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No. 152

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 20, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable GLENN THOMPSON 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.

RECOGNIZING THE DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY

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

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation for the men and women at the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.

These Americans work tirelessly to provide the fullest possible accounting for the 81,000 servicemembers who remain missing from past conflicts.

Earlier this year, scientists from the DPAA used dental and anthropological

analysis, as well as chest radiograph comparisons, to positively identify the remains of United States Army Air Forces Staff Sergeant Wesley "Bub" Leon Jones.

Staff Sergeant Jones was killed in action during Operation Tidal Wave when his B-24 bomber was shot down by enemy forces over Romania in 1943. His remains have been unidentified for more than 80 years.

Thanks to the DPAA, World War II veteran and proud Kansan Wesley Jones has finally returned home to Wichita and was laid to rest on Saturday.

I am grateful for the historians, anthropologists, technicians, doctors, and scientists at the DPAA who are fighting every day to bring our heroes home.

LEADING WITH STRENGTH

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the greatest threat currently facing the United States of America: the Chinese Communist Party.

Communist China, led by President Xi, is buying up American farmland, stealing our intellectual property, investing in our educational institutions, and spying on our most critical military installations. Make no mistake, the time of trusting and welcoming China into the global system is over.

Pushing back against CCP aggression is not partisan. I am proud that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle came together to create the bipartisan Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party to counter President Xi's efforts to undermine American leadership.

It is vital that we put forward solutions to end our economic dependence on China, bring our jobs and supply chains back home to the United States, and make certain that our military is equipped to defend American interests and sovereignty.

The Chinese Communist Party is knocking at our doorstep, and this threat is becoming more urgent every single day.

It is crucial that President Biden starts leading with strength on the world stage to ensure the United States of America remains a beacon of freedom and hope for millions of people around the world.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KANSAN MINERS AND BIG BRUTUS

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of southeast Kansas' most treasured monuments, Big Brutus.

Standing 16 stories tall and weighing 11 million pounds, Big Brutus is the largest electric shovel of its kind. The colossal machine is a towering landmark on the otherwise flatland of West Mineral, Kansas. Here is a handmade wooden replica constructed by John Johnson.

From 1963 to 1974, Big Brutus was in use for coal strip mining. In a day's work, Big Brutus could work at a speed of 0.22 miles per hour and lift 150 tons of coal in a bucket. This efficiency was revolutionary for its time and dramatically increased the success of coal mining in the region.

The immortalization of this monument emphasizes the significance of Big Brutus in the development of engineering, but most importantly, it stands as a testament to southeast Kansas and the strength and fortitude of the people who live there.

As Big Brutus celebrates its 60th year, I commemorate the generations of miners in southeast Kansas for their hard work and dedication.

CELEBRATING THE CHASE COUNTY COURTHOUSE SESQUICENTENNIAL

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the sesquicentennial year of the Chase County Courthouse, the oldest operational courthouse in Kansas.

The courthouse's construction began in 1871 and was completed in 1873. Each

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

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



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year, visitors from across the country visit the Chase County Courthouse to admire its architectural design, stonework, and spiral staircase.

Standing 113 feet tall, this iconic structure can be seen from many vantage points across the county and most prominently in the heart of downtown Cottonwood Falls.

Unmatched in durability and design, the courthouse remains a living tribute to its builders and the Flint Hills pioneers who envisioned a courthouse that would stand and be of service to its residents for well over a century.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the county commissioners, members of the committee, and the entire Chase County community as they prepare to celebrate 150 years of their historic courthouse.

SUPPORTING UKRAINE

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, when Vladimir Putin and his autocratic regime launched their brutal criminal invasion of Ukraine in February of last year, many people predicted that the Ukrainians would throw down their arms and surrender within days.

Mr. Speaker, 18 months later, however, burnt-out husks of Russian tanks litter the Ukrainian countryside. Blue and gold flags fly proudly over Kyiv, Kherson, Lyman, and other towns held or liberated by Ukrainian forces. Russian soldiers surrender, desert, and dodge conscription in droves.

Meanwhile, defenders of democracy stand firm with Ukrainian courage in their hearts and Western weapons in their hands. Ukrainians stand strong because Americans and Brits and Danes and Germans and French and other freedom-loving peoples around the world stand united behind them. That unity is crucial now more than ever as the warmongering dictators of the world—Vladimir Putin, Kim Jong-un, and Xi Jinping—have all come together.

We are locked in a struggle between freedom and fascism, democracy and despotism, might and right. The war in Ukraine is that struggle manifest.

President Zelenskyy returns to our Capitol this week, tomorrow, to remind us that the fate not only of this sovereign, democratic nation but of the free world hinges on this conflict. He recognizes that our international cooperation to preserve democracy depends on our cooperation here in the Congress of the United States.

Democrats and Republicans have found consensus on the issue in the past, securing vital military and humanitarian aid for Ukraine. We must keep working in a bipartisan fashion to ensure that Ukrainians receive whatever tools and resources they need to succeed on the battlefield because only the great arsenal of democracy, as we said during World War II, can vanquish an axis of evil.

I echo what President Truman said to the Congress in 1952 when trying to secure further aid for war-torn Europe. He said this: “If through inaction we desert the cause of democracy, the democratic hope may be exterminated in broad areas of the Earth.” We must not let that happen.

President Truman called on Congress, as I urge you now, to add powerful momentum to the democratic counteroffensive, which inspires in the people of the world a sense of their own destiny as free men and women.

We have built up that momentum steadily over the last year and a half. Imagine how much more it will grow in the months ahead if the free world maintains its resolve, if this Congress maintains its resolve.

When President Zelenskyy arrives in our Capitol corridors tomorrow, he should not have to plead for more support. Instead, we ought to show him that we are committed to doing whatever it takes to ensure that action prevails over inaction, that democracy triumphs over autocracy, and that Ukraine emerges victorious over Russia.

Like the martyrs who gave their lives on the Lexington Common in 1775 and Kyiv’s Maidan in 2014, we will show the world that we will do everything to protect our democratic principles.

If we are to defend democracy at home and around the world, if we are to defeat the despots, dictators, and dealers of destruction, then we, Ukraine, and the free world must stand as one.

Our words supporting freedom will ring very hollow if not coupled with our actions to defend freedom, as President Kennedy said, “here and around the world.” Let us defend the democracy that we hold so dear.

HONORING GOLD STAR FAMILY REMEMBRANCE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, this week is Gold Star Family Remembrance Week. Every September, Gold Star Family Remembrance Week takes place on the week leading up to Gold Star Mother’s Day, which has been observed by Presidential proclamation since 1936 on the last Sunday of September.

The Gold Star symbol first originated in 1917 when the United States began its involvement in World War I. Families would hang banners to represent a family member in the armed services. If the family member died in combat, the family would change the banner from a blue star to a gold star.

We will never know the exact number of Gold Star families. However, according to the National Gold Star Family Registry, at least 472,251 fallen military members are registered by loved ones. At least 36,548 of those service-

members have been registered in my home State of Pennsylvania.

As an Army dad, I am blessed my son returned home. I am aware that this is not the case for all families, and we must take the time to remember, respect, and honor the families of our fallen servicemembers.

To honor and remember our fallen servicemembers and their families, I look forward to supporting efforts such as the Gold Star Family Remembrance Week. This week recognizes the loss and sacrifices of families in support of fallen members of the Armed Forces, as well as veterans.

I look forward to supporting legislative efforts to honor this occasion and encourage fellow Americans to perform acts of community service and goodwill to honor these families.

Our servicemembers are the bravest among us. They answer the call to protect and defend our Nation in times of war and in times of peace.

This important week is a time to remember the families of the brave men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our freedom.

Madam Speaker, let us take a moment to remember that our freedom is not free. We cannot begin to imagine the loss and pain that these families have experienced.

Gold Star families have lost a loved one in the name of protecting our freedom, and they deserve our gratitude every day.

RECOGNIZING DAVID HECKER

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

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, in his 22 years of service as the president of the American Federation of Teachers of Michigan, David Hecker has been consistent in his commitment to working families, our teachers, and our education system, especially public education.

Mr. Hecker became a member of AFT in 1977 and has served as the AFT president in Michigan since 2001. AFT Michigan, Madam Speaker, has 35,000 members who are educators and healthcare providers working in K-12 as well as intermediate schools, community colleges, universities, and hospitals across the State of Michigan.

During his tenure, AFT Michigan has organized many new locals representing thousands of new members, particularly in higher education and healthcare.

Mr. HECKER is a lifelong labor leader committed to working families and worker rights and building a stronger labor movement. For many years, David has been a member of the Michigan State AFL-CIO and Metro Detroit’s AFL-CIO executive committees.

I am blessed to call David a friend. Please join me in recognizing his 22 years of public service and commitment to improving the lives of teachers across Michigan as we wish him well in his retirement.

□ 1015

CONGRATULATING STEVE DENSMORE ON HIS RETIREMENT

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I recognize Assistant Fire Chief and Melvindale City Council member Steve Densmore for his 27 years of service with the Dearborn Fire Department in Michigan's 12th District Strong.

Assistant Fire Chief Densmore got his start in public service in 1996, Madam Speaker, and he was instrumental during many difficult times in our community. He helped lead the effort with the COVID vaccine clinic, the handling of two federally declared disasters, multiple commercial fires, and other emergency incidents.

He has been recognized numerous times for saving lives and his commitment to our community. Over the course of his career, Assistant Chief Densmore showed his unwavering commitment through his achievements that include numerous certification programs and various rescue operations, techniques, and other technical programming.

Assistant Chief Densmore has been an outstanding public servant, so please join me in recognizing his 27 years of commitment to protecting our families across Michigan's 12th District as we wish him well in his retirement.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF ROCIO OCAMPO

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, today I recognize a dear friend, Rocio Ocampo, a community mother, whose contributions had an enormous impact on the families of southwest Detroit, as we honor her memory.

I first met Rocio when I served in Michigan's State Legislature at a parent advocacy meeting at Phoenix Elementary School. I was instantly impressed by Rocio. She was tenacious, and she had a drive to pursue a better quality of life and future for all children.

She was involved in numerous community organizations, serving on the board of Urban Neighborhood Initiatives as well as the City of Detroit's Property Assessment Board of Review, as well as a Parent Teacher Association member at her children's school. Rocio's active involvement in our community was marked by her dedication not only to making it a safer and healthier place to live, but to making it a more beautiful place to thrive.

Above all, Rocio loved her children and her grandchildren deeply. Her love extended out to the children of the neighborhood where she lived. She could always be counted on for a kind word, warmth, and generosity of spirit.

Rocio Ocampo's vibrant presence will be sorely missed. Please join me in recognizing her contributions and services as we honor her memory.

RECOGNIZING MARSHA BRUHN

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of Marsha Bruhn, a public servant and longtime resident of Detroit, Michigan's 12th Congressional District, for her numerous outstanding

contributions to the city as well as the Grandmont Rosedale community she calls home.

Madam Speaker, before settling in Detroit's Grandmont Rosedale community, Ms. Bruhn lived all over the country. She developed her passion for community development when she volunteered with the Staten Island Citizens Planning Commission. The community engagement work she witnessed while later living in Los Angeles spurred her to return to school to complete her master's degree in urban planning. She used that experience and education over 22 years of service as the director of the Detroit Planning Commission.

We were really, really blessed that she chose to live in our community in Detroit's North Rosedale Park neighborhood. She quickly became a champion of North Rosedale Park and the entire neighborhood area that comprises Grandmont Rosedale.

Ms. Bruhn has contributed immensely to strengthening housing and retaining and attracting small businesses that are the backbone of our community's corridor. She spearheaded the capital campaign to revitalize the North Rosedale Park Community House. I thank Ms. Bruhn and recognize her dedication and thank her for her commitment.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF TIM GUYER

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

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize fallen Johnson County Deputy Sheriff Tim Guyer, who passed away at Indiana Law Enforcement Academy last month.

Deputy Guyer was training at the academy and set to graduate just 2 weeks after he passed. We will never forget his service and sacrifice to our Indiana community, and I extend my deepest condolences to his loved ones.

RURAL HEALTHCARE IN RUSHVILLE, INDIANA

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about my recent visit to Rush Memorial Hospital in Rushville, Indiana. During the visit, we discussed the current state of rural healthcare and what can be done to improve it.

I also got to meet and speak with the outstanding stat flight team, who deliver timely and critical care to those in need throughout the southern Indiana district.

I really enjoyed my visit to the hospital and thank the entire team at Rush Memorial Hospital for all they do and for their hospitality.

PUT AMERICA'S INTERESTS FIRST

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concern with President Biden's decision to hand over \$6 billion to Iran, the largest sponsor of terrorism, as part of a ransom deal on the anniversary of 9/11.

September 11 is a day where we should be remembering the Americans

who lost their lives, honoring our first responders, and praying for the families who lost a loved one. The Biden administration's decision to broker a deal with terrorists on 9/11 is tone deaf, shameful, and desecrates the day.

Additionally, this deal emboldens our enemies, puts our Nation's safety and security at risk, and will ultimately fund anti-American terrorist activities. It is time for President Biden to stand up to our adversaries and put America's interests first.

SERVING VETERANS IN SHELBY COUNTY

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the opening of the new Department of Veterans Affairs clinic in Shelbyville, Indiana.

The clinic offers primary and mental health care, optometry services, and physical therapy.

I thank the VA, the director of Veteran Health Indiana, Michael Herszman; the dedicated onsite clinical team; and Shelbyville Mayor Tom DeBauern for their efforts in getting this new facility open to serve Hoosier veterans throughout Shelby County and beyond.

SLOW DOWN ELECTRIFICATION-OR-NOTHING APPROACH

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about my takeaways from a roundtable I attended with Hoosier stakeholders in Franklin, Indiana.

At the roundtable, research universities such as Purdue University and Vincennes University, along with the State of Indiana parking and mobility experts, and EV charging station developers joined together in Indiana's Sixth District to share lessons learned and best practices for the electrification policy.

We also discussed why the current timelines and excessive regulations of the Biden administration are far ahead of what is possible, practical, and of course affordable. This roundtable just further proved that it is time for the Biden administration to slow down their electrification-or-nothing approach.

ELECTRIC GRID RELIABILITY

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share my concerns about our Nation's electric grid reliability.

Our electric grid is on an unsustainable path, and if we do not change our direction now, we could be heading toward a catastrophic failure in the future. In fact, this month, for the first time ever, NERC has identified certain energy policies as the major threat to our grid's reliability. These policies include increased usage of electric vehicles, as well as reliance on wind and solar energy.

Yet, the Biden administration and far-left Democrats continue to try to push their rush-to-green energy agenda and force electrification of everything from cars to stoves. It is past time for this administration to face reality and put our Nation on a sustainable path forward to ensure the American people are able to keep their lights on.

EPA'S PM2.5 RULE

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to raise my concerns about the command and control regulations in EPA's PM2.5 rule. These regulations will only hurt Indiana's electric reliability, raise costs on Hoosier businesses, and hinder economic growth in our State.

Additionally, at a time when companies are looking to re-shore domestic manufacturing, this rule serves as a detriment to new investment. Overall, this rule is bad for Hoosiers and for all Americans.

STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH UAW WORKERS

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

Mr. FROST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to stand in solidarity with the nearly 150,000 United Auto Workers who are bravely leading the fight for fair pay, better benefits, and safe working conditions.

It is important that the industry supports a contract that rewards auto-workers for the sacrifices they have made and the profits they have built for these companies and our economy. Let's not forget that in 2008 these workers did their part. They stayed on the job and kept manufacturing and production going while the government swooped in to keep the industry afloat.

These workers didn't complain when we supported the big automakers, but now it is our turn to support them. The Big Three car manufacturers are experiencing record profits. Their CEOs are bringing home millions of dollars and 40 percent pay increases—that is right, 40 percent pay increases—while their workers cannot say the same.

Generation Z—something I am very proud of—is America's most pro-union generation, overwhelmingly supporting union workers time and time again. Now Congress needs to stand in solidarity with working people and do what is necessary in the struggle for what they deserve: fair wages, better benefits, and safe working conditions. I am proud to stand with the United Auto Workers.

FIGHT AGAINST THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Mr. FROST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the climate movement for a huge win today. President Biden has announced the creation of the American Climate Corps, which will train tens of thousands of young people to build the climate-friendly infrastructure we deserve and that we need. This is youth workforce development and will help us in many different issues, from gun violence to the economy.

This transformational thinking is the policy and work that we deserve to save our planet and save humanity. I thank the youth-led movements, like the Sunrise Movement, that made moments like this possible. I thank every-

one who has championed this. This is a great step in the greater fight to protect humanity, to fight against the climate crisis, and to have a world that we deserve.

The climate crisis is here, and the cost of not doing anything is far greater than the cost of taking bold action. Yes, in terms of dollars and cents, which is usually the way we think about things here in Congress, but I also think about the cost of human life and the cost of humanity. Let's continue this fight together.

HONORING BLANCA M. HERNANDEZ-ADAME

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

Mr. BACON. Madam Speaker, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, I recognize Blanca M. Hernandez-Adame for all her tremendous work in Nebraska's Second Congressional District. Blanca's determination and kind-hearted nature have benefited our community for years.

Born in Torreon, Coahuila, Mexico, from a very early age, Blanca showed signs of being a natural-born leader. She always stood out among her peers in the different activities, groups, or social clubs she participated in.

Blanca has three children: Eros, Daniel, and Camila. She is a strong woman of faith and puts God first in everything she does. One of the most important people in Blanca's life is her mother, who has been present through good times and bad times for her whole life.

In 1995, Blanca began law school at the Universidad Autonoma de Guerrero and demonstrated an interest in politics. She became involved in Mexican politics and volunteered in campaigns for senators, state Governors, rectors of the University of Guerrero, and even the Presidency of the Mexican Republic in Mexico.

Blanca graduated from law school in 1999 and had the opportunity to work for some of the most essential people in the State of Guerrero as a trusted staff member. Later that year, due to the economic situation, Blanca left Mexico for the United States to pursue opportunities for herself and her family.

In 2000, she began working in a packinghouse. Blanca has the utmost respect for people who work in these places, as they can be very repetitive jobs and hard work. Some stay in the same place, doing the same movement for 8 to 10 hours every day for weeks, months, and even years. Every day that she spent at the packinghouse, she became more convinced that she had to learn English and that if she didn't, she would stay there forever working in a very difficult job.

She began taking English classes at night after a long day at the packing plant, but one of Blanca's strengths is her persistence. She knew that the effort would be worth it, so little by lit-

tle she learned to speak English and became a representative of the workers' union at the packing plant.

From there, she became active in our community in South Omaha. For 6 years, she served on the board of directors of the One World Clinic in Omaha. She volunteered in different community groups, nonprofit organizations, and is the founder of the Queens of Cinco de Mayo contest, one of the most important events in the Latino community of South Omaha.

