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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER. 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 1:50 p.m.

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, September is National Suicide Prevention Month. The CDC data shows that nearly 50,000 Americans died by suicide last year—an increase of 2.6 percent nationwide.

Our veterans are at special risk. The risk of suicide for veterans is 57.3 percent higher than nonveterans, and 17 veterans are still lost to suicide every single day. In the 21st century, four times more servicemembers and veterans have died by suicide than have died in military combat.

We can and must put an end to this crisis. We can do it with fast access to care, innovative mental health services, and continuing to strengthen the VA's partnership with our community-based organizations.

The Veterans Crisis Line plays a vital role in suicide prevention. Veterans and their families can talk safely and anonymously with a trained crisis counselor. This type of access is proven to save lives.

We have a sacred obligation to those who defended our country. In this Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, please reach out to anyone who you might think would be struggling. Remember, you can dial 988 on your phone and press 1. Let me say that again. You can dial 988 and press 1 on your phone. You are not alone. We have access to help for you.

HONORING WILLIAM ''BILL'' BLACK

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, the picture before you here is the Honorable William ''Bill'' Black, who I served with in the State legislature. He passed on September 9, and I wrote these words September 9 when I learned God had called him home. He was a close friend and a mentor.

William ''Bill'' Black. You, my friend, could teach the unteachable because you were truly a teacher. You always did it with respect. You were a great orator. You could deliver the message that you wanted and needed to convey that everyone who was listening could understand, whether you were the most educated scholar or just an average person from the street.

In your own words, you would always put the cabbage down where the hogs could eat it. You did it through a story of life experience or a story of someone else's life experience. You used your ability to communicate to benefit your students, your constituents, and your colleagues to make your community, your State, and your country a better place.

As a legislator, you knew and understood that every word, dot, and comma was important and would have an effect on generations to come. Because of this, you stood boldly in the gap of what is political gamesmanship and true statesmanship. Thank you for being the statesman that you were.

Your tutelage, your ability to deliver your message through communication, and your understanding of the legislative process has made your community, your State, this country, and me a better person because of who you were.

I will miss you, my friend. Thank you for all you have taught me. I love you, William, and I will miss you so.

CELEBRATING THE REMARKABLE CAREER AND LIFE OF DON SUNDQUIST

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

Mr. KUSTOFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor, remember, and celebrate the life of a dear friend and mentor, Donald Kenneth Sundquist, known to all of us as Don. Don passed away this year on August 27.

Over his long and successful career, Don Sundquist served as a business leader, a Member of Congress from his election in 1982 and serving for six consecutive terms, and as Governor of the State of Tennessee from 1995 until 2003.

In public office and out of public office, Don cared greatly and profoundly about the people of Tennessee and worked tirelessly for their betterment.

Don Sundquist was born in Illinois and earned his bachelor's degree from Augustana College in 1957. Following his graduation, Don served for 2 years in the United States Navy.

After an extensive business career, Don was elected to this very body in 1982 from the Seventh Congressional District of Tennessee.

Don was known as what was then called a ''Reagan Republican,'' and made himself known as a fiscal conservative. In the House of Representatives, Don served on the House Ways and Means Committee. That is the same committee I serve on. I walk into that grand committee room almost every day and think about Don and his many accomplishments.

In 1994, Don was elected as the 47th Governor of the State of Tennessee, he

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was then elected to serve a second term in 1998 by a record margin.

During his tenure as Governor, Don Sundquist ushered in new businesses and companies to the State of Tennessee. His Families First welfare program significantly reduced the number of families on welfare, and he insured that Tennessee became the first State to connect all of its public schools and libraries to the internet.

Don Sundquist's life can be summed up in one word: service.

He dedicated his life to the betterment of the Volunteer State, and he taught us all many lessons along the way. If you walk the streets of Memphis, Nashville, and other cities throughout Tennessee, and Washington D.C., you will meet a lot of people who owe their careers and their livelihoods to Don Sundquist.

Indeed, Don Sundquist was a person of honor and integrity.

