible to receive a grant under section 101 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4111).

''(III) INDIAN; INDIAN AREA.—The terms 'Indian' and 'Indian area' have the meanings given those terms in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103).

''(IV) INDIAN VETERAN.—The term 'Indian veteran' means an Indian who is a veteran.

''(V) PROGRAM.—The term 'Program' means the Tribal HUD–VASH program carried out under clause (ii).

''(VI) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term 'tribal organization' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

''(ii) PROGRAM SPECIFICATIONS.—The Secretary shall use not less than 5 percent of the amounts made available for rental assistance under this paragraph to carry out a rental assistance and supported housing program, to be known as the 'Tribal HUD–VASH program', in conjunction with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, by awarding grants for the benefit of eligible Indian veterans.

''(iii) MODEL.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subclause (II), the Secretary shall model the Program on the rental assistance and supported housing program authorized under subparagraph (A) and applicable appropriations Acts, including administration in conjunction with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

''(II) EXCEPTIONS.—

''(aa) SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.—After consultation with Indian tribes, eligible recipients, and any other appropriate tribal organizations, the Secretary may make necessary and appropriate modifications to facilitate the use of the Program by eligible recipients to serve eligible Indian veterans.

''(bb) SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.—After consultation with Indian tribes, eligible recipients, and any other appropriate tribal organizations, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may make necessary and appropriate modifications to facilitate the use of the Program by eligible recipients to serve eligible Indian veterans.

''(iv) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.—The Secretary shall make amounts for rental assistance and associated administrative costs under the Program available in the form of grants to eligible recipients.

''(v) FUNDING CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall award grants under the Program based on—

''(I) need;

''(II) administrative capacity; and

''(III) any other funding criteria established by the Secretary in a notice published in the Federal Register after consulting with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

''(vi) ADMINISTRATION.—Grants awarded under the Program shall be administered in accordance with the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4101 et seq.), except that recipients shall—

''(I) submit to the Secretary, in a manner prescribed by the Secretary, reports on the utilization of rental assistance provided under the Program; and

''(II) provide to the Secretary information specified by the Secretary to assess the effectiveness of the Program in serving eligible Indian veterans.

''(vii) CONSULTATION.—

''(I) GRANT RECIPIENTS; TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall consult with eligible recipients and any other appropriate tribal organization on the design

of the Program to ensure the effective delivery of rental assistance and supportive services to eligible Indian veterans under the Program.

''(II) INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE.—The Director of the Indian Health Service shall provide any assistance requested by the Secretary or the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in carrying out the Program.

''(viii) WAIVER.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subclause (II), the Secretary may waive or specify alternative requirements for any provision of law (including regulations) that the Secretary administers in connection with the use of rental assistance made available under the Program if the Secretary finds that the waiver or alternative requirement is necessary for the effective delivery and administration of rental assistance under the Program to eligible Indian veterans.

''(II) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may not waive or specify alternative requirements under subclause (I) for any provision of law (including regulations) relating to labor standards or the environment.

''(ix) RENEWAL GRANTS.—The Secretary may—

''(I) set aside, from amounts made available for tenant-based rental assistance under this subsection and without regard to the amounts used for new grants under clause (ii), such amounts as may be necessary to award renewal grants to eligible recipients that received a grant under the Program in a previous year; and

''(II) specify criteria that an eligible recipient must satisfy to receive a renewal grant under subclause (I), including providing data on how the eligible recipient used the amounts of any grant previously received under the Program.

''(x) REPORTING.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subparagraph, and every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Director of the Indian Health Service, shall—

''(aa) conduct a review of the implementation of the Program, including any factors that may have limited its success; and

''(bb) submit a report describing the results of the review under item (aa) to—

''(AA) the Committee on Indian Affairs, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

''(BB) the Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs of the Committee on Natural Resources, the Committee on Financial Services, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

''(II) ANALYSIS OF HOUSING STOCK LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall include in the initial report submitted under subclause (I) a description of—

''(aa) any regulations governing the use of formula current assisted stock (as defined in section 1000.314 of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation)) within the Program;

''(bb) the number of recipients of grants under the Program that have reported the regulations described in item (aa) as a barrier to implementation of the Program; and

''(cc) proposed alternative legislation or regulations developed by the Secretary in consultation with recipients of grants under the Program to allow the use of formula current assisted stock within the Program.''.

SEC. 11021. CONTINUUM OF CARE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the terms ''collaborative applicant'' and ''eligible entity'' have the meanings given those terms in section 401 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360); and

(2) the terms ''Indian tribe'' and ''tribally designated housing entity'' have the meanings given those terms in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103).

(b) NONAPPLICATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS.—With respect to the funds made available for the Continuum of Care program authorized under subtitle C of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11381 et seq.) under the heading ''Homeless Assistance Grants'' in the Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116–260) and under section 231 of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2020 (42 U.S.C. 11364a), title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.) and title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.) shall not apply to applications by or awards for projects to be carried out—

(1) on or off reservation or trust lands for awards made to Indian tribes or tribally designated housing entities; or

(2) on reservation or trust lands for awards made to eligible entities.

(c) CERTIFICATION.—With respect to funds made available for the Continuum of Care program authorized under subtitle C of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11381 et seq.) under the heading ''Homeless Assistance Grants'' under section 231 of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2020 (42 U.S.C. 11364a)—

(1) applications for projects to be carried out on reservations or trust land shall contain a certification of consistency with an approved Indian housing plan developed under section 102 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (25 U.S.C. 4112), notwithstanding section 106 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12706) and section 403 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11361);

(2) Indian tribes and tribally designated housing entities that are recipients of awards for projects on reservations or trust land shall certify that they are following an approved housing plan developed under section102 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (25 U.S.C. 4112); and

(3) a collaborative applicant for a Continuum of Care whose geographic area includes only reservation and trust land is not required to meet the requirement in section 402(f)(2) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360a(f)(2)).

SEC. 11022. LEVERAGING.

All funds provided under a grant made pursuant to this division or the amendments made by this division may be used for purposes of meeting matching or cost participation requirements under any other Federal housing program, provided that such grants made pursuant to the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4101 et seq.) are spent in accordance with that Act.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. WARNOCK. Madam President, I have 18 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 9 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 9:40 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 9 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

The Committee on Rules and Administration is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 3:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 2 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CLEAN AIR, CLIMATE, AND NUCLEAR SAFETY

The Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate, and Nuclear Safety of the Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

The Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hybrid hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL

The Subcommittee on Personnel of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 4 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the following interns from my office be granted floor privileges until August 18, 2023: Kate Micallef, Sydney Windhorst, Linden Shelby, Spencer Woodall, and Chloe Truett.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KING. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that my defense fellow, Nick Oltman, be granted privileges of the floor until the conclusion of the first session of the 118th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KELLY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Ashley Daniel in my office be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FOREIGN TRAVEL FINANCIAL REPORTS

In accordance with the appropriate provisions of law, the Secretary of the Senate herewith submits the following reports for standing committees of the Senate, certain joint committees of the Congress, delegations and groups, and select and special committees of the Senate, relating to expenses incurred in the performance of authorized foreign travel:

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION & FORESTRY FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2023

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem *		Transportation *		Miscellaneous *		Total *	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Laura Votruba:									
Belgium	US Dollar		624.57						624.57
Estonia	US Dollar		769.94						769.94
Iceland	US Dollar		448.05						448.05
United States	US Dollar				12,601.65				12,601.65
Delegation Expenses: **									
Belgium	Euro						883.37		883.37
Delegation Expenses: **									
Iceland	Iceland Krona						2,002.33		2,002.33
Total			1,842.56		12,601.65		2,885.70		17,329.91

* Note: All values are United States Dollar Equivalent.

** Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR DEBBIE STABENOW,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry, July 21, 2023.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE US SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 USC. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2023

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem *		Transportation *		Miscellaneous *		Total *	
		Foreign currency	US dollar equivalent or US currency	Foreign currency	US dollar equivalent or US currency	Foreign currency	US dollar equivalent or US currency	Foreign currency	US dollar equivalent or US currency
Senator John Hoeven:									
South Korea	Won		470.42						470.42
Taiwan	New Taiwan Dollar		469.03						469.03
United States	US Dollar				14,853.15				14,853.15
Joshua Carter:									
South Korea	Won		511.94						511.94
Taiwan	New Taiwan Dollar		378.45						378.45
United States	US Dollar				8,291.65				8,291.65
Delegation Expenses:									
South Korea	Won						1,095.42		1,095.42
Delegation Expenses: **									
Taiwan	New Taiwan Dollar						2,102.56		2,102.56
Senator Christopher Coons:									
Belgium	Euro		1,009.31						1,009.31
Lithuania	Euro		116.00						116.00
Norway	Norwegian Krone		1,079.00						1,079.00
United States	US Dollar				8,398.70				8,398.70
Senator Lisa Murkowski:									
Belgium	Euro		1,009.31						1,009.31
Lithuania	Euro		555.32						555.32
Norway	Norwegian Krone		1,079.00						1,079.00
United States	US Dollar				4,934.35				4,934.35
Michael Songer:									
Belgium	Euro		1,009.31						1,009.31
Lithuania	Euro		555.32						555.32
Norway	Norwegian Krone		1,005.00						1,005.00
Senator Patty Murray:									
Belgium	Euro		1,009.31						1,009.31
Lithuania	Euro		555.32						555.32

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE US SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 USC. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2023—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem *		Transportation *		Miscellaneous *		Total *	
		Foreign currency	US dollar equivalent or US currency	Foreign currency	US dollar equivalent or US currency	Foreign currency	US dollar equivalent or US currency	Foreign currency	US dollar equivalent or US currency
Norway	Norwegian Krone		1,079.00						1,079.00
Josephine Eckert:									
Belgium	Euro		1,009.31						1,009.31
Lithuania	Euro		555.32						555.32
Norway	Norwegian Krone		1,005.00						1,005.00
Melinda Linquist:									
Belgium	Euro		1,009.31						1,009.31
Lithuania	Euro		555.32						555.32
Norway	Norwegian Krone		1,005.00						1,005.00
Elizabeth O'Bagy:									
Belgium	Euro		1,009.31						1,009.31
Lithuania	Euro		555.32						555.32
Norway	Norwegian Krone		1,005.00						1,005.00
Evan Schatz:									
Belgium	Euro		1,009.31						1,009.31
Lithuania	Euro		555.32						555.32
Norway	Norwegian Krone		1,005.00						1,005.00
Delegation Expenses: **									
Belgium	Euro						3,645.13		3,645.13
Delegation Expenses: **									
Lithuania	Euro						2,126.90		2,126.90
Delegation Expenses: **									
Norway	Norwegian Krone						12,372.00		12,372.00
Hannah Chauvin:									
Honduras	Lempira		603.10						603.10
United States	US Dollar				941.75				941.75
Rachel Erlebacher:									
Honduras	Lempira		603.10						603.10
United States	US Dollar				941.75				941.75
Dianne Nellor:									
Honduras	Lempira		603.10						603.10
United States	US Dollar				941.75				941.75
Delegation Expenses: **									
Honduras	Lempira						1,171.37		1,171.37
Kelly Brown:									
Brazil	Brazilian Real		1,719.00						1,719.00
United States	US Dollar				10,406.25				10,406.25
Meghan Mott:									
Brazil	Brazilian Real		1,719.00						1,719.00
United States	US Dollar				10,270.25				10270.25
Kathryn Toomajian:									
Brazil	Brazilian Real		1,379.00						1,379.00
United States	US Dollar				10,500.85				10,500.85
Delegation Expenses: **									
Brazil	Brazilian Real						8,493.00		8,493.00
Alexander Carnes:									
Hong Kong	Hong Kong Dollar		1,411.09						1,411.09
Taiwan	New Taiwan Dollar		850.39						850.39
United States	US Dollar				7,830.50				7,830.50
Delegation Expenses: **									
Hong Kong	Hong Kong Dollar						714.14		714.14
Delegation Expenses: **									
Taiwan	New Taiwan Dollar						1,106.76		1,106.76
Senator John Boozman:									
Singapore	Singapore Dollar		1,487.00						1,487.00
United States	US Dollar				12,833.55				12,833.55
Patrick McGuigan:									
Singapore	Singapore Dollar		1,487.00						1,487.00
United States	US Dollar				13,571.95				13,571.95
Delegation Expenses: **									
Singapore	Singapore Dollar						2,112.00		2,112.00
Senator John Boozman:									
Japan	Yen		533.00						533.00
Singapore	Singapore Dollar		1,008.00						1,008.00
Thailand	Baht		553.91						553.91
Vietnam	Dong		389.00						389.00
Senator John Kennedy:									
Japan	Yen		527.00						527.00
Singapore	Singapore Dollar		1,008.00						1,008.00
Thailand	Baht		553.91						553.91
Vietnam	Dong		389.00						389.00
Toni-Marie Higgins:									
Japan	Yen		504.00						504.00
Singapore	Singapore Dollar		944.00						944.00
Thailand	Baht		553.91						553.91
Vietnam	Dong		389.00						389.00
Kristin Sapperstein:									
Japan	Yen		504.00						504.00
Singapore	Singapore Dollar		944.00						944.00
Thailand	Baht		553.91						553.91
Vietnam	Dong		389.00						389.00
Delegation Expenses: **									
Japan	Yen						453.06		453.06
Delegation Expenses: **									
Singapore	Singapore Dollar						2,089.44		2,089.44
Delegation Expenses: **									
Thailand	Baht						1,717.70		1,717.70
Delegation Expenses: **									
Vietnam	Dong						1,546.00		1,546.00
Senator Lindsey Graham:									
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel		1,328.66						1,328.66
Saudi Arabia	Saudi Riyal		1,830.28						1,830.28
United States	US Dollar				15,405.50				15,405.50
Aaron Strickland:									
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel		1,273.55						1,273.55
Saudi Arabia	Saudi Riyal		1,609.32						1,609.32
United States	US Dollar				17,364.23				17,364.23
Delegation Expenses: **									
Israel	New Israel Sheqel						4,413.97		4,413.97
Delegation Expenses: **									
Saudi Arabia	Saudi Riyal						13,898.84		13,898.84
Senator Lindsey Grahman:									
Poland	Zloty		813.09						813.09
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling		1,587.23						1,587.23
United States	US Dollar				10,751.55				10,751.55

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE US SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 USC. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2023—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem *		Transportation *		Miscellaneous *		Total *	
		Foreign currency	US dollar equivalent or US currency	Foreign currency	US dollar equivalent or US currency	Foreign currency	US dollar equivalent or US currency	Foreign currency	US dollar equivalent or US currency
Scott Graber:									
Poland	Zloty		830.25						830.25
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling		1,532.09						1,532.09
United States	US Dollar				12,648.15				12,648.15
Delegation Expenses: **									
Poland	Zloty						6,369.68		6,369.68
Delegation Expenses: **									
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling						2,899.10		2,899.10
Cole Bockenfeld:									
Albania	Lek		123.00						123.00
Kosovo	Euro		470.07						470.07
Serbia	Serbian Dinar		237.00						237.00
United States	US Dollar				11,669.45				11,669.45
Delegation Expenses: **									
Albania	Lek						211.25		211.25
Delegation Expenses: **									
Germany	Euro						513.54		513.54
Delegation Expenses: **									
Kosovo	Euro						318.58		318.58
Delegation Expenses: **									
Montenegro	Euro						805.59		805.59
Delegation Expenses: **									
Netherlands	Euro						94.09		94.09
Delegation Expenses: **									
North Macedonia	Denar						186.47		186.47
Delegation Expenses: **									
Serbia	Serbian Dinar						713.25		713.25
Senator Jerry Moran:									
France	US Dollar		4,559.00						4,559.00
James Kelly:									
France	Euro		4,666.00						4,666.00
Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith:									
France	Euro		4,666.00						4,666.00
Doug Davis:									
France	Euro		5,642.00						5,642.00
United States	US Dollar				8,521.95				8,521.95
Senator John Boozman:									
France	Euro		3,480.00						3,480.00
Toni-Marie Higgins:									
France	Euro		4,666.00						4,666.00
Senator Katie Britt:									
France	Euro		4,666.00						4,666.00
Clayton Armentrout:									
France	Euro		4,666.00						4,666.00
Senator Joe Manchin:									
France	Euro		4,666.00						4,666.00
Senator Gary Peters:									
France	Euro		4,666.00						4,666.00
Senator Jeanne Shaheen:									
France	Euro		4,666.00						4,666.00
Katherine Kaufer:									
France	Euro		4,666.00						4,666.00
James Kungel:									
France	Euro		5,392.00						5,392.00
United States	US Dollar				8,521.95				8,521.95
Alison MacDonald:									
France	Euro		4,666.00						4,666.00
Caitlyn Stephenson:									
France	Euro		4,666.00						4,666.00
Delegation Expenses: **									
France	Euro						40,378.14		40,378.14
Senator John Boozman:									
France	Euro		926.00						926.00
Germany	Euro		469.00						469.00
United States	US Dollar				747.80				747.80
Patrick McGuigan:									
Germany	Euro		433.00						433.00
United States	US Dollar				8,081.45				8,081.45
Delegation Expenses: **									
France	Euro						3,814.00		3,814.00
Delegation Expenses: **									
Germany	Euro						4,256.00		4,256.00
Senator Christopher Coons:									
Canada	Canadian Dollar		761.04						761.04
United States	US Dollar				512.12				512.12
Samuel Dupont:									
Canada	Canadian Dollar		761.04						761.04
United States	US Dollar				531.10				531.10
Delegation Expenses: **									
Canada	Canadian Dollar						2,210.38		2,210.38
Shan Shi:									
Indonesia	Rupiah		639.26						639.26
Vietnam	Dong		662.47						662.47
Delegation Expenses: **									
Indonesia	Rupiah						1,090.04		1,090.04
Delegation Expenses: **									
Vietnam	Dong						1,359.80		1,359.80
Senator Jeanne Shaheen:									
Argentina	Argentina Peso		1,154.29						1,154.29
Brazil	Brazil Real		373.00						373.00
Colombia	Colombian Peso		821.16						821.16
Panama	Balboa		612.00						612.00
Jessica Berry:									
Argentina	Argentina Peso		1,154.29						1,154.29
Brazil	Brazil Real		373.00						373.00
Colombia	Colombian Peso		821.16						821.16
Panama	Balboa		612.00						612.00
Delegation Expenses: **									
Argentina	Argentina Peso						2,332.97		2,332.97
Delegation Expenses: **									
Brazil	Brazil Real						1,536.00		1,536.00
Delegation Expenses: **									
Colombia	Colombian Peso						1,077.40		1,077.40
Delegation Expenses: **									
Panama	Balboa, US Dollar						602.57		602.57