In 2016—and this is where we want to focus because she has done so much great work here—she founded Generation Diamond to help people reenter our community after incarceration. She believes that her participants are diamonds in the rough that only need to be polished to shine. In just 7 years, Generation Diamond is one of the only organizations in Nebraska that helps the formerly incarcerated remove tattoos free of charge and covers basic needs, such as food and clothing. Services are offered in both English and Spanish, with a focus on building the Latino community. They are able to help fund employment and offer classes in trauma, finances, and stress reduction to give those they serve a glimmer of hope and the ability to remain in the community. Generation Diamond has grown rapidly, providing 1,020 services last month alone.

Madam Speaker, I thank Blanca for her hard work and determination to make our community better, and for investing in so many people and giving them a second chance. I am eager to see the growth and positive impact Generation Diamond will have in my district.

□ 1030

KUSHNER-SAUDI DEAL

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

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Madam Speaker, just last week on the House floor, I called this body to investigate the clear corruption and graft of Jared Kushner.

The American people deserve answers. Why did Jared Kushner receive \$2 billion, with a b, from the Saudi Government just 2 months after leaving the White House?

Here are the facts.

First, we know that Donald Trump's son-in-law was unqualified to work in the White House, but Jared was placed at the heart of government overseeing Middle East policy.

Kushner personally intervened to secure a \$110 billion arms deal with Saudi Arabia. He supported the Saudis through the brutal war in Yemen even after they murdered Jamal Khashoggi, a journalist, who we all know was an American resident.

The Saudi Crown Prince, shown here with Jared and Ivanka, reportedly bragged to other heads of state that

Kushner was “in his pocket.” Jared delivered for the Saudis over and over.

We now know today that when Jared left the White House just 2 months later, the Saudi Royal Family gave \$2 billion to the Kushner hedge fund, and Jared pockets another \$25 million per year in fees directly from the Saudi’s.

Now advisers to the Crown Prince said publicly that this made absolutely no financial sense, and they pushed back, but the Saudi Crown Prince went forward, and Jared Kushner is receiving that enormous benefit to this day.

Madam Speaker, I have been calling out the Trump and Kushner crime family for months, and we should not stop speaking out until we get the investigation that we deserve. Americans need to trust that White House officials are looking out for our national interest.

The Kushner-Saudi deal is the biggest corruption scandal right now in American politics. We need subpoenas, investigations, and reforms so that this type of graft never happens again.

UKRAINE STRATEGY

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

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak about the ongoing brutal and unjust war that is still wreaking havoc in Eastern Europe to this day and about America’s role.

Make no mistake, Vladimir Putin is an evil tyrant whose brutal army is devastating the people of Ukraine. Like many others, I look forward to seeing him in The Hague.

My position on providing aid to Ukraine has been clear. Ukraine should have the tools it needs to win this war, its war, with the help of other countries, not just the United States.

The United States, especially with the American President, who holds many of these powers, absolutely cannot provide a blank check without robust oversight and something else that has been lacking: a clear strategy to end America’s involvement.

Before I became a Member of this House, the previous Congress gave the Biden administration the resources it needed to help the Ukrainians end their war. However, the piecemeal approach taken by this administration has prolonged, rather than ended, the fight.

Frankly, just like former President Trump has said, the United States of America has the tools to end this war in 24 hours, bring that thug Putin to the table, stop the killing of innocent civilians, and allow Ukraine to maintain its independence.

I believe the American people, as well as the Ukrainians fighting on the front lines, have little use, if any, for weak and ill-equipped weaponry that simply prolongs the war rather than bringing it to an end once and for all.

A piecemeal approach to helping Ukraine is wasting taxpayer dollars,

and I do not know anyone who is in favor of wasting American tax dollars.

What we need is a strategy, oversight, and accountability:

A strategy that explicitly defines what victory looks like so we know when America’s involvement is at an end; oversight so that the American people know how their tax dollars are being spent; and accountability for this administration’s failures to implement these elementary pillars of decision-making.

Another far-reaching, multi-billion-dollar supplement without these three key tenets is not what the American people want or deserve. Frankly, it is not what the Ukrainians want either.

The Ukrainians have taken significant steps to restore accountability to their government and weed out corruption, so I believe they understand just how important a transparency is.

Madam Speaker, Ukraine can end this war, Ukrainians can have peace, the innocent killings of civilians at the evil hands of an evil dictator can stop. We can share the tools Ukrainians need without depleting our own capabilities. However, the United States cannot be drawn into another forever war without a meaningful strategy that defines how we know when it is over. We cannot put American servicemembers in harm’s way, and we certainly cannot waste taxpayer dollars.

We were supposed to learn this lesson after Vietnam, and, instead, we ended up with a 20-year war in Afghanistan. We cannot make the same mistake again.

Madam Speaker, I represent one of the largest Ukrainian-American populations in the House of Representatives. My constituents are Americans who are the family members of Ukrainian soldiers. They are Americans who are faith leaders, and some are even first-generation Ukrainian Americans. All of them are grateful for the American assistance and that of our allies, and every single one is ready for this war to come to an end, just as I know so many others are, as well.

It is time for this administration to be up front with the American people and articulate a coherent strategy to define our end goal.

Let us all work together to commit to saving taxpayer dollars, increasing crucial oversight of our operations, logistical and tactical support, and finally commit ourselves to developing the strategy needed to save innocent lives, help the Ukrainians end their armed conflict, keep America out of this war, and ensure this does not go on another day longer.

TRIBUTE TO DON TRINKS—MAYOR OF WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the

mayor of Windsor, Connecticut, Don Trinks, a dear friend and person who served in the capacity of mayor for 22 years, and a public servant in Windsor for nearly three decades, as well.

He is a lifelong resident in what he would claim is the oldest community in the State of Connecticut, the town of Windsor. It may be disputed by some in Wethersfield, but that is what Don would claim, and that is where he met his wife, Barbara, in high school. They went on to get married, and he went on along with Barbara to be the go-to people in the community of Windsor.

Now, he also happens to run and manage, and probably is well known for running Bart’s, which is second only to Augie & Ray’s in East Hartford as the greatest hot dog you can receive in the State of Connecticut.

Madam Speaker, Don’s commitment to the community of Windsor is unsurpassed. In political office, Don always sought to bring people together. He has the right temperament for public service and the ability to bring people together, as he did time and again, and why he was so successful at getting more than \$3 million to revitalize downtown Windsor.

I was always happy to work alongside of him. It has been his leadership throughout his career, his temerity, especially during difficult times and especially during COVID, where he was one of those chief elected officials who led by example, especially for small businesses, of which he was very much one of them. He was also a devoted fan of Social Security, and we had an opportunity to work on that and visit many senior centers.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to submit for the RECORD a tribute to Don Trinks, the mayor of Windsor for 22 years.

I commend Congresswoman JULIA LETLOW who came before the Committee on Ways and Means last week to discuss her concerns about WEP and GPO and Social Security. I look forward to working with her. I think there is an opportunity here, Madam Speaker, to recognize with more than 10,000 baby boomers a day becoming eligible for Social Security, with almost 70 million people who are currently receiving Social Security, and with more than 40 percent of them Social Security being their only form of retirement and pension, it is long overdue for the United States Congress to act.

It has been 52 years since Congress has enhanced Social Security. Madam Speaker, more than 5 million of our fellow Americans get below-poverty level checks from the government, and, of them, the majority are women, because they were the care providers and were at home with their children or caring for someone that was sick, and also because when they were in the workforce they weren’t making as much as their male counterparts.

There is no rational reason why these people in the wealthiest Nation in the world, who have worked all their lives

and paid into the system, gets below-poverty level checks, except for the fact that the United States Congress hasn't taken any action to correct this. It is long overdue.

With people like Julia coming in, Mr. Speaker, I know that there is a great opportunity for us to come together and succeed and make sure that all Americans know that Social Security is there for them.

This is not the time to talk about cutting their benefits. This is the time to talk about extending their benefits.

Yes, it is true that people are living longer, but for every year you raise the age of Social Security, that is a 7 percent cut. What sense does it make if you are living longer that you receive less Social Security money to live on? Of course, it does not.

RESTORE FISCAL SANITY

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the face of a looming government shutdown to discuss fiscal responsibility and the importance of returning to regular order in this Congress.

The government borrows too much money and the government spends too much money. The Biden administration and Congressional Democrats' spending addiction has created massive inflation and caused our national debt to climb to nearly \$33 trillion. They prioritize spending that is out of touch with what Americans are asking for and are killing the economy in the process.

Republicans have offered real solutions to fix this mess. All the other side has offered is enthusiasm for more reckless behavior.

House Republicans remain committed to limiting future government spending, reclaiming unspent COVID relief money, eliminating burdensome regulations, and promoting pro-growth energy and economic policies.

We need to get government spending under control and get our economy back on track, and we need to protect both our national defense and Social Security and Medicare benefits for seniors while we do it.

What we are seeing now is President Biden and Washington Democrats' failure to negotiate, which regular order mandates and which Congress is based on. We can't keep going down this road.

In my commitment to the Big First, I promised to do everything I can to end Washington's spending addiction, balance the budget, grow the economy, curb inflation, secure the border, and lower taxes for individuals and small businesses.

We must restore fiscal sanity. Americans deserve to have their tax dollars used wisely. Giving the President endless, no-limit credit cards is no way to govern in a democracy.

Let's secure the border. Let's decrease our country's dependence on Communist China. Let's commit to reigning in government spending.

It is hard for me to imagine how anyone can love the open border so much, or love losing to China so much, or love \$200 billion of unaccounted for COVID relief dollars so much that they would be willing to shut down the Federal Government to keep the situation as-is.

If the other side would spend as much energy on funding the government as they do on their liberal wish list, we would have solved this problem long ago.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Speaker, we have 10 days until House Republicans force a catastrophic government shutdown; 10 days until the food assistance that nearly 50 million Americans rely on, including 6 million women and children, is put in jeopardy; 10 days until seniors struggling with the Social Security or Medicare issue can't get someone on the phone to get their benefit or to keep their coverage; 10 days until the loans small businesses depend on to pay their workers and keep their doors open are delayed for who knows how long.

□ 1045

Mr. Speaker, we have seen this train wreck before.

Republicans shut down the government for over a month in 2018 while they demanded billions in taxpayer funds for Donald Trump's border wall, the same one that Mexico was supposed to pay for.

That shutdown lasted 35 days, hurting families and reducing our economic output by \$11 billion, much of which was never recovered. It only ended after planes were grounded at major airports due to the strain on air traffic controllers, who were working around the clock with no pay to avert a major disaster.

Here we are again. It is Republican shutdown *deja vu*. Extreme MAGA Republicans are once again holding the American people hostage in exchange for dangerous policies and a politically motivated impeachment.

You don't have to take my word for it. Just listen to the demands from my colleagues across the aisle. One of our colleagues, a Congresswoman from Georgia, tweeted that she would not vote to fund the government if Congress doesn't pursue an impeachment inquiry against President Biden. Others are trying to roll back abortion protections for women serving in our military regardless of where they are stationed.

To pretty much no one's surprise, Speaker MCCARTHY has folded like a

cheap suit on every single one of their demands. That still hasn't been enough to get Republicans on board with this new plan, a breakthrough that would slash funding for the home heating assistance that thousands of families in my home State of Massachusetts depend on each winter; eliminate access to Head Start and childcare programs for nearly 200,000 children nationwide; and cut off access to housing vouchers for 20,000 veterans and 90,000 seniors, pushing them closer to homelessness.

This deal hashed out by Republicans for Republicans was a disaster from the start, and the fact that it fell apart even quicker than it came together is embarrassing for the majority of this Chamber.

It is amateur hour, but the stakes are too high, and the American people deserve better.

Mr. Speaker, there are 212 Democrats standing by whenever your party is ready to get serious and do what needs to be done. There are 212 votes standing by to keep our government open, to keep veterans housed, to keep our children fed.

I encourage Speaker MCCARTHY and my colleagues across the aisle to avert this disaster before it is too late. Put a clean funding package on the floor, and let's pass it together.

That is our job. It is your job, and the American people expect you to do it.

ENACT STRICTER SENTENCES FOR CHILD TRAFFICKERS

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to share the introduction of my bill, the CHILD Act of 2023.

This bill seeks to amend chapter 77, section 1591 of title 18, United States Code, by raising the mandatory minimum years of imprisonment for engaging in the trafficking of any person under the age of 18.

The current law states that if convicted of trafficking a victim under the age of 14, there is a minimum of 15 years imprisonment. If convicted of trafficking a victim between the ages of 14 and 17, the minimum sentence is 10 years imprisonment.

Child sex trafficking remains a pressing issue in the United States. In 2021, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children received over 17,200 reports of child sex trafficking in all 50 U.S. States, affecting every type of community, including cities, rural areas, and Tribal land.

According to an NCMEC report from 2021, out of the 25,000 missing runaway children, 1 out of 6 are likely to be victims of sex trafficking.

Offenders often target vulnerable children who are of lower income, live in dangerous circumstances, and seek out better lives for themselves. Victims come from all backgrounds and become trapped in a never-ending cycle

of threats, abuse, false promises, isolation, shame, and debt.

These victims are deprived of something every child deserves—a future.

If enacted, this legislation would make the sentence for traffickers exploiting victims under the age of 18 the same regardless of their age. A child is still a minor, and there should be no differentiation at all.

It would also increase the minimum sentence to 25 years for those who are convicted of child trafficking. This will convey the serious nature of their crime and ensure that traffickers know that they will be punished if they continue to exploit minors.

By enacting more stringent penalties, this bill aims to bring justice for the victims and families affected by child trafficking and issues a strong statement to traffickers, who leave a lifetime of scars on innocent children.

My message is clear: Sex trafficking is a heinous crime that will not be tolerated.

Current laws are too soft on these criminals, and I am committed to ensuring stricter laws and harsher punishments to anyone who harms innocent children.

Lastly, I urge my colleagues in Congress to support this crucial piece of legislation to protect all children.

I also thank my co-leads—Congressman DON DAVIS, Congressman BUDDY CARTER, Congresswoman DIANA HARSHBARGER, Congressman DON BACON, and Congresswoman AMATA RADEWAGEN—for cosponsoring the CHILD Act of 2023.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 51 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

Lord of all the Earth, be exalted in the nations. In the cacophony of the crises we face this day, may we stand still and wait on You to speak into the whirlwind that surrounds us on all sides.

In the complexity that is the war in Ukraine and in conflicts across the globe, let not the discord of our disagreement or the ardor of our opinion prevent us from hearing Your demand for peace and justice.

In the impasse of political processes, let not the storms of dispute deafen our

ears to Your direction, but may we yield ourselves to Your guidance in the deliberations that are laid before us in this season.

We need only to look to You and see what You, O Lord, have done in ages past. You have made wars to cease to the ends of the Earth. You have broken the bow and shattered the spear.

Lord Almighty, remain with us. May we learn to trust in You, O God, that You would be our guide and stay in these days of strife. Cause us, then, this day to be still and know that You are God.

In Your sovereign name, we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. OGLES 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.

PRICE TRANSPARENCY FOR PATIENTS

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, each year, Americans attend nearly 1 billion medical appointments and emergency room visits and quite often are unaware of how much their treatments will cost until after their appointment has ended.

Now, the House has a chance to pass bipartisan legislation to address this issue and to stand up for our patients.

The Lower Costs, More Transparency Act would immediately benefit patients by providing clear price transparency for medical procedures, allowing patients the flexibility to choose where they will receive their care.

This bill includes legislation that I authored to provide funding for community health centers, which provides care to over 30 million Americans nationwide. From pediatric checkups to dentistry, rural communities rely on these health centers to meet their daily medical needs.

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

NDAA MOTION TO INSTRUCT

(Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, a handful of issues have always transcended politics. Our troops, the guardians of our freedom, have always been one of them, but in the MAGA Republican Party, nothing is off the table. Nothing takes priority over their goal of a nationwide abortion ban.

Military promotions, troops' paychecks, our national defense bill: all held hostage because extremists want to tear away the reproductive freedom of the very people fighting for our freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues: Put our country first and instruct the conferees to deliver a defense bill that puts freedom over fascism.

MYTHS ABOUT U.S. AID TO UKRAINE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this month, Luke Coffey of the Hudson Institute addressed "The Top Myths about US Aid to Ukraine," revealing: "Every dollar spent in support of Ukraine is authorized by Congress and used for a specific purpose."

"As of September 2023, the U.S. has provided Ukraine with \$101 billion, or about 0.43 percent of America's GDP."

"The vast majority of this money never leaves the U.S. and instead supports American jobs."

"There has likely never been more accountability in place for U.S. foreign assistance," with the U.S., "Ukraine Oversight Interagency Working Group. More than 160 officials across 20 Federal oversight agencies monitor U.S. aid to Ukraine."

"According to the Kiel Institute for the World Economy's Ukraine aid tracker, total European commitments are now more than double those of the U.S."

"Russia is China's junior partner. A defeated Russia means a weaker China."

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said, "The security of the Indo-Pacific region cannot be separated from the European security."

I support the proven Republican policies of Barry Goldwater and Ronald Reagan of why not victory over dictators.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF DAVE ROWLEY

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

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable individual who has dedicated four decades of his life to the field of broadcasting, and in doing so, has become a cherished

voice for the people of Northern Chautauqua County.

I am proud to address this Chamber to celebrate the retirement of a true newsman, Dave Rowley. His long career in broadcasting is testament to his passion for storytelling and his dedication to keeping our community informed.

Dave has worn many hats over the years, from reporting to anchoring, producing, and hosting his radio show, "Viewpoint." Through his work, he has provided a space for meaningful conversations on the issues that matter most to the people of Chautauqua County.

As we celebrate Dave's retirement, we can't help but feel a sense of loss as very few journalists possess the same integrity and reliability he has always displayed.

His commitment to excellence, his passion for the truth, and his dedication to his community will be a lasting legacy for all that follow in his footsteps.

Dave Rowley's retirement may mark the end of an era, but it also marks the beginning of a new chapter in his life, and we wish him all the happiness and fulfillment in his next chapter.

STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH UNITED AUTO WORKERS

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

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with the nearly 150,000 United Auto Workers who are fighting for fair pay, better benefits, and safer working conditions.

These workers have built \$250 billion in profit for the Big Three automakers over the past decade, but they have been left behind. The Big Three CEOs, the big bosses, have increased by an estimated 40 percent in their compensation over the last 4 years, but workers over the last 4 years, 6 percent—a measly 6 percent.

To put that in perspective, Big Three corporate bosses, \$12,000 an hour. Those starting wages for the autoworkers, 18 bucks an hour.

This says it all. It should be fair, but this is unjust and unacceptable. Workers deserve a fair wage and benefits that reflect their hard work.

Mr. Speaker, we urge them to be supported.

RECOGNIZING PENNSYLVANIA'S MCCLURE BEAN SOUP FESTIVAL

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the McClure Bean Soup Festival. Over the weekend, I attended the 132nd McClure Bean Soup Festival in Snyder County, Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District.

This annual celebration started when Captain Michael Smith and several other surviving Civil War veterans wanted to host a reunion with other veterans, and it has now grown into a weeklong fair.

Supposedly, Captain Smith and his comrades basically had beans and some ham and, therefore, decided to provide bean soup for all their comrades who were attending that reunion. Today, this fair has vendors, rides, and games, but the biggest attraction is the bean soup.