On a personal note, I will tell you that Don was not only a mentor to me, but to so many others in Tennessee and across the Nation. He has a true legacy that will continue to live on in those in and out of public service.

Don Sundquist was a good friend to both my wife, Roberta, and to me. He will be deeply missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Martha, the former First Lady of Tennessee, and their children, Tania, Andrea, and Deke.

Mr. Speaker, I know that each of you and all of us will keep his memory and legacy alive.

Thank you to Don for a lifetime of service not only to Tennessee but to the entire Nation. You had a remarkable career and a remarkable life.

DRUG SHORTAGES ACROSS OUR NATION

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

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise further awareness of an issue of great importance to this legislative body and to many of our constituents: the problem of drug shortages, specifically cancer drug shortages.

As a physician, I know this has been a problem for decades, and there isn't one solution to the problem.

Let me tell you some personal stories I have heard recently. I heard this month from a family in my district with a 5-year-old son battling pre-B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

For 2½ years now, the family has been facing heartbreaking challenges, which have been made significantly worse by shortages of generic medications.

First, their son was supposed to receive cytarabine, also known as ARA-C. This is a generic chemotherapy medication the family should have been able to inject into the little boy's thigh at home, during a particularly fragile stage of their son's treatment.

Instead, the family was informed that shortages would prevent them from obtaining that form of medication, and they would need to deliver all chemotherapy through a central port intravenous line.

Repeated access to the central port line led to an infection and ultimately a 3-week hospital stay hundreds of miles from their home in Evansville, Indiana.

On top of that, the family has experienced shortages of dexamethasone, a generic corticosteroid that supports the immune system and helps the body to endure heavier rounds of chemo and blood thinners needed because of his port, and finally, even antibiotics needed when his suppressed immune system needed help.

This wasn't the first story I had heard of the troubling news about drug shortages. Earlier this summer an oncologist in my district brought to my attention the fact that his practice was short on chemotherapy drugs. Subsequently, we found out this was a nationwide issue. In fact, they were so short that they were forced to, essentially, ration the medication needed by his patients with cancer.

I was really shocked that in our country we would have to potentially ration chemotherapeutic agents due to a shortage. We subsequently found out it was due to a manufacturing issue overseas.

As a physician myself, I cannot imagine being put in a position where I might have to choose which of my patients on this day might receive life-saving treatments.

As the Energy and Commerce Committee—of which I am a member—and other committees are considering legislation on drug shortages, let's think critically about how to enact meaningful reforms that will address the roots of these problems and allow for long-term change to mitigate chronic drug shortages.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to remember that real people are affected by these shortages every day. Our constituents and all Americans are affected by this problem.

Mr. Speaker, let's pass meaningful legislation to help resolve these chronic drug shortages.

TRIBUTE TO SHERIFF E.J. ''JOE'' KING

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

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one remarkable leader, Sheriff E.J. ''Joe'' King, whose life and legacy I hold with unwavering great respect.

He was and is an absolute legend in Brazoria County and will be missed by not only Brazoria County, but by many, many more. Brazoria County has lost an outstanding public servant whose contributions to our community are immeasurable.

Sheriff King's journey of public service began with 2 years in the United States Army, followed by a 12-year tenure as a trooper for the Texas Department of Public Safety. He then went on to serve as a lieutenant with the Brazoria Police Department for 2 years before being elected as sheriff in 1980. For an impressive 24 years, he led with dedication as the Brazoria County sheriff until December of 2004.

Even after his tenure as sheriff, he answered the call to serve yet again once more becoming Brazoria County's judge in 2007 until his retirement in 2014.

Throughout his distinguished career, Sheriff King exemplified the true essence of a law enforcement officer. His courage, integrity, and relentless pursuit of justice set a standard for others to follow.

Under his leadership, the sheriff's office underwent significant reforms and embraced progressive initiatives, ensuring the safety and security of all its citizens.

Beyond his official duties, Joe King was deeply involved in the community. He actively supported charitable causes and community-driven initiatives, understanding the importance of connecting with residents and developing trust and cooperation. As county judge, he bridged the gap between government and the people, tirelessly addressing the needs of Brazoria County's population.