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE US SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 USC. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2023—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem *		Transportation *		Miscellaneous *		Total *	
		Foreign currency	US dollar equivalent or US currency	Foreign currency	US dollar equivalent or US currency	Foreign currency	US dollar equivalent or US currency	Foreign currency	US dollar equivalent or US currency
Paul Grove:									
Hong Kong	Hong Kong Dollar		1,042.43						1,042.43
Taiwan	New Taiwan Dollar		685.61						685.61
United States	US Dollar				9,026.75				9,026.75
Adam Yezerski:									
South Korea	Won		668.00						668.00
Taiwan	New Taiwan Dollar		1,127.48						1,127.48
United States	US Dollar				5,970.95				5,970.95
Delegation Expenses: **									
Hong Kong	Hong Kong Dollar						1,072.08		1,072.08
Delegation Expenses: **									
South Korea	Won						1,472.00		1,472.00
Delegation Expenses: **									
Taiwan	New Taiwan Dollar						1,267.39		1,267.39
Paul Grove:									
China	Yuan Renminbi		1,846.00						1,846.00
Japan	Yen		929.66						929.66
United States	US Dollar				14,611.95				14,611.95
Delegation Expenses: **									
China	Yuan Renminbi						3,711.00		3,711.00
Delegation Expenses: **									
Japan	Yen						1,186.59		1,186.59
Rayn Kaldahl:									
Taiwan	New Taiwan Dollar		849.29						849.29
United States	US Dollar				4,675.55				4,675.55
Todd Phillips:									
Taiwan	New Taiwan Dollar		849.29						849.29
United States	US Dollar				4,675.55				4,675.55
Katherine Kaufer:									
Taiwan	New Taiwan Dollar		849.29						849.29
United States	US Dollar				4,675.55				4,675.55
Robert Leonard:									
Taiwan	New Taiwan Dollar		849.29						849.29
United States	US Dollar				4,675.55				4,675.55
Delegation Expenses: **									
Taiwan	New Taiwan Dollar						2,267.04		2,267.04
Sarita Vanka:									
Albania	Lek		417.00						417.00
Qatar	Qatari Rial		769.05						769.05
United States	US Dollar				9,700.55				9,700.55
Delegation Expenses: **									
Albania	Lek						343.00		343.00
Total			146,081.62		257,484.10		141,146.24		544,711.96

*Note: All values are United States Dollar Equivalent.

**Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384; and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR PATTY MURRAY,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, July 21, 2023.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2023

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem *		Transportation *		Miscellaneous *		Total *	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Steve Daines:									
Albania	Lek		352.98						352.98
Croatia	Kuna		525.24						525.24
Serbia	Serbian Dinar		190.40						190.40
United States	US Dollar				13,172.98				13,172.98
Darin Thacker:									
Albania	Lek		305.19						305.19
Croatia	Kuna		444.20						444.20
Serbia	Serbian Dinar		190.40						190.40
United States	US Dollar				11,999.10				11,999.10
Delegation Expenses: **									
Albania	Lek						486.41		486.41
Delegation Expenses: **									
Croatia	Kuna						6,768.12		6,768.12
Delegation Expenses: **									
Serbia	Serbian Dinar						1,938.00		1,938.00
Senator Mark Kelly:									
Poland	Zloty		692.50		1,280.00				1,972.50
Ukraine	Hryvnia		287.83						287.83
United States	US Dollar				7,838.05				7,838.05
Senator Joe Manchin:									
Poland	Zloty		554.64						554.64
Ukraine	Hryvnia		199.44		1,280.00				1,479.44
United States	US Dollar				7,342.95				7,342.95
Senator Lisa Murkowski:									
Poland	Zloty		555.65						555.65
Ukraine	Hryvnia		199.44		1,280.00				1,479.44
United States	US Dollar				13,735.95				13,735.95
Collen Lewis:									
Poland	Zloty		554.64						554.64
Ukraine	Hryvnia		199.43		1,280.00				1,479.43
United States	US Dollar				7,343.15				7,343.15
Delegation Expenses: **									
Netherlands	Euro						1,055.62		1,055.62
Delegation Expenses: **									
Poland	Zloty						7,504.00		7,504.00
Delegation Expenses: **									
Ukraine	Hryvnia						917.05		917.05
Delegation Expenses: **									
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling						109.98		109.98

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2023—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem *		Transportation *		Miscellaneous *		Total *	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Total			5,251.98		66,552.18		18,779.18		90,583.34

*Note: All values are United States Dollar Equivalent.

**Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR JOE MANCHIN,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, July 21, 2023.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2023

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem *		Transportation *		Miscellaneous *		Total *	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Michael Crapo:									
Japan	Yen		433.00						433.00
Singapore	Singapore Dollar		894.00						894.00
Thailand	Baht		453.91						453.91
Vietnam	Dong		339.00						339.00
Senator Ronald Johnson:									
Japan	Yen		342.38						342.38
Singapore	Singapore Dollar		926.98						926.98
Thailand	Baht		507.33						507.33
Vietnam	Dong		221.39						221.39
Mayur Patel:									
Japan	Yen		433.00						433.00
Singapore	Singapore Dollar		894.00						894.00
Thailand	Baht		453.91						453.91
Vietnam	Dong		339.00						339.00
Gregg Richard:									
Japan	Yen		433.00						433.00
Singapore	Singapore Dollar		894.00						894.00
Thailand	Baht		453.91						453.91
Vietnam	Dong		339.00						339.00
Susan Wheeler:									
Japan	Yen		305.29						305.29
Singapore	Singapore Dollar		898.07						898.07
Thailand	Baht		538.41						538.41
Vietnam	Dong		378.14						378.14
Delegation Expenses: **									
Japan	Yen						679.60		679.60
Delegation Expenses **									
Singapore	Singapore Dollar						3,134.14		3,134.14
Delegation Expenses **									
Thailand	Baht						2,576.55		2,576.55
Delegation Expenses **									
Vietnam	Dong						2,319.00		2,319.00
Senator Michael Crapo:									
Argentina	Argentine Peso		514.34						514.34
Brazil	Brazilian Real		373.00						373.00
Colombia	Colombian Peso		764.81						764.81
Panama	Balboa		611.86						611.86
Susan Wheeler:									
Argentina	Argentine Peso		1,081.72						1,081.72
Brazil	Brazilian Real		371.02						371.02
Colombia	Colombian Peso		740.59						740.59
Panama	Balboa		478.89						478.89
Delegation Expenses: **									
Argentina	Argentine Peso						2,332.97		2,332.97
Delegation Expenses: **									
Brazil	Brazilian Real						1,536.00		1,536.00
Delegation Expenses: **									
Colombia	Colombian Peso						1,077.40		1,077.40
Delegation Expenses: **									
Panama	Balboa, US Dollar						602.57		602.57
Senator Michael Crapo:									
Switzerland	Swiss Franc		1,596.74						1,596.74
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling		1,097.69						1,097.69
United States	US Dollar				6,528.25				6,528.25
Kathleen Amacio:									
Switzerland	Swiss Franc		1,572.85						1,572.85
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling		1,065.78						1,065.78
United States	US Dollar				6,528.25				6,528.25
Mayur Patel:									
Switzerland	Swiss Franc		1,471.65						1,471.65
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling		1,134.16						1,134.16
United States	US Dollar				6,528.25				6,528.25
Gregg Richard:									
Switzerland	Swiss Franc		1,536.62						1,536.62
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling		1,122.35						1,122.35
United States	US Dollar				6,528.25				6,528.25
Delegation Expenses: **									
Switzerland	Swiss Franc						3,734.31		3,734.31
Delegation Expenses: **									
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling						1,401.81		1,401.81
Virginia Lenahan:									
Singapore	Singapore Dollar		3,130.00						3,130.00
United States	US Dollar				18,818.85				18,818.85
Rachel Lang:									
Singapore	Singapore Dollar		3,215.00						3,215.00
United States	US Dollar				18,853.85				18,853.85
Molly Newell:									
Singapore	Singapore Dollar		3,121.00						3,121.00
United States	US Dollar				18,818.85				18,818.85
Mayur Patel:									
Singapore	Singapore Dollar		3,139.11						3,139.11
United States	US Dollar				18,818.85				18,818.85
Delegation Expenses: **									
Singapore	Singapore Dollar						5,755.00		5,755.00
Nomcebisi Ndlovu:									
Kenya	Kenyan Shilling		1,099.03		15,622.05				16,721.08

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2023—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem *		Transportation *		Miscellaneous *		Total *	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Molly Newell:									
Kenya	Kenyan Shilling		818.41						818.41
United States	US Dollar				15,657.05				15,657.05
Colin St. Maxens:									
Kenya	Kenyan Shilling		828.00						828.00
United States	US Dollar				15,622.05				15,622.05
Delegation Expenses:**									
Kenya	Kenyan Shilling						4,320.68		4,320.68
Total			41,362.34		148,324.55		29,470.03		219,156.92

*Note: All values are United States Dollar Equivalent.

**Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR RON WYDEN,
Chairman, Committee on Finance, July 21, 2023.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2023

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem *		Transportation *		Miscellaneous *		Total *	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Sarah Arkin:									
Germany	Euro		688.00						688.00
Hungary	Forint		1,055.50						1,055.50
United States	US Dollar				2,646.85				2,646.85
Hannah Thoburn:									
Germany	Euro		691.16						691.16
Hungary	US Dollar		1,014.00						1,014.00
United States	US Dollar				3,435.57				3,435.57
Delegation Expenses:**									
Germany	Euro						652.00		652.00
Delegation Expenses:**									
Hungary	Forint						77.00		77.00
Senator Cory Booker:									
Belgium	US Dollar		579.95						579.95
Estonia	US Dollar		470.44						470.44
Iceland	US Dollar		561.41						561.41
Samantha Schifrin:									
Belgium	US Dollar		596.58						596.58
Estonia	US Dollar		542.11						542.11
Iceland	US Dollar		666.75						666.75
United States	US Dollar				7,185.15				7,185.15
Delegation Expenses:**									
Belgium	Euro						1,766.74		1,766.74
Delegation Expenses:**									
Iceland	Iceland Krona						4,004.66		4,004.66
Tyler Brace:									
Albania	US Dollar		231.00						231.00
Greece	US Dollar		626.00						626.00
North Macedonia	US Dollar		454.00						454.00
United States	US Dollar				4,658.45				4,658.45
Delegation Expenses:**									
Albania	Lek						71.26		71.26
Delegation Expenses:**									
Greece	Euro						1,424.00		1,424.00
Katie Chaudoin:									
India	US Dollar		1,723.69						1,723.69
United Arab Emirates	US Dollar		1,441.72						1,441.72
United States	US Dollar				9,741.29				9,741.29
Matthew Sullivan:									
India	US Dollar		1,723.69						1,723.69
United Arab Emirates	US Dollar		1,441.72						1,441.72
United States	US Dollar				9,741.29				9,741.29
Delegation Expenses:**									
India	Indian Rupee						107.92		107.92
Delegation Expenses:**									
United Arab Emirates	UAE Dirham						1,107.19		1,107.19
Joan Condon:									
Indonesia	US Dollar		1,446.20						1,446.20
Philippines	US Dollar		800.08						800.08
United States	US Dollar				10,248.95				10,248.95
Claire Figel:									
Indonesia	US Dollar		1,446.20						1,446.20
Philippines	US Dollar		800.08						800.08
United States	US Dollar				10,248.95				10,248.95
Delegation Expenses:**									
Indonesia	Rupiah						2,477.00		2,477.00
Delegation Expenses:									
Philippines	Philippine Peso						519.32		519.32
Brian Cullen:									
Maldives	US Dollar		1,622.97						1,622.97
Sri Lanka	US Dollar		447.00						447.00
United States	US Dollar				7,058.47				7,058.47
Elisa Ewers:									
France	Euro		1,933.00						1,933.00
United Kingdom	US Dollar		1,605.52						1,605.52
United States	US Dollar				4,079.55				4,079.55
Delegation Expenses:**									
France	Euro						1,314.00		1,314.00
Delegation Expenses:**									
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling						19.51		19.51
Heather Flynn:									
Congo-Kinshasa	US Dollar		1,053.00						1,053.00
Uganda	US Dollar		1,035.00						1,035.00
United States	US Dollar				4,713.70				4,713.70
Delegation Expenses:**									
Congo-Kinshasa	Congolese Franc						2,808.00		2,808.00
Senator Bill Hagerty:									
Chile	Chilean Peso		1,555.67						1,555.67

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2023—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem *		Transportation *		Miscellaneous *		Total *	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Colombia	Colombian Peso		700.36						700.36
United States	US Dollar				1,402.19				1,402.19
Uruguay	Peso Uruguayo		647.00						647.00
Lucas Da Peive:									
Colombia	US Dollar		556.96						556.96
United States	US Dollar				913.72				913.72
Delegation Expenses:**									
Chile	Chilean Peso						1,573.24		1,573.24
Delegation Expenses:**									
Colombia	Colombian Peso						4,789.80		4,789.80
Delegation Expenses									
Uruguay	Peso Uruguayo						2,898.63		2,898.63
Megan Bartley:									
Belgium	US Dollar		411.23						411.23
Netherlands	US Dollar		1,277.00		22.00				1,299.00
United States	US Dollar				5,441.85				5,441.85
Andrew Keller:									
Belgium	US Dollar		411.23						411.23
Netherlands	Euro		1,271.92						1,271.92
United States	US Dollar				5,548.42				5.548.42
Max Lusk:									
Belgium	US Dollar		411.23		9.21				420.44
Netherlands	Euro		1,187.92		22.49				1,210.41
United States	US Dollar				5,548.42				5,548.42
Senator Tim Kaine:									
Brazil	US Dollar		520.36						520.36
Chile	US Dollar		1,320.70						1,320.70
Ecuador	US Dollar		430.46						430.46
Uruguay	US Dollar		454.16						454.16
Senator Robert Menendez:									
Brazil	Brazilian Real		713.00						713.00
Chile	Chilean Peso		1,555.67						1,555.67
Ecuador	US Dollar		560.00						560.00
Uruguay	Peso Uruguayo		647.00						647.00
Damian Murphy:									
Brazil	Brazlian Real		513.00						513.00
Chile	Chilean Peso		1,404.57						1,404.57
Ecuador	US Dollar		560.00						560.00
Uruguay	Peso Uruguayo		432.00						432.00
Brandon Yoder:									
Brazil	US Dollar		628.00						628.00
Chile	US Dollar		1,525.00						1,525.00
Ecuador	US Dollar		560.00						560.00
Uruguay	US Dollar		573.00						573.00
Delegation Expenses:**									
Brazil	Brazilian Real						22,179.20		22,179.20
Delegation Expenses:**									
Chile	Chilean Peso						6,292.99		6,292.99
Delegation Expenses:**									
Ecuador	US Dollar						2,417.44		2,417.44
Delegation Expenses:**									
Uruguay	Peso Uruguayo						11,594.55		11,594.55
Senator Jeff Merkley:									
Indonesia	US Dollar		571.65						571.65
Vietnam	US Dollar		1,487.65						1,487.65
Senator Chris Van Hollen:									
Indonesia	Rupiah		356.22						356.22
Vietnam	US Dollar		1,142.00						1,142.00
Molly Cole:									
Indonesia	US Dollar		726.00						726.00
Vietnam	US Dollar		1,642.00						1,642.00
Daphne McCurdy:									
Indonesia	Rupiah		306.00						306.00
Vietnam	Dong		1,086.98						1,086.98
Delegation Expenses:**									
Indonesia	Rupiah						5,450.21		5,450.21
Delegation Expenses:**									
Vietnam	Dong						5,439.20		5,439.20
Senator Christopher Murphy:									
Albania	US Dollar		154.00						154.00
Kosovo	US Dollar		191.00						191.00
Montenegro	US Dollar		38.90						38.90
Serbia	US Dollar		508.25						508.25
United States	US Dollar				11,669.45				11,669.45
Delegation Expenses:**									
Albania	Lek						211.25		211.25
Delegation Expenses:**									
Germany	Euro						513.54		513.54
Delegation Expenses:**									
Kosovo	Euro						318.57		318.57
Delegation Expenses:**									
Montenegro	Euro						201.39		201.39
Delegation Expenses:**									
North Macedonia	Denar						372.94		372.94
Delegation Expenses:**									
Serbia	Serbian Dinar						713.25		713.25
Margaret Murphy:									
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar		1,230.00						1,230.00
United States	US Dollar				5,135.55				5,135.55
Delegation Expenses:**									
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar						113.00		113.00
Katherine Abrames:									
France	Euro		1,757.00						1,757.00
Switzerland	US Dollar		1,492.45						1,492.45
United States	US Dollar				4,071.75				4,071.74
Andy Olson:									
France	Euro			1,707.00					1,707.00
Switzerland	US Dollar			1,492.45					1,492.45
United States	US Dollar				4,395.95				4,395.95
Delegation Expenses**									
France	Euro						2,563.00		2,563.00
Delegation Expenses**									
Switzerland	Swiss Franc						1,896.36		1,896.36
Vivana Bovo:									
El Salvador	US Dollar			463.00					463.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2023—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem *		Transportation *		Miscellaneous *		Total *	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
United States	US Dollar				1,109.32				1,109.32
Delegation Expenses **									
El Salvador	El Salvador Colon, US Dollar						232.54		232.54
Victor Cervino:									
Colombia	US Dollar			760.22					760.22
Panama	US Dollar			719.00					719.00
United States	US Dollar				1,802.04				1,802.04
Kelsey Kelleher:									
Colombia	US Dollar		760.22						760.22
Panama	US Dollar				1,802.04				1,802.04
United States	US Dollar				1,802.04				1,802.04
Christopher Socha:									
Colombia	Colombian Peso		760.22						760.22
Panama	US Dollar		719.00						719.00
United States	US Dollar				2,381.55				2,381.55
Delegation Expenses **									
Colombia	Colombian Peso						2,725.37		2,725.37
Delegation Expenses **									
Panama	Balboa, US Dollar						5,725.00		5,725.00
Hannah Thoburn:									
United Kingdom	US Dollar		3,467.00						3,467.00
United States	US Dollar				3,213.25				3,213.25
Delegation Expenses **									
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling						1,132.80		1,132.80
Margaret Doughtery:									
Burkina Faso	US Dollar		982.00						982.00
Sierre Leone	US Dollar		138.00						138.00
United States	US Dollar				6,826.05				6,826.05
John Tomaszewski:									
Burkina Faso	US Dollar		982.00						982.00
Sierre Leone	US Dollar		138.00						138.00
United States	US Dollar				8,898.05				8,898.05
Delegation Expenses **									
Burkina Faso	CFA Franc BCEAO						257.00		257.00
Delegation Expenses **									
Sierre Leone	Leone						280.00		280.00
John Tomaszewski:									
Liberia	US Dollar		1,336.00						1,336.00
Sierre Leone	US Dollar		370.94						370.94
United States	US Dollar				7,047.35				7,047.35
Delegation Expenses **									
Liberia	Liberia Dollar						41.58		41.58
Delegation Expenses **									
Sierre Leone	Leone						85.00		85.00
Senator Todd Young:									
India	US Dollar		920.00						920.00
United States	US Dollar				10,306.09				10,306.09
Brandt Anderson:									
India	US Dollar		1,053.34						1,053.34
United States	US Dollar				5,048.91				5,048.91
Delegation Expenses **									
India	India Rupee						1,620.61		1,620.61
Total			77,701.80		166,305.18		97,987.06		341,994.04

*Note All values are United States Dollar Equivalent.

*Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, July 20, 2023.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2023

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem *		Transportation *		Miscellaneous *		Total *	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Roger Marshall:									
Argentina	US Dollar		997.34						997.34
Brazil	US Dollar		349.11						349.11
Colombia	US Dollar		545.16						545.16
Panama	US Dollar		441.86						441.86
Delegation Expenses **									
Argentina	Argentine Peso						1,290.25		1,290.25
Delegation Expenses **									
Brazil	Brazilian Real						768.00		768.00
Delegation Expenses **									
Colombia	Colombian Peso						814.66		814.66
Delegation Expenses **									
Panama	Balboa, US Dollar						301.00		301.00
Senator Jon Ossoff:									
South Korea	US Dollar		1,548.00						1,548.00
United States	US Dollar				17,727.85				17,727.85
Reynaldo Benitez:									
South Korea	US Dollar		1,548.00						1,548.00
United States	US Dollar				17,295.45				17,295.45
Miryam Lipper:									
South Korea	US Dollar		1,548.00						1,548.00
United States	US Dollar				17,727.82				17,727.82
Delegation Expenses **									
South Korea	Won						7,496.33		7,496.33
Senator Gary Peters:									
Panama	US Dollar		726.37						726.37
United States	US Dollar				2,959.55				2,959.55
Katie Conley:									
Panama	US Dollar		809.83						809.83
United States	US Dollar				3,038.75				3,038.75
Michael Stoever:									
Panama	US Dollar		809.83						809.83
United States	US Dollar				3,038.75				3,038.75

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2023—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem *		Transportation *		Miscellaneous *		Total *	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Delegation Expenses **									
Panama	Balboa, US Dollar						12,221.00		12,221.00
Total			9,323.50		61,788.17		22,891.24		94,002.91

* Note: All values are United States Dollar Equivalent.
** Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR GARY PETERS,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, June 27, 2023.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON: SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2023

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem *		Transportation *		Miscellaneous *		Total *	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Shannon Frede:									
Greenland	US Dollar		276.00						276.00
Total			276.00		0.00		0.00		276.00

* Note: All values are United States Dollar Equivalent.
** Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1077.

SENATOR BENJAMIN CARDIN,
Chairman, Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, July 19, 2023.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON: VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1 TO JUNE 30, 2023

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem *		Transportation *		Miscellaneous *		Total *	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Jerry Moran									
France	US Dollar		488.20						488.20
United States	US Dollar				11,560.55				11,560.55
Asher Allman:									
France	US Dollar		345.20						345.20
United States	US Dollar				11,560.55				11,560.55
James Kelly:									
France	US Dollar		488.20						488.20
United States	US Dollar				15,460.65				15,460.65
James Rapert:									
France	US Dollar		345.20						345.20
United States	US Dollar				11,560.55				11,560.55
Delegation Expenses **									
France	Euro						3,438.00		3,438.00
Total			1,666,80		50,142.30		3,438.00		55,247.10

* Note: All values are United States Dollar Equivalent.
** Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR JON TESTER,
Chairman, Committee on: Veterans Affairs, July 17, 2023.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2023

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem *		Transportation *		Miscellaneous *		Total *	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Nicolas Adams:									
Country 1			248.00						248.00
Country 2			1,611.20						1,611.20
Country 3					21,937.55				21,937.55
Peter Metzger:									
Country 1			228.00						228.00
Country 2			1,611.20						1,611.20
Country 3					20,767.75				20,767.75
Steve Smith									
Country 1			228.00						228.00
Country 2			1,351.95						1,351.95
Country 3					20,767.75				20,767.75
Sarah Istel:									
Country 1			228.00						228.00
Country 2			1,611.20						1,611.20
Country 3					20,767.75				20,767.75
Delegation Expenses: **									
Country 1							2,213.00		2,213.00
Nicolas Adams:									
Country 1			471.00						471.00
Country 2			1,916.43						1,916.43
Country 3					15,613.44				15,613.44
Kasea Hamar:									
Country 1			421.00						421.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2023—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem *		Transportation *		Miscellaneous *		Total *	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Country 2			1,961.43						1,961.43
Country 3					16,603.54				16,603.54
Peter Metzger:									
Country 1			1,472.23						1,472.23
Country 2					15,303.91				15,303.91
Steve Smith:									
Country 1			421.00						421.00
Country 2			1,885.18						1,885.18
Country 3					15,613.44				15,613.44
Jennifer Barrett:									
Country 1			1,377.00						1,377.00
Country 2					8,834.75				8,834.75
Jon Estridge:									
Country 1			1,677.00						1,677.00
Country 2					8,799.75				8,799.75
Jon Rosenwasser:									
Country 1			1,499.00						1,499.00
Country 2					8,834.75				8,834.75
Delegation Expenses: **									
Country 1							1,372.00		1,372.00
Michael Casey:									
Country 1			499.90						499.90
Country 2			103.00						103.00
Country 3			434.83						434.83
Country 4					14,539.55				14,539.55
Sarah Istel:									
Country 1			620.90						620.90
Country 2			103.00						103.00
Country 3			434.83						434.83
Country 4					14,539.55				14,539.55
Delegation Expenses: **									
Country 1							332.66		332.66
Maria Mahler-Haug:									
Country 1			293.50						293.50
Country 2			755.00						755.00
Country 3					8,593.95				8,593.95
Andrew Polesovsky:									
Country 1			293.50						293.50
Country 2			755.00						755.00
Country 3					8,593.95				8,593.95
James Sauls:									
Country 1			293.50						293.50
Country 2			755.00						755.00
Country 3					8,593.95				8,593.95
Delegation Expenses: **									
Country 1							118.93		118.93
Delegation Expenses: **									
Country 2							1,593.86		1,593.86
Sarah Istel:									
Country 1			422.00						422.00
Country 2					337.00				337.00
Adam Martina:									
Country 1			896.00						896.00
Country 2			387.85						387.85
Country 3					14,790.55				14,790.55
Arjun Ravindra:									
Country 1			387.85						387.85
Country 2					12,738.15				12,738.15
Delegation Expenses: **									
Country 1							455.98		455.98
Eric Losick:									
Country 1			1,455.77						1,455.77
Country 2					17,194.10				17,194.10
Heather Melancon:									
Country 1			1,719.05						1,719.05
Country 2					17,194.10				17,194.10
Michael Pevzner:									
Country 1			1,827.59						1,827.59
Country 2					17,194.10				17,194.10
Kathleen Reilly:									
Country 1			381.54						381.54
Country 2					6,220.05				6,220.05
Brendan Ruppert:									
Country 1			381.54						381.54
Country 2					6,220.05				6,220.05
Delegation Expenses: **									
Country 1							8.17		8.17
Senator Marco Rubio:									
Country 1			538.00						538.00
Country 2					3,254.32				3,254.32
Samantha Roberts:									
Country 1			538.00						538.00
Country 2					1,254.22				1,254.22
Delegation Expenses: **									
Country 1							697.63		697.63
Kasea Hamar:									
Country 1			269.68						269.68
Country 2			467.43						467.43
Country 3			274.00						274.00
Country 4					8,166.95				8,166.95
Russell Willig:									
Country 1			269.68						269.68
Country 2			467.43						467.43
Country 3			274.00						274.00
Country 4					8,166.95				8,166.95
Dennis Wischmeier:									
Country 1			269.69						269.69
Country 2			467.43						467.43
Country 3			274.00						274.00
Country 4					8,421.95				8,421.95
Delegation Expenses: **									
Country 1							202.26		202.26
Delegation Expenses: **									
Country 2							1,103.88		1,103.88
Delegation Expenses: **									
Country 3							534.00		534.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR TRAVEL FROM APR. 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2023—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem *		Transportation *		Miscellaneous *		Total *	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Total			37,519.31		349,857.82		8,632.37		396,009.50

*Note: All values are United States Dollar Equivalent.

**Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR MARK WARNER,
Chairman, Committee on Intelligence, July 21, 2023.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2023

Mr. REED. Mr. President, with that, I believe we have to conclude this evening.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned under the provisions of S. Res. 316 until 10 a.m. on Thursday, July 27; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate resume the consideration of Calendar No. 119, S. 2226; further, that at 11:30 a.m., the Senate vote on the remaining amendments under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REED. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, as a further mark of respect to the late Lowell Weicker, Jr., former Senator from Connecticut, the Senate, at 12:40 a.m., adjourned until Thursday, July 27, 2023, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

MARTIN O'MALLEY, OF MARYLAND, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 19, 2025, VICE ANDREW M. SAUL.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PAUL K. MARTIN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, VICE ANN CALVARESI BARR, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CARDELL KENNETH RICHARDSON, SR., OF VIRGINIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, VICE STEVE A. LINICK.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA POPPY KWONG—30TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our Nation's women during Women's History Month. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Barbara Poppy Kwong of Silver Lake, a unique neighborhood of Los Angeles, California.

Barbara Poppy Kwong has been a Silver Lake resident since 1960. A true native of Silver Lake, Barbara is a graduate of Micheltorena Elementary School, Thomas Starr King Middle School and John Marshall High School. She went on to graduate with a degree in zoology from Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts.

Care of the environment has long been a passion for Barbara. Wherever she is and wherever she goes, Barbara responds to her surroundings with an innate sense of caring and desire for improvement. Barbara can be seen picking up trash on her neighborhood walks, cleaning the street and sidewalks around MATS Gym in Hollywood and gathering trash and recyclables in Griffith Park. Over the last 3 years she has personally removed over 4,000 pounds of trash from the streets of Los Angeles.

During a 31-year career at Disney she was the unofficial "Recycling Queen" of her department, separating out anything from office waste that could be recycled or reused—from batteries to bubble wrap to aluminum cans—delivering thousands of pounds of material to proper sites for disposal. Barbara encouraged co-workers to recycle by creating competitions with prizes which included her fantastic baked goods. She collected packing materials that would otherwise be thrown out and donated them to local non-profits for re-use in their shipping departments.

In addition to her environmental causes, many cultural institutions in the local Los Angeles landscape have benefited from Barbara's volunteer efforts. She is a lifelong supporter of the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center (JACCC), the Japanese American National Museum (JANM), the Los Angeles Tanabata Festival, the Los Angeles Zoo, and has become a very active volunteer at the Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants.

Her dedicated, selfless spirit and decades of generosity in service of community have earned Barbara Poppy Kwong recognition as a Woman of the Year from Silver Lake.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 30th Congressional District, Barbara Poppy Kwong.

HONORING ANTONELLA ROCCO

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the service and accomplishments of Antonella Rocco, my fellow who has served Florida's 24th Congressional District over the last year.

Antonella is an environmentalist dedicated to fighting for clean water, clean air, and a healthy environment. While in my office, Antonella has pushed my environmental agenda to great lengths—from drafting legislation to acknowledge climate change and its impact on our homes to researching environmental data, Antonella has prioritized the health of our communities.

Antonella is a force in environmental policy. Her passion has been powerful over the last year as we have fought for the health of underserved and disadvantaged communities. Her commitment to environmental justice has included advocating to move Miami-Dade to safer water systems and bringing attention to Biscayne Bay and nuclear plants located close to the district. Antonella's environmental advocacy has been a lifelong mission of hers.

From dedicating her birthday to raising money for water and wildlife protection, working with a team of ecologists to produce hydrologic and ground-elevation data for the Everglades, and presenting her research at the Greater Everglades Ecosystem Restoration conference, Antonella's selfless acts will always shine through.

Antonella has and will continue to make a difference and leave her mark on environmental policy as she continues to fight for our future.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Antonella Rocco for her dedication to a healthy planet and selfless dedication to a brighter future for all.

HONORING ROBERT F. DASH

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent and a true friend to veterans across my district and throughout New Jersey, Ronald F. Dash. Ronald served his country with honor and valor as a member of the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam War, where he was wounded and received the Purple Heart. After his service in Vietnam, he served in the Army Reserves and later transitioned to the Army National Guard attaining a final military rank of Staff Sergeant.

Ronald's dedication to service did not end with his military career. He continues to give his time generously as an adviser to the Willingboro Township Veterans Advisory Committee which is active within area VFW organizations and American Legions. Most notably, Ron serves as Commander in the Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 26 right here in New Jersey's 3rd Congressional District. Ron can also be found at many community events in Willingboro—providing those in need to a hot meal or connecting a fellow veteran to benefits they have earned.

August 7th is Purple Heart Day, and as we prepare to honor and remember the brave men and women who were wounded during their service or paid the ultimate sacrifice. Today, I want to say thank you to Ronald F. Dash for all that he has done to uphold the solemn commitment we have to veterans and their families. The Willingboro community, my district, and the State of New Jersey are all better off thanks to his tireless efforts.

REMEMBERING BELLE ORTIZ

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Belle Ortiz, who passed away on Wednesday, July 12, 2023. Long known for her commitment to music education, Mrs. Ortiz was a trailblazer for the teaching of Mariachi music. She is survived by her husband Juan Ortiz, along with her 4 children, Annabelle Garcia, Roseanna Valenzuela, former state Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, and Rolando San Miguel.

After graduating from what is now Our Lady of the Lake University with a degree in music education and performance, Mrs. Ortiz became an educator at a time when Texas schools were openly hostile to Hispanic culture. While teaching at Barkley Elementary School, Mrs. Ortiz was called before the school district's Board of Trustees for teaching children to sing in Spanish, then a prohibited practice in many San Antonio schools—but she could not be deterred.

Utilizing her role as an educator, Mrs. Ortiz pushed for the creation of music education programs that promoted the unique Hispanic heritage of San Antonio. Foremost among her efforts was the creation of the first Mariachi education program in Texas at Lanier High School. Over the subsequent decades, Mrs. Ortiz would expand her Mariachi education efforts across Texas. At both high schools and universities, she touched the lives of thousands. Her actions cumulated when she and her husband founded the world-renowned 12-piece Mariachi ensemble, Campanas de América.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the life of Belle Ortiz. Although I am saddened by her loss, I am confident that her impact on San Antonio and Mariachi will last for years to come. I thank Mrs. Ortiz for her never-ending

passion for music and teaching. May God bless her and her loved ones.

TRIBUTE TO CHANCHANIT MARTORELL—30TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our Nation's women during Women's History Month. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Chanchanit Martorell of the Park La Brea neighborhood of Los Angeles, California.

Ms. Martorell was born in Thailand and raised in Los Angeles. She attended the University of California, Los Angeles where she received a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in urban planning. She was also conferred an honorary doctorate degree in social work from Pacific Oaks College.

For over 3 decades, Chanchanit has been involved in social activism. In the early 1990s, she documented the demographics and human and social service needs of Thais in Los Angeles in a landmark community needs assessment study to advocate for more resources in underserved communities. Currently, Ms. Martorell serves as Executive Director of the Thai Community Development Center (Thai CDC). She established this nonprofit organization in 1994 with the goal to improve the lives of Thai immigrants through services that promote economic self-sufficiency and cultural adjustment. In 1999, Thai CDC, under Chanchanit's leadership, played a role in the 8-year long community organizing campaign which raised community awareness and led to the designation of the first Thai Town in the country in East Hollywood.

Devoted to social and economic justice, Chanchanit actively serves in an array of capacities, including the Los Angeles County District Attorney Asian American Pacific Islander Advisory Board and Los Angeles Food Policy Council Leadership Circle. She is also the co-founder of the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking, the Rotary Club of Thai Town, the Asian Pacific Islander Small Business Program, the Asian Pacific Islander Human Trafficking Task Force, and the National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development. Ms. Martorell is most notably known for her work on more than 6 major human rights cases involving more than 2,000 Thai victims of human trafficking who were discovered working in conditions of slavery in the United States. Her advocacy on behalf of the victims and the success of each case led her to become an in-demand spokesperson and leading expert on the issue of modern-day slavery.