Last year, volunteers made more than 30 kettles, and, yes, the recipe has stayed the same for more than 130 years.

Mr. Speaker, this weeklong festival is a staple in the Snyder County community. It is a unique way to remember the veterans of the Civil War while building memories within the community.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to next year's McClure Bean Soup Festival as well.

FAIRNESS AND DIGNITY FOR UAW

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

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, everyone should have the ability to work in safe conditions, receive competitive pay and benefits, and at the end of the day, be able to put food on the table.

America's hardworking families keep our country running, but right now a lot of families are finding they don't have the support they need. Auto-workers made concessions in 2008 to save the auto industry and new contracts have not been reinstated to help them recover from those cuts and keep up with the economic demands.

Meanwhile, auto company profits at Ford, General Motors, and Stellantis have skyrocketed 92 percent over the last 10 years, totaling \$250 billion. In 2023 alone, they are expected to profit more than \$32 billion. Despite their efforts, worker pay has only gone up 6 percent over the last 10 years.

Companies can and should do better because Americans deserve better. Workers deserve a fair deal. They aren't asking for the moon; they are asking for fairness and dignity.

LETTER TO ELON MUSK RE: TAIWAN

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

Mr. OGLE. Mr. Speaker, Elon Musk, someone generally known for promoting free speech and autonomy, falsely stated that Taiwan is an "integral part of China."

On a practical level, think about what that means for our efforts. We in Congress can promote Taiwan's participation in international organizations.

We can argue that Taiwan must have a seat at the table, but if we refuse or fail to confront the CCP on their falsification of the historical record, if we, as a Congress, can't confront the CCP with the truth, we are letting Xi Jinping dictate the terms of the debate. That is irresponsible and wrong.

Unfortunately, this wasn't the first time that Mr. Musk has spread misinformation about the relationship between the CCP, China, and Taiwan.

For Elon to spread the talking points of the CCP from a position of influence in the United States is unacceptable, which is why I am sending a letter to Elon Musk providing him with an accurate account of Taiwan's history and a clear message: Taiwan is not part of the People's Republic of China and their free will is not for sale.

□ 1215

RECOGNIZING REVEREND JAMES LAWSON'S 95TH BIRTHDAY

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

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 95th birthday of my friend, Reverend James Lawson, who for more than half a century has been a force for justice and worker rights.

As a minister and teacher of non-violent resistance, James Lawson was a leader of the civil rights movement and worked closely with Dr. Martin Luther King. Lawson led sit-ins, Freedom Rides, and strikes, including the historic 1968 Memphis sanitation strike, and he was a mentor to our beloved John Lewis.

In 1974, Reverend Lawson moved to Los Angeles, where he teaches non-violence at UCLA. His work orchestrating nonviolent sit-ins and civil disobedience helped improve working conditions for southern California hotel workers, generating a national movement for immigrant worker justice.

Reverend Lawson has been an inspiration to many as he continues the fight for freedom and justice.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Reverend Lawson a happy birthday.

SENATE MUST ACT ON IMMIGRATION CRISIS

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

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address America's immigration crisis.

For 29 months, encounters with illegal immigrants have been higher than the highest month in the Trump years.

While Washington Democrats continue to ignore the crisis, House Republicans continue to do everything we can in our power to enforce them.

Earlier this year, we passed H.R. 2, also known as the Secure the Border

Act. This bill helps finish the border wall, stops the Biden administration's open-border policies, and increases Border Patrol staffing.

This legislation awaits consideration in a Democratic-controlled Senate. It cannot wait any longer.

It is time for the Senate to take action. We cannot allow the Biden administration to dismantle the border wall. We cannot allow Secretary Mayorkas to circumvent or dismantle the successful remain in Mexico policy. We cannot continue to allow illegal immigrants to stream across our border illegally without regard for our national security.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the Senate to come together and support a commonsense plan like H.R. 2 to stem the humanitarian crisis on our southern border.

STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH UAW

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

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because labor is in the House, the people's House, as we stand with workers all across America who are on strike, especially our United Auto Workers, who are on the front lines right now.

As a daughter of labor, this is a powerful moment in history. Across the Nation, across sectors, American workers are tired of giving their lives for their jobs every single day and getting less in return. They are standing up, organizing, and demanding better pay, better conditions, and better benefits.

This movement is about people, about writers, actors, postal workers, and autoworkers who are paving the path for future generations and receiving just compensation.

This is the moment. I am proud to stand in solidarity with our United Auto Workers and every worker across America who is collectively bargaining for the pay, benefits, and conditions that they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my friends to stay strong and keep up the fight.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 704

Resolved, That the following named Member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY: Ms. Tlaib.

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

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 2670, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to instruct.

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

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Houlahan of Pennsylvania moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 2670 be instructed to disagree to section 716 of the House bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XXII, the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HOULAHAN) and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ROGERS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on this motion to instruct.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today because this House has a choice. We can either stand up for the rights of servicemembers and military families or we can allow the Republican-led House, and specifically the extreme faction of the Republican Conference, to continue their assault on reproductive freedoms.

For my Democratic colleagues and I, this choice is clear. We will fight. We will fight for the freedom of servicewomen and for their families, and I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to please do the same.

Many of our servicemembers joined the Armed Forces prior to the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* last June, and they did so with the understanding that they and their families would be treated with dignity and would receive comprehensive and high-quality healthcare services, regardless of where they were stationed—and, yes, that also includes access to abortion care.

Since *Roe* was overturned, servicemembers and their families have had access to travel and to leave if they need to seek reproductive healthcare, but unfortunately, that freedom is now being threatened today.

Mr. Speaker, today, for the very first time since 1973, 14 States have passed outright abortion bans. Seven more

have passed partial bans, and six more have tried but have been stopped by the courts.

Nearly 120,000 servicemembers are currently stationed in Texas. This is a State that has implemented a draconian anti-choice law and now has among the worst maternal health outcomes for women in the entire Nation. Our servicewomen deserve better.

This issue has been politicized, and it has been distorted. Outright lies have been spread by elected officials and by anti-abortion activists alike.

I will set the record straight. Here are the facts: Women in States with abortion bans are nearly three times more likely to die during pregnancy, during childbirth, or soon after giving birth. Let that sink in. We are stationing our women in uniform and their families in States where they are three times more likely to die during pregnancy.

No servicemember should have to accept a reality where they could literally die as a result of the anti-choice State law where they are stationed.

These are the conditions that our servicewomen and their military families have to consider when they decide to serve. Nearly half of servicemembers no longer have access to abortion care, and that is not counting even the members of their families, as well.

Our servicemembers signed up to serve our country with the understanding that one day they may have to make the ultimate sacrifice, the sacrifice of their life.

Let me remind the Chamber and those who are watching that we have an all-volunteer force. Again, I will repeat: We have an all-volunteer force.

As we look to recruit and retain the best fighters and the greatest minds that this Nation has to offer, we really cannot restrict the very freedoms that we ask women and men in uniform to potentially die for.

It is also important, as we talk, to go beyond the facts and figures and to share the personal and human impact of these anti-abortion laws and the choices we are facing here this week in this body.

In Texas, the second-largest State for Active-Duty servicemembers in our country, Amanda Zurawski was 18 weeks pregnant when her water broke, putting her at a high risk for developing a life-threatening infection. Doctors told Amanda that her life was in danger and that the fetus was going to die, but doctors could not provide the medical care that she needed because their hands were tied by Texas law.

Amanda eventually did develop sepsis and did eventually nearly die. Heartbreakingly, her ability to be and get pregnant in the future might be damaged, as well.

Amanda survived, and she survived to share this story about her harrowing experience to hopefully prevent others from having this experience, as well.

This story and the data that we have talked about today is why I am working with my colleagues, led by my dear

friend and fellow veteran, Congresswoman MIKIE SHERRILL, to try to codify this basic travel policy.

This body decided that women cannot be trusted to make their own reproductive healthcare choices, and instead, the majority in this House has decided to make it harder for servicewomen and their families to access care; to make it harder for them to make their own healthcare choices; to make it harder for servicewomen and military families to decide on their own if, when, and how to start their own families.

Also, a single United States Senator is holding up more than 300 military promotions and counting, hollowing out the military leadership and hurting our military readiness in the process. He is doing this all because he is that adamant that women in uniform cannot be trusted.

As a veteran myself, let me say out loud and clear that his actions are a disgrace, and Americans agree.

Again, more data: 70 percent of our constituents believe that women should have access to abortion care.

Mr. Speaker, the grave concerns I have outlined don't even begin to scratch the surface of all the harmful amendments that are also tacked on to this bill. Quite frankly, it is an embarrassment to this institution that our governance is just so fractured, so unable to agree on something so simple as letting a woman in uniform make the best care decisions for her family, her career, and herself.

Sadly, this is indicative of where we are today. I grew up in a military family, and I myself served. My parents didn't always agree on politics, but they shared a common love for the promises that this Nation offered my father, a refugee and Holocaust survivor who became a Navy aviator.

I have colleagues on the other side of this aisle with whom I work and respect, which is why I am deeply saddened to see a bipartisan bill that has endured for 60 years fall victim to this kind of partisan politics because the bipartisan bill that we passed originally out of committee by 58-1 is literally no longer recognizable.

Today, Mr. Speaker, is about choice, choice in more ways than one. We can either let this far-right minority continue to hold our national security hostage to their radical agenda, or we can refuse to allow them to play politics with our national security and with the health and well-being of our servicemembers.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this motion to instruct. This motion seeks to strip language in the House bill that prohibits the Department of Defense from spending taxpayer money to facilitate abortion procedures.

DOD's abortion travel policy is a flagrant violation of Congress' intent and our Nation's moral principles.

This is all part of the Biden administration's politicization of the military.

For years, Biden's political appointees have been pushing questionable policies on our troops just to satisfy their ideological agenda. They understand that using military orders is the most efficient way to usher in the rapid social change that they seek.

The military should not be used as a petri dish for social experimentation. This is not the right thing to do. Our troops should not be used as the vanguard for the left's social agenda.

The civilian leadership at DOD should be focused on building the world's most lethal fighting force. Instead, they are doing somersaults to try to satisfy the far-left's political agenda.

This misguided abortion travel policy is just another example. It is a radical overreaction to a problem that doesn't exist.

Secretary Austin said that the policy was necessary to avoid significant implications for the readiness of the force, but in the 6 months since this began, there have been less than a handful of people who have exercised this policy.

Rather than helping readiness, radical policies like this one are undermining readiness. They are driving away potential recruits, and they are undermining morale and retention. It needs to end.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to oppose this motion, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1230

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

Just before I introduce our next person, I want to emphasize that this is not a new policy. The DOD is not simply creating a new policy out of thin air. The DOD is, in fact, using precedent from the nonavailability of care and simply allowing women with reproductive health service needs to be able to have effective travel and reimbursement for said travel. Again, this is not a new policy, and it simply updates a policy that allows for travel reimbursement to ensure that we have equal access to healthcare.

Thankfully, we have a President in Joe Biden who is responsive to the needs of our military servicemembers and who supports this effort.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. McCOLLUM).

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania for the time.

Hopefully, at some point on this floor, we will be able to debate the Defense appropriations bill. That bill and this bill that we have the motion on, the NDAA, have extreme social policy riders that make bipartisan cooperation just impossible.

The restricting rider that we are focusing on today is in both bills, and it stops servicemembers, civilians, and dependents from seeking basic reproductive healthcare. As the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania pointed out, when certain care is not available where a person is stationed, they have the flexibility of going to seek out that healthcare. The DOD's current policy is totally under Federal law and is totally legal.

Another misnomer that I hear quite often sometimes is it is undermining the Hyde amendment. Well, it doesn't do that either. The Hyde amendment allows for abortion services in certain circumstances. This would be a ban if a woman was stationed at a military post where we don't even offer obstetrics and gynecology, where she would have to seek care in another State, and many of these States have limited and put so many restrictions in place that the doctors are fearful of performing even procedures after miscarriage or the procedures that were pointed out with the woman in Texas. They have to go someplace else to receive the service, even services that are provided under the Hyde amendment.

Make no mistake, I don't support the Hyde amendment, but that is the least we should be able to do.

As has been pointed out, nearly 20 percent of the people who serve in our military are women, 80,000 of them are in States that restrict abortions, and our troops don't get to choose where they are stationed.

We need to make sure that our servicewomen are not treated as second-class citizens and that they have full access to their reproductive rights. In the past and in the future, women have faced barriers to reach their full potential. Let's not put up another barrier.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. JACKSON), an outstanding member of the Armed Services Committee.

Mr. JACKSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman ROGERS for his outstanding leadership in crafting the strongest defense bill I have seen during my time in Congress.

Year after year, the chairman assures us that we are going to have a strong NDAA that we can be proud of back home, and this year is no different.

In July, this body passed the NDAA on a bipartisan basis to provide our warfighters with the resources and the authorities they need to provide for the defense of our Nation.

As a former Navy rear admiral, I know the vital role this legislation plays in our national security. Not only does this NDAA ensure that we have the weapons systems and equipment that our servicemembers need, it makes needed course corrections to restore the military's focus on fighting and winning wars.

This bill ensures that our military is laser focused on confronting the most

pressing national security threats that our Nation faces.

However, now, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have chosen to come to the floor and are seeking to inject politics back into our military by overturning the Jackson-Roy amendment that was adopted on a bipartisan basis to end the Department of Defense's illegal and immoral abortion policy.

After the Supreme Court's historic decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the Biden administration made their intention clear that they would work to sidestep the law however possible.

The Biden administration has pulled every lever within the Federal Government and encouraged Federal agencies to create rules and adopt policies that not only expand abortion access but also leave American taxpayers on the hook to subsidize abortion services.

Not even the Department of Defense was spared from the Biden administration's efforts. In October of last year, the Secretary of Defense released a memo titled: "Ensuring Access to Reproductive Health Care."

This memo outlined the steps to be taken by the Department to use taxpayer dollars to provide servicemembers and their dependents access to abortions and for providers to travel to different States to obtain the licensing required to perform such procedures.

In February of this year, the DOD enacted the policies outlined in the memo and became a completely unjustified and inappropriate participant in the war on life.

According to its illegal policy, the DOD can now reimburse travel expenses for servicemembers and their dependents who travel to obtain an abortion in another State and can also reimburse any associated fees for healthcare professionals seeking to be licensed in other States for the purpose of performing abortions, all, once again, on the taxpayers' dime.

Last year, immediately after the DOD started this unconstitutional process, Congressman ROY and I got to work to address this issue and ensure that we developed a bill to right this wrong.

I am so proud to stand on the House floor today and say that our provision mandating the DOD cease this insanity was successfully included in the House-passed version of the bill.

At the same time, Senator TUBERVILLE has bravely and steadfastly held the line in the Senate by placing a hold on all DOD senior leader nominations until the DOD complies with Federal law and ceases its abortion policies.

The DOD has complained that these holds harm national security, but the DOD has the ability to stop this immediately. All they have to do is rescind this illegal policy.

It has become clear to me that the Biden administration has purposely prioritized an illegal and highly political abortion policy over confirming

general and flag officers in our military.

This Biden-endorsed policy has nothing to do with strengthening our national security. Instead, this is just the latest example of the Biden administration pushing its radical and extreme pro-abortion agenda, ironically in the very agency responsible for defending American lives.

Regardless of your political or moral stance on abortion, this policy is in direct violation of Federal law, specifically section 1093 of title 10, U.S. Code, which restricts funds made available to the DOD from being used to perform abortions or for DOD facilities to be used for abortions.

No doubt my colleagues on the other side of the aisle will insist that taxpayer dollars are not directly funding these abortions, thereby rendering their policy legally sound. This is absolutely misleading, and they are lying to the American people.

While funds may not be going directly to the performance of the procedure, it has always been true that a restriction on funding for abortion is a restriction on funding for any cost used to promote or facilitate the abortion.

Funding travel and/or other costs for an abortion is, in fact, funding the abortion. There is no other reason for these travel expenses except to get an abortion. Therefore, providing financial support for the travel expenses relating to an abortion is a clear violation of laws that are already on the books.

The NDAA is meant to provide aid, support, and direction to the men and women charged with defending the security of this Nation. When necessary, it is also a mechanism through which we can bring the Department into compliance as needed.

Inclusion of the House's prohibition on the DOD's abortion policy in this year's NDAA is vital to bringing the Department into statutory compliance in accordance with our oversight function and refocusing the Department on its core mission of fighting and winning wars.

It stops here and it stops now. On this issue, I will never relent.

The days of the radical left ignoring the law and driving their social agenda in the military are done. I will absolutely not waver in my defense of the unborn or in my support of the rule of law.

I will do everything I can to ensure our military servicemembers can focus on their jobs and their families instead of being used to score political points for the Biden administration.

I appreciate the chairman's strong leadership in crafting this year's bill, and I look forward to the conference process where we will do everything in our power to maintain this vital provision.

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

Here are the facts: Not a single dollar is going toward paying for an abortion

under the current DOD travel policy, which only provides for leave and travel reimbursements for servicewomen who are forced to travel for their healthcare due to restrictive laws of the State that they are stationed in, in line with a very longstanding DOD policy that has always provided for travel and leave where specialized healthcare is not provided or allowed for.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN).

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call out the amendments that have been forced into the Pentagon budget over the past month-and-a-half.

When this Pentagon budget was voted on in our committee, it passed 58-1. I voted for it, as did many of my peers on this side of the aisle and the other side of the aisle.

When it left our committee, it became a wish list of the rightwing culture war agenda. If you take a 40,000-foot view of what is going on here, it becomes very clear. The other side of the aisle is not going to stop until there is a Federal ban on all abortions, in every State, in every circumstance. Our last speaker made it clear.

A bill that is typically bipartisan has now become a prisoner of this debate. Let's review the bidding.

We have seen the other side of the aisle put in unnecessary abortion restrictions in minor appropriations, in veterans' bills targeting female veterans. A single Senator is holding up 300 critical military nominations because servicemembers want to get leave to get the care that they need, and the NDAA in its current form is targeting servicewomen specifically.

Make no mistake, the United States should hear that in every place, in every possible window. The people on the other side of the aisle are going to continue their 50-year pledge to get rid of all abortions everywhere. They are open about that. While those of them who are in competitive elections may try to mealy-mouth what they have done for the past 20 years, we need to hear what they are telling us.

The other side of the aisle is taking national security issues hostage for their unrelenting fight on this issue so that no woman can have a right to an abortion if she has been raped, if she is the victim of incest, or for a simple miscarriage, which one out of three women in America have had.

I know the other side of the aisle is not listening on this issue. The American people need to hear it loud and clear. They want a Federal ban on abortion.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON), a great new member of the Armed Services Committee and a longtime champion of the unborn in America.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman ROGERS and Representative JACKSON for their important work on this really critical issue.

Mr. Speaker, historically, Americans have traditionally held the most positive view of the U.S. military among all of our institutions, but something changed last year. Right now, less than half of Americans now have a great deal of confidence and trust in the military.

You want to know why? The reason stated is because the military leadership has become overly politicized. They are addressing issues that don't have anything to do with our national defense.