Sheriff King cherished his family most. His wife of 32 years, Jackie, his son, his daughter, and four grandsons were the center of his retirement years. He took immense pride in being a loving grandpa and a cattle rancher.

As we mourn the loss of this extraordinary leader, we take comfort in knowing that Joe King's legacy lives on through the lives he touched and the positive changes he made in Brazoria County.

It is now our responsibility as a community to honor his memory by carrying on his work, cherishing the values he embodied, and nurturing the spirit of service that he instilled in us all.

Mr. Speaker, let us all come together to remember and celebrate Sheriff King's remarkable life. Sheriff King may no longer be with us, but his legacy will continue to inspire us to build a brighter future for Brazoria County.

□ 1215

LEAD, FOLLOW, OR GET OUT OF THE WAY

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, today, September 26, is now 5 days and counting for the start of the next fiscal year which, if Congress does not act within this next 5 days, the U.S. Government will shut down.

I have been around Congress for a while. I was here in 2013 when the government shut down for 17 days. In 2019, all the agencies under the Department of Homeland Security were shut down for 35 days. This is a disaster for the American people and for our standing in the world if, God forbid, this does not come together in the next 5 days.

Mr. Speaker, I represent a district that is a strong defense district. We have the largest military installation in New England, the Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton, Connecticut. We have about 16 attack submarines that are located there, tied up there that are deploying at a heel-to-toe pace constantly. There are about 2,000 civilian employees that make that base operations function as they should.

I also have a district which is the home of the Coast Guard Academy. That institution is building the future leaders, young men and young women, for the Coast Guard, who are doing important work not just in the littoral areas of our Nation and the rivers, but also overseas in terms of providing critical assistance to allies who again are really struggling with gross violations of the international convention for law, the sea treaty. Again, the Coast Guard is looked at around the world as really the gold standard in terms of providing quality training and examples for that critical function to take place.

In the past, when we had shutdowns, despite some of the ridiculous comments that are made by some of my colleagues in this Chamber that, oh, there is nothing to worry about, Active-Duty people still have to report, they are going to get paid retroactively, the concerns about that are overblown.

I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, that that is, in my opinion, some of the most irresponsible, dangerous rhetoric that can be uttered at a time like this. The fact of the matter is, there is a hardship for people who are wearing the uniform. Many of them go literally from paycheck to paycheck. In 2019 when the Coast Guard was shut down along with the Department of Homeland Security in New London, we had pop-up food banks to help Coast Guard families put food on the table for themselves and their family members.

In terms of the 17-day shutdown, the submarine base, again, all of the civilian support staff, DOD employees who were told they were not essential, they didn't have to come to work. We didn't have crane operators doing their job on the base, we didn't have all the support and maintenance staff in terms of making sure the operations of that base functioned.

This is a totally unnecessary, unforced error which will cause havoc in every other military installation and every other DOD facility around the country.

Mr. Speaker, there is a pathway here. There is a roadmap, and we know that because at the end of May when we passed the Fiscal Responsibility Act, which avoided a default on the full faith and credit of this country, Democrats and Republicans came together, a center-left, center-right coalition that passed those measures. The final vote on May 31, when we passed the Fiscal Responsibility Act, passed 314–117. There were 165 Democrats and 149 Republicans that came together to avoid that catastrophic consequence of a default, something that hasn't happened since the War of 1812.

On the rule vote that led up to the Fiscal Responsibility Act, again it was a center-left, center-right coalition that got that measure to the floor. Fifty-two Democrats voted for the rule, which is unheard of in this town to have the minority party vote to support the majority party for a rule, but 52 of us did that. Honestly, I have been here a while, I consider that one of my proudest votes to make sure that we were going to look beyond party and do what is right for our country, in terms of making sure that critical functions at a time like this, when both domestically and overseas there was so much at stake in terms of having a stable, functioning government so that we can do the work for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, there is a military saying which I think Members should be thinking about today as we approach this critical week, and it says ''Lead, follow, or get out of the way.'' There is clearly going to be a bipartisan measure that is going to get put together in the Senate. It is happening right now as we speak. It is a 45-day extension to keep the government open, allow the Appropriations Committee to finish its work. We need to pass that. We need to lead, follow, or get out of the way.