Chanchanit has received numerous awards and honors for her exceptional service to the community, including the Asian Americans for Equality "Dream of Equality" Award, KCET Unsung Hero Award, Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance Distinguished Service Award, Los Angeles Women's Foundation Mentor Award, Phenomenal Woman Award from California State University, Northridge, the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies Award, and the Royal Decoration of the Most Admirable Order of the Direkgunabhorn from His Late Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand. Ms. Martorell has been married to her husband, Esteban Martorell since 1994 and has 2 grown sons.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 30th Congressional District, Chanchanit Martorell.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, today, I was unavoidably detained attending to important matters in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted NO on the Motion on Ordering the Previous Question (H. Res. 614), NO on H. Res. 614, YES on Ryan Amendment No. 1, NO on Ogles Amendment No. 2, NO on Greene Amendment No. 3, NO on Greene Amendment No. 34, NO on Bost Amendment No. 35, NO on Rosendale Amendment No. 37, NO on Roy Amendment No. 38, NO on Roy Amendment No. 39, NO on Roy Amendment No. 40, and NO on Zinke Amendment No. 41.

COMMEMORATING THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, fifty-eight years ago, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 became a staple in the fight to expand democracy to all Americans. Unfortunately, much of the ground gained from the law has since eroded. After the 2013 Supreme Court decision in Shelby County v. Holder that stripped essential oversight provisions from the Voting Rights Act, a tidal wave of anti-democratic practices washed over our country to systematically disenfranchise Black and brown voters, harkening back to the Jim Crow south.

Over the past decade, Republicans have implemented restrictive changes to voting practices to intentionally exclude groups of voters. These tactics include reducing the number of polling locations to leave out locations where Democratic voters live, placing limitations on early voting and mail-in voting, implementing strict voter-id laws, gerrymandering voting-districts, enabling armed individuals to intimidate voters and election officials, purging voters from voter rolls, and declaring election fraud when Democratic candidates win. Furthermore, Republicans and right-wing media figures have spread incendiary lies about the U.S. election integrity, leading to far-right extremists storming the Capitol in a failed attempt to prevent the certification of the 2020 presidential election results.

The idea of democracy is sacred. Democracy promotes self-governance. Democracy promotes settling our differences non-violently and the peaceful transition of power. Democracy promotes tolerance and inclusion. We stand at an unprecedented point in American history where the very existence of our democracy hangs in the balance. We must prevent extreme political actors from implementing anti-democratic voting practices.

I am proud of the work Illinois has done to protect voting rights. For example, all Cook County polling locations offer same-day voter registration on election day. Additionally, Illinois has open-access to mail-in-voting. These provisions make it easier to vote, not harder. These provisions support greater democratic participation, not less. However, these provisions do not go far enough. Congress must protect, defend, and expand democracy at the federal level.

Two years ago, the House passed the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2021, a bill that would require states to receive federal preclearance before implementing changes to voting practices if they have demonstrated a history of voting rights abuses over the past 25 years. The bill would restore the oversights stripped from the Voting Rights Act by Shelby County v. Holder. Congress must enact the Voting Rights Advancement Act and bills like it if we are to ensure the survival of American democracy.

Recent Supreme Court decisions on reproductive rights and affirmative action demonstrate that the struggle for equality has not ended for many groups in this country. We cannot grow complacent with the political victories secured thus far. We must defend the rights for which we have fought so hard, and we must remain steadfast in our march toward a true democracy where all citizens have the opportunity to participate equally.

As we celebrate the anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, I know that democracy will persevere as the foundation of America because we will ensure that it does.

HONORING SANTOS RODRIGUEZ OF THE CITY OF DALLAS

HON. JASMINE CROCKETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, it is with heartfelt sorrow that I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of Santos Rodriguez—a young soul whose life was tragically cut short 50 years ago. On July 24, 1973, this innocent 12-year-old boy from Dallas, Texas, fell victim to an appalling act of violence that shook our Nation's conscience and forever changed the lives of his family and community.

On that fateful night, a Dallas police officer z—who was entrusted with protecting and serving the community—took Santos and his brother, David, from their home while responding to a call about a petty theft at a local gas station in the Little Mexico neighborhood. The two brothers were still in their pajamas as they were handcuffed and placed in a police car. In a shocking display of recklessness, the police officer aimed his gun at Santos' head and engaged in a lethal game of Russian roulette. Santos denied any involvement in the crime. Tragically, when the trigger was pulled—the gun fired. Santos was killed as his brother

watched from the backseat. On July 24, 1973, young Santos Rodriguez was taken away from his loved ones in a brutal act of violence, shattering the dreams he had yet to fulfill.

As the Congressional representative for the Little Mexico neighborhood—what is now known as Uptown—I feel a deep responsibility not only to honor the memory of Santos, but also to stand in solidarity with the Mexican-American community of Dallas as we continue the fight for equality. Santos Rodriguez's story remains a stark reminder of the continued need for oversight within our law enforcement system and the devastating impact of unchecked abuses of power. His untimely death exposed the harsh realities faced by marginalized communities and the profound importance of addressing racial injustice.

Residents of the City of Dallas have a right to know the truth of their city. We have a right to live in a city governed by leaders who believe that the only way towards a more equitable future requires us to reconcile with our past. While we remember Santos Rodriguez, let us also honor his memory by recommitting ourselves to creating a safer and more equitable Dallas. In his memory, we must strive for a future where no child or individual lives in fear, where persons in positions of authority are held to the highest standards of integrity, and where the tragedies of our past are never forgotten.

In 1973, the story of Santos' murder inspired the Chicano movement in North Texas. In the five decades since that heart-wrenching event, we have seen the community of Dallas and the nation rally together in solidarity to demand change. Santos Rodriguez's memory has become a symbol of resilience inspiring movements for justice, equality, and meaningful police reform.

Today, as we solemnly remember Santos, let us recommit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and fairness, and strive for a society where no life is ever again lost to such senseless acts of violence. May his legacy embolden us to continue our fight for a more inclusive and compassionate nation, where all citizens can trust in the fairness of our law enforcement and justice systems.

As we offer our heartfelt condolences to the family of Santos Rodriguez and his loved ones, we must honor his memory by taking concrete steps towards a future where every child's dreams can flourish without fear or prejudice. In his memory, let us strive for a Nation that upholds the values of justice, empathy, and equality for all.

I stand with the residents of Dallas as we continue to march forward in a steadfast and unrelenting pursuit of justice. My thoughts and prayers are with all the people whose lives have been touched by the legacy of Santos Rodriguez. May his spirit live forever in our hearts, and may his legacy continue to inspire us to lead with love and guide us towards a more just and equitable society.

COMMEMORATING THE RETIREMENT OF JOHN ELSESSER

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enthusiastically honor and congratulate a true pillar of public service in municipal governance, John Elsesser of Coventry, Connecticut. John is retiring this year from his role as Town Manager for the Town of Coventry—a position he has held since 1988. His almost 4 decades of selfless advocacy for his community and all municipalities has been felt from the halls of local government all the way to the chambers of Connecticut's General Assembly in Hartford and the U.S. Capitol. John's expertise and ability will be sorely missed.

John began his journey in public service when he started as an administrative assistant in Wethersfield soon after his graduation from the University of Hartford with a master's in public administration in 1982. John's competency and skill navigating the complexities of town government were quickly recognized. Not long after his initial employment with the Town of Wethersfield, he transitioned over to the nearby government of Avon, Connecticut as its Assistant Town Manager.

In May of 1988, John rose to the pinnacle of his profession when he began his tenure fully in charge as Coventry's Town Manager. Once there, he quickly established himself as an indispensable advocate for the municipality, while simultaneously he brought an enlightened form of town administration for all the departments under his control. John successfully operationalized his vision for Coventry and has been responsible for countless, necessary upgrades to the town's functioning. He secured funding to update the town's administrative software and oversaw a bond rating upgrade by Moody's in a time of great fiscal instability for Connecticut. John has been wildly successful in securing grant money for Coventry, garnering over $57 million in state and federal funding the past year and a half alone for the town—money which has been used to spearhead infrastructure upgrades and create more pedestrian-friendly roads.

Collaboration has been a cornerstone of John's leadership style, holding a great respect for Coventry's Town Council and working within the legislative framework they provided. He formed partnerships with organizations like the University of Connecticut and Connecticut Department of Agriculture to improve the quality of life for residents in Coventry. Most importantly, John was paramount in the creation of a positive culture of staff and volunteers. As a municipal leader of a small, eastern Connecticut town, John knew the importance volunteers and administrators play in rural civic ecosystems. It stands as a testament to John's community-centric mindset that he laments being unable to construct a community center during his time.

John's expertise and excellence has been recognized both statewide and nationally. He has served as President of the CT Town & City Management Association, the Council of Small Towns, and the Tolland County Chamber of Commerce. These local initiatives band town leaders together to coordinate resources, fund improvements and boost the economy for participating towns. John's leading role in all these groups indicates how widely he has been recognized for his accomplishments. Governor Ned Lamont appointed John to the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations in 2019, an advisory organization dedicated to studying issues and recommend solutions in and for state and local government. In 2021, he was recognized for his remarkable 40 years of municipal service—a reflection of his successful work with local government. As a former state legislator from a ''next door'' district in the Town of Vernon in the late 1980's and early 1990's, I saw firsthand his activist work to remind the General Assembly of the importance of small, rural communities to our state's quality of life. As the Congressman representing Coventry for the last 17 years, it has been a pleasure to work with John on securing funding for from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development program, the American Rescue Plan, the new infrastructure law, and the green energy initiatives in the Inflation Reduction Act. John's understanding of the nuances of formula grant funding and competitive grants was extraordinary. I was constantly struck by the realization of how blessed his town was to have such a talented, caring person at the helm.

Mr. Speaker, John Elsesser has been an exceptional public servant throughout his life. He is deserving of a happy and relaxing retirement in this next stage of his life, along with his wife, Holly. Eastern Connecticut's roots are in local leadership. As the longest-known-serving Town Manager at the time of his retirement—throughout our entire state of 169 towns—John has inherently reflected those roots through his loyalty to public service and his neighbors. John leaves behind an immeasurable legacy of stalwart advocacy and stewardship, and his retirement will leave a large gap in northeast Connecticut's civic fauna. We can take solace, though, in the knowledge that John's tireless work will be felt in Coventry, the northeast region, and state, for decades to come.

TRIBUTE TO DELORES SHINE KERR—30TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our Nation's women during Women's History Month. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Delores Shine Kerr of the Miracle Mile/Mid-Wilshire neighborhood of Los Angeles, California.

Delores is an extraordinary woman whose remarkable life and diverse career as an educator, performer and humanitarian has spanned nearly 7 decades.

Born in Alabama, Delores received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing Education at the Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University), where she was crowned Miss Tuskegee in 1957. She obtained her teaching credential at the University of California, Los Angeles. Her illustrious career in the health care field began in a Los Angeles hospital in the late 1950's as a Cardiac-Medical Staff Nurse, Psychiatric Nurse, and Psychiatric Treatment Instructor, followed by employment at another hospital where she was Head Nurse of Pediatrics, Assistant Director of Nursing, and an Emergency Room Nurse. In 1968, she began

working as a nurse educator, advisor, and counselor for the Los Angeles Unified School District, where she continued for over 3 decades.

In addition to her nursing educator career, Ms. Shine Kerr was a fashion model for decades, and has been featured on the runways for shows in New York, Los Angeles, and Dallas. Delores and her husband, Ben are currently models for Everybody World. An accomplished singer and performer, Delores has appeared on television, radio, and in magazines, billboards, and newspapers numerous times, whether as a co-host, a singer, or with the 1984 Olympics Organizing Committee.

Delores' humanitarian efforts over the decades have been nothing short of amazing. She has founded many significant organizations, including Mentors for Youth and Adults Worldwide, a rubella clinic, AMVI International Humanitarian Development, and the People for Family Planning support organization. Other non-profit organizations she has held leadership positions in include the California Science Center, Afro-Americans for LA Opera, the Music Center of LA County, the Opera League, Chi Eta Phi Sorority, the Los Angeles Tuskegee Alumni Association, and McCarty Memorial Christian Church. Ms. Shine Kerr has received numerous awards and recognition in her lifetime including from the Los Angeles City Council, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, California State Assembly, NAACP, and President Ronald Reagan.

Delores and her husband, Ben Oliver Kerr, have 2 children, Mark Steven Kerr and Karen Benae Kerr, and a granddaughter, Jade James.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 30th Congressional District, Delores Shine Kerr.

CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE OF SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 12 Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania, Ohio who are celebrating their Jubilees in Christ's service. The Sisters and community came together in celebration of the 12 extraordinary milestones of faithful service on June 24, 2023.

True to the Mission of the Sisters of St. Francis, the Sisters are ''Called like St. Francis of Assisi to live the Gospel in joyful servanthood among all people, the Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania, Ohio, as messengers of peace, commit themselves to works that reverence human dignity, embrace the poor and marginalized, and respect the gift of all creation.'' The Sisters of St. Francis live always the message of Jesus Christ as recorded in Matthew 25:40, ''Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.''

In all things, daily life, prayer, word and deed, the Sisters of St. Francis emulate the life and love, the call for peace, giving instead of receiving, extending hope and imbued in the joys of nature that defined the life of St. Francis of Assisi. Through more than a century, they have cared for our community through ''graced encounters.'' Their unselfish, life-giving commitments have educated, healed and inspired generations of our citizenry to noble callings in building families, community and tending our Earth. These Jubilarians set an ethical standard that permeates our way of life.

Celebrating Jubilees in 2023 are:

75th Jubilee:

Sister Geraldine Paluszak

60th Jubilee:

Sister Brenda Rose Szegedy
Sister Carol Ann Grace
Sister Carol Hoffman
Sister Geraldine Nowak
Sister Janet Snyder
Sister M. Jeremias Stinson
Sister Josephine Dybza
Sister M. Josina Antolak
Sister Mary Thill
Sister Patricia Zielinski

50th Jubilee:

Sister Patricia Gardner

These Sisters' ministries have guided them to serve as administrators, educators, healers, professionals, master gardeners, pastoral associates and more. They have held the hands of the poor and marginalized, the sick and fragile on difficult journeys. They have shown through charism God's glory. Through decades of caring service these Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania, Ohio have demonstrated goodness and courage, passion and commitment, faith and grace. We offer them our heartfelt thanks and warmest congratulations upon achieving such milestones in ministry. May all blessing continue to attend to their precious lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT GARCIA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on H.R. 4470. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 366.

CONGRATULATING MAJOR CHRISTOPHER MATTHAI

HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Major Christopher Matthai for his dedicated service to the American Samoa and all the Pacific Islands as a U.S. Army Liaison in the Office of the Chief, Legislative Liaison.

In American Samoa, our men and women of the Armed Forces are very important to us. The people of our islands take great pride in being patriotic Americans and our people are known for a high rate of service in our military. In particular, our U.S. Army recruiting center ranks number one in the nation in enlistment rate.

To that end I would like to recognize all the work MAJ Matthai has done to serve our country throughout his career, so far. He enlisted in 1999 and was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. In 2009 he earned a direct commission through the Army Reserve.

He has an extensive list of military awards and decorations including the Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with 5 oak leaf clusters. He was awarded the Mark and Debbie Kennedy Frontiers of Freedom award and the Dean of the Business School Merit award. He is a graduate from the University of Baltimore, receiving a Master of Business Administration from there and receiving another Master's in Legislative Affairs from George Washington University.

In congratulating this outstanding officer today, we also express our deep appreciation to all who serve, including the many in uniform from American Samoa serving with distinction all over the world.

I thank Christopher for his outstanding leadership and his commitment to our Soldiers, American Samoa, and our great Nation. Best wishes to him and his family as they depart Washington, D.C., for Indiana and his next duty assignment. I thank him for his service and his time dedicated to our beautiful island.

God bless you on your journey (Fa'amanuia le Atua i ou ala. Soifua.)

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF CHARLES STRICKFADEN

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, along with Speaker Emerita NANCY PELOSI, and Congressman KEVIN MULLIN, to commemorate Charles (Charlie) Strickfaden upon his retirement from the National Park Service after 39 years of extraordinary public service.

Charlie began his career with the National Park Service (NPS) as a seasonal interpretive ranger at Lava Beds National Monument in northern California. Over the years, he worked in 27 different park units across the United States including Biscayne, the Grand Canyon, the Great Smoky Mountains, and Denali, in a variety of roles including law enforcement, fire management, education and living history, and resource management.

In each of his leadership roles, Charlie has demonstrated a commitment to improving the public's experience with the national park system. This was evident in his work as Chief Ranger of the Flagstaff Area Monuments, which includes the Wupatki, Sunset Crater Volcano, and Walnut Canyon National Monuments in northern Arizona, and the Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine in Baltimore, Maryland. At Fort McHenry, he contributed to the NPS response to 9/11, organized multiple presidential visits, and oversaw a large park and military events program.

As Superintendent of Fort Union National Monument in New Mexico, Charlie created the park's first youth preservation team, increased and prioritized the inclusion of Jicarilla Apache and other indigenous peoples in interpretive activities and performances, and introduced the park's living history program to the State

Legislature. During his time in New Mexico, Charlie also served as Acting Superintendent of 2 new National Park Service units: the Manhattan Project National Historical Park and the Valles Caldera National Preserve.

In 2018, Charlie joined the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, where he has served as the Chief of the Division of Communications, External Affairs, and Special Park Uses. His management of communications and relationships throughout the Bay Area has kept elected officials, their staff, and the public well-informed during difficult events such as visitor fatalities, the COVID–19 pandemic, and park closures. His professionalism has positively contributed to the reputation of NPS across the country. We and our staff have personally worked with Charlie as an ambassador for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and value his partnership, knowledge, and skills.

Mr. Speaker, Charlie Strickfaden is a dedicated public servant who is committed to improving the accessibility, inclusivity, and quality of our national parks. I respectfully ask that we join in extending our heartfelt congratulations to Charlie upon his retirement from the National Park Service and in expressing appreciation for his decades of good work.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA MELTZER—30TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our Nation's women during Women's History Month. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Barbara Meltzer of West Hollywood, California.