The best example of that probably is Secretary Austin's policy of reimbursing travel expenses for servicemembers seeking an abortion.

The law is clear, as the chairman has stated. Title 10, section 1093, explicitly prohibits funds available to the DOD from being used to perform abortions.

The statute was drafted, passed, and signed into law by the people's duly elected representatives. This politicized Department of Defense has decided to create a workaround.

Thankfully, the House-passed NDAA will end this lawlessness. We have to stand for that. The House has spoken on the issue, and the House's position is very clear.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to defeat this motion to instruct.

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

We don't get to choose what our facts are. The chilling effect that is happening right now on recruiting is caused by a variety of things, but the number one reason, the number one contributing factor to a servicemember's decision to enlist or reenlist, is the support of their spouse.

If we are showing the entire country that we don't trust women and families to be in control of their own healthcare decisions, why would they encourage anyone in their family to reenlist or to enlist in the service at all.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. Crow).

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge the conferees to strike this truly abhorrent provision from the National Defense Authorization Act.

As several of my colleagues have pointed out, when this bill went out of committee, out of the Armed Services Committee, it passed with a very strong bipartisan 58-1 vote. Then extremists within the Republican Party got ahold of it and made floor amendments and put in poison pills, including this one, in the bill.

A couple of facts: Number one, no taxpayer money is going to provide abortions for servicemembers. The longstanding policy of the Department of Defense is we allow servicemembers to travel for necessary medical procedures and care when they can't get that care on a base or locally. That is longstanding policy. That is what we are talking about here today.

You have also heard a bunch of my colleagues get up today and say this has nothing to do with national de-

fense, that this is superfluous; nothing to do with the national defense of our country. Really?

We can spend money and buy all the best tanks and aircraft carriers and missiles that money can buy, but what actually makes us strong? It is our people. Our people are behind all of that. What undergirds people is the trust within a unit.

I served three combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. I can tell you, if you don't trust the person you are going to war with, it is all meaningless.

Are we really going to set up a system where our women servicemembers are second-class citizens within our units and undermine the very trust and integrity of those units? No, we should not and will not. I will stand against that.

Number two, we are suffering historic recruiting shortages in our military. Are we really going to send a message to our young women who want to stand up and serve our country and maybe give their lives, that they can't access the same care as their male counterparts?

□ 1245

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Ohio). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. CROW. Is that the message we want to send? No. You can't say you are for our national security and also support this measure. More than anything else, this is a moral argument.

I don't want to see yellow ribbons tied around trees, I don't want to see people thank people for their service, I don't want to see 10 percent discounts on coffee or meals if they are willing to support a policy that undermines the morality of this country and the ability of our young men and women to get the care they need and for our young servicewomen, in particular, to be treated equally.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I have one correction to make, that this is a new policy. This was not existing policy. It was announced on October 20 against the advice of the congressional leadership and finalized on February 16. They didn't just take existing policy and continue it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF), a great new freshman Member.

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, and I agree with my colleagues across the aisle: You cannot choose your own facts, and this is a moral discussion.

Abortion is not reproductive health. Abortion takes a life. There are two people involved in this issue, and one of them dies. This is not healthcare. This is not a political issue. It is a moral issue that our Nation needs to grapple with.

This motion must not pass.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from

California (Ms. PELOSI), former Speaker of the House.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding and for her leadership on this issue.

I commend the chair and ranking member of the Armed Services Committee for the legislation that came out of their committee 58-1, the bipartisanship to protect and defend, which is the oath of office that all of us take to serve in government; and also, though, to acknowledge that, on the floor of the House, these poisonous resolutions came forward and were added to the bill. I rise to move to instruct House conferees to honor our men and women in uniform by protecting their fundamental health freedom.

I was listening with interest and prayerfully, frankly, to the previous speaker, who just said that terminating a pregnancy is not a health issue. Well, for some people, it might be.

Do you believe in the Hyde amendment? I am not a fan of the Hyde amendment, but that is the law of the land. Under the Hyde amendment, if there is rape, incest, or the life of the mother is at risk, then that changes the dynamic in terms of public policy.

Now, suppose a family member has a situation where the life of the mother is at risk or a child of a servicemember is the victim of violence and rape in the community. Would you want that person to have their health needs met? If they are in a State that says absolutely not, then they would have to travel elsewhere to have their health needs met, in keeping with the Hyde amendment.

If you believe in the Hyde amendment, which I don't subscribe to, but many of you do, how can you deprive the life of a mother—whether it is a servicewoman herself or the spouse of a serviceperson, or child of a service-member—the ability to seek the healthcare that they need?

The NDAA has long been bipartisan. This year, House Republicans are now engaging in a version that would restrict servicemembers from receiving full reproductive rights.

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

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. PELOSI. This is disrespectful. Shame on those who play political games with the courageous people who would give their lives to save ours.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I share the sentiment of the most recent speaker. I think it is shameful that the DOD has been playing games with the troops in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER).

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman JACKSON for

working tirelessly to stop Joe Biden from using our military to fund abortions and his woke agenda. Throughout this year, we fought to incorporate an amendment into the Defense bill to protect the religious liberty of our servicemembers and prevent the Biden Pentagon from funding abortions.

The American people do not want the military paying for abortions. Biden's radical leftwing transformation of our military has created a recruitment and retention crisis which puts our military readiness in crisis.

I thank my colleagues in the House who have fought to keep our military from funding abortions. No taxpayer funds should ever be used to fund abortions, and I will continue to advocate for innocent life.

As the saying goes: "America is great because America is good." Abortion is evil, and we can never become advocates for killing innocent babies in the womb.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, just a reminder that President Biden knows personally what it means to support those in uniform and to keep the administration's promise to make sure that our servicemen and -women are protected as they serve us all.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH), the ranking member of the Armed Services Committee.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, just a couple quick points.

First of all, there is no legality issue here. This policy is clearly and unequivocally legal. As the quotes from the Hyde amendment said earlier, the Hyde amendment says that the government can't pay for an abortion or use their services for abortion.

The travel policy does not do either one of those things, so there is nothing illegal and nothing unconstitutional. This is a policy choice, and we have heard some very passionate arguments on both sides about what that policy choice should be.

Number one, let's put aside this ridiculous notion that this is illegal or unconstitutional. No. This is a perfectly legal policy that, on a policy ground, you disagree with.

Number two, in response to Chairman ROGERS' comment about this being a new policy, it is not really a new policy in the following sense: It has always been the policy of the Department of Defense that if you cannot get the healthcare that you need where you are at, they will pay to take you to where you can.

Now, prior to the Dobbs decision, that was not an issue when it came to reproductive services. The Dobbs decision changed that. The Biden administration didn't support the Dobbs decision and didn't make that happen.

Once that happened, servicemembers in many, many States were no longer able to get the reproductive healthcare that they needed or wanted where they were, so, therefore, the travel policy that has been a long-time existing pol-

icy then applied. It applied to servicemembers seeking reproductive healthcare that couldn't get it in the State where they were.

This is not a change in policy, and it is not illegal. It is a policy choice. As a number of speakers have mentioned, it is an important policy choice on the very recruitment issue. It will be harder to recruit women if they are not protected.

I think the former Speaker made an outstanding argument for why it is really important. Even if you don't believe in abortion, you have a miscarriage, you need these services that you cannot get, this is crucial to recruitment.

The last point on this is we keep hearing the military is not popular anymore because of Biden's woke policies, which is ridiculous. To the extent that the military has gone down in credibility, it is because so many people are running around trashing our military saying they are excessively woke.

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

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Our military is the best in the world. It is the best in the world today with those policies. Continuously undercutting and trashing our military as being weak and woke is hurting recruitment. I will grant you that. It is completely wrong, as are Senator TUBERVILLE's efforts to gut the military's ability to do its job because he disagrees with the policy.

We had a vote on it. President Biden got elected. He made his decision. Change the policy. Don't trash the military.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), a longtime champion of the unborn in America.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to instruct.

Let's be absolutely clear. Current Federal DOD law already permits taxpayer funding of abortion in cases of rape, incest, and to save the life of the mother, but the Biden DOD travel policy forces taxpayers to pay the transportation costs for military members and dependents to travel to procure an abortion for any reason whatsoever right up until the moment of birth.

Some States, like my State of New Jersey—and there are many others like it, like New York and California—have enacted extremist laws that legally sanction the killing of a baby for any reason whatsoever right up until the moment of birth. The Biden policy has no limits on gestational age, so it facilitates aborting babies through all 9 months.

There is nothing humane, Mr. Speaker, or benign about abortion. Abortion is not healthcare unless one construes the precious life of an unborn child

analogous to a tumor to be excised or a disease to be vanquished.

Dr. RONNY JACKSON's House-passed amendment to the NDAA overturns the DOD abortion travel policy.

Regrettably, the pro-abortion culture is truly a culture of denial. It continues to deny, devalue, and disrespect unborn children, both boys and girls.

We must recognize the breathtaking miracle of the newly created life of an unborn child and that women deserve better than abortion. We need to care for both. We need to love them both.

I do believe, Mr. Speaker, that future generations will someday look back on us and wonder how and why a society that bragged about its commitment to human rights could have legally sanctioned and aggressively promoted child beheadings, because they do behead the child during the process of a dismemberment abortion, as well as other dismemberment.

Abortion pills. How do they work? They literally starve the child to death. That is how they work. I work on global hunger and food insecurity issues in my district and throughout the country and world all the time. How does the abortion pill work? It starves the baby to death.

Please, Mr. Speaker, I call on my colleagues to not force taxpayers to facilitate abortion on demand.

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand here beside my women colleagues in support of this very important motion. As they have shared, we have an essential duty to protect the rights of our servicemembers, their reproductive rights. We protect the decisions that they must be able to make about their own body.

When servicemembers volunteer, they know that they will be making sacrifices. They know that they will have to follow orders. They know that they will have to take on hard missions and do whatever is necessary to defend our country. One thing they did not sign up for is to sacrifice their fundamental medical care and their fundamental rights to their own body.

Access to medical care has a direct impact on military readiness. I am very surprised to find that the very people that are claiming to care about our military's capability and readiness are pushing policies which will actively degrade our fighting forces.

Denying access to medical care sends a loud and clear message to every woman in the military now and to every other woman that may want to join the military; that is, your reproductive rights will not be honored or will not even exist should you join the military.

That is a message that will be sent to 18 percent of the women who make up our military today, and it will send the same message to every other woman who might want to join the military in the future.

The policies that are in this bill will chase women away from what they want; that is, to patriotically serve our country in the military. It is the wrong message.

This particular instruction should pass this House if we care about the readiness of our military.

□ 1300

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Alabama has 18 minutes remaining.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FALLON), an outstanding member of the Armed Services Committee.

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I have heard a lot of claims, some of them very hyperbolic and some of which I would classify as drivel from some of the prior speakers.

It is one thing to disagree, but we should at least be truthful. Let's look at the amendment itself, section 716, lines 9 through 14: The Department of Defense may not use any funds for abortions except where the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were carried to term or in a case where the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest.

Let's be truthful, Mr. Speaker. At least we are making some progress. Some of the Members, our friends across the aisle, have actually used the term "woman" instead of "birthing person." That is something that has, I think at least for me, given me some hope.

The question before us is a simple one: Are we a rule of law nation or not?

Secretary Austin's decision to pay servicemembers to pursue abortions is a clear violation of current law, the Hyde amendment.

We are hearing "necessary healthcare." Is it necessary healthcare, or is it an elective abortion? Necessary healthcare in the case of, let's say, rape is already covered under the Hyde amendment.

Don't paint us with some wide brush to say that we want to take that right away. I would submit that many Republicans want to protect women that have been impregnated because of rape.

That is absurd, and it really is very unfair.

Is the DOD complying with Federal law right now or not? This policy does it by prohibiting funding. The NDAA is simply ensuring we maintain the protections that are already enshrined in current law.

Again, it is one thing to disagree, but to make these hyperbolic, untrue claims doesn't serve the purposes of a spirited exchange of ideas or an honest debate.

Secretary Austin, if you want to be honest, is playing politics. If he would simply follow the law, 300 general and flag officers would get the promotions that they are due.

The only people who are jeopardizing readiness right now are Secretary Austin and President Biden and his administration.

Our bill puts an end to this nonsense once and for all. I support the amendment.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Pennsylvania has 8 minutes remaining.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOULTON).

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues often blame the military's current recruitment crisis on DEI initiatives. They say the military is becoming too woke and that it is driving away recruits.

The only problem with that is that the survey data we have actually says the exact opposite. It says that what recruits are concerned about is being welcomed into an organization that will accept who they are.

With this anti-abortion policy, Republicans are effectively telling 50 percent of America and 20 percent of our current fighting force: You are not welcome here because of who you are.

If you are a White guy, you are probably fine. If you are a woman, sorry, you are a second-class citizen. You don't have the healthcare options that the rest of us have.

It is no wonder that every branch except the Marine Corps is struggling to meet recruitment goals.

Instead of seriously focusing on how we deter a war with China, we are having politically motivated debates in this Chamber over a woman's private healthcare decisions.

What my Republican colleagues won't say is that the DOD's abortion travel policy does not even pay for this medical care. It doesn't even pay for it. It simply allows a woman who has put her life on the line for our country the necessary leave if she is stationed in a State where abortions are not available.

I voted against the NDAA because it doesn't support our servicemembers. It makes them political pawns. It is a slap in the face to every woman who serves or might consider it in the future. We need to treat women with the respect they deserve for serving our country.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. HOUCHIN).

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, let me start by saying killing a baby is not healthcare if it is done in an elective abortion. Clearly, the Hyde amendment gives exceptions for life of the mother, rape, and incest.

Mr. Speaker, we shouldn't really have to be here talking about this issue today, but we are. The amendment we are speaking in support of today would repeal the Department of Defense's policy that facilitates elective abortion at

taxpayers' expense. Whether those funds are for travel or any other purpose related to abortion, they are illegal.

Mr. Speaker, it seems pretty cut and dry to me and many of my colleagues that what the Department of Defense is doing now is not in line with longstanding and current law, according to the Hyde amendment.

While the administration might disagree with the Supreme Court's decision with respect to Dobbs, that does not give them the right to circumvent the law. Taxpayer funds should not be spent on elective abortion, period.

Republicans are not the ones polarizing this country or injecting wokeness and politics into the institutions entrusted with our defense. It is quite the contrary.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Indiana.

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, what we are trying to do is strip those things out of the Department of Defense and return them to their sacred duty of defending the country.

I voted in support of this amendment during the House consideration of the NDAA because it was the right thing to do.

As the House just agreed to proceed in conference, I strongly encourage House conferees to advocate for its inclusion in the final product in conference.

This is an issue about the rule of law and pushing back on an administration that has demonstrated its appetite to ignore it.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the Armed Services Committee for his leadership as we head into conference.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD), a great member of the Armed Services Committee.

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, today, I stand with my colleagues to oppose the motion to obstruct and to repeal facilitating abortions funded by the Department of Defense and, in effect, taxpayers.

Following the Supreme Court's landmark Dobbs decision, the Biden administration sought ways to bypass the ruling. They have encouraged Federal agencies to not only expand abortion access but also to burden American taxpayers with the cost.

Last October, the Secretary of Defense released a memo titled: "Ensuring Access to Reproductive Health Care." Let's get something straight, Mr. Speaker. There is nothing reproductive about abortion. Abortion ends a life. It does not reproduce.

This memo paves the way for taxpayer money to facilitate abortion for servicemembers and their dependents. It even allows for the reimbursement of

travel expenses for those seeking abortions in another State. Taxpayer funds for the DOD are meant for national defense, not to further a pro-abortion agenda.

Let me be clear, Mr. Speaker. We believe in life-affirming care for the mother and the baby that God is growing inside of her, but we also believe that the government in no way, no shape, and no form should be paying to facilitate ending that life.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to back this amendment and defeat the motion to obstruct. Let's save some lives.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. VAN DUYNE).

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this motion, although I will admit that it is very nice to hear my Democrat colleagues are finally concerned with military recruitment.

I wish they were worried about military recruitment when they were voting to kick out of the military members who didn't want to get the jab or when they were voting to support the botched Afghanistan withdrawal that led to so many unnecessary deaths.

They seem to have already changed the recruitment videos from "Be All You Can Be" to come and get an abortion. How proud they must be.

This is no more than a Federal power grab usurping State laws that were legally and constitutionally created by State legislators elected by a majority of voters from each State.

This is a Federal power grab by a party intent on forcing its radical political agenda down the throats of Americans, who overwhelmingly don't want it.

As President Biden and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle know, the Hyde amendment, which President Biden supported for decades, explicitly prohibits Federal dollars from being used for taxpayer-funded abortions. Nearly 60 percent of Americans agree that taxpayer dollars should not be used to fund abortions.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. BOEBERT).

Mrs. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose the motion to instruct conferees to not include Representative RONNY JACKSON's amendment in the fiscal year 2024 NDAA.

This policy is a gross misuse of taxpayer dollars to circumvent State laws and violates the decades-old, bipartisan Hyde amendment.

It is clear that Joe Biden and Lloyd Austin's Department of Defense is more focused on appeasing the woke mob of pink-hat-wearing feminists than focusing on keeping our Nation safe.

This is the same DOD that surrendered to the Taliban, costing the lives

of 13 brave servicemembers. This is the same DOD treating our military like a woke social experiment. This is the same DOD the House will vote to fund later this week.

The Department of Defense should be focused on readiness and lethality, not spending taxpayer dollars to kill the lives of innocent, unborn babies.

We are not going to give up on this cause that is righteous, and we are not going to stop fighting to give voice to the voiceless.

Since Roe v. Wade in 1973, over 63 million lives have been lost to abortion. I personally have held a newborn baby born at 23 weeks old, 1 pound, 8 ounces. I know that her life has just the same worth and value as any one of us standing here today.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague, Congressman RONNY JACKSON, for his leadership in restoring our military focus and protecting these precious unborn lives.

I am proud to stand with my colleagues in defense of these children, as well as with millions of Americans across our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose this motion to instruct.

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

I would like very much, Mr. Speaker, if I could ask you to ask my colleagues to not presume to judge who I am.

I stand here as a woman who has worn the uniform, who has given birth while wearing the uniform. To have assumptions about who I am or what I am and to judge me or any of my other colleagues who have worn the uniform is an offense to me, and I would ask that you advise them not to presume anything about me.

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

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, this provision protects life and restores sanity to the Department of Defense.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to oppose the motion, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, a far-right minority in Congress has spent the last 9 months holding this process, this NDAA, hostage—again, a reminder that this passed with overwhelming bipartisan support. They are currently struggling to even pass a rule for Defense appropriations, let alone to pass the budget itself.

They have gone through attacks on servicewomen, on LGBTQ servicemembers, on immigrant servicemembers, and so much more. Their allies in the Senate are risking our military readiness with asinine confirmation holds and ignoring the repeated requests of our most senior military members to stop.

Time and time again, they have used must-pass, historically bipartisan legislation such as the NDAA to force an extreme agenda on our servicemembers and many others in our country.