WISHING GORDON FOWLER A HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate Gordon Fowler's remarkable 100th birthday, a century of enduring wisdom and service. Gordon's journey began on a humble Iowa farm in 1923, instilling in him the values of hard work and resilience during the Great Depression. His education and involvement in 4–H and FFA set the stage for a life dedicated to giving back.

In World War II, Gordon followed the path of Charles Lindbergh, his childhood hero, into the Army Air Corps, joining the brave American HUMP Pilots Association, who embarked on perilous missions flying over the Himalayan mountains. After his service, he returned to Iowa, raised a family with his wife, Sharon, and embarked on a successful 50-year career in advertising.

Gordon served as a Scoutmaster, a Sunday schoolteacher, and also supported Junior Achievement, and shaped the lives of countless young individuals.

May his wisdom continue to inspire us for many years to come. Let's all wish this World War II veteran a happy birthday.

OVARIAN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. Ovarian cancer is often referred to as the silent killer because its early symptoms are subtle and easily mistaken for other less serious conditions. Once a diagnosis is reached, it is often in advanced stages, making it one of the deadliest cancers among women.

Together, we can empower women to take charge of their health, and by supporting critical research we can hope for a future where this silent killer has been silenced. Thank you to all the individuals who fight against ovarian cancer and support the women whose lives have been changed by this abhorrent disease.

During Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, we continue to encourage women to learn about the risk factors, familiarizing themselves with the early symptoms, have conversations and regular checkups with their healthcare providers, and work together year round to raise awareness about this deadly disease that affects countless women worldwide.

GRACE LYNN KELLER NAMED MISS IOWA USA

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Grace Lynn Keller of Coralville, Iowa, for being named Miss Iowa USA. Grace's love for pageantry began in childhood as a way to push herself out of her comfort zone as a shy person.

Now, at 24, she works as vice president of production and digital marketing at Executive Podcast Solutions, a company she helped start as an intern while studying journalism at the University of Iowa. Grace credits pageantry for playing a pivotal role in shaping her confidence and equipping her with invaluable skills for her professional career.

As Miss Iowa USA, Grace has used her platform to promote childhood literacy through the Reach to Succeed program, where she has focused on low-income and rural school districts.

Grace's mission is a testament to her dedication to making a positive impact in Iowa and the rest of the country. Congratulations to Grace Lynn Keller on this outstanding achievement.

CONGRATULATING EAGLE SCOUT SPENCER JOHNSON

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Spencer Johnson of Troop 199 from Bettendorf, Iowa, for completing his Eagle Board of Review and attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

Becoming an Eagle Scout is the highest and most prestigious achievement a Scout can attain, and reaching the Eagle rank is no small feat.

Scouts must fulfill leadership roles, exemplify the Scout oath and law, display exemplary outdoor skills, earn at least 21 badges, and complete a comprehensive service project for their community. Well done, Spencer.

I also want to congratulate Spencer's family and everyone who walked and worked with Spencer on his journey to become an Eagle Scout. Congratulations, Spencer Johnson, on becoming an Eagle Scout.

PER MAR NAMED BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to extend a heartfelt congratulations to Per Mar, the recipient of the prestigious 2023 Business of the Year award at the Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce annual meeting.

Headquartered in Davenport, Iowa, Per Mar was opened in 1953 by John and Eleanor Duffy and has grown into a premier family-owned security company in the Quad Cities and throughout Iowa.

This achievement is a testament to the relentless pursuit of excellence by Per Mar's employees, led by president and CEO Brian Duffy.

What truly sets Per Mar apart is their unwavering commitment to their employees, a philosophy that has been passed down through generations. By prioritizing their workforce, Per Mar ensures that their customers receive exceptional service, resulting in the company's continued growth and success.