Barbara Meltzer has had an illustrious career, which began in her hometown of New York City, where she worked on NBC–TV's The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson for a decade as Assistant to the Producer. She went on to serve as Associate Producer of several ABC–TV comedy specials, and later moved to Los Angeles to rejoin The Tonight Show for a brief period, before becoming Director of NBC–TV's Creative Services Department, where she oversaw major corporate and affiliated station special activities and events. Barbara went on to open her own public relations and marketing agency, specializing in non-profit organizations and aging related projects and programs, and joined the Los Angeles Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America, where she served as vice president of the Board of Directors.

Ms. Meltzer is passionate about serving and advocating for people who are 50 years of age and older. She is a longstanding member of Life Planning Network, an organization committed to shaping the future of aging through information, dialogue, and expertise. In 2007, she was appointed as a Commissioner on the Los Angeles County Commission for Older Adults, where she serves to this day, and has been honored several times for her outstanding volunteer service for Los Angeles County's older adult population. Most recently, Barbara was appointed to serve on the American Society on Aging's Ageism & Culture Advisory Council. Based upon Barbara's suggestion, the Council launched the nation's first Ageism Awareness Day, which was on October 7, 2022, and the Council is currently making plans for Ageism Awareness Day for October 7, 2023.

Over the years, Barbara has selflessly dedicated her time to serving West Hollywood in several capacities. In 2010, she produced a half-day symposium for the city, titled Pathways to Positive Aging: Creating Communities for a Lifetime. In 2013, Barbara was appointed to the Human Services Commission, where she currently serves as chair. In addition to overseeing the city's provided services and programs, the Commission at that time was given the lead in the planning and implementation of the West Hollywood Aging in Place/Aging in Community Initiative, to support the quality of life, well-being, and health of older adults. Devoted to raising awareness about Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, Ms. Meltzer was instrumental in creating a West Hollywood community event titled Matters of the Mind: A Community Forum on Understanding and Responding to Alzheimer's and Other Types of Dementia. She also serves as Vice President of the Friends of the West Hollywood Library's Board of Directors.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 30th Congressional District, Barbara Meltzer.

RECOGNIZING CPL. DELBERT L. WHITE FOR HIS SERVICE IN THE U.S. ARMY DURING THE KOREAN WAR

HON. ZACHARY NUNN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of U.S. Army Cpl. Delbert White—an Ottumwa native who made the ultimate sacrifice as a prisoner of war (POW) during the Korean War.

Cpl. White was only 20 years old on December 1, 1950, when he and other members of the 2nd Infantry Division were captured by Chinese Communist Forces near the border of North Korea and China. Tragically, after several grueling months in a POW camp, Cpl. White passed away due to malnutrition.

For over 70 years, Cpl. White's remains had gone unidentified. However, thanks to scientific advancements, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency was able to identify Cpl. White's remains in September of 2022. At long last, Cpl. Delbert White was returned home to Ottumwa for a proper service and burial on June 16, 2023.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Cpl. White for his service to this country.

May we find inspiration in his story and forever remember his sacrifice.

SECURING GROWTH AND ROBUST LEADERSHIP IN AMERICAN AVIATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2023

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3935) to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize and improve the Federal Aviation Administration and other civil aviation programs, and for other purposes.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Chair, Congress should invest in supporting an aviation sector that puts people first to enhance passenger experience, bolster the aviation workforce, and promote safety for all. I am concerned that several meaningful measures proposed as amendments and supported in principle on both sides of the aisle, were not given fair consideration or debate on the floor. Although I will be voting in favor of this legislation, I urge the Senate to make improvements to the bill, including to maintain the current retirement age for pilots at age 65.

Raising pilot's retirement age would put the U.S. in conflict with international standards, which require pilots to retire at 65. Commercial pilots aged 65 or older will be ineligible to fly internationally. Junior pilots, who have endured financially burdensome trainings, will be displaced by their more senior colleagues, and have to return to a backlog of pilot training to requalify for new roles. These complications will likely result in higher costs to airlines and increased ticket prices to consumers.

Our Nation's premier aviation package should also include protections for the travelling public. The Biden Administration led the way in proposing measures to combat junk fees from airlines. These include banning family seating junk fees, requiring transparency in add-on fees, and generating automatic refunds for flight cancellations and delays within an airline's control. Taxes and fees can pad as much as 40 percent of a ticket's cost, and the administration's proposals would help reduce flight costs for travelers. Instead of building off those protections, this bill would interrupt the administration's work towards establishing these important protections. It also erases transparency protections that have been in place for more than a decade regarding disclosing taxes, fees, and surcharges.

America needs the stable, long-term funding provided by this reauthorization. It also needs reforms for safety, transparency, and workers which were excluded from the bill. I urge the Senate to address these shortcomings as this bill moves forward.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF THE SELBYVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY

HON. LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the centennial anniversary of

the Selbyville Volunteer Fire Company. Just over 100 years ago, a group of young men saw a need in their community, decided to act, and established this company. Now, a century later, it has grown into what it is today—a critical part of the Selbyville community with a legacy of exceptional service.

In addition to this occasion being a chance for fellowship and comradery between those in uniform, it is also an opportunity for the rest of us, whom the members of the Company serve, to pause and express our gratitude for their selfless and dangerous work.

We in Delaware know the risk each of these firefighters takes when they put on their uniforms and go to work each day. And to take on these risks is as remarkable as it is inspiring. Our state would not enjoy the same peace of mind without people like them answering the call and volunteering their time to protect our communities.

In Delaware, we are incredibly proud to have so many wonderful volunteer firefighters up and down our state. I am proud to be their Congresswoman, and especially as a member of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, I am proud to be their champion in the House of Representatives.

Again, to everyone at the Selbyville Volunteer Fire Company, congratulations on this historic accomplishment and I thank them for their selfless service. Here's to the next hundred years.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF ERIC S. COHAN, CONSUL GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES IN CIUDAD JUÁREZ

HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exemplary service of Eric S. Cohan, a career member of the Foreign Service currently serving as Consul General of the United States in Ciudad Juárez.

Mr. Cohan has served nearly 30 years to advance United States interests abroad. He previously served in Ciudad Juárez as Deputy Principal Officer for four years and returned in 2020 as Consul General. As Consul General, he leads a team of more than 350 hard-working State Department employees to assist and protect more than 200,000 United States citizens living in the state of Chihuahua and to facilitate trade and goodwill with Mexico.

During Mr. Cohan's tenure as Consul General, he has reunited countless families through lawful immigration, reduced a pandemic-era immigrant visa backlog by 67 percent, and helped keep our economy strong by issuing visas to truckers, agricultural workers, entrepreneurs. students, and others whose entry into the United States is critical to the economic well-being of everyday Americans. He understands how intertwined El Paso and Ciudad Juárez are to each other and that forging strong partnerships are vital for our economy and the everyday movement of both American and Mexican citizens.

Mr. Cohan and his staff do tremendous work to advance the bilateral relationship between the United States and Mexico, and honor the importance of the cultural, economic. family, and historical ties between our two nations. It is my distinct privilege today to celebrate his public service and wish him well in his next assignment.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA LOMBARD—30TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our Nation's women during Women's History Month. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Patricia Lombard of the Larchmont Village neighborhood of Los Angeles, California.

Patricia Lombard has worked as a communications consultant and writer since moving to Los Angeles in 1988. She served as a contributor to the Larchmont Buzz an online newspaper covering news from Hancok Park, Larchmont Village, and the Greater Wilshire areas of Los Angeles, since the inception of the site in 2011. In 2015, Ms. Lombard along with Elizabeth Fuller, acquired the Larchmont Buzz from founders Mary Hawley and Julie Grist, and over the years have produced thousands of local news stories. Patricia is currently the editor and co-publisher of the Larchmont Buzz which has given her the opportunity to highlight the work of neighborhood leaders and city officials regarding important local issues.

Ms. Lombard has been a tireless and dedicated volunteer in local civic affairs. She has served on the Fremont Place Association board of directors for over 15 years, and represented the Association on the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council until she joined the Larchmont Buzz.

Since 2007, Patricia has been an active member of the Hancock Park Garden Club, where she served as president from 2009 to 2011. She is a member of Larchmont Village Business Improvement District, Wilshire Rotary club of Angeles, Larchmont Boulevard Association, and The Ebell of Los Angeles, a women's nonprofit organization established in 1894, where she served as the organization's 64th president from 2020 to 2022.

For nearly 20 years, Patricia was involved with the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, where she served as a Trustee and was inspired to pursue local history. The Natural History Museum Seaver Center for Western History Research provided a key image of Larchmont that motivated her to research the story of this unique street. Patricia's book, ''Larchmont,'' was published in 2015. Patricia and her husband, William D. Simon, live in Fremont Place, and they have 2 daughters, Emily, and Alexandra. Emily and her husband Dan live in the Larchmont Village area, and Alexandra is currently planning to move to San Francisco, California to pursue a career in social work.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 30th Congressional District, Patricia Lombard.

TRIBUTE TO BOBBY SALMON

HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend Mr. Bobby Salmon for his service to the nation's largest insurance association, the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America, also known as the Big ''I.'' Bobby is nearing the end of his term as Chairman of the InsurPac Board of Trustees, a position that he has held since September of 2020. During his time as Chairman, the committee has risen to new heights.

In addition to chairing InsurPac, Bobby has served with distinction on the Big ''I'' Board of Directors and Government Affairs Committee. He has been an effective and thoughtful advocate for independent insurance agents and small businesses across the country.

Bobby attended Western Carolina University and is currently an independent agent with INSURE in Raleigh, North Carolina. He entered the insurance industry in 1991 and has been positively impacting lives ever since.

In addition to serving the Big ''I'' national association, Bobby has been one of the most dedicated volunteer leaders for the Independent Insurance Agents of North Carolina. He has chaired the young agents committee, the bylaws task force, and the board of directors, as well as the governance & leadership committee. Additionally, he has served on the legislative & PAC committees, products & services, advertising, surplus lines, and audit committees.

Importantly for North Carolina, Bobby is also an active leader and philanthropist in his community. He serves in a variety of ways, perhaps most importantly as a volunteer leader for Ridgecrest Baptist Church in Durham.

I would also like to recognize Kim, Bobby's wife of forty years. Together they reside in Hillsborough, North Carolina and have three children Tyler, Jordan and Morgan.

The state of North Carolina is proud of Bobby Salmon and thanks him for his continued leadership of the Big ''I'', its membership, and the great state of North Carolina.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EXPEDITED FEDERAL PERMITTING FOR CALIFORNIA ACT

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the ''Expedited Federal Permitting for California Act.'' This new bill would make permanent the U.S. Department of Transportation's program for eliminating duplicative environmental reviews for federally funded infrastructure projects. It would also make federally funded airport and port development projects eligible for this expedited federal environmental review and permitting. Only federally funded highway, public transit, and multimodal projects are eligible under current law.

Established by Congress in 2015 under the leadership of former U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer (D–CA), then-Chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public

Works, this federal pilot program allows states like California with more stringent environment laws than the federal National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) to substitute their state environmental reviews in lieu of completing a second, unnecessary federal environmental review at additional taxpayer expense. This cuts the permitting backlog in half for major transportation infrastructure projects statewide, which can proceed immediately to construction on time and budget. As a member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I helped to develop and pass the 2015 Highway Bill (Public Law 114–94), which established this pilot authority.

Under the leadership of then-Speaker Pelosi and President Biden, Congressional Democrats made a generational investment under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (Public Law 117–58) and the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–169) to modernize our nation's infrastructure and build the clean energy economy of tomorrow. As one of five cosponsors of the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and having voted with every other Democratic member of California's Congressional delegation to enact the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act, I am committed to getting California our fair of this historic federal investment.

However, I am increasingly concerned that California will miss out on this federal funding only available for the next 3 years to fix our roads and public transit if we remain bogged down in a state and federal permitting morass that is unnecessarily cumbersome and litigious. My bill would simply make permanent the pilot authority established under the 2015 Highway Bill for substituting by California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for NEPA reviews for federally funded transportation projects. Under current law, this pilot authority will expire on December 4, 2027.

In January 2021, the U.S. Department of Transportation finalized the necessary regulations to finally implement this pilot authority. To date, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has never made use of this federal pilot authority and continues to insist on completing less stringent federal environmental reviews on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration at additional taxpayer expense.

I take a backseat to no one when it comes to upholding California's high environmental standards, of which I am immensely proud. Mr. Speaker, I call on Governor Newsom and all members of California's Congressional delegation to join me in supporting my commonsense bill. We cannot watch the $1.2 trillion in available federal funding to rebuild our state's roads, public transit, airports, and ports pass us by. It's now or never.

RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR FEDERAL ACTION TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, a gun violence epidemic plagues the United States of America. Although the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act advanced important reforms to address gun violence—including enhanced background checks, prohibitions on gun trafficking and straw purchases, funding to support Extreme Risk Protection Orders and community-based violence intervention, and one billion dollars to support mental health—the federal government must take additional action to protect our young people and communities from gun violence.

State and local laws can only do so much to curb gun violence. Illinois and the City of Chicago can implement strict gun regulations, but if states like Indiana and Wisconsin keep weak restrictions in place, then practically anyone can cross those state borders and acquire a gun. We must limit the number of guns that exist in our country. We must ban assault weapons and enact strong background checks with no loopholes. We must repeal immunity for firearm manufacturers so individuals can bring civil actions to hold these companies responsible for their role in the gun violence epidemic. We must pass my bill—the Ammunition Identification Act—that would provide law enforcement with the tools to trace ammunition back to its purchaser.

Also, we must invest in community-based programs that successfully decrease gun violence. UCAN operates one of these innovative community-based programs on the westside of Chicago in areas with high unemployment and poverty rates. The Violence Intervention and Prevention program intervenes with victims and perpetrators after gun violence to help address trauma and limit violent responses, leading to a 30 percent reduction in shootings where this program was implemented. Another program is Chicago CRED, or Create Real Economic Destiny, that believes that those involved in gun violence are not the problem, but the future solution. When participants join CRED, they receive counseling, life coaching, education, and a pathway to employment. A study by Northwestern University found that—although around 85 percent of CRED participants reported a familial history with gangs, many had a criminal record, and some reported being gunshot victims—CRED alumni were less likely to be victims of gun violence because they left vulnerable situations and entered stable lifestyles after receiving the care they needed.

However, we cannot successfully prevent gun violence without revenue. That is why I champion the Gun Violence Prevention and Safe Communities Act that would create guaranteed, annual funding for gun violence prevention via a 0.5 percent increase in federal gun and ammunition excise taxes. This bill would evenly divide the estimated $20 to 36 million of annual revenue to fund gun violence research, hate crime data collection and prevention, forensic examiner training to improve gun crime clearance rates, and community-based violence intervention and prevention programs. As Fredrick Douglass once said, "People might not get all they work for in this world, but they certainly must work for all they get." If we truly want to make progress in preventing gun violence in this country, then we must work for it and invest in it.

We also must remember that preventing gun violence is broader than simply gun-focused programs. People turn to gun violence when they lack economic security, food security, housing security, and educational opportunity. Under the Obama Administration, the Office of Civil Rights at the Department of Education had a goal of reducing gun violence at its source by creating a national tool to examine equity and educational opportunities across the country. This tool demonstrated that inequities from the start of an individual's life deeply affect their outcomes and that the school-to-prison pipeline in high-in-crime areas coincides with the quality of education. If we continue to neglect our citizens and allow disparities in opportunity and security, we will not successfully end gun violence.

As my mother told me, an ounce of prevention is worth so much more than a pound of cure. I cannot stress enough how important it is to enact effective gun legislation on the federal level. Gun violence is a public health crisis. As such, the federal government must act to protect its citizens.

RECOGNIZING GENERAL JAMES C. McCONVILLE

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the career of General James C. McConville, Chief of Staff of the Army, and congratulate him on his retirement.

General McConville graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1981 and was commissioned as an Infantry officer shortly thereafter. Throughout his distinguished military career, General McConville served our country in the Iraq War, as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and during the war in Afghanistan, he was part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

General McConville earned 2 Distinguished Service Medals, 3 Legions of Merit, 3 Bronze Star Medals, 2 Defense Meritorious Service Medals, 3 Meritorious Service Medals, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, 2 Army Commendation Medals, 4 Army Achievement Medals, the Combat Action Badge. In 2019, he was appointed Chief of Staff of the Army, following 2 years as Vice Chief of Staff.

As a soldier and member of Congress, I can honestly call General McConville a "Soldier's Soldier."

General McConville's life work is an example of patriotism, sacrifice, and commitment—qualities that all in the U.S. military strive to emulate. We are grateful for his dedication to this country, and I wish him all the best in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO CAROLYN RAMSAY—30TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our Nation's women during Women's History Month. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman,

Carolyn Ramsay of the Hancock Park neighborhood of Los Angeles, California.

Born in Philadelphia, Carolyn is the youngest of 5 children of Jean and Jack Ramsay. She attended the University of Oregon and received a bachelor's degree in sociology in 1981. Carolyn worked as a journalist from 1986 to 2006 including as a magazine writer for Los Angeles Times Magazine, Buzz Magazine, and SELF magazine, correspondent for People Magazine, and staff writer at the Stamford Advocate.

Following her career as a journalist, Ms. Ramsay served as the communications director and deputy chief of staff for the late Los Angeles City Councilman Tom LaBonge from 2006 to 2011, thereafter serving as the Los Angeles Program Director for the Trust for Public Land from 2011 to 2012, before returning to work for Councilman LaBonge as Chief of Staff from 2012 to 2014. In 2018, Carolyn went on to serve as the Executive Director for the Los Angeles Parks Foundation. Under her leadership, many parks in Los Angeles were improved and expanded for people to enjoy in the years ahead. After 5 years with the organization, Carolyn recently retired from her position.

In addition to her illustrious career, Ms. Ramsay has always found the time to volunteer and give back to the community. She served on the board of trustees of Temple Israel of Hollywood, board of advisors of Hollywood Wilshire YMCA, and as board president of the Windsor Square Association from 2002 to 2005, where she led the organization during the planting of hundreds of street trees and was instrumental in the efforts for the historic preservation of Windsor Square.