As an Air Force veteran and as a proud military child who lived and served across this great country and in many other places outside of this country, I did so with the full protections of Roe v. Wade.

It not only saddens me but also pains me to think that we would give servicewomen orders without the full reproductive freedoms and protections that I had when I was able to serve.

□ 1315

Today, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to choose to be on the side of our servicemembers, military families, and all Americans who love and support them by supporting this motion to instruct.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas). All time for debate has expired.

Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to instruct.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct.

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

Ms. HOULAHAN. 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 will be postponed.

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

□ 1350

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BABIN) at 1 o'clock and 50 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:

Motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 2670; and

Motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1530, 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.

Eshoo Kiley Pettersen Watson Coleman Wild Wittman
 Espaillat Kilmer Pfleuger Weber (TX) Williams (GA) Womack
 Estes Kim (CA) Phillips Webster (FL) Williams (NY) Yakym
 Evans Kim (NJ) Pingree Wenstrup Williams (TX) Zinke
 Ezell Krishnamoorthi Pocan Westerman Wilson (FL)
 Fallon Kuster Porter Wexton Wilson (SC)
 Feenstra Kustoff Posey
 Ferguson LaHood Pressley
 Finstad LaLota Quigley
 Fischbach LaMalfa Ramirez
 Fitzgerald Lamborn Raskin
 Fitzpatrick Landsman Reschenthaler
 Fleischmann Langworthy Rodgers (WA)
 Fletcher Larsen (WA) Rogers (AL)
 Flood Larson (CT) Rogers (KY)
 Foster Latta Rose
 Foushee LaTurner Ross
 Foxx Lawler Rouzer Roy
 Frankel, Lois Lee (CA) Ruiz
 Franklin, C. Lee (FL) Ruppersberger
 Scott Lee (NV) Rutherford
 Frost Lee (PA) Leger Fernandez
 Fry Lesko Ryan
 Fulcher Letlow Salazar
 Gallagher Levin Salinas
 Gallego Lieu Sanchez
 Garamendi Lofgren Santos
 Garbarino Loudermilk Sarbanes
 Garcia (IL) Luetkemeyer Scanlon
 Garcia (TX) Garcia, Mike Luttrell Schakowsky
 Garcia, Robert Lynch Schiff
 Gimenez Mace Schneider
 Golden (ME) Magaziner Scholten
 Goldman (NY) Malliotakis Schrier
 Gomez Mann Schweikert
 Gonzales, Tony Manning Scott (VA)
 Gonzalez, Vicente Massie Scott, Austin
 Good (VA) Mast Scott, David
 Gooden (TX) Matsui Self
 Gosar McBath Sessions
 Gottheimer McCarthy Sewell
 Granger McClain Sherman
 Graves (LA) McClellan Sherrill
 Graves (MO) McClintock Simpson
 Green (TN) McCollum Slotkin
 Green, Al (TX) McCormick Smith (MO)
 Greene (GA) McGarvey Smith (NE)
 Griffith McGovern Smith (NJ)
 Grijalva McHenry Smith (WA)
 Grothman Meeks Smucker
 Guest Menendez Sorensen
 Guthrie Meng Soto
 Hagedorn Meuser Spanberger
 Harder (CA) Mfume Spartz
 Harris Miller (IL) Stansbury
 Harshbarger Miller (OH) Stanton
 Hayes Miller (WV) Stauber
 Hern Miller-Meeks Steel
 Higgins (LA) Mills Stefanik
 Higgins (NY) Molinaro Steil
 Hill Moolenaar Steube
 Himes Mooney Stevens
 Hinson Moore (AL) Strickland
 Horsford Moore (UT) Strong
 Houchin Moore (WI) Swalwell
 Houlahan Moran Sykes
 Hoyer Morelle Takano
 Hoyle (OR) Moskowitz Tenney
 Hudson Moulton Thanedar
 Huffman Mrvan Thompson (CA)
 Huizenga Mulin Thompson (MS)
 Issa Murphy Tiffany
 Ivey Nadier Timmons
 Jackson (IL) Napolitano Titus
 Jackson (NC) Neal Tlaib
 Jackson (TX) Neguse Tokuda
 Jackson Lee Nehls Tonko
 Jacobs Newhouse Torres (CA)
 James Nickel Torres (NY)
 Jayapal Norcross Trahan
 Jeffries Nunez (IA) Trone
 Johnson (GA) Obernolte Turner
 Johnson (LA) Ocasio-Cortez Underwood
 Johnson (OH) Ogles Valadao
 Johnson (SD) Omar Van Drew
 Jordan Owens Van Duyne
 Joyce (OH) Pallone Van Orden
 Joyce (PA) Palmer Vargas
 Kamlager-Dove Panetta Vasquez
 Kean (NJ) Pappas Veasey
 Keating Pascrell Velázquez
 Kelly (IL) Payne Wagner
 Kelly (MS) Pelosi Walberg
 Kelly (PA) Pence Waltz
 Khanna Perez Wasserman
 Kiggans (VA) Perry Schultz
 Kildee Peters Waters

Watson Coleman Wild Wittman
 Weber (TX) Williams (GA) Womack
 Webster (FL) Williams (NY) Yakym
 Wenstrup Williams (TX) Zinke
 Westerman Wilson (FL)
 Wexton Wilson (SC)
 NOT VOTING—10
 Adams Kaptur Peltola
 Cole Lucas Scalise
 Gaetz Luna
 Hunt Norman

□ 1427

Messrs. ROY and PERRY changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 401.

WOUNDED KNEE MASSACRE MEMORIAL AND SACRED SITE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 3371) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to complete all actions necessary for certain land to be held in restricted fee status by the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, 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 Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) 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.

AUTHORIZING FULLY ELECTRONIC STAMPS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 2872) to amend the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 to allow States to issue electronic stamps under such Act, and for other purposes, 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 Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) 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.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 to allow the Secretary of the Interior to issue electronic stamps under such Act, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ELECTING THE SERGEANT AT ARMS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 705

Resolved, That William McFarland of the State of Maryland, be, and is hereby, chosen Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SWEARING IN OF THE SERGEANT AT ARMS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER. Will the Sergeant at Arms-designate please take the well.

The Chair will now swear in the Sergeant at Arms of the House.

The Sergeant at Arms-designate took the oath of office as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARTER of Georgia). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

HONORING CAPTAIN ELEANOR LEBEAU COOKE

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Eleanor LeBeau Cooke.

To friends and family, she was known as Ellie, the fifth of eight children of David and Victoria LeBeau. She graduated from Althoff Catholic High School in 2012 before attending Murray State University in Kentucky.

In 2018, she answered the call of service and joined the Marine Corps and became an Osprey pilot. It was in the Marines where she met her beloved husband, Chase.

Ellie received the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon. In March

of this year, she was promoted to captain.

Three weeks ago, Ellie lost her life in a V-22 Osprey crash on a training mission off the coast of Australia. Two of her fellow marines also passed away.

Her family and her home community in St. Clair County mourn her loss, as do countless other southern Illinoisans. She was special. As her obituary noted, "There was just something about Ellie."

Our prayers go out to Chase and to the entire LeBeau and Cooke families at this very difficult time.

Semper Fidelis, Captain Eleanor LeBeau Cooke. Your impact on our Nation will be remembered.

DANGEROUS BUDGET CUTS THREATEN COMMUNITIES

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the dangerous Republican budget cuts and how they will hurt American families, damage education, and threaten our communities.

They will force Border Patrol agencies to fire 800 agents and make our country less secure.

They will remove 40,000 teachers from classrooms and affect the education of 33.5 million students.

They will deny 55,000 American workers the money they earned on the job.

They will take 4,000 law enforcement officers off our streets and make our neighborhoods less safe.

In addition, these cuts will take food out of the mouths of millions of American children and seniors.

If they do not get their way, Republicans will shut down the government and hurt more Americans, including our veterans. Clearly, this behavior does not represent a party working for the American people.

RECOGNIZING MOBILIZE RECOVERY ACROSS GEORGIA

(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 recognize Mobilize Recovery Across Georgia for their work during National Recovery Month.

Mobilize Recovery Across Georgia is a traveling bus tour that is crossing the State of Georgia throughout the month of September to promote addiction recovery.

From 2019 to 2021, drug overdose deaths in Georgia increased by 55.9 percent. Over 800,000 Georgians are living in long-term recovery from a substance use disorder.

Georgia is simply a snapshot of a nationwide epidemic that affects countless lives, families, and communities each year.

This engaging and uplifting bus tour is designed to bring together Georgia

policymakers, local officials, and the 800,000 recovering Georgians.

I thank Mobilize Recovery Across Georgia for bringing Georgians together to celebrate recovery and for educating them on what resources are available to them.

WELCOMING THE WARREN COUNTY CHAMBER ALLIANCE TO THE CAPITOL

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

Mr. LANDSMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to officially welcome folks from the Warren County Chamber Alliance to the Capitol this week.

I am so proud to represent these folks here in Congress and so glad that they are here in Washington these past few days. These leaders are incredible advocates for our Warren County businesses and residents.

We have had a very productive time discussing our bipartisan policy work and how our office can help them in their work. They have great projects, from road updates to high-speed internet expansion to updating water lines. We hope to have over \$14 million coming back to southwest Ohio in this budget, which, when passed, will help ensure that these projects are fully funded.

Again, I am proud to officially recognize their visit to D.C. this week and look forward to continuing our work together.

STOPPING THE FLOW OF FENTANYL

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

Mr. MOONEY. Mr. Speaker, recently, I introduced my plan, H.R. 3190, to crack down on Mexico for its failure to stop the flood of fentanyl across our border.

The Mexican President continues to falsely state that fentanyl is not manufactured or consumed in his country, but the numbers do not lie. The DEA said in December that most of the fentanyl trafficked by the cartels is being mass-produced at secret factories in Mexico with chemicals sourced largely from China.

There were 14,000 pounds of the drug seized last year at the southern border. Fentanyl continues to pour across our border because of the disastrous open border policies of President Biden.

My plan will cut off U.S. taxpayer funding for economic aid to Mexico until President Biden certifies Mexico is working with the United States to secure its border and stop the inflow of fentanyl. Mexico should not be rewarded with U.S. taxpayer dollars while they are sending fentanyl across the border.

I call on my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation to hold Mexico accountable.

CONCERNS ABOUT A GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to speak on behalf of the many residents of eastern North Carolina who have expressed their deep concerns to me about a government shutdown.

I have listened, and many are tired of the division and chaos. Families across eastern North Carolina and America deserve better than uncertainty and anxiety. Let us work together to prevent a government shutdown.

To the people of North Carolina's First Congressional District, know that I remain committed to doing everything to avoid a shutdown.

□ 1445

ZERO OUT SECRETARY MAYORKAS' SALARY

(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, the Holman rule is a rule in the House of Representatives that allows amendments to appropriations bills that reduce the salary of Federal employees. It is a great mechanism for punishing Federal employees and public servants who fail the American people.

I can think of no greater failure than this administration allowing millions of illegal immigrants to pour over our southern and even northern borders. This mass illegal immigration, sometimes aided and abetted by the Biden administration, is an insult and a farce. From the language some of its proponents use, it seems as though it is being done out of pure spite.

It is supposed to be the job of the Department of Homeland Security to prevent illegal immigration in this country and deport those who violate this Nation's sovereignty. Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas has utterly failed his duty and stubbornly insists to Congress and Senate Republicans he has done nothing wrong.

I disagree. Secretary Mayorkas has done much wrong. What is worse is that, in fact, he could argue the border situation would be better if he had simply done nothing. When you see welded-open gates, when you see even the city of New York saying, Please make it stop, and they start shoving people into the border States, you know you have got a giant problem.

Maybe Secretary Mayorkas' salary would be better off under the Holman rule adjusted down to \$1 per year because that is even too much.

CONGRATULATING ALAN SMITH ON HIS WELL-DESERVED RETIREMENT

(Mr. DESAULNIER asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Alan Smith.

Throughout his career, Alan faithfully served his community and played a key role in supporting his local library system. When I was in local government, I was fortunate enough to appoint Alan to our local library commission, the Contra Costa Library Commission in the bay area. Through his decades of service with the library commission, he worked throughout the State of California, in addition to our community, conducting training sessions for library boards and commissions and advocating for our libraries.

Alan also served as the president of the California Association of Library Trustees and Commissioners and represented Contra Costa County on the Bay Area Library Information Systems Advisory Board. Alan was recognized for his leadership and received the California Library Association's President's Award.

As part of his service, Alan was a fierce advocate for legislative action to strengthen our Nation's public libraries.

Please join me in recognizing Alan Smith on his well-deserved retirement after 26 years of service to this Nation's libraries.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. CAROL HARTER

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

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Carol Harter, the first female and longest serving president in the history of the University of Las Vegas.

I was fortunate to teach at UNLV during her tenure, where I witnessed firsthand her dedication to higher education, her student-centered leadership style, and her passion for research and learning. She was a recognized scholar, an able administrator, and one tough lady.

Carol served as president from 1995 to 2006 during one of the university's most productive stages: creating 100 new programs, overseeing construction of 17 new buildings, and cofounding the internationally recognized Black Mountain Institute. It is in large part thanks to her that UNLV is a leading institution today.

My condolences to Carol's family and the entire UNLV community. We will remember her through the inimitable footprint she left on campus and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an article titled, "Let Her RECORD Prove Them Wrong."

LET HER RECORD PROVE THEM WRONG

President Emerita Carol C. Harter, who broke down barriers while building up UNLV's status as a research institution, passed away at age 82.

EDITOR'S NOTE

UNLV President Emerita Carol C. Harter has passed away Sept. 14, 2023, at age 82. She was UNLV's longest-serving president and steered the university through a period of rapid growth. Her work set the stage for its eventual rise as a top research institution. This story was originally published in September 2022.

Numerology insists that the number 711 is as lucky as luck can get. Carol C. Harter was UNLV's seventh president. Her tenure lasted 11 years. Do the math and you realize: Numerology nailed it. The president emerita was lucky for UNLV.

LEAVING A LASTING LEGACY

"In my very first speech I made to the faculty, I said, 'We need to be the kind of major urban university that UCLA, or the other great institutions are—because we can do that,'" recalls Harter, who guided UNLV's impressive growth during her 1995–2006 presidency.

That was an ambition the longest-serving UNLV president pursued aggressively, with impressive results. To thumbnail her list of accomplishments—not an easy task—consider just a partial legacy list:

Overseeing unprecedented growth, with the construction of 17 new buildings, including the Lied Library.

Creating 100-plus new degree programs—most notably those conferred by the School of Dental Medicine and the William S. Boyd School of Law, championing the creation of both.

Putting the university on the path toward a Carnegie-designated R1 research institution, a feat it would accomplish in 2018.

Making UNLV more student-centered and responsive to students' needs.

Spearheading funding to create the Greenspun College of Urban Affairs.

Spurring the Invent the Future campaign, at the time the most ambitious fundraising program in UNLV history.

Cofounding the international literary center, Beverly Rogers, Carol C. Harter Black Mountain Institute, which she continued to lead after departing the presidency.

Oh, and she also made history as the university's first female president, a milestone she built upon by promoting gender equality on campus and in the community, supporting the creation of the Women's Research Institute of Nevada.

"Just keep going—that's my number one piece of advice," Harter says she tells young women hoping to carve out academic administration careers similar to hers. "You know who you are, you're in a position where your education is likely to be at a high level, there's nothing you can't do. And don't let anybody stop you or say, 'That's not your job.'"

As she rose in her career, Harter often found herself the only woman in a room of executives. "You may feel uncomfortable," she says, "But, it's not a barrier."

A LOVE OF LITERATURE BLOOMS

No barriers deterred Harter, whose journey to the heights of academia began humbly in Brooklyn, N.Y., where she was born on June 1, 1941.

"We were not rich at all, we lived modestly in a little house," she says, fondly recalling the pleasures of a New York upbringing and a working-class life. "We would go to Jones Beach regularly, where I worked as a clerk, a cashier, and a lifeguard."

Harter's dad was a businessman who had earned a degree in finance from New York University, attending at night over many years.

"He hoped I would be interested in the business world one way or the other, which

in a way you are when you're a president of a university," she says. "You're running a major operation, it's a business life as well as an academic one. So, he was very proud of what I did."

Her mom, a typical homemaker of the period, took pleasure in her daughter's penchant for reading and creativity.

"She was just a darling thing," Harter says of her mother. "She was very supportive all the way and loved the artistic side of me and the literary side."

That literary side was apparent early on. First came a classic of young female readership: The Nancy Drew mysteries.

"I read every single one of them, one end to the other," says Harter, who later happily lost herself to serious literature via a collection purchased by her mom. "It was beautifully bound in gold and brown and green leather. I read Great Expectations and The Count of Monte Cristo and just many of the classic books that she had collected. I realized when I got to college that I had read many classics, that I had been educating myself."

Inspired by a high school teacher, Harter excelled in honors English classes, but also nursed an interest in chemistry, which might have forged her life's path—had she not been discouraged.

"When I went to what then was Harpur College (now Binghamton University) and tried to enroll as a chemistry major, the dean of students, who was a woman, said, 'You can't do that, women don't do chemistry, you have to do something else.'

"She shouldn't have discouraged me like that, she should have encouraged me, but I took her advice and enrolled as a literature major."

Still, Harter saw literature as more of an avocation than the launching pad for her eventual career until a faculty member urged her toward graduate studies, eventually earning her bachelor's, master's, and Ph.D in English and American literature.

Along her collegiate journey, she also met Mike—her husband of 61 years and counting—over a ping pong table in a campus rec room.

"I was dating a guy who liked to play, and I would beat him. And Mike was in that rec room watching and he said he wanted to play with me. And of course, he beat me," she recalls.

It was love at first serve, more or less. And who wouldn't trade a table tennis loss for a lifelong love? "That's for sure," she says. They married when she was 19.

THE ROAD TO ACADEMIA

Academia as a career commenced for Harter when she served as dean of students and vice president for administration at Ohio University, a move she chalks up to serendipity.

While she was working as a faculty member and a campus ombudsman, the new president sought her out to inquire about student and faculty grievances. After impressing him with her savviness and her ability to work effectively with students and professors, she rose in the administrative ranks.

Next came a position as the president of SUNY Geneseo. But after six years, job limitations caused her eyes to wander toward other opportunities.

"I felt a little trapped in it," she says, noting that the system's chancellor at the time didn't make distinctions among the state's institutions when budgets were handed out. "Being really good didn't have any effect on how much money you got in the budget. Feeling constrained, there wasn't really anything more I could do for the place without more money. We just started looking at

what kind of place is likely to be a place where we can use some creativity."

Enter a city on the other side of the country, one known for constant reinvention.

"It's weird when you're at Genesee as the president, a little upstate New York liberal arts school and you wind up in a major city that's just growing a major university. I tell you, that is a big move," Harter says. "I've been here 25 years and people still ask me, 'How the heck did Carol Harter wind up in Las Vegas?'"

Here's how the heck she did:

"Las Vegas was growing like crazy and the institution was very young and was in competition with Reno to get started. It just made it real attractive to me. It was just an aspirational kind of feeling that we could make something great out of UNLV. And I think it's happened. It's an attractive place for faculty and students, I think."