Per Mar's journey from humble beginnings to being named Business of the Year is a remarkable testament to the power of determination, dedication, and community support.

Congratulations to Per Mar on this well-deserved honor.

I also wish my sister-in-law, Susan Branthoover, a very happy birthday. Happy birthday, Susan.

CONGRATULATING CARTER CRAWLEY ON RECEIVING CLEAN SCANS

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

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an incredible constituent of mine, 9-year-old Carter Crawley.

Not only are Carter and his family constituents of mine, but I am also lucky to have coached Carter on my flag football team.

Carter has been through some battles leading our team as quarterback, but earlier this year he encountered the biggest battle of his life and was diagnosed with synovial sarcoma, a cancer that affects the tissue around your joints.

Well, I am excited to announce that just 3 weeks ago, following months of radiation and treatment, Carter received clean scans.

I have had the privilege of being Carter's football coach for several seasons now, and it has been a high privilege of my life to watch him develop both as a player and as a leader.

When it came time to tackle cancer, Carter kept a good sense of humor and bravery, and his team and I look forward to having him back on the field leading our team once again later this year.

I also recognize his parents, Melissa and Kevin, and his 11-year-old sister, Emerson, for their strength and fortitude during this time.

Additionally, I highlight Dr. De La Maza and her fellow doctors, nurses, and staff at Banner UMC, where Carter was treated.

I am thrilled to share this incredible news on the House floor and can't wait to see Carter back on that field soon.

TUCSON BOULEVARD DIVERSION STRUCTURE PROJECT

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Tucson Boulevard Diversion Structure project, which was named one of our Nation's top public works projects by the American Public Works Association.

Pima County initiated this project to address the area's persistent sewer problem, which has plagued the community with sulfuric acid odor and a number of other issues. The outdated sewer was replaced with a new composite structure and a safe odor-free and corrosion-resistant system.

The crews on this project worked 6 to 7 days a week and up to 16 hours a day, which allowed the project to be completed on time. This achievement would not have been possible without the organizations and companies who partnered together, including Pima County, Hunter Contracting, Dibble, and the APWA Arizona chapter.

This project reflects the incredible impact strong partnerships have on the community. Congratulations to these awardees and all the well-deserved recognition on a job well done.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 28 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Generous God, in this season when we are all the more keenly aware of the responsibilities this body has to steward our country's resources with both prudence and compassion, we pray for Your clarity and courage.

To these men and women to whom You have given much—position, power, and perception—much is being demanded. Grant each the discernment to perceive what is of You and put off all else that is distracting and detracting them from heeding Your direction.

To whom You have entrusted much—the leadership of this country, the wisdom and opportunity to uphold our Nation's ideals—how much more is being asked—forbearance, flexibility, and foresight.

As You have with so many throughout history, those with whom You have entrusted the mantle of authority, grant each in this body the wisdom of Solomon, the patience of Job, the insight of Daniel, the courage of David, and the faithfulness of Abraham as they endeavor to do what You require of them in these days.

In the strength that we find only in Your 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, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

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

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

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

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

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania 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.

OUR NATIONAL DEBT

(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, last week our national debt reached a record $33 trillion. During the next 30 years, the interest payments alone on this debt will become

the Federal Government's single largest expenditure.

Now more than ever, we need to address the runaway spending that has created this debt crisis while sending inflation skyrocketing and costing American families an extra $10,000 a year.

Pennsylvanians cannot afford business as usual from Washington. It is time to put an end to the wasteful spending in our budget. It is time to stop the inflation that has driven up the prices of gas and groceries. It is time to rein in the runaway spending and once again pass a budget that is truly worthy of the American people.

STATE OF EDUCATION IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, as we in Washington argue over the budget and the depletion of FEMA funds for rebuilding, children in the Virgin Islands are suffering from excessive heat in classrooms that has affected the academic calendar year of students in the territory. Excessive heat has literally contributed to substantial interruption of the learning at a critical part of the school year.