She has received several awards including Windsor Square Hancock Park Historical Society's Leadership Award, Wilshire Community Police Council's Lifetime Achievement Award, and in 2023 was named Nonprofit Executive of the Year for a medium sized organization by the Los Angeles Business Journal.

Carolyn is married to her husband, Andy Goodman, who is a public interest consultant. Their son, Daniel Goodman, is a podcast producer for iHeartRadio in Los Angeles, and their daughter, Olivia Goodman, is about to begin her third year of medical school at the Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine in Pasadena.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 30th Congressional District, Carolyn Ramsay.

HONORING JUDGE ROBERT L. MILLER, JR.

HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize and congratulate Judge Robert L. Miller, Jr. upon his retirement from the United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana.

Born and raised in South Bend, Indiana, Judge Miller has served the Hoosier state and our Nation with distinction for more than 4 decades. Nominated to the federal bench by President Ronald Reagan, Judge Miller is now retiring as a Senior Judge as well as a Judge of the United States Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court of Review, a position he was appointed to by U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts in 2020.

Some of the awards and accolades Judge Miller has been recognized with over the course of his career are the Sagamore of the Wabash Award, the American Inns of Court Professionalism Award for the Seventh Circuit, and an induction into the South Bend Alumni Hall of Fame.

As John Adams famously observed, our constitutional republic is supposed function as a "government of laws, not of men." Our Nation depends on dedicated public servants who faithfully uphold the rule of law and ensure that Lady Justice remains blind. Judge Miller is 1 such person and jurist.

As he prepares to retire and write the next chapter of his life, I am proud to congratulate Judge Miller on a distinguished career and a job well done. I join Hoosiers throughout the Second District and beyond in expressing our gratitude to Judge Miller for his service and in wishing him and his family nothing but the best going forward.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MORGAN LUTTRELL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. LUTTRELL. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, July 18, 2023, I was unable to vote on Roll Call No. 338. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 338.

HONORING THE WORK OF CHRISTOPHER DEL BECCARO

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to a long-time staff member and dear friend. Christopher Del Beccaro, who is leaving to embark on his next adventure. Although he will be greatly missed, I could not be happier for the chapter of life he is about to enter with his soon-to-be wife.

Chris has been my right-hand man, serving as Chief of Staff for the last 4 years. He has earned the reputation of a kind, patient. and dependable chief. I could always rely upon him for intelligent, helpful advice when it came to policy and politics.

Even more importantly, he has led my office with a sincere heart. My staff has often remarked on his compassion and genuine concern for their well-being. He brought a spirit of laughter and support in both good times and in difficult moments. Chris stays true to who he is and what he believes, and I know it will bring him much success throughout the remainder of his life.

I thank Christopher Del Beccaro for a job well done. I am forever grateful for the friendship and support he has given to me, the staff, and the people of our congressional district. I wish him and his fiance, Evgeniya, all the best with their upcoming wedding in Montenegro and the adventures that lie ahead.

His presence in my office will certainly be missed, but Chris will undoubtedly continue to be a trusted advisor to me. Once a member of Team McCaul, always a member of Team McCaul.

CONGRATULATING 100 YEARS FOR MOUNT ARLINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Mount Arlington Fire Department on its 100th anniversary. This significant milestone represents a century of unwavering dedication, sacrifice, and service to our New Jersey community.

Firefighters are the first responders to danger and the backbone of keeping our neighborhoods safe. They represent hope and security, safeguarding our homes and businesses while keeping our families safe. From literally and figuratively putting out the biggest fires to responding to medical emergencies, firefighters exemplify heroism and commitment day in and day out. Their bravery, resilience, and selflessness in the face of danger have not only protected countless lives but have also inspired the entire community.

I wish the Mount Arlington Fire Department a happy 100th anniversary. I thank them for their sacrifices, dedication, and overall, keeping our communities safe.

RECOGNIZING BRENT ROBINSON

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Brent Robinson and his service to Virginia's First District and the Nation.

Brent got his start on the Hill in 2002 working for my predecessor, Jo Ann Davis. Brent joined my office in 2007 as a Legislative Assistant, and subsequently worked his way up to Legislative Director and Deputy Chief of Staff. Brent served as my chief policy advisor during his time in my office and helped introduce key pieces of legislation. Over 20 years after getting his start on the Hill, Brent has become an expert on various policy issues and an integral member of my D.C. staff. From meeting with constituents to managing our legislative team, Brent has spent countless hours serving Virginia's 1st District.

Brent has been an excellent mentor; always willing to offer advice to interns and staff. Both current and former members of my staff are improved public servants due to Brent's leadership. Brent's wisdom, humor, and perspective will be dearly missed in my office. I wish Brent the best as he starts his new position with FGS Global.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the service and accomplishments of Brent Robinson. May God bless Brent as he embarks on a new challenge, and I look forward to seeing his continued success in the future.

HONORING OLIVIA MORALES

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the service and accomplishments of Olivia Morales, my fellow who has fought to protect and improve our education system.

A Florida native, Olivia came to my office ready to protect and nurture the minds of all from kindergarten to post-Grad. Within Olivia's first few weeks in my office, her passion and intellect shined through. She immediately got to work developing ideas to help students in dual-enrollment programs, drafting legislation in various areas of education, and assisting in the introduction of the LOAN and American Teacher Acts.

Her dedication has been powerful as we have fought for the minds of underserved and disadvantaged communities. Oliva's commitment to educational equity led her to complete her undergraduate degree in Public Policy at Duke University and spend a year working as a College Adviser with the Duke College Advising Corps. After her service with the Corps, she began her doctoral studies in the University of Florida's Higher Education Administration and Policy program.

Olivia has a promising future—she will continue to make a difference and leave her mark on education policy as she continues to fight for a better system.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Olivia Morales for her dedication to education and passion for a more equitable Nation.

HONORING JOYCE HAMLETT OF BROADWAY, NORTH CAROLINA FOR HER MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Joyce Hamlett on her retirement from the House Office of Chamber Security and honor her many years of faithful service to the U.S. House of Representatives and the American people.

A native of Broadway, North Carolina, Joyce was raised in a home where faith and integrity were cherished above all else. These virtues remain the guiding principles of her life and helped to define her time here on Capitol Hill.

Joyce left North Carolina for Washington in the early 1980s to begin a job as a sandwich maker at the Capitol Café. She quickly rose through the ranks and eventually took a position with chamber security. She is known for her hard work ethic and stark reputation as a no-nonsense enforcer of the House's many rules and traditions. She has no issue being tough on journalists, visitors, and members alike when they step out of line. Yet, she also possesses a deep affection for lawmakers on both sides of the aisle, many of whom she views as family. All this eventually led to her appointment as Assistant Sergeant at Arms, where she serves in the important role as Keeper of the Mace of the House of Representatives.

Joyce's impact on the history and character of this chamber is without question. I was elated to hear that, upon her retirement, she will be moving to Sanford, North Carolina, a town in the heart of my district. I look forward to serving as her representative and can't wait to welcome her into our community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Joyce Hamlett on her retirement and to thank her for her decades of dedicated service to this chamber.

TRIBUTE TO EVELYN SERRANO—30TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our Nation's women during Women's History Month. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman. Evelyn Serrano of the Sunland-Tujunga neighborhood of Los Angeles, California.

Evelyn is a Cuban immigrant, artist, educator and community volunteer working at the intersection of creative activism, placemaking, land stewardship, memory, and community engagement, and her employment and volunteer activities are indeed a reflection of her collaborative, artistic nature. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Maryland Institute College of Art, Master of Fine Arts in Studio Art and Integrated Media from the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts), a Master's in Education from Alliant International University, and her teaching credential from the University of California, San Diego.

Ms. Serrano is a co-founder of Sunland Tujunga Forward (ST Forward), a non-profit organization that focuses on equity, anti-racism, intersectional feminism, land stewardship, and transformative relationships through collaborative action. ST Forward organizes an annual Indigenous Peoples Day, monthly land restoration events at Big Tujunga Canyon, an annual Pride Festival, and native plantings and curriculum at local schools.

She served as Co-Artistic Director of Nuestro Lugar: North Shore, an innovative large-scale resident-designed, culture-driven community development project in a rural community on the Salton Sea, and she co-founded Nomad Lab, an award-winning non-profit arts organization that worked with Canyon Country and Newhall residents and city officials to develop art-centered initiatives and inclusive spaces for learning, community organizing, and grassroots change through the arts. Ms. Serrano is the co-founder of I.D.E.A. Wave Co-lab, a project that creates open-source tools for coalitions, organizations, schools, and communities to support their journeys of transformative justice healing. She has worked in partnerships with visual and performing artists, policy makers, writers, educators and students, community organizers, non-profit organizations, and diverse communities nationally and internationally, and her curatorial projects have been featured in Los Angeles, Miami, Baltimore, and in Mexico, Uruguay, and Israel.

Evelyn has taught courses on activism, the arts and community engagement at CalArts and has led workshops and lectured in Miami, Dallas, Los Angeles and Baja, California. She is the lead artist of El Acercamiento/The Approach, a transnational art project with U.S. and Cuban artists and, is an Arts for Advocacy Fellow and the Director of Arts Integration and Visual Arts Specialist at the California Creative Learning Academy. In addition, Evelyn is training to become a seed keeper with a Mohawk leader, working to develop nature spaces and curriculum for growing and rehydrating our connection to the Earth, seeds and all creation. Ms. Serrano has been recognized and supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations, and the Los Angeles County Department of Arts.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 30th Congressional District, Evelyn Serrano.

HONORING ASSISTANT TO THE SERGEANT AT ARMS, MS. JOYCE HAMLETT

HON. KAT CAMMACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, today we honor the career of Ms. Joyce Hamlett, our beloved Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms and our "Keeper of the Mace."

After nearly 5 decades of public service in the House of Representatives and at the U.S. Capitol, Ms. Hamlett will enjoy her well-deserved retirement as we thank her for all she's done. In the 1980s, Ms. Hamlett started on Capitol Hill alongside her mother in the Capitol Café, working first as a sandwich maker and then as a grill cook. Within 5 years she was promoted to hostess and handled the cash register for thousands of visitors and hundreds of Members each week.

She later became an elevator operator at the Capitol before becoming a security guard in the House Chamber in 1994. In 2007, she was elected to serve in her current role as Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms and has served dutifully for the last 16 years.

We all love her for her strict adherence to House Rules and decorum on the House Floor but know she's just as sweet once you get to know her and hear all her amazing stories from her career on the Hill.

On behalf of my colleagues and Florida's Third Congressional District, we wish Ms. Hamlett all the best in her retirement and hope she returns to visit us and this amazing place she's served with honor and integrity during her long career.

I congratulate Ms. Joyce Hamlett, and thank her for all she has done to contribute to the history of this institution. We are forever grateful and hope she enjoys her well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING GRACE L. MORRIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent from my district, Grace L. Morris. As we celebrate her life, we think of all the memories that she continues to share, as a citizen of our country. Grace was born in Pittston, Pennsylvania on September 11, 1923, grew up in upstate Pennsylvania and made her family home in Northeast Philadelphia on Lexington Avenue.

Grace attended Saint John's High School and graduated in 1941. She enrolled in Germantown Nursing School, graduated, and went to work as the head nurse for the psychiatric ward. Grace then joined the United States Army. She served on a POW ship that crossed the Atlantic Ocean 5 times—over and back. Grace earned the rank of 2nd Lieutenant before World War II ended.

Grace attended classes at the University of Scranton for further nursing studies.

Her marriage to Bill Morris took place September 6, 1946. While raising 5 children, Grace worked as a Private Duty Nurse at Nazareth Hospital and later as a nursing instructor at the Philadelphia Training Institute.

Grace was a devoted wife, remains an amazing mother and grandmother. Her great-grandchildren now number 10. She served as the neighborhood nurse and devoted much time to volunteer efforts through Saint Jerome's Parish, and Winchester Swim Club in Philadelphia.

As we celebrate her 100 years of life, we are incredibly grateful for the positive impact she has made on all who know her.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MARIE LEVINE—30TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our Nation's women during Women's History Month. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Dr. Marie Levine of Pasadena, California.

Marie arrived in Pasadena in 1982 from France to attend the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), where she received a master's degree and a Ph.D. degree in engineering. Upon graduation, she joined the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), where she is still working to this day.

As a Principal Engineer, Marie's work has focused on formulating and developing extreme precision space observatories for NASA Astrophysics science missions. On her latest project, the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), she guided the integrated modeling and simulations required to predict the observatory's performance in space. Because of its complexity, JWST could not be fully tested on the ground prior to launch, and verification of the on-orbit imaging quality and stability had to be done primarily by computer simulations. This task was especially daunting because there were no flight precedents to build upon and new modeling techniques had to be developed for predicting motion stability to the accuracy of one thousandth the diameter of a human hair across the 6-meter telescope. The job also involved coordinating the work of hundreds of engineers from across the country, including from universities, NASA center, and aerospace contractors. The amazing images produced by the telescope are a testament to the many who contributed and Marie's outstanding leadership. This telescope will enable new scientific discoveries by looking back in time for how solar systems and galaxies formed after the Big Bang, and by detecting signs of life in the chemical composition of planets around other stars.

Integrated modeling is now being successfully implemented on NASA's next astrophysics observatory, the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope, and Dr. Levine is on NASA's Standing Review Board as the integrated modeling specialist. With other experts around the country, she is currently working on early formulation plans for a large space telescope mission to find and characterize Earth-like planets. For her remarkable achievements in her field, Marie has received many awards during her 32-year career at JPL, including the JPL Magellan Award and the NASA Exceptional Service Medal.

Active in her community and with a love of gardening, she volunteered with the Pasadena Water and Power Department to create a drought tolerant demonstration garden at the Sheldon Reservoir, which was recently acknowledged by the State of California Secretary of Natural Resources.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 30th Congressional District, Dr. Marie Levine.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, July 27, 2023 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S3561–S3712

Measures Introduced: Fifty-eight bills and ten resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2497–2554, S.J. Res. 38, S. Res. 311–318, and S. Con. Res. 18. **Pages S3619–21**

Measures Reported:

Special Report entitled ''Further Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals for Fiscal Year 2024''. (S. Rept. No. 118–78)

S. 873, to improve recreation opportunities on, and facilitate greater access to, Federal public land, with amendments. (S. Rept. No. 118–79)

S. 950, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to make a technical correction to the water rights settlement for the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation, with an amendment. (S. Rept. No. 118–80)

S. 265, to reauthorize the rural emergency medical service training and equipment assistance program, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 1278, to designate the Federal building located at 985 Michigan Avenue in Detroit, Michigan, as the ''Rosa Parks Federal Building''.

S. 1381, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, through the Coastal Program of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to work with willing partners and provide support to efforts to assess, protect, restore, and enhance important coastal landscapes that provide fish and wildlife habitat on which certain Federal trust species depend.

S. 1844, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to reauthorize user fee programs relating to new animal drugs and generic new animal drugs, with an amendment.

S. 2195, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to reauthorize the diesel emissions reduction program.

S. 2395, to reauthorize wildlife habitat and conservation programs. **Page S3618**

Measures Passed:

Recruit and Retain Act: Senate passed S. 546, to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize law enforcement agencies to use COPS grants for recruitment activities, after agreeing to the committee amendment. **Pages S3580–82**

Strong Communities Act: Senate passed S. 994, to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide that COPS grant funds may be used for local law enforcement recruits to attend schools or academies if the recruits agree to serve in precincts of law enforcement agencies in their communities, after agreeing to the committee amendments. **Pages S3582–83**

Project Safe Neighborhoods Reauthorization Act: Senate passed S. 1387, to reauthorize the Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program Authorization Act of 2018, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S3583**

Missing Children's Assistance Reauthorization Act: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. 2051, to reauthorize the Missing Children's Assistance Act, and the bill was then passed. **Pages S3583–84**

Coast Guard maritime border security: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 166, honoring the efforts of the Coast Guard for excellence in maritime border security, and the resolution was then agreed to, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S3584–85**

Whitehouse (for Cruz) Amendment No. 1066, to amend the preamble. **Page S3584**

Vanderbilt University 150th anniversary: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 288, observing the 150th anniversary of Vanderbilt University, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S3585**

National Child Awareness Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 313, designating September 2023 as ''National Child Awareness Month'' to promote awareness of charities that benefit children and youth-serving organizations throughout the United States and recognizing the efforts made by those charities and

organizations on behalf of children and youth as critical contributions to the future of the United States. **Page S3585**

Authorize testimony and representation: Senate agreed to S. Res. 314, to authorize testimony and representation in *United States v. Sahady*. **Page S3585**

Authorize testimony and representation: Senate agreed to S. Res. 315, to authorize testimony and representation in *United States v. Bozell*. **Page S3585**

Texas Tech University 100th anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 317, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of Texas Tech University. **Page S3585**

Honoring the late former Senator Weicker: Senate agreed to S. Res. 316, honoring the life of Lowell Palmer Weicker, Jr., former Senator for the State of Connecticut. **Page S3585**

Measures Considered:

National Defense Authorization Act—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of S. 2226, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, taking action on the following amendments and motions proposed thereto: **Pages S3563–80, S3585–S3609**

Adopted:

By 95 yeas to 2 nays (Vote No. 198), Warnock Amendment No. 199 (to Amendment No. 935), to provide enhanced protection against debt collector harassment of members of the Armed Forces. (Pursuant to the order of Thursday, July 20, 2023, the amendment having achieved 60 affirmative votes, was agreed to.) **Pages S3570–71**

Rejected:

By 46 yeas to 53 nays (Vote No. 199), Cruz Amendment No. 421 (to Amendment No. 935), to provide remedies to members of the Armed Forces discharged or subject to adverse action under the COVID–19 vaccine mandate. (A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the amendment, having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not agreed to.) **Pages S3586–87**

By 51 yeas to 48 nays (Vote No. 200), Wicker Amendment No. 1055 (to Amendment No. 935), to establish the Office of the Lead Inspector General for Ukraine Assistance. (A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the amendment, having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not agreed to.) **Pages S3587–88**

By 20 yeas to 78 nays (Vote No. 201), Paul Amendment No. 438 (to Amendment No. 935), to provide for the independent and objective conduct and supervision of audits and investigations relating to the programs and operations funded with amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to Ukraine for military, economic, and humanitarian aid. (A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the amendment, having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not agreed to.) **Pages S3588–89**

Pending:

Schumer (for Reed/Wicker) Amendment No. 935, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S3585**

Schumer Amendment No. 936 (to Amendment No. 935), to add an effective date. **Page S3585**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the Schumer (for Reed/Wicker) Amendment No. 935 (listed above), and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Friday, July 28, 2023. **Page S3585**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the bill, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of Schumer (for Reed/Wicker) Amendment No. 935. **Page S3585**

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that it be in order to call up the following amendments to the bill: Barrasso Amendment No. 999, Sanders Amendment No. 1030, Cardin Amendment No. 705, Marshall Amendment No. 874, Gillibrand Amendment No. 1065, Kennedy Amendment No. 1034, Hawley Amendment No. 1058, and Menendez Amendment No. 638; that, with respect to the amendments listed above, at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Republican Leader, Senate vote on or in relation to the amendments in the order listed, with no further amendments or motions in order, with 60-affirmative votes required for adoption, and that there be two minutes equally divided prior to each vote. **Page S3585**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, July 27, 2023; and that at 11:30 a.m., Senate vote on or in relation to the remaining amendments under the previous order. **Page S3720**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Martin O'Malley, of Maryland, to be Commissioner of Social Security for the remainder of the term expiring January 19, 2025.