Not that her entrance into the campus community was easy. She had to get past resistance all-too-common to anyone breaking through a glass ceiling. Such issues would follow her throughout her tenure, but Harter was determined to let her record prove them wrong.

"Several of the exact people who resisted terribly at the beginning became good friends and supporters, who end up saying, 'This person is pretty good.' It helps a lot to strengthen the institution and the presidency."

Of all her storied accomplishments, she cites several that stand out, including UNLV's status as an R1 research institution.

"At that time (when she was named president), we were barely research two, I think we might have even been research three," she says. "It is research one now, which is great, a great accomplishment."

Also on the pride list: The launching of professional schools for law, dentistry, and architecture, as well as laying the groundwork for the eventual opening of the Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine.

"It took three years before I could persuade the (NSHE) Board of Regents and the chancellor, that the law school was something we should do," she says.

It is still the only law school in the state.

"The architecture program was there as a small program. We made it into a major school with its own faculty and its own facilities. And, we launched 50 graduate programs in my years there as president."

Such a fruitful career couldn't end with her presidency—and didn't. After leaving the administration, Harter, along with English professor Richard Wiley, cofounded the Black Mountain Institute, headquartered at UNLV, to promote literacy around the globe.

"When I knew I was leaving the presidency, I thought I could do it then. So did (Southern Nevada business titan) Glenn Schaeffer, who had been a real supporter of literary activity at UNLV," Harter says. "We felt there was no school in Nevada that really had a literary center that could be a shining light. He came to me and said, 'I will invest in it, if you can get something started that we can work on.'"

And that brought Carol Harter back to the young girl from Brooklyn who was first entranced by Nancy Drew mysteries. The passion has not dimmed, even as she relaxes at her and her husband's San Diego summer retreat, overlooking the sailboats gliding over Mission Bay.

"I'm in a book club," she says. "It's always a novel of one kind or another I read every day, and my husband does too, so we're readers together. I'm the same ol' person."

Carol Harter makes Las Vegas—and Brooklyn—justifiably proud.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SELF). 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 may 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, this week House Republicans will pass a resolution condemning the actions of New Mexico Governor, Michelle Lujan Grisham, a former Member of this body.

Late on a Friday night earlier this month, the Governor took action to suspend open carry and concealed firearms in her State. Yeah, you heard that right. She claimed so-called emergency powers to combat a public health crisis, she said, and on a whim, she attempted to restrict the Second Amendment rights of every law-abiding New Mexico resident, the citizens of her State, the citizens of this country.

Her action, of course, was overtly unconstitutional. It is functionally useless, and it will only divide Americans further. Someone with elementary-level knowledge of the Constitution would, of course, know this. Fortunately, New Mexico residents and law enforcement openly defied her order, and it was panned by lawmakers across the country, even some of our Democratic colleagues in this body.

Mr. Speaker, here is the interesting thing I wanted to note today: It is ironic that Attorney General Merrick Garland was here on the Hill and has been in the Judiciary Committee in an oversight hearing for the last several hours. He is America's top law enforcement officer in charge, of course, of our top law enforcement agency, the Department of Justice. One would think that this type of issue, this event in New Mexico, regardless of the politics, that is something the DOJ might intervene in, but they haven't.

Now, by principle, of course, we are conservatives, and we believe in less Federal Government intervention. The less the Federal Government is involved in State affairs, the better overall. But this is not the case. In this situation, the issue here is the DOJ's selective application of justice and its clear targeting of red States for passing laws that its duly elected Representatives voted for.

Think about these few examples.

In 2021, the DOJ sued the State of Georgia for passing election integrity reform. That suit failed, and Georgia had record voter turnout just a year later.

Months later, the DOJ sued the State of Texas over laws—your State, Mr. Speaker—passed to protect unborn children. The Supreme Court refused to intervene, and statistics show that abortions in Texas have plummeted, thankfully, as a result.

Earlier this year, the DOJ sued the State of Tennessee for a ban on child sex change procedures. The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals rejected the suit, and now it is State law.

The DOJ, Attorney General Garland in particular, has displayed a penchant for filing public lawsuits against red States for passing conservative policy through their democratically elected legislature. They do so with weak charges, based on unconstitutional arguments on cases they know they cannot win, but that is not the point. They have politicized the DOJ.

Here is the big question. Given those examples and the trend of this Department of Justice, why hasn't Merrick Garland hosted a press conference or announced a Federal lawsuit into the State of New Mexico for arbitrarily suspending the constitutional rights of its citizens?

I will tell you why. It is no secret. It is because New Mexico's action serves the Biden administration's stated political goals.

The DOJ will sue red States for passing conservative policy, while turning a blind eye to Democrat Governors who unilaterally curtail constitutional rights. They will put grandmothers behind bars for protesting abortion but refuse to prosecute violent offenders who actually attack the pro-life pregnancy centers. They will prosecute President Trump for allegedly mishandling classified documents, but they give President Biden a complete pass for even worse infractions.

When we say the DOJ has been weaponized, this is exactly what we are talking about, and this is what the American people see.

Mr. Speaker, today the House Judiciary Committee, as I mentioned, asked Attorney General Garland about these questions and many more. Right now, 65 percent of the American people have no faith in the Department of Justice. It is because of his leadership. He has eroded the rule of law. He has destroyed public trust in an essential American institution.

I used my time this morning, I was the first questioner on our side in Judiciary, and I asked the Attorney General about the DOJ's Hunter Biden investigation. This is a big question on the minds of my constituents and most of ours around the country.

I asked him plainly:

Have you had personal contact with anyone at FBI headquarters about the Hunter Biden investigation?"

His answer was, I don't recollect the answer to that question.

Really?

Okay. Let me get this straight, I told him, the Attorney General of the United States cannot remember if he discussed an FBI investigation into the son of the sitting President of the United States? That is your testimony under oath?

Yes, it is, he said.

It is extraordinary.

Mr. Speaker, frankly, we didn't expect full transparency today from this Attorney General. He and his top DOJ lieutenants have shown us, they have demonstrated over and over that they hold no regard for the rule of law and really are just acting as political hatchet men protecting their boss, President Biden.

The Attorney General was clearly unwilling or unable to provide the essential answers that we needed today. We will continue to press for them. That is our job. That is our constitutional duty on Judiciary to provide oversight over the DOJ.

Mr. Speaker, we have a great lineup of Members here to speak this afternoon on some very important topics to the country.

I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW).

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman JOHNSON for his leadership. Mr. JOHNSON is focused. He is an individual who is bringing this whole body forward, and I look forward to working with him continually on these issues.

There is a saying, we all know it, the truth shall set you free. The accusations made against the Bidens more than require an investigation. These accusations have painted a picture of corruption, bribery, and shameful behavior unbecoming of our executive branch.

Let's talk about them a little bit.

Bank records obtained by the Oversight Committee reveal almost \$20 million in payments directed to Biden's associates and family.

These aren't Republican talking points. These aren't JEFF VAN DREW talking points. This is the reality of what we have already found.

Over 150 transactions involving the Bidens have been flagged as "suspicious activity." That is not only by the banks, but also the Treasury Department.

President Biden himself participated in phone calls with his son, Hunter—it is a fact—effectively acting as the merchandise that was being sold by his son, Hunter, who was the salesman. They closed deals, and we want to know what they are about: calls that led to the funneling of millions of dollars to Hunter and other Biden family members and Hunter's associates.

The list goes on and on and on. I am only touching the surface. This is more than enough to garner the extra powers granted from an impeachment inquiry. Our goal is to get to the truth.

As I said in the beginning of this conversation, the truth shall set you free. If there is nothing for them to worry about, they should welcome an impeachment inquiry. They should welcome producing the records, and they should welcome producing the statements. It is just the truth that we want.

We have a mission, a duty, and a responsibility. Our duty is to restore the

American people's faith in our institutions. Our mission is to reaffirm that no one person, no one group is ever above the law in the United States of America.

This inquiry will move forward, with full transparency and steadfast resolve. If there is nothing here to hide, there is nothing here to worry about. If the allegations are confirmed, there will be, and needs to be justice.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend. He is exactly right. We had no choice but to proceed to the impeachment inquiry phase because that is where the evidence has led us, as you noted. We have a responsibility. Article II, Section 4 of the Constitution says very clearly that a President shall be removed from office on impeachment for and conviction of treason, bribery, high crimes and misdemeanors. We have credible allegations of a number of those infractions. Bribery is one of them. High crimes and misdemeanors are another. We have mounds of evidence now stacking up to support those allegations, so we do not have a choice under the Constitution but to proceed accordingly, and that is what we will do. We will do our constitutional duty.

Mr. Speaker, I yield next to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. OWENS), my good friend and Super Bowl champion.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 684, the resolution condemning Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's unconstitutional actions violating New Mexicans' Second Amendment rights.

The Second Amendment is not an optional legal provision that bureaucrats can toss aside at their whim. It is a fundamental principle to ensure that every law-abiding citizen has the God-granted right to protect themselves, their families, their property, and their liberties.

Growing up in the Deep South, I witnessed how Black Codes and Jim Crow laws unjustly restricted minority communities from owning firearms. In the mid-1950s, Martin Luther King, Jr., kept firearms for self-protection, but his application for a concealed weapons permit was denied because of racist gun control laws in his State.

Gun control laws proposed by Democrats and State legislatures, Congress, and the White House aggressively erode our basic constitutional rights. As it was in the civil rights era, the Black community has seen this movie before. As Democrats abridge our rights to self-protection, they legislate away the commonsense tools for Black Americans to protect themselves. As they push "defund the police" and "soft on crime" policies, it is the urban Black community that suffers. We are now experiencing all-time highs in homicide, robbery, car thefts, physical assaults, and destruction of Black-owned businesses.

House Republicans will never waver in our commitment to defend the rights of all law-abiding citizens, re-

gardless of race, creed, color, or ZIP Code. We will continue to fight to safeguard Americans' inalienable rights to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. It is an honor to lend my support to this House resolution. I pledge to continue to champion the Second Amendment rights of all Americans. I thank Representative JOHNSON for bringing us together for this purpose.

□ 1500

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. That was well said.

If time permitted today, I am sure we would have every Republican in the Conference come to the floor and speak to the same issue because it is so outrageous that we have this trampling upon some of our most fundamental freedoms; the Second Amendment, of course, being among them.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman and former mayor from Texas (Ms. VAN DUYNE).

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the Biden family business of selling out America.

Here is just a sliver of what we know:

The Biden family and associates received nearly \$20 million in payments funneled through shell companies. They were paid by Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, and Lord knows who else.

Joe Biden lied about his family receiving over \$1 million in payments from China through an associate.

Hunter put Joe on the phone at least 20 times in business meetings with foreign nationals.

Hunter Biden's business associates visited the White House at least 80 times while Joe Biden was Vice President.

There were more than 150 bank transactions involving the Biden family that U.S. banks flagged as suspicious.

Not only was Joe Biden involved with Hunter's clients and flying Hunter around the world on Air Force Two to generate more business, but it is also apparent that Joe was using his office as Vice President to manipulate U.S. policy. We see that with Ukraine, Burisma, in the firing of the prosecutor.

Unraveling the mountain of Biden's lies, his shell companies, and Joe's actions as Vice President is part of what we will be investigating in these hearings, in the impeachment inquiry.

If you are going to sell out America, this is what it looks like.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend; that was well said.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON), for yielding.

So here we are, after nearly 9 months of investigations into the Biden family's influence-peddling schemes, this body has uncovered mounting credible evidence of corruption, evidence that

has come to light through numerous committee meetings, whistleblower testimony and interviews, document discovery, and rigorous Congressional oversight.

Despite the false claims of leftwing media outlets such as CNN and MSNBC, there is, in fact, evidence of peddling and corruption. Under the IRS whistleblower testimony, two IRS agents testified under oath that Joe Biden was present at at least one meeting with Hunter Biden's foreign clients.

Agent Joseph Zeigler, formerly known as "Whistleblower X," testified that he was handcuffed and hamstrung throughout the IRS's 5-year investigation of Hunter Biden and was ultimately stopped from moving forward in the manner that he believed to be appropriate for the offenses committed.

Over \$17 million were sent to Hunter Biden from companies operating in authoritarian, oppressive nations.

The Internal Revenue Service whistleblowers also alleged that the DOJ would not let them pursue Joe Biden or any connections that would lead to him. They allege a campaign of delay, divulge, deny surrounded their requests to pursue leads that led to Joe Biden.

This allegation has been confirmed by a former FBI SSA. The Special Counsel was appointed to obstruct Congressional investigations and inquiries behind the curtain of an ongoing investigation.

The testimony of these IRS whistleblowers have been corroborated by the testimony of the FBI SSA and two additional colleagues that claimed that they were fired from the investigation by order of Attorney Weiss.

Devon Archer's testimony to the Oversight Committee is that Joe Biden is a brand. Archer alleges members of the Biden family used Joe Biden's position as Vice President to sell power and access to interested parties. VP Biden would protect oligarchs from competent legal probes and investigations into foreign countries, such as Ukraine.

Hunter or another family member would be paid money, and then Joe would meet with the interested party in Washington, D.C.

A quick summary: An oligarch pays money to Hunter Biden's company or associate, which then is paid to Hunter, and a portion of that goes to the big guy, his father.

The Shokin investigation: In 2015, Hunter was pressured by Burisma to call D.C. to get help in removing a Ukrainian prosecutor, Viktor Shokin.

Shokin was indeed later fired, and video evidence has surfaced of Joe Biden bragging about getting him fired in order for foreign aid dollars to flow to the Government of Ukraine, right on tape.

Joe Biden's family received \$17 million from contacts from foreign nations, according to IRS documents.

What was being done in exchange for this money? The National Archives have confirmed that Joe Biden used

pseudonyms when communicating with Hunter and his business associates from official government emails, including the Office of the Vice President.

So you have DOJ misconduct, confirmed by the FBI SSA and leadership, that DOJ—specifically, Merrick Garland—prevented investigators from doing their jobs as best as he could.

The FBI D.C. office tipped off the Secret Service of an interview with Hunter Biden that was being planned. The FBI headquarters also tipped them off of a planned search of Hunter's residence which gave time and forewarning for any incriminating evidence to be removed.

No ordinary American would ever expect to receive such preferential treatment if they were accused of the crimes that Hunter and Joe have been. What they can normally expect is a 4 a.m. knock on the door with a battering ram for even lesser crimes.

Investigators are not allowed to ask about the big guy. The bank records show over 170 Suspicious Activity Reports filed by banks on the Biden family financial transactions. This means banks believe that over 170 separate financial transactions in Biden's family bank accounts were linked to bribery, money laundering, or other serious financial crimes.

An FBI informant documented conversations that indicated to them that Joe pressured foreign companies to send millions to the family business. The claims from Democrats and their media allies that the impeachment inquiry was opened without evidence are not only false but also illogical.

Inquiries exist for the purpose of uncovering evidence. An impeachment inquiry is an investigation into whether an impeachable offense has been committed. It is not the whole scope of impeachment. It gives the ability to do further investigation.

Where there is smoke, you will probably find fire.

There is evidence from whistleblowers and former associates that Joe Biden was intimately involved in Hunter's corrupt business dealings.

This is an impeachable offense. The allegations that since this conduct allegedly only happened when Joe was VP and not while President thus means that an impeachment is not possible, that is false.

Impeachable conduct includes high crimes, bribery, or other misdemeanors that occurred while the accused was in a previous Federal office.

Joe Biden has lied about his connection to his son's corrupt business dealings for years.

Now, we are not supposed to take impeachment lightly around here. Indeed, it has been abused the last few years a couple of times, but House Republicans are going to go through a process, due process, and find real evidence.

The conclusion is that despite the disparate claims of the partisan media and their Democrat allies, there is in-

deed mounting evidence that President Joe Biden was involved in his family's influence-selling scheme and intimately involved in Hunter Biden's corruption.

An impeachment inquiry will help House Republicans get to the bottom of this, and I hope Democrats will be interested as well, and then determine whether or not there is proof of these crimes. If there indeed is, then President Biden has committed impeachable offenses.

Again, impeachment is not to be taken lightly, not to be just thrown around for political purpose but utilized. This impeachment inquiry is a very important ability for Congress to answer the questions that many, many American people are asking about the obvious corruption that is coming forward, thanks to whistleblowers, and others, that are bringing this evidence to the front.

With that, let's proceed, and let's do this properly.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, very well said by the gentleman.

Look, let's hasten to say we take no pleasure in this. There are a lot of big challenges that the country needs to fix. We don't want to spend time and resources investigating the President, impeaching a President.

Next to declaring war, this is the heaviest power that we have in the House of Representatives, but Article I of the Constitution does give us the "sole power of impeachment" here.

We have no choice in the matter. Given the evidence, given the allegations, we have to pursue it, and we will. We are often asked: Why is the House majority, why are the House Republicans spending so much time investigating? If we had not done these investigations, we wouldn't have all of this evidence.

Why?

It goes back to the theme of what I was saying earlier: The Department of Justice is simply not doing its job. Under normal circumstances, the DOJ would be investigating all these allegations of corruption but they simply looked the other way.

As I noted earlier, Attorney General Garland, who is just now leaving the Committee on the Judiciary, he has been here all day, has abused the Department to pursue political agendas. He has sued conservative States over their local policies. He has raided the home of President Biden's main political opponent. The Department is obstructing at the same time the Hunter Biden investigation and impeding the House's impeachment inquiry into President Biden.

What are we to do?

I was home on the August district work period. I was doing townhalls in my district in Louisiana, and I will tell you that at every venue, the number one question everybody has is: When will there be accountability?

I mentioned earlier that 65 percent of Americans now have no faith. They

don't trust the Department of Justice. We are losing faith in our institutions because the people do not see accountability. They don't see a fair system of justice. They see a two-tiered system of justice.

It is frightening. You cannot maintain a Constitutional republic if the people do not trust the system of justice. They don't believe it is fair. They don't believe that they are going to get a fair shake, that every American, regardless of who they are, is going to have equal justice under law. That is the threat right now. There is nothing more serious than that.

Mr. Speaker, we will pursue the truth, and we will follow it wherever it leads and try to return that accountability to the people.

Mr. Speaker, I end the Special Order hour here, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

SOLIDARITY WITH UAW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, we have seen workers standing up to corporate greed and fighting for better rights on the job, good benefits, and fair wages.

Today, our Congressional Progressive Caucus Special Order hour is devoted to this topic and to our solidarity with striking workers at UAW plants across the country.

This week, the United Auto Workers authorized a strike. As a long-term organizer myself, and as the chair of our 103-member strong Congressional Progressive Caucus, a caucus that has been at the center of championing labor issues, I am proud to stand in solidarity with the nearly 150,000 United Auto Workers across the country.

Let me start today by thanking all the workers who have had the courage to organize, the courage to use their collective power to stand up for better pay, cost-of-living adjustments, increased job security, and many other critical benefits that they deserve to live with dignity.

Unionization is fundamentally about workplace democracy, about the engagement and the priorities of workers; your benefits, your hours, your pay, your priorities. Nobody tells you what

those are except the workers themselves.