Paul K. Martin, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, United States Agency for International Development.

Cardell Kenneth Richardson, Sr., of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of State.

Page S3712

Messages from the House: Page S3618

Measures Referred: Page S3618

Measures Placed on the Calendar: Page S3618

Executive Reports of Committees: Pages S3618–19

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S3621–23

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S3623–27

Additional Statements: Pages S3615–18

Amendments Submitted: Pages S3627–S3701

Authorities for Committees to Meet: Page S3701–02

Privileges of the Floor: Pages S3702

Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—201) Pages S3571, S3587–89

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m., on Wednesday, July 26, 2023 and adjourned, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the late Lowell Palmer Weicker, Jr., former Senator for the State of Connecticut, in accordance with S. Res. 316, at 12:40 a.m., on Thursday, July 27, 2023, until 10 a.m. on the same day. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S3712.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Lieutenant General Gregory M. Guillot, USAF, to be general and Commander, United States Northern Command/Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command, and Lieutenant General Stephen N. Whiting, USSF, to be general and Commander, United States Space Command, both of the Department of Defense, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

DOD PERSONNEL PROGRAMS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Personnel concluded a hearing to examine potential budgetary efficiencies achieved through improvement to management and planning processes within Department of Defense personnel programs, after receiving testimony from Michael J. Roark, Deputy Inspector General, Department of Defense; David E. Mosher, Director of National Security Analysis, Congressional Budget Office; and Elizabeth A. Field, Director, Defense Capabilities and Management, Government Accountability Office.

JUNK FEES

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection concluded a hearing to examine taking account of fees and tactics impacting Americans' wallets, after receiving testimony from Pennsylvania Attorney General Michelle A. Henry, Philadelphia; Lindsey Siegel, Atlanta Legal Aid Society, Atlanta, Georgia; and Brian Johnson, Patomak Global Partners, Washington, D.C.

FISCAL CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Committee on the Budget: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the fiscal consequences of climate change on infrastructure, after receiving testimony from Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards, Baton Rouge; Susan F. Tierney, Analysis Group, Inc., Denver, Colorado; Jesse M. Keenan, Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana; Linda Apsey, ITC Holdings Corp., Novi, Michigan; and Alexander Herrgott, The Permitting Institute, Washington, D.C.

ENERGY PERMITTING PROCESS

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine opportunities for Congress to reform the process for permitting electric transmission lines, pipelines, and energy production on Federal lands, after receiving testimony from Antonio Smyth, American Electric Power Company, Columbus, Ohio; Jason M. Stanek, formerly of the Maryland Public Service Commission, Riverdale; Chad Teply, The Williams Companies, Tulsa, Oklahoma; Erik Milito, National Ocean Industries Association, Washington, D.C.; Pete Obermueller, Petroleum Association of Wyoming, Casper; and Kelly Speakes-Backman, Invenergy, Chicago, Illinois.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 2195, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to reauthorize the diesel emissions reduction program;

S. 2395, to reauthorize wildlife habitat and conservation programs;

S. 1381, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, through the Coastal Program of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to work with willing partners and provide support to efforts to assess, protect, restore, and enhance important coastal landscapes

that provide fish and wildlife habitat on which certain Federal trust species depend;

S. 1278, to designate the Federal building located at 985 Michigan Avenue in Detroit, Michigan, as the ''Rosa Parks Federal Building''; and

16 General Services Administration resolutions.

CRITICAL MINERAL RECOVERY

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine improving capacity for critical mineral recovery through electronic waste recycling and reuse, after receiving testimony from Ajay Kochhar, Li-Cycle, Toronto, Canada; Craig Boswell, HOBI International, Inc., Dallas, Texas; Kitty McIlroy, Maryland Recycling Network, Baltimore; and Charles Pellicane, Human-I-T, Bell, California.

CLEANER TRAINS

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate, and Nuclear Safety concluded a hearing to examine cleaner trains, focusing on opportunities for reducing emissions from America's rail network, after receiving testimony from Carl Rosen, United Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers of America, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Ivette Torres, People's Collective for Environmental Justice, San Bernardino, California; and Ian Jefferies, Association of American Railroads. Washington, D.C.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Finance: Committee ordered favorably reported an original bill entitled, ''Modernizing and Ensuring PBM Accountability (MEPA) Act''.

U.S. ECONOMIC SECURITY

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine U.S. economic security, focusing on addressing economic coercion and increasing competitiveness, after receiving testimony from Jose Fernandez, Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment; and Jay Shambaugh, Under Secretary of the Treasury for International Affairs.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Dennis B. Hankins, of Minnesota, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Haiti, James C. O'Brien, of Nebraska, to be an Assistant Secretary (European and Eurasian Affairs), Nathalie Rayes, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Croatia, who was introduced by Senators Menendez and Padilla, and Tobin John Bradley, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Guatemala, all of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 2251, to improve the cybersecurity of the Federal Government, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2291, to establish the Northern Border Coordination Center, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2248, to require a pilot program on the use of big data analytics to identify vessels evading sanctions and export controls and to require a report on the availability in the United States of emerging and foundational technologies subject to export controls, with amendments;

S. 1332, to require the Office of Management and Budget to revise the Standard Occupational Classification system to establish a separate code for direct support professionals, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2219, to amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to expand access to breastfeeding accommodations in the workplace;

S. 2286, to improve the effectiveness and performance of certain Federal financial assistance programs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2283, to prohibit the procurement of certain items containing perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) or perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and prioritize the procurement of products not containing PFAS, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2293, to establish the Chief Artificial Intelligence Officers Council, Chief Artificial Intelligence Officers, and Artificial Intelligence Governance Boards, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2073, to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2032, to require the reduction of the reliance and expenditures of the Federal Government on legacy information technology systems, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1973, to require the purchase of domestically made flags of the United States of America for use by the Federal Government, with an amendment;

S. 2256, to authorize the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to establish an apprenticeship program and to establish a pilot program on cybersecurity training for veterans

and members of the Armed Forces transitioning to civilian life, and

S. 2260, to require transparency in notices of funding opportunity.

FARM BILL

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine Native priorities for the 2023 Farm Bill reauthorization, after receiving testimony from Richard Peterson, Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, Juneau; Jay Spaan, Self-Governance Communication and Education Tribal Consortium, Tulsa, Oklahoma; Davis Price, NDN Collective, Ewa Beach, Hawaii; Abi Fain, Intertribal Agriculture Council, Billings, Montana; Trenton Kissee, Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee, Oklahoma; and Cody Desautel, Intertribal Timber Council, Portland, Oregon.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Margaret M. Garnett, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, who was introduced by Senator Schumer, Jennifer L. Hall, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the District of Delaware, who was introduced by Senators Carper and Coons, Brandy R. McMillion, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, who was introduced by Senator Stabenow, Karoline Mehalchick, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, who was introduced by Senator Casey, and Joseph Albert Laroski, Jr., of Maryland, and Lisa W. Wang, of the District of Columbia, both to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade, who were both introduced by Senator Coons, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

PTO OVERSIGHT

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Intellectual Property concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Patent and Trademark Office, after receiving testimony from Kathi Vidal, Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property, and Director, Patent and Trademark Office.

WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: Committee concluded a hearing to examine pathways to women's entrepreneurship, focusing on understanding opportunities and barriers, including S. 673, to allow nonprofit child care providers to participate in certain loan programs of the Small Business Administration, S. 1411, to amend title 5, United States Code, to require greater transparency for Federal regulatory decisions that impact small businesses, S. 1744, to amend the Small Business Act to reauthorize the SCORE program, S. 1896, to reauthorize the SCORE program, S. 2184, to amend the Small Business Act to improve the Women's Business Center Program, and an original bill entitled, ''Community Advantage Loan Program Act of 2023'', after receiving testimony from Adrienne M. Somerville, Somerville Consulting Group, Hughesville, Maryland; Patrice Onwuka, Independent Women's Forum Center for Economic Opportunity, Washington, D.C.; Nik Sweeney, Amani Nicol Wellness, Baltimore, Maryland; and Catherine Koch, K–Tec Systems, St. Ferndale, Michigan.

PACT ACT

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine implementing the PACT Act, after receiving testimony from Shereef Elnahal, Under Secretary for Health, and Joshua D. Jacobs, Under Secretary for Benefits, both of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

BUSINESS MEETING

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Michael Colin Casey, of Kentucky, to be Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 88 public bills, H.R. 4895–4952; and 7 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 60; and H. Res. 615–620, were introduced. **Pages H4028–31**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H4033–34**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows: H. Res. 614, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4366) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 9) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to 'Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Lesser Prairie-Chicken; Threatened Status With Section 4(d) Rule for the Northern Distinct Population Segment and Endangered Status for the Southern Distinct Population Segment'; and providing for consideration of the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 24) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Northern Long-Eared Bat" (H. Rept. 118–158). **Pages H4027–28**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Ezell to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H3955**

Recess: The House recessed at 11:13 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Page H3964**

Recess: The House recessed at 1:16 p.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m. **Page H3974**

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure. Consideration began Tuesday, July 25th.

Soo Locks Security and Economic Reporting Act of 2023: H.R. 3399, to study the security of the Soo Locks and effects on the supply chain resulting from a malfunction or failure of the Soo Locks. **Page H3976**

Recess: The House recessed at 5:17 p.m. and reconvened at 5:45 p.m. **Pages H4007–08**

Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024: The House considered H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024. Consideration is expected to resume tomorrow, July 27th.

Pages H3966–76, H3976–H4007, H4008–15

Proceedings postponed on the Wasserman Schultz motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations. **Page H4015**

Agreed to:

Carter (TX) en bloc amendment No. 1 consisting of the following amendments printed in H. Rept. 118–158: Pettersen (No. 4) that increases and decreases funding for child development centers to underscore the need for increased investment; Caraveo (No. 5) that increases and decreases funding for the Veterans Housing Benefit Program by $2,000,000 to encourage the VA to provide outreach about housing loans and grants to veterans living in states with high housing costs; Ogles (No. 6) that increases and decreases funding for the Veterans Housing Benefit Program Fund for the development of improved informational materials regarding the relative benefits of a VA home loan versus other types of housing loans for different homebuyer profiles; Gottheimer (No. 7) that increases and decreases funding for General Operating Expenses by $1 million to provide support for the Department of Veterans Affairs' implementation of the U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism, including efforts to develop an education program to highlight contributions of Jewish veterans, incorporate training on combating antisemitism and other forms of bias, and ensure VA hospitals accommodate kosher meal requests for inpatient residents; Gottheimer (No. 8) that increases and decreases funding for General Operating Expenses by $1 million to provide additional support for the VA Transition Assistance Program to provide information, resources, and tools to service members and their families to help prepare for the move from military to civilian life; Norton (No. 9) that increases and decreases funding by $1 million for the Veterans Benefits Administration to provide support to law school clinical programs that assist veterans with legal matters; Ross (No. 10) that increases and decreases funding by $10 million for the VA Education Benefits Program to provide support and resources to veterans interested in pursuing undergraduate degrees in STEM fields; Arrington (No. 11) that increases and decreases funding in the VA administrative account "Purchased Long-Term Services and Supports," in order to emphasize the prioritization of resources and reduce improper payments; Boebert (No. 12) that increases and decreases funding for the Veterans Health Administration to redirect more resources to the Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program, suicide prevention, veteran's telehealth, and rural health; Caraveo (No. 13) that increases and decreases funding for the VA Office of Rural Health by $10,000,000 to encourage the Office to increase efforts to improve transportation for veterans living in rural areas who need consistent access to health care services; Carbajal (No. 14) that increases and decreases funding for VA Medical Services by $5,000,000 to express the intent that additional funding could be used to improve telephone services at Community Based Outpatient Clinics;

Gluesenkamp Perez (No. 15) that increases and decreases funding by $1 million for the Veterans Health Administration for the purposes of submitting a report to Congress on the efforts of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure access to health care for veterans residing in geographic proximity to a Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic subject to closure; Hudson (No. 16) that increases funding for the Department of Veteran Affairs Veterans Crisis Line by $10,000,000, and reduces the General Administration account by the corresponding amount; Molinaro (No. 17) that increases and decreases funding for the Veterans Health Administration by $2m to emphasize the importance of assisting veterans with disabilities and those with mental health and substance abuse challenges; Ogles (No. 18) that increases and decreases funding for medical services at the Veterans Health Administration for the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder in veterans; Pettersen (No. 19) that increases and decreases the Medical Services Account by $10,000,000 to emphasize the importance of medication-assisted treatment for substance use disorders beyond alcoholism; Ross (No. 20) that increases and decreases by $1 million the budget for the VA Center for Women Veterans to support research on postpartum depression among veterans who served in active duty combat and to develop recommendations and services to address postpartum depression in this population; Ogles (No. 22) that increases and decreases funding for the Veterans Health Administration's medical community care account to increase accessibility for in-home health care services for veterans; Gluesenkamp Perez (No. 23) that increases and decreases funding for Department of Veterans Affairs medical support and compliance for the purpose of requiring the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs to update Patient Experience Compare Data published on a public website to ensure that the data is broken down and displayed by county; Boebert (No. 25) that redirects funds from the General Administration account to increase resources for medical and prosthetic research for veterans; Boebert (No. 26) that redirects funds from the General Administration fund to the National Cemetery Administration to increase burial access for veterans; Boebert (No. 27) that redirects resources from the General Administration fund to provide more resources for the Board of Veterans' Appeals to help reduce its backlog and process veterans' claims more quickly; Boebert (No. 28) that redirects funds from the General Administration fund to the Grants for Construction of Veterans Cemeteries program to assists states, territories, and tribal governments in providing gravesites for veterans in areas where a veteran cannot be buried in a VA national cemetery; Boebert (No. 29) that redirects resources from the General Administration fund to provide grants and more resources for construction of state extended care facilities for veterans; Gottheimer (No. 30) that increases and decreases funding for Departmental Administration by $1 million to provide support for the Veterans Experience Office to better inform separating service members and veterans about their benefits; Tlaib (No. 31) that reduces the General Administration account by $5 million and increases the VA State Home Construction Grant Program by $5 million; Zinke (No. 32) that reduces funding for VA IT personnel by $5 million and increases funding for Grants for Construction of State Extended Care Facilities by $5 million; Molinaro (No. 33) that increases and decreases funding for the VA electronic health record by $1m to emphasize the importance of modernizing its system to help transitioning veterans access and receive quality care at VA facilities; **Pages H3994–96**

Bergman amendment (No. 24 printed in H. Rept. 118–158) that increases and decreases the Medical and Prosthetic Research account at the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure the VA conducts large-scale studies into the efficacy of drugs that have FDA-designated Breakthrough Therapy status to treat post-traumatic stress disorder through VA-administered drug assisted therapy trials; **Page H3996**

Mast amendment (No. 36 printed in H. Rept. 118–158) that prevents the VA from interfering with a veteran's ability to participate in a legal state medical cannabis program, deny service to such a veteran, or limit health care providers' ability to make appropriate recommendations of this treatment option for veterans; **Pages H4000–02**

Ryan amendment (No. 1 printed in H. Rept. 118–158) that increases and decreases funding $103 million to Army Military Construction in an effort to address flooding damage at the United States Military Academy at West Point (by a recorded vote of 394 ayes to 19 noes, Roll No. 369); **Pages H3992, H4008**

Bost amendment (No. 35 printed in H. Rept. 118–158) that prohibits the VA from using funds to submit a beneficiary's name to the NICS list based on VA's appointment of a fiduciary (by a recorded vote of 228 ayes to 206 noes, Roll No. 373); **Pages H3997–H4000, H4011**

Rosendale amendment (No. 37 printed in H. Rept. 118–158) that prohibits the use of funds made available by this Act from enforcing any COVID–19 mask mandates (by a recorded vote of 223 ayes to 211 noes, Roll No. 374); **Pages H4002–03, H4011–12**

Roy amendment (No. 38 printed in H. Rept. 118–158) that prohibits funds made available by

this Act from being used to carry out VHA Directive 1193.01, ''Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccination Program for Veterans Health Administration Health Care Personnel'' (by a recorded vote of 224 ayes to 210 noes, Roll No. 375);

Pages H4003–04, H4012–13

Roy amendment (No. 39 printed in H. Rept. 118–158) none of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used to modify or remove any VA display of the mission statement, ''To fulfill President Lincoln's promise 'to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan' by serving and honoring the men and women who are America's veterans.'' (by a recorded vote of 221 ayes to 212 noes, Roll No. 376); **Pages H4004–05, H4013**

Roy amendment (No. 40 printed in H. Rept. 118–158) that prohibits funds in this act from being used to carry out Biden's climate change executive orders (by a recorded vote of 220 ayes to 214 noes, Roll No. 377); and **Pages H4005–07, H4013–14**

Zinke amendment (No. 41 printed in H. Rept. 118–158) that prohibits funding for administering, implementing, or enforcing Executive Order 14057 (Catalyzing Clean Energy Industries and Jobs Through Federal Sustainability) (by a recorded vote of 222 ayes to 212 noes, Roll No. 378).