UAW workers are showing us what it means to have collective power to stand together and to demand better.

Over the last decade, CEOs at the Big Three automakers have seen their salaries skyrocket by 40 percent, and these companies have made close to \$250 billion in profits over the last decade.

Let me just say that again: A quarter of a trillion dollars in profit for these three automakers, while workers in the auto manufacturing industry have actually seen their wages drop by more than 20 percent when adjusted for inflation.

Just listen to these numbers.

At Ford, the CEO makes 281 times that wage of the median worker.

At General Motors, the ratio is 362 to 1, and at Stellantis, which makes Chrysler, Jeep, and Ram, the ratio is 365 to 1.

Do these CEOs work hundreds of times harder than their lowest paid workers?

The answer is, there is nothing at these companies without the workers. There would be no profits without these workers. Why is it that they cannot share in the profits in an equitable way?

It is workers who have built the successes of these companies and led them to these record profits. Yet, these same workers have reported being forced to work 12-hour shifts for 90 days straight without a single day off. That is just unconscionable.

It is unacceptable for these CEOs to be raking in multimillion-dollar salaries while their workers are forced to strike for the pay raises and the benefits they should be entitled to.

□ 1515

UAW has been clear about their demands for months. We are in this situation because the Big Three automakers, their CEOs, have refused to even come to the table in meeting workers' demands halfway. These companies need to come to the bargaining table in good faith. They cannot expect workers to continue working unreasonable hours without job security to make cars that they cannot even buy.

In spite of the failure of the Big Three to grant workers' demands, the unionization movement is not slowing down. When their contract expired on Thursday, September 14, UAW president Shawn Fain announced initial strikes at three plants that include nearly 13,000 workers. Still awaiting a fair contract, a new strike deadline of this Friday, September 22, at noon has been announced if Ford, General Motors, or Stellantis haven't made progress toward a new agreement.

Many of these CEOs frame UAW's demands as unreasonable, but let me be clear about something. Labor costs make up only about 5 percent of the costs that goes into a vehicle. These companies could raise worker wages to the levels they are asking without rais-

ing costs to consumers and still rake in billions in profits.

Let's not forget who stepped up and sacrificed during the recession. These companies actually got billions of dollars in taxpayer bailouts, and auto-workers were the ones who took life-changing cuts to benefits and wages just to keep the industry alive because they cared about that industry.

For the Big Three, this is a huge opportunity to lead and to repay the American taxpayers and the auto-workers who made the sacrifices to keep those companies afloat.

These big corporations should be standing with instead of against the very workers who built their companies from the bottom up, and any management that says otherwise does not understand what workplace democracy means.

It is clear that President Biden understands what is at stake. He just recently said—and it is quite unprecedented for a President to say this—the Big Three “should go further to ensure record corporate profits mean record contracts for the UAW.”

We agree. House Democrats in the Congressional Progressive Caucus understand this, too. That is why we in the House have passed the PRO Act multiple times, despite it dying in the Senate because of a Jim Crow legacy filibuster.

That is why we are bringing manufacturing union jobs to America in every corner of this country. Unions keep our economy strong. They protect our workers. The power to come together and organize is so important, and it is a right that I will always defend in Congress.

As workers at UAW and other unions across the country push for fair pay and better benefits, we at the Congressional Progressive Caucus, we in the Democratic Caucus, will be standing with them in solidarity today, tomorrow, and forever.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MENG), who has been a champion for labor issues and of justice in general.

Ms. MENG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand in solidarity and speak in support of our autoworkers who are currently on strike.

Working men and women are the backbone of this Nation, and their desire for job security, for fair wages, and to simply be treated fairly is something that every working individual deserves.

During the 2008 great financial crisis, these workers sacrificed pay and benefits during a time of desperation to help keep their companies afloat. Now, long after these corporations have bounced back, they are making record profits that they refuse to share with their own workers. That is unacceptable and wrong.

These workers have ensured that key industries that make our country run stay functioning. In return for the billions that they have generated, all

they want are wages and benefits commensurate with their company's success. That seems fair to me.

I am proud to stand alongside the thousands of autoworkers that this contract covers, and I hope an agreement is reached soon.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL), a member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus executive board who has really been on the front lines of this fight, who has been telling us for months that we need to pay attention to this, and who has been fighting at every turn for workers.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stand in solidarity with our UAW workers. I have seen many negotiations in my lifetime, but these are the most important I have ever witnessed, and I am likely to, in my career.

The industry is at a crossroads, and quite frankly, the domestic auto industry's future is at stake.

We must manufacture electric vehicles here in America to stay at the forefront of innovation and technology in the world. We are competing in a global marketplace, and these workers are critical to it. They are the backbone of the American economy.

This is not a talking point moment. This is where the rubber is meeting the road.

Too many people are trying to make this an either/or, that you can protect the environment or you can protect the worker, but you can't do both. We can and must do both.

There are a lot of important issues on the table right now, but let's talk about the autoworkers. This industry was near bankruptcy in 2008 and 2009, quite frankly, because of poor management decisions. Nobody wanted to see the auto industry go bankrupt, so the workers stepped up and said they will give up their cost-of-living adjustment to help save this industry.

In reality though, it is 2023, and those workers' wages in real terms are 10 percent less than what they were making in 2008 and 2009. They just want their wages to keep up with inflation.

Workers need to be able to support their families. I have talked to these workers. I am in their halls. I am not just going because suddenly there is a strike. I am in a union hall every single weekend. These workers are working overtime shifts just to support their families.

It is not fair that someone is a temporary worker for 8 to 10 years and is not making benefits. It is not right that someone is on the line doing the exact same job somebody else is doing but being paid less because they are a different tier.

Everybody in our country benefits when our workers are paid well and paid their value. Autoworkers deserve a decent wage and benefits. By the way, when they do well, it raises all people's wages.

We cannot forget that there are many things that we enjoy today, like

a 40-hour workweek, benefits, sick days, pensions, nurse-to-patient ratios, teacher-to-student ratios, safe working conditions, that were negotiated by a union so that we would all benefit.

I want a competitive auto industry. I am not going to let China or any other country beat us. I am going to work hard for a competitive auto industry. We need to make sure, as the industry goes through this transition, that we are protecting the workers, that their livelihoods are safe and they are not left behind.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, before the gentlewoman leaves, I would engage in a colloquy with her for a couple of minutes.

I know she has been on the picket lines with workers. She has talked to striking workers. Can she tell us some of what she is hearing about what people have been giving up, just in terms of their own security, their own ability to take care of their families?

Mrs. DINGELL. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. JAYAPAL. I yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, as I said, the workers were telling me in the halls this weekend how much overtime they have been working just to keep up, but there also have been chemical spills that are happening in nonunion plants. We have to talk to the occupational health and safety people about what is happening. There are people who are worried.

I mean, there really are workers who have been temporary, so they are getting paid, but they are not getting any benefits. There are a lot of issues.

By the way, they don't want to see the companies destroyed. They need a competitive auto company so their jobs are safe. What they want is just to be paid a fair wage for the work that they are doing.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman so much for her leadership, and I thank her for sharing that.

I think it is really important to remember that these are the workers who actually saved the auto industry by giving up defined benefit pension plans, by giving up salary increases, wage increases, benefit increases at that very time when we needed them to because they care so much about making sure that we have a competitive auto industry. I know that that has been everything that the gentlewoman has worked for, as well.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. RAMIREZ), who is also on our executive board for the Congressional Progressive Caucus and also has been a champion for workers and for justice throughout her career. We are so delighted she is now here in Congress to do that work.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, today, earlier in committee, we were talking about the economy and talking about numbers, so I want to continue the conversation on numbers.

Approximately \$25 million, that is the amount reported that was earned by the Stellantis CEO in 2022, which is a 77 percent increase over the former CEO's salary in 2019.

Nearly \$21 million is the reported earnings of the Ford CEO, and that was up 21 percent from the salary of the former CEO in 2019.

Approximately \$30 million is the paycheck of General Motors' CEO, which is an increase of 34 percent compared to 2019.

Not long ago, a CEO defended their paycheck by saying, "Ninety-two percent of it is based on performance of the company."

You see, I, too, believe that when a company does great financially, the ones who worked to make it a reality should see the fruits of their efforts.

When we say that a record-high salary raise is due to the record-high performance of a company, we should ask ourselves: How was that performance made possible?

The truth is that there is only one answer. The answer is that nearly 150,000 United Auto Workers who are out on the streets today urging these companies for parity are the reason for this performance. They are urging their companies for their earned benefits. They are urging their companies for stronger protection and a place in the industry's future, the clean energy economy.

Mr. Speaker, as the proud daughter of hardworking immigrant parents who worked long hours at minimum wage jobs—my mother still today a home care worker—which they did just to put food on our table, a roof over our heads, and keep the lights on, it is my honor to stand here in full support of UAW workers and every single worker fighting for their future. Workers are the backbone of our middle class and our economy, and we know that when they thrive, we all thrive.

Time and time again, workers are demonstrating to us that the power we hold when we come together to bargain for better wages, benefits, and working conditions is a benefit for all of us. I know that we will succeed again.

Today, I stand with autoworkers in their fight to secure the contract that they deserve. It is time that we give our autoworkers the parity and support they need and have already earned.

Know that in me you will always find someone who stands ready to protect and support all workers' rights to fair wages, safe and dignified working conditions, universal healthcare, and democracy in the workplace. It is what the Congressional Progressive Caucus stands for. It is what I stand for. It is why I am so honored to be able to speak today in this Special Order hour.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. DESAULNIER), a colleague who serves on the Education and the Workforce Committee with me and has been, again, at the forefront of championing labor issues.

□ 1530

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, today, I stand in solidarity with my colleagues and the 150,000 members of the United Auto Workers fighting for fair pay and safer working conditions. In high cost-of-living areas, like the area I represent, the bay area, cost-of-living adjustments are necessary to ensure that workers have a livable standard in their community with their job.

Over the past decade, the Big Three automakers almost doubled their profits, much of it with the help from the United States Government. These profits totaled \$250 billion. The CEOs' pay increased almost 40 percent just in the last 4 years. Unfortunately, pay for the workers hasn't come near to following suit. Though the strikes are currently ongoing in three States, their outcome will have impacts on and provide benefits to the quality of life for auto-workers across the country.

As a member of both the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Education and the Workforce, I am especially aware of the implications these negotiations will have on the electric vehicle transition. As a former union member myself, I believe we need to ensure strong labor protections for this new and fast-growing industry which provides a historic opportunity to both support workers and provide for a just and sustainable economic transition.

I thank the UAW members for their sacrifice and their commitment. I thank them nationwide for standing up for what is right, and what is right not just for their members but for the future of this country.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative DESAULNIER for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ), the ranking member of the Small Business Committee and a member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus executive board, somebody who has truly seen around the world the plight of workers and the need for justice.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with UAW members across the country fighting for a fair contract.

As we stand here today, over 12,000 autoworkers are striking in Michigan, Missouri, and Ohio. Over 100,000 more UAW stand ready to do what is necessary to secure better wages, benefits, and working conditions. Their priorities are not extreme.

In the past decade, the Big Three automakers made an astronomical \$250 billion in profits. During that same time, CEO pay at these companies has increased 40 percent while workers' wages have increased only 6 percent. These record profits were built on the backs of workers.

Today, UAW members are demanding that they receive their fair share of this record windfall. This is not extreme. It is what these workers are entitled to.

The Big Three automakers must recognize this and negotiate with UAW in good faith to resolve the standoff with justice and fairness.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I will take a minute, just in case anybody who is out there listening has been interested in the concept of strikes.

I think it is important to say that striking is not an inherently bad or inherently good thing. It is not a failure of our system. In fact, it is a tool that is used to rebalance power between employers and workers.

Employers don't have any right to pay unsustainable wages. They don't have any right to put forward unsustainable benefits. They don't have a right to keep families unstable by filling their workforce with workers that they just name as temporary, even though sometimes they work for 8 or 10 years. They don't have any right to put the burden of a worker's retirement on families or on governments, particularly when so many of these autoworkers have spent generations working for these companies and building these companies. Employers have no such rights.

Striking is actually the noble way that workers can reset the power dynamic so that they and their families can get what they deserve. They make the decision to strike very soberly. If you listen to many of the autoworkers that are on the picket lines today, they talk about how they have been saving, preparing for this moment. They have not been going to movies. They have not been spending on things that they might otherwise spend on, because they know that in striking, what they are doing is fighting not only for their wages and benefits and working conditions, they are actually fighting for the wages, the benefits, and the working conditions of generations of workers to come, perhaps even their sons, their daughters, their children, their grandchildren, to be able to have good jobs.

I think that is a really important thing to think about. For us, our job, I think, is as a community of those workers to support that decision, especially when inequality is hurting our society so badly.

Here in Congress, I think our job as Members of Congress is to make sure that we strengthen the right to collectively bargain and to organize, to make sure that workers have that power, to work with management.

In many parts of the world, it is not an adversarial relationship, and it is not an adversarial relationship because both management and workers understand that a company can do better when management supports workers, when workers are paid well. Of course, by the way, when workers' wages go up, they spend more. When they spend more, their communities do better, their businesses do better, and everyone does better.

The tragedy of the last many decades really, accompanied by policy that has forced these changes, is that trickle-

down economics doesn't work. What actually happens in trickle-down economics is a few people at the very top get rich and everybody else loses out. That is why we have the highest inequality in our country in half a century. It is why not just income inequality, but wealth inequality is at its highest. It is why in the wealthiest country in the world, we have 130 million people who are poor and low wage.

When workers are striking, it is a reflection, a consequence of bad policy choices that have not furthered the goal of equity and equality and fairness, and it is also a rebalancing of power.

I was interested, so as I was thinking about this Special Order hour, I looked up how many strikes we have seen recently. Just since the beginning of this year, there have been 247 strikes so far that involve 341,000 workers.

When you look at what has happened out of some of the big contracts we have seen, from the port contracts to the graduate students and the research students in my home State of Washington, the UPS workers, what you are finally seeing with collective bargaining is the ability to move wages in the right direction. Of course, if that doesn't happen, then the tool of a strike is always on the table as a way to force people to listen to the demands of workers.

I think today, as we think about the situation that we are in, everybody understands how important the auto industry is to us in this country. We all understand that we have competition from other countries around the world and that the way that we are going to make sure that we keep our industry strong is to bring back manufacturing to the United States. That is exactly what Democrats and President Biden have been pushing for with the bipartisan infrastructure bill, with the Inflation Reduction Act, with all of the bills that we have passed, with the CHIPS and Science Act.

The reality is that we are trying to bring back jobs to the United States and to make sure that they are good union jobs. Unfortunately, there are people who are cynically using the UAW strike to try to say that they stand up for workers, like our former President. He is saying that he is going to go to Michigan, he is going to suddenly appear to speak to the autoworkers. I would just remind anybody who is watching that under the former President, we lost hundreds of thousands of jobs that were offshored. We didn't make the American economy more competitive. We didn't bring back good union jobs.

In fact, my colleagues across the aisle have opposed us almost unanimously. We have some Republicans who have stuck with us on the PRO Act to advance collective bargaining. We have tried to move forward increases to the minimum wage. We have done all of the things on the Democratic side with very little, if any, Republican support, depending on the bill,

to make sure that we are strengthening the middle class and the bottom, creating a bottom-up and middle-out economy that benefits all of us.

Nobody is against people earning profits. What is wrong is to earn those profits at the cost of the workers who actually make those profits for you. That is wrong. That is why we are so proud to stand in solidarity with the autoworkers, with the United Auto Workers.

We thank the president, Shawn Fain for his strength of negotiating and for his clarity of vision, for his moral call for everybody to do better, because when everybody does better, everybody does better. When only a few people at the very top do better, everyone suffers.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the striking autoworkers across the country know that the Congressional Progressive Caucus and that House Democrats stand with them in this very difficult time. We promise that we will continue to protect workers, to protect collective bargaining, to expand collective bargaining, and to make sure that workers everywhere enjoy the rights and the dignity that they deserve.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 42 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, September 21, 2023, at 9 a.m.

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. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 615. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture from prohibiting the use of lead ammunition or tackle on certain Federal land or water under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-203, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1245. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to reissue a final rule relating to removing the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem population of grizzly bears from the Federal list of endangered and threatened wildlife, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-204). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1726. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to partner and collaborate with the Secretary of Agriculture and the State of Hawaii to address Rapid Oia Death, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-205, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 764. A bill to require the Sec-

retary of the Interior to reissue regulations removing the gray wolf from the list of endangered and threatened wildlife under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Rept. 118-206). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. FOXX: Committee on Education and the Workforce. H.R. 5110. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to clarify that the prohibition on the use of Federal education funds for certain weapons does not apply to the use of such weapons for training in archery, hunting, or other shooting sports; with an amendment (Rept. 118-207). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Agriculture discharged from further consideration. H.R. 1726 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Agriculture discharged from further consideration. H.R. 615 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

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 Ms. McCLELLAN (for herself and Ms. MACE):

H.R. 5581. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to authorize grants for demonstration projects to support mothers and families during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period by increasing access to short-term child care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BARR (for himself, Mr. BERNA, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. MCGARVEY):

H.R. 5582. A bill to provide for white oak restoration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, 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. BROWNLEY (for herself and Mr. CLEAVER):

H.R. 5583. A bill to establish an advisory panel to study the development of a climate-friendly certification for agricultural products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 5584. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide clarification with respect to the liability of third party payers for medical assistance paid under the Medicaid program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CISCOMANI (for himself, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, and Mr. LANGWORTHY):

H.R. 5585. A bill to impose criminal and immigration penalties for intentionally fleeing a pursuing Federal officer while operating a motor vehicle; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York (for herself and Mr. IVEY):

H.R. 5586. A bill to protect national security against the threats posed by deepfake technology and to provide legal recourse to victims of harmful deepfakes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to

the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CRAIG:

H.R. 5587. A bill to reduce the annual rate of pay of Members of Congress if a Government shutdown occurs during a year, 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 Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania (for herself, Mr. EVANS, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mrs. HAYES, Mrs. PELTOLA, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. ROSS, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Ms. ESCOBAR, and Mr. MULLIN):

H.R. 5588. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for deferment on the repayment of loans for borrowers who are victims of sex-based harassment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. DELAURU (for herself, Mr. VALADAO, Ms. ADAMS, and Mr. NEGUSE):

H.R. 5589. A bill to provide fresh produce to individuals facing food and nutrition insecurity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. DONALDS (for himself, Mr. NORMAN, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. MOYLAN, Ms. MACE, Mrs. BOEBERT, and Mr. OGLES):

H.R. 5590. A bill to require an officer or employee of the Federal Government who is required by law to appear on a regular basis to give oral testimony at a hearing of a committee of Congress to remain at the hearing until each member of the committee has been provided with the opportunity to question the officer or employee; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. FOXX:

H.R. 5591. A bill to establish a direct spending safeguard limitation on any direct spending program without a specific level of authorized spending, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California (for himself and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 5592. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds from preventing a State from implementing their own laws with respect to psilocybin; 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. HIGGINS of New York (for himself and Mr. WESTERMAN):

H.R. 5593. A bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to exempt from the Generalized System of Preferences certain tire articles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. HINSON (for herself and Mr. FEENSTRA):

H.R. 5594. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to establish a 5-year post-employment ban on lobbying by former senior executive branch personnel and to prohibit such personnel from lobbying at any time on behalf of foreign governments or entities controlled by foreign governments, and for

other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. HINSON (for herself and Mr. SMITH of Missouri):

H.R. 5595. A bill to provide for the establishment of a process for the review of rules and sets of rules, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KIM of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. PFLUGER):

H.R. 5596. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve congressional oversight and public transparency of military construction contract awards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Small Business, 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. LAHOOD:

H.R. 5597. A bill to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Bloomington, Illinois, as the "Andrew Jackson Smith Medal of Honor Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. LEE of Nevada (for herself and Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia):

H.R. 5598. A bill to amend the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act to reauthorize a youth prevention and recovery initiative; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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. MOSKOWITZ (for himself and Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana):

H.R. 5599. A bill to establish the Federal Emergency Management Agency as a cabinet-level independent agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MOYLAN:

H.R. 5600. A bill to establish certain grants; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. NADLER (for himself, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Ms. PORTER, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. TRONE, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. McGOVERN, Mr. KHANNA, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. BUSH, Ms. TITUS, Mr. CORREA, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. POCAN, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. BROWN, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. BALINT, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. LIEU, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. McGARVEY, and Ms. PINGREE):

H.R. 5601. A bill to decriminalize and reschedule cannabis, to provide for reinvestment in certain persons adversely impacted by the War on Drugs, to provide for expungement of certain cannabis offenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Agriculture, Education and the Workforce, Ways

and Means, Small Business, Natural Resources, Oversight and Accountability, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. OGLE:

H.R. 5602. A bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to require the Chairman of the Board to address interest rate risk when appearing at semi-annual hearings before the Congress; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. PANETTA:

H.R. 5603. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to award grants to local educational agencies to establish or improve world language or dual language programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. PEREZ:

H.R. 5604. A bill to require original equipment manufacturers to make available certain documentation, parts, software, and tools with respect to electronics-enabled implements of agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 5605. A bill to require U.S. Customs and Border Protection to perform an initial health screening on detainees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. BUSH, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GRILJALVA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LIEU, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. McGOVERN, Ms. MENG, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Ms. PRESSLEY):

H.R. 5606. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to prohibit the emission of any greenhouse gas in any quantity from any new electric utility steam generating unit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 5607. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow both spouses to make catch-up contribution to the same health savings account; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. STEUBE (for himself and Mrs. CAMMACK):

H.R. 5608. A bill to allow individuals to elect to receive contributions to a health savings account in lieu of reduced cost-sharing under health insurance obtained through a health insurance Exchange; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STRONG (for himself, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. COLLINS, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama):

H.R. 5609. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds for security protection for the former Director of the National Institute of

Allergy and Infectious Diseases who served between January 1984 and December 2022; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TAKANO (for himself, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. McGARVEY, Mr. POCAN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. McGOVERN, Ms. WILD, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 5610. A bill to establish the Commission on Equity and Reconciliation in the Uniformed Services; to the Committee on Armed 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. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself and Ms. KUSTER):

H.R. 5611. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for permanent payments for telehealth services furnished by Federally qualified health centers and rural health clinics 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. TURNER (for himself and Mr. NADLER):

H.R. 5612. A bill to change the calendar period of the Federal fiscal year; to the Committee on the Budget, 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. WALTZ:

H.R. 5613. A bill to require a review of whether individuals or entities subject to the imposition of certain sanctions through inclusion on certain sanctions lists should also be subject to the imposition of other sanctions and included on other sanctions lists; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WENSTRUP (for himself, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mrs. CHERFILUS-MC CORMICK):

H.R. 5614. A bill to extend duty-free treatment provided with respect to imports from Haiti under the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MOSKOWITZ (for himself and Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER):

H. Con. Res. 65. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Congressional Sneaker Caucus Shoe Drive for the Homeless Community; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa (for himself and Mr. COHEN):

H. Con. Res. 66. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress in support of a coordinated and effective international response to the crisis in Ukraine and in support of the use of reparations paid by Russia for Ukrainian recovery and reconstruction efforts while ensuring that, to the extent possible, the burden of funding Ukraine's reconstruction does not fall on United States taxpayers; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. AGUILAR:

H. Res. 704. A resolution electing a Member to a certain standing committee of the

House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. STEFANIK:

H. Res. 705. A resolution electing the Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CLINE:

H. Res. 706. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to prohibit the appropriation of funds for the salary of any officer or employee of the Federal Government who is convicted of contempt of Congress; to the Committee on Rules.

By Ms. BARRAGÁN (for herself, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, and Mr. VARGAS):

H. Res. 707. A resolution commemorating the lifetime legacy of Alejandro "El Potrillo" Fernandez for his continued contributions to Mexican music and Latin culture internationally; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Mr. BACON, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. McGOVERN, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. CARSON, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Ms. LEE of Nevada):

H. Res. 708. A resolution supporting the designation of the week of September 18 through September 23, 2023, as "Malnutrition Awareness Week"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, 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 Mrs. CHERFILUS-MC CORMICK (for herself, Mrs. CAMMACK, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. VEASEY, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia):

H. Res. 709. A resolution supporting the designation of September 2023, as "National Cholesterol Education Month", and September 30, 2023, as LDL-C Awareness Day; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. CHU (for herself, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. MENG, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Ms. BARRAGÁN):

H. Res. 710. A resolution honoring the Thai-American garment workers who opened the country's eyes to sweatshop conditions in the United States and, against all odds, expanded rights for immigrant workers and survivors of human trafficking while holding corporations responsible for the conditions in which their clothes are made; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas (for himself, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, and Mrs. MILLER of Illinois):

H. Res. 711. A resolution expressing support for the designation of an "American Patriotism Month"; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

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 Ms. LEE of Florida:

H.R. 4494.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 4, Clause 1 informs the Congress that the primary authority to set election law and to administer federal elections rests with the States and not with the Congress.

Article I, Section 5, Clause 1 "Each House shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns and Qualifications of its own Members[.]"

Article I, Section 8, Clause 17 "To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of Government of the United States[.]"

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 Tenth Amendment confirms that the Constitution assigns only enumerated powers to the Congress and that the States and the people retain the remainder.

Fifteenth, Nineteenth, Twenty-Third, Twenty-Fourth, and Twenty-Sixth Amendment.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill promotes election integrity, voter confidence, and faith in elections by removing Federal impediments to, providing State tools for, and establishing voluntary considerations to support effective State administration of Federal elections and improving election administration in the District of Columbia.

By Ms. MCCLELLAN:

H.R. 5581.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Maternal Health

By Mr. BARR:

H.R. 5582.

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 legislation proposes measures to rejuvenate white oak forests, promote biodiversity and support the industries that rely on them.

By Ms. BROWNLEY:

H.R. 5583.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Food policy

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 5584.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To provide for clarification with respect to the liability of third party payers for medical assistance paid under the Medicaid program

By Mr. CISCOMANI:

H.R. 5585.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Making a federal crime to fail to yield to law enforcement.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York:

H.R. 5586.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Technology

By Ms. CRAIG:

H.R. 5587.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const. art. 1, Sec. 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Withholds Member of Congress pay in escrow during a government shut down.

By Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 5588.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Loan Deferment

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 5589.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 provides Congress with the power to "regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes."

The single subject of this legislation is:

This legislation would increase and improve the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) procurement of fresh fruits and vegetables.

By Mr. DONALDS:

H.R. 5590.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Oversight

By Ms. FOXX:

H.R. 5591.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution grants Congress the power to "pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States."

The single subject of this legislation is:

Fiscal Responsibility

By Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California:

H.R. 5592.

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:

psilocybin reform

By Mr. HIGGINS of New York:

H.R. 5593.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

The single subject of this legislation is:

GSP import-sensitive list

By Mrs. HINSON:

H.R. 5594.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

Prohibits senior Executive Branch employees from lobbying for entities that are subject to the direction, ownership, control or influence of a foreign entity for life and imposes a five-year ban on Executive Branch employees from lobbying.

By Mrs. HINSON:

H.R. 5595.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Establish the Retrospective Review Commission to review federal regulations and recommend repeals, streamline the repeal process for Congress to consider rules the Commission recommends for repeal, and require federal agencies to implement cut-as-you-go for new rules.

By Mr. KIM of New Jersey:

H.R. 5596.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 14

The single subject of this legislation is:

Put Our Neighbors to Work Act

By Mr. LAHOOD:

H.R. 5597.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18 of the U.S. 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 in any Department or Officer thereof.”

The single subject of this legislation is:

The bill would name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Bloomington, Illinois, as the “Andrew Jackson Smith Medal of Honor Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic.”

By Ms. LEE of Nevada:

H.R. 5598.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 provides Congress with the power to “lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises”

The single subject of this legislation is:

Health

By Mr. MOSKOWITZ:

H.R. 5599.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to the clause 3(d)(1) of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee find the authority for this legislation in article I, section 8 of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

emergency management

By Mr. MOYLAN:

H.R. 5600.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to Article one of the United States Constitution Congress has the power to enact this legislation.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Directs the Secretary of Homeland Security is directed to establish a \$2,000,000 grant available to Guam Homeland Security and Office of Civil Defense

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 5601.

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:

Marijuana

By Mr. OGLES:

H.R. 5602.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill requires the Federal Reserve to report on risks to the financial system.

By Mr. PANETTA:

H.R. 5603.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

Education

By Ms. PEREZ:

H.R. 5604.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the US Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Right to Repair

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 5605.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution, to provide for the general welfare and make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the powers of Congress.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill imposes requirements and standards related to the care of aliens in U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) custody.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 5606.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clauses 3 and 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Clean Air Act to prohibit the emission of any greenhouse gas in any quantity from any new electric utility steam generating unit, and for other purposes.

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 5607.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow both spouses to make catch-up contribution to the same health savings account.

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 5608.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To allow individuals to elect to receive contributions to a health savings account in lieu of reduced cost-sharing under health insurance obtained through a health insurance Exchange.

By Mr. STRONG:

H.R. 5609.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

The single subject of this legislation is:

To prohibit the use of Federal funds for security protection for the former Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases who served between January 1984 and December 2022.

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 5610.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To establish a commission to conduct a fact-finding investigation on the impact of discriminatory policies in the Uniformed Services on LGBTQ servicemembers and veterans; and to make recommendations to Congress for a path forward that various government agencies, service providers, and the Uniformed Services should follow to ensure equity and redress for impacted individuals

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 5611.

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 expand access to telehealth services for Medicare beneficiaries.

By Mr. TURNER:

H.R. 5612.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 9, clause 7 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is: To change the calendar period of the Federal fiscal year.

By Mr. WALTZ:

H.R. 5613.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

The single subject of this legislation is: Sanctions

By Mr. WENSTRUP:

H.R. 5614.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is: Trade

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 60: Ms. TLAIB.

H.R. 105: Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 329: Ms. PEREZ.

H.R. 542: Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 619: Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. LANGWORTHY, and Mr. FROST.

H.R. 807: Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. BAIRD, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.

H.R. 902: Ms. TLAIB.

H.R. 953: Ms. PORTER.

H.R. 987: Mr. THANEDAR.

H.R. 1005: Mr. CISCOMANI and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 1025: Mr. BRECHEEN.

H.R. 1082: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 1105: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.

H.R. 1117: Ms. PINGREE, Mr. NADLER, Mr. ALLRED, and Ms. MANNING.

H.R. 1146: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 1167: Ms. BUDZINSKI.

H.R. 1198: Ms. PEREZ.

H.R. 1200: Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 1250: Ms. LETLOW and Mr. LUETKE-MEYER.

H.R. 1294: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 1322: Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina.

H.R. 1378: Mr. CROW.

H.R. 1388: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 1389: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 1390: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.

H.R. 1436: Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. SOTO, and Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 1437: Mr. WENSTRUP.

H.R. 1453: Ms. CHU.

H.R. 1465: Mr. SHERMAN and Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 1610: Mr. DELUZIO.

H.R. 1631: Ms. CARABEO.

H.R. 1668: Ms. BALINT.

H.R. 1699: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, and Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 1719: Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. GARBARINO, and Mr. CASTEN.

H.R. 1724: Mr. LAHOOD.

H.R. 1782: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 1831: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.

H.R. 2390: Ms. TLAIB.

H.R. 2400: Mr. SHERMAN and Ms. SCANLON.

H.R. 2402: Mr. NEGUSE and Mrs. PELTOLA.

H.R. 2413: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.

H.R. 2418: Ms. TLAIB.

H.R. 2447: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 2454: Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 2630: Ms. SPANBERGER, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. PORTER, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. CARSON.

H.R. 2665: Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. EZELL, and Mr. FROST.

- H.R. 2667: Mr. STRONG and Mr. CARL.
 H.R. 2673: Mr. WILLIAMS of New York, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. ISSA, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
 H.R. 2742: Mr. PETERS and Mr. BERGMAN.
 H.R. 2753: Ms. TLAIB.
 H.R. 2766: Mr. FALLON.
 H.R. 2867: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.
 H.R. 2873: Mr. SESSIONS, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. ALLRED, and Mr. GREEN of Texas.
 H.R. 2891: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. RYAN, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. NEWHOUSE, and Mr. GIMENEZ.
 H.R. 2957: Ms. PEREZ.
 H.R. 2992: Mr. TRONE.
 H.R. 3005: Ms. PEREZ.
 H.R. 3009: Mr. LAWLER.
 H.R. 3021: Mr. GROTHMAN.
 H.R. 3029: Ms. VAN DUYNE.
 H.R. 3037: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois and Ms. PRESSLEY.
 H.R. 3073: Ms. PETTERSEN.
 H.R. 3083: Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK.
 H.R. 3312: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
 H.R. 3332: Mr. MAGAZINER.
 H.R. 3347: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
 H.R. 3381: Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. VAN ORDEN, and Ms. STRICKLAND.
 H.R. 3393: Mr. LAWLER.
 H.R. 3433: Mr. ALLRED and Mr. LAWLER.
 H.R. 3470: Ms. STRICKLAND and Mr. KHANNA.
 H.R. 3489: Ms. MATSUI.
 H.R. 3497: Mr. BURGESS.
 H.R. 3563: Ms. VAN DUYNE.
 H.R. 3608: Mr. CARDENAS and Ms. WATERS.
 H.R. 3680: Ms. SCHRIER and Ms. CLARKE of New York.
 H.R. 3774: Ms. PEREZ, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. SELF, and Mrs. FOUSHÉE.
 H.R. 3790: Mr. PHILLIPS.
 H.R. 3792: Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. BARR, and Mr. MEUSER.
 H.R. 3859: Mr. TRONE.
 H.R. 3870: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
 H.R. 3881: Mr. SABLAN.
 H.R. 4006: Ms. DELAURIO.
 H.R. 4077: Ms. SCHRIER.
 H.R. 4157: Mr. THANEDAR and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 4189: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. PANNETTA, and Mr. CASE.
- H.R. 4259: Mr. BEAN of Florida.
 H.R. 4277: Ms. LOFGREN and Ms. JAYAPAL.
 H.R. 4363: Ms. McCLELLAN.
 H.R. 4438: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey and Mr. ESPAILLAT.
 H.R. 4519: Mr. THOMPSON of California and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
 H.R. 4534: Mrs. TRAHAN.
 H.R. 4541: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
 H.R. 4563: Mr. SANTOS and Mr. HUIZENGA.
 H.R. 4564: Mrs. HARSHBARGER.
 H.R. 4572: Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK and Mr. MFUME.
 H.R. 4581: Mr. BACON and Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H.R. 4612: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
 H.R. 4619: Mr. KILMER and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
 H.R. 4721: Mr. WALTZ and Mr. CARL.
 H.R. 4731: Mr. DESAULNIER.
 H.R. 4745: Mr. SMUCKER.
 H.R. 4769: Mr. PAPPAS.
 H.R. 4774: Ms. TLAIB and Mr. KIM of New Jersey.
 H.R. 4779: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Ms. SEWELL.
 H.R. 4787: Ms. DE LA CRUZ.
 H.R. 4818: Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. HARDER of California.
 H.R. 4829: Mr. NEGUSE.
 H.R. 4844: Mr. NORCROSS.
 H.R. 4856: Mr. WENSTRUP.
 H.R. 4870: Mr. FROST.
 H.R. 4875: Ms. CARAVEO.
 H.R. 4886: Mr. PAPPAS.
 H.R. 4942: Mrs. FOUSHÉE and Ms. PLASKETT.
 H.R. 4945: Ms. PEREZ.
 H.R. 5023: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
 H.R. 5027: Ms. WILD.
 H.R. 5085: Mr. SHERMAN.
 H.R. 5086: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
 H.R. 5119: Mr. SHERMAN.
 H.R. 5134: Ms. BUDZINSKI.
 H.R. 5140: Ms. BROWNLEY.
 H.R. 5203: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
 H.R. 5322: Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. FROST.
 H.R. 5341: Ms. MANNING.
 H.R. 5361: Ms. NORTON, Ms. TOKUDA, and Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.
- H.R. 5383: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
 H.R. 5399: Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. HIMES, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. CASTEN.
 H.R. 5403: Mr. HUIZENGA.
 H.R. 5406: Mr. MOONEY.
 H.R. 5419: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
 H.R. 5433: Mr. THANEDAR and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.
 H.R. 5465: Mr. BABIN, Mr. STRONG, Mrs. BICE, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, and Mr. YAKYM.
 H.R. 5468: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
 H.R. 5482: Mr. MOYLAN.
 H.R. 5485: Mr. SHERMAN.
 H.R. 5486: Mr. GRIJALVA.
 H.R. 5500: Mr. LAWLER.
 H.R. 5530: Mr. FINSTAD.
 H.R. 5535: Mr. DONALDS.
 H.R. 5555: Mr. BUCSHON.
 H.R. 5561: Ms. STEFANIK.
 H.R. 5572: Mr. CARSON and Mrs. DINGELL.
 H.R. 5573: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CASAR, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mrs. McBATH, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. SYKES, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. ALLRED, and Ms. UNDERWOOD.
 H.R. 5578: Mr. LYNCH.
 H. Con. Res. 29: Mr. COSTA.
 H. Con. Res. 37: Mr. CONNOLLY.
 H. Con. Res. 56: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
 H. Con. Res. 61: Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. RYAN, Ms. STANSBURY, and Ms. PETTERSEN.
 H. Con. Res. 63: Mr. GREEN of Texas.
 H. Res. 204: Mr. TAKANO, Ms. JACOBS, and Mr. FROST.
 H. Res. 409: Mr. LAWLER.
 H. Res. 616: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
 H. Res. 627: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. ROUZER.
 H. Res. 674: Ms. CHU, Mr. RYAN, Mr. COHEN, Ms. CRAIG, and Mr. OBERNOLTE.
 H. Res. 688: Mr. LAWLER.
 H. Res. 691: Mr. KILDEE.
 H. Res. 697: Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. CARSON, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, and Mr. LAWLER.