Pages H4007, H4014

Rejected:

Ogles amendment (No. 2 printed in H. Rept. 118–158) that sought to transfer $3 million from NATO's Security Investment Program to the Spending Reduction Account at the end of the bill (by a recorded vote of 99 ayes to 327 noes, Roll No. 370);

Pages H3992–93, H4009

Greene (GA) amendment (No. 3 printed in H. Rept. 118–158) that sought to cut the $73 million increase in funding for the NATO Security Investment Program (by a recorded vote of 83 ayes to 347 noes, Roll No. 371); and **Pages H3993–94, H4009–10**

Greene (GA) amendment (No. 34 printed in H. Rept. 118–158) that sought to strike funding for the Office of Resolution Management, Diversity and Inclusion (by a recorded vote of 204 ayes to 227 noes, Roll No. 372). **Pages H3996–97, H4010–11**

H. Res. 614, amended, the rule providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4366) and the joint resolutions (S.J. Res. 9) and (S.J. Res. 24) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 217 ayes to 206 noes, Roll No. 368, after the previous question was ordered on the resolution and the amendment by a yea-and-nay vote of 208 yeas to 191 nays, Roll No. 367.

Pages H3974–75, H3975–76

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote and twelve recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H3974, H3974–75, H3975, H4008, H4009, H4009–10, H4010, H4011, H4011–12, H4012, H4013, H4013–14, and H4014.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Committee Meetings

GENERATIONAL LEARNING LOSS: HOW PANDEMIC SCHOOL CLOSURES HURT STUDENTS

Committee on Education and Workforce: Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education held a hearing entitled ''Generational Learning Loss: How Pandemic School Closures Hurt Students''. Testimony was heard from Catherine Truitt, Superintendent, Department of Public Instruction, North Carolina; and public witnesses.

STOPPING THE EXPLOITATION OF MIGRANT CHILDREN: OVERSIGHT OF HHS' OFFICE OF REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled ''Stopping the Exploitation of Migrant Children: Oversight of HHS' Office of Refugee Resettlement''. Testimony was heard from Xavier Becerra, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services.

SELF-DRIVING VEHICLE LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK: ENHANCING SAFETY, IMPROVING LIVES AND MOBILITY, AND BEATING CHINA

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce held a hearing entitled ''Self-Driving Vehicle Legislative Framework: Enhancing Safety, Improving Lives and Mobility, and Beating China''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Financial Services: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 4763, the ''Financial Innovation and Technology for the 21st Century Act''; H.R. 1747, the ''Blockchain Regulatory Certainty Act''; H.R. 3244, the ''Stop Fentanyl Money Laundering Act of 2023''; H.R. 4768, the ''No Russian Agriculture Act''; H.R. 4765, the ''Exposing China's Support for the Taliban Act''; and H.R. 2969, the ''Financial Technology Protection Act of 2023''. H.R. 4763 was ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 1747, H.R. 3244, H.R. 4768, H.R. 4765, and H.R. 2969 were ordered reported, without amendment.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 4619, to authorize the sale of Virginia Class submarines to Australia in support of the

trilateral security partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, and for other purposes; H.R. 4725, to conduct oversight and accountability of the State Department's implementation of AUKUS, and for other purposes; H.R. 4716, to amend the Arms Export Control Act in support of Australia and the AUKUS partnership; H.R. 4715, to amend the Arms Export Control Act in support of the United Kingdom and the AUKUS partnership; H.R. 1776, to prevent, treat, and cure tuberculosis globally; H.R. 4517, to require the Secretary of State to submit a plan for the reimbursement of personal funds expended to evacuate American citizens, American lawful permanent residents, and Afghan allies from Afghanistan, and for other purposes; H.R. 3152, to impose sanctions with respect to countries, individuals, and entities that engage in any effort to acquire, possess, develop, transport, transfer, or deploy Iranian missiles and related goods and technology, including materials and equipment, and for other purposes; H.R. 4741, to require the development of a strategy to promote the use of secure telecommunications infrastructure worldwide, and for other purposes; H.R. 4691, to provide for congressional review of actions to terminate or waive sanctions imposed with respect to Iran; H.R. 1456, to limit the use of funds for the production of films using assets of the Department of State under certain circumstances, and for other purposes; H. Res. 578, calling for the immediate release of Eyvin Hernandez, a United States citizen and Los Angeles County public defender, who was wrongfully detained by the Venezuelan regime in March 2022; and H.R. 4825, to require the imposition of sanctions and other measures relating to the Russian oil price cap policy, and for other purposes.

THE REAL COST OF AN OPEN BORDER: HOW AMERICANS ARE PAYING THE PRICE

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Border Security and Enforcement; and Subcommittee on Counterterrorism, Law Enforcement, and Intelligence held a joint hearing entitled ''The Real Cost of an Open Border: How Americans are Paying the Price''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Oversight of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security''. Testimony was heard from Alejandro Mayorkas, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 1318, the ''Women's Suffrage National Monument Location Act''; H.R. 1722, the ''Grand Ronde Reservation Act Amendment of 2023''; H.R. 2717, the ''Hershel 'Woody' Williams National Medal of Honor Monument Location Act''; H.R. 2997, the ''CONVEY Act''; H.R. 3049, the ''Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration Exchange Act of 2023''; H.R. 3499, the ''Direct Hire to Fight Fires''; H.R. 3675, the ''Western Water Accelerated Revenue Repayment Act''; H.R. 4141, to provide that certain communications projects are not subject to requirements to prepare certain environmental or historical preservation reviews, and for other purposes; and H.R. 4377, to amend the Military Lands Withdrawal Act of 1999 with respect to extensions, additions, and revisions to the Barry M. Goldwater Range in Arizona. H.R. 4141, H.R. 3675, H.R. 2717, H.R. 2997, and H.R. 3499 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 3049, H.R. 1318, H.R. 4377, H.R. 1722 were ordered reported, without amendment.

UNIDENTIFIED ANOMALOUS PHENOMENA: IMPLICATIONS ON NATIONAL SECURITY, PUBLIC SAFETY, AND GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY

Committee on Oversight and Accountability: Subcommittee on National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs held a hearing entitled ''Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena: Implications on National Security, Public Safety, and Government Transparency''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

GETTING NOWHERE: DOD'S FAILURE TO REPLACE THE DEFENSE TRAVEL SYSTEM

Committee on Oversight and Accountability: Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation held a hearing entitled ''Getting Nowhere: DoD's Failure to Replace the Defense Travel System''. Testimony was heard from Jeffrey Register, Director, Defense Human Resources Activity, Office of the Under Secretary for Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense; and Elizabeth Field, Director, Defense Capabilities and Management, Government Accountability Office.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

Committee on Rules: Full Committee began a hearing on H.R. 4368, the ''Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024''. Testimony was heard from Representatives Harris, Bishop of Georgia, Molinaro, Nunn, Spartz, and Jackson Lee.

UNEARTHING INNOVATION: THE FUTURE OF SUBSURFACE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE UNITED STATES

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Subcommittee on Energy held a hearing entitled ''Unearthing Innovation: The Future of Subsurface Science and Technology in the United States''. Testimony was heard from Alexandra Hakala, Senior Fellow, Geologic and Environmental Systems, National Energy Technology Laboratory, Department of Energy; and public witnesses.

RURAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP: EXAMINING THE CHALLENGES AND STATE OF RURAL SMALL BUSINESSES

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Rural Entrepreneurship: Examining the Challenges and State of Rural Small Businesses''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 3848, the ''HOME Act''; H.R. 3943, the ''Servicemember Employment Protection Act of 2023''; H.R. 3874, the ''Veterans Education Assistance Improvement Act''; H.R. 3933, the ''TAP Promotion Act''; H.R. 4278, the ''Restore Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability Act''; H.R. 4461, the ''Modernizing Department of Veteran Affairs Disability Benefit Questionnaires Act''; H.R. 3581, the ''COPE Act''; H.R. 1767, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide that educational assistance paid under Department of Veterans Affairs educational assistance programs to an individual who pursued a program or course of education that was suspended or terminated for certain reasons shall not be charged against the entitlement of the individual, and for other purposes; H.R. 3981, the ''Veterans Education Oversight Expansion Act''; H.R. 542, the ''Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act of 2023''; and H.R. 984, the ''Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act''. H.R. 3848, H.R. 3943, H.R. 3874, H.R. 4278, H.R. 4461, H.R. 3581, H.R. 1767, H.R. 3981, H.R. 542, and H.R. 984 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 3933 was ordered reported, without amendment.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Ways and Means: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 4822, the ''Health Care Price Transparency Act of 2023''; and H.R. 3284, the ''Providers and Payers COMPETE Act''. H.R. 4822 and H.R. 3284 were ordered reported, as amended.

COMMANDING HEIGHTS: ENSURING U.S. LEADERSHIP IN THE CRITICAL AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES OF THE 21ST CENTURY

Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Commanding Heights: Ensuring U.S. Leadership in the Critical and Emerging Technologies of the 21st Century''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

CAPITOL POLICE BOARD OVERSIGHT

Joint Hearing: Senate Committee on Rules and Administration concluded a joint oversight hearing with the House of Representatives Committee on House Administration to examine the Capitol Police Board, after receiving testimony from Karen H. Gibson, Chair, Capitol Police Board, and Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate; William P. McFarland, Acting Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives; Chere Rexroat, Acting Architect and Chief Engineer, Architect of the Capitol; and Chief J. Thomas Manger, Capitol Police.

RESCUING UKRAINIAN CHILDREN AND WOMEN

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Committee concluded a hearing to examine rescuing Ukrainian children and women from Russia's aggression, after receiving testimony from Beth Van Schaack, Ambassador-At-Large for Global Criminal Justice, and Cindy Dyer, Ambassador-At-Large, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, both of the Department of State; Andriy Kostin, Prosecutor General of Ukraine; Oksana Markarova, Ambassador of Ukraine to the United States; Sebastian Stachowski, Lion Environmental; Mykola Kuleba, Save Ukraine; and James S. Gordon, The Center for Mind-Body Medicine.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, *p. D745)*

S. 111, to require each agency, in providing notice of a rulemaking, to include a link to a 100-word plain language summary of the proposed rule. Signed on July 25, 2023. (Public Law 118–9)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2023

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: business meeting to markup an original bill entitled, ''Defense Appropriations Act'', an original bill entitled ''Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act'', an original bill entitled, ''Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act'', and an original bill entitled, ''Homeland Security Appropriations Act'', 10:30 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: business meeting to consider S. 447, to establish a demonstration program for the active remediation of orbital debris and to require the development of uniform orbital debris standard practices in order to support a safe and sustainable orbital environment, S. 484, to require the Secretary of Commerce to provide training and guidance relating to human rights abuses, including such abuses perpetrated against the Uyghur population by the Government of the People's Republic of China, S. 1153, to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the National Manufacturing Advisory Council within the Department of Commerce, S. 1303, to require sellers of event tickets to disclose comprehensive information to consumers about ticket prices and related fees, S. 1409, to protect the safety of children on the internet, S. 1418, to amend the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 to strengthen protections relating to the online collection, use, and disclosure of personal information of children and teens, S. 1421, to require origin and location disclosure for new products of foreign origin offered for sale on the internet, S. 1648, to facilitate access to the electromagnetic spectrum for commercial space launches and commercial space reentries, S. 1669, to require the Secretary of Transportation to issue a rule requiring access to AM broadcast stations in motor vehicles, S. 2086, to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the Sea Turtle Rescue Assistance Grant Program, S. 2116, to require the Secretary of Commerce to produce a report that provides recommendations to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and impact of Department of Commerce programs related to supply chain resilience and manufacturing and industrial innovation, and S. 2201, to increase knowledge and awareness of best practices to reduce cybersecurity risks in the United States, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Subcommittee on Chemical Safety, Waste Management, Environmental Justice, and Regulatory Oversight, to hold hearings to examine solutions for single-use waste, focusing on expanding refill and reuse infrastructure, 9:45 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Foreign Relations: Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's Issues, to hold hearings to examine Haiti, focusing on next steps on the international response, 10 a.m., SD–419.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4763, the ''Financial Innovation and Technology for the 21st Century Act'', 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Education and Workforce, Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development, hearing entitled ''Lowering Costs and Increasing Value for Students, Institutions, and Taxpayers'', 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 3385, the ''Diaspora Link Act''; H.R. 3369, the ''AI Accountability Act''; H.R. 4510, the ''NTIA Reauthorization Act of 2023''; H.R. 1435, the ''Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act''; H.R. 4468, the ''Choice in Automobile Retail Sales Act of 2023''; and H.R. 4469, the ''No Fuel Credits for Batteries Act of 2023'', 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4766, the ''Clarity for Payment Stablecoins Act of 2023''; legislation on the Keep Your Coins Act of 2023; H.R. 4790, the ''Guiding Uniform and Responsible Disclosure Requirements and Information Limits Act of 2023''; H.R. 4767, the ''Protecting Americans' Retirement Savings from Politics Act''; H.R. 4823, the ''American Financial Institution Regulator Sovereignty and Transparency Act''; H.R. 4655, the ''Businesses Over Activists Act''; and H.J. Res. 66, a joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau relating to ''Small Business Lending Under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (Regulation B)'', 9 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Oversight and Accountability, hearing entitled ''A Failure to Plan: Examining the Biden Administration's Preparation for the Afghanistan Withdrawal'', 10 a.m., HVC–210.

Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Illicit IT: Bankrolling Kim Jong Un'', 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, hearing entitled ''Colombia's Descent to Socialism: Assessing Gustavo Petro's Presidency'', 2:30 p.m., HVC–210.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance, hearing entitled ''Oversight of the Drug Enforcement Administration'', 10 a.m., 2237 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Constitution and Limited Government, hearing entitled ''The Dangers and Due Process Violations of 'Gender-Affirming Care' for Children'', 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Full Committee, markup on a Report Recommending that the House of Representatives Cite Mark Zuckerberg for Contempt of Congress'', 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing entitled ''Safeguarding American Jobs and Economic Growth: Examining the Future of the Offshore Leasing Program'', 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries, hearing on H.R. 1437, the ''Black Vulture Relief Act of 2023''; H.R. 1792, the ''South Pacific Tuna Treaty Act of 2023''; H.R. 2950, the ''Coastal Habitat Conservation Act of 2023''; H.R. 2982, the ''New York-New Jersey

Watershed Protection Act''; H.R. 4051, the ''SHARKED Act''; H.R. 4094, the ''Great Salt Lake Stewardship Act''; H.R. 4587, the ''Red Snapper Act''; and H.R. 4596, the ''Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins Endangered Fish Recovery Programs Reauthorization Act of 2023'', 10:15 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''Examining Barriers to Access: Ongoing Visitor Experience Issues at America's National Parks'', 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs, hearing on legislation on the Restoring Accountability in the Indian Health Service Act of 2023, 2:15 p.m., 1334 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Accountability, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Oversight and Reauthorization of the Office of National Drug Control Policy'', 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Health Care and Financial Services, hearing entitled ''Hemp in the Modern World: The Yearslong Wait for FDA Action'', 2 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, hearing entitled ''Because I Said So: Examining the Science and Impact of COVID–19 Vaccine Mandates'', 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Full Committee, begin markup on H.R. 4755, the ''Privacy Enhancing Technology Research Act''; H.R. 4824, the ''Carbon Sequestration Collaboration Act''; H.R. 4877, the ''Abandoned Well Remediation Research and Development Act''; H.R. 1069, the ''Clean Energy Demonstration Transparency Act of 2023''; H.R. 3915, the ''Aviation Weather Improvement Act''; and H.R. 4866, the ''Fire Weather Development Act of 2023'' 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1547, the ''One Seat Ride Act''; H.R. 4693, the ''Tennessee Valley Authority Salary Transparency Act''; H.R. 4762, to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend the non-premium war risk insurance program; H. Res. 609, the ''Expressing Opposition to Central Business District Tolling Program of New York City''; H.R. 1752, the ''Eliminating Barriers to Rural Internet Development Grant Eligibility Act''; H.R. 532, to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 600 East First Street in Rome, Georgia, as the ''Harold L. Murphy Federal Building and United States Courthouse''; H.R. 4688, to direct the Administrator of General Service to sell the property known as the Webster School; and 15 General Services Administration Capital Investment and Leasing Program Resolutions, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, hearing entitled ''Review of the Recapitalization of the United States Coast Guard Surface, Air, IT, and Shoreside Assets'', 2 a.m., 2253 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, hearing entitled ''VA Disability Exams: Are Veterans Receiving Quality Services?'', 10 a.m., 360 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Oversight, hearing entitled ''The Employee Retention Tax Credit Experience: Confusion, Delays, and Fraud'', 2 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

Joint Meeting

Joint Economic Committee: to hold hearings to examine the economic impact of diabetes, 10 a.m., SD–192.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Thursday, July 27

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will continue consideration of S. 2226, National Defense Authorization Act, with a series of votes on or in relation to amendments to the bill at 11:30 a.m.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Thursday, July 27

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Complete consideration of H.R. 4366—Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

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Cammack, Kat, Fla., E729
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Courtney, Joe, Conn., E723
Crockett, Jasmine, Tex., E722
Davis, Danny K., Ill., E722, E727
Escobar, Veronica, Tex., E726
Fitzpatrick, Brian K., Pa., E730
Garamendi, John, Calif., E726
Garcia Robert, Calif., E724
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Huffman, Jared, Calif., E724
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Kaptur, Marcy, Ohio, E724
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McCaul, Michael T., Tex., E728
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