Students have been so deeply affected by these issues that they have taken to the streets on the island of St. Croix to protest what they believe to be the current administration's lack of maintenance of the school. Our students have embraced the spirit of protest that runs so strongly in the heritage of Virgin Islanders as a means of challenging the establishment.

A week ago, St. Croix teachers, led by a local arm of the AFT, executed a job action and staged a strike to call attention to a myriad of issues that continue to plague the schools in the territory—lack of AC units or fans amidst a heat wave, much-needed electrical upgrades, limited supplies, et cetera. The students themselves joined the teachers, and I am incredibly proud of the youth.

We need to put pressure on FEMA. We need to work collaboratively together to get these schools in the order they need to be for the children. Virgin Islanders must come together for our children.

HOUSE REPUBLICAN ACHIEVEMENTS

(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, 8 months into the newly elected House Republican majority, led by our Speaker, KEVIN MCCARTHY, we are delivering on the Commitment to America.

On behalf of American families, we are fighting to tackle inflation and lower the cost of living, defending national security, making America energy independent, securing the southern border, preserving constitutional freedoms, promoting fiscal responsibility, and much more.

Highlights of the accomplishments so far include defunding the Biden army of 87,000 IRS agents, eliminating the military vaccine mandate, establishing the bipartisan committee to strengthen America against the threats of the Chinese Communist Party, passing the Secure the Border Act to address the chaos at the border, passing the largest deficit reduction package in American history, passing the Parents' Bill of Rights, passing the Lower Energy Costs Act.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism continues, moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America with Biden open borders.

FOOL ME TWICE, SHAME ON YOU

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

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, there was a time in Washington less than a year ago when if the Speaker of the House of Representatives gave you their word, it meant something.

That is no longer true.

Earlier this year, Speaker MCCARTHY stood in the Oval Office with the President of the United States and negotiated a deal to raise the debt limit and fund the government. Today, instead of keeping his end of the deal, Speaker MCCARTHY is refusing to even allow bills to come to the floor that would honor that promise and avert a government shutdown.

His failures mean that 1.3 million Active-Duty troops will have to continue to work but not be paid for their service.

His failures mean that 7 million women and children will not receive the nutrition assistance that they depend on.

His failures mean that every one of you can expect flight disruptions, less border security, fewer food and rail safety inspections.

There is an old saying, Mr. Speaker: Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me. Shame on Speaker MCCARTHY for forcing the American people to suffer all this foolishness.

CONGRATULATING CONSTABLE CHRISTOPHER BATES, SR.

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

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Constable Christopher Bates, Sr., of Jefferson County Precinct 2, for being named the 2023 United States Constable of the Year by the National Constables and Marshals Association.

Constable Bates is a mainstay in the Jefferson County community, a leader in his precinct and in his church. He is truly an amazing example of the best from Texas 14.

I could not be prouder representing Constable Bates, as he not only represents Jefferson County, but the entire United States. With this accomplishment behind him, I am very excited to see what Constable Bates' future will hold for him and our community.

Please join me in recognizing the extraordinary service of Constable Christopher Bates, Sr. We are extremely proud of him.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1630

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. OBERNOLTE) at 4 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

PROTECTING HUNTING HERITAGE AND EDUCATION ACT

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5110) 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, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5110

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Protecting Hunting Heritage and Education Act''.

SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION OF PROHIBITION ON USE OF FEDERAL EDUCATION FUNDS FOR CERTAIN WEAPONS AND RELATED TRAINING.

Section 8526(7) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7906(7)) is amended by inserting '', except that this paragraph shall not apply to the use of funds under

this Act for activities carried out under programs authorized by this Act that are otherwise permissible under such programs and that provide students with educational instruction or educational enrichment activities, such as archery, hunting, other shooting sports, or culinary arts'' before the period at the end.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 5110, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in strong support of the Protecting Hunting Heritage and Education Act, H.R. 5110.

Last year, Congress passed the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. While most Republicans weren't in favor of its provisions, the few that eventually voted for the bill voted with the assumption that the Biden administration would not try to misconstrue the language to end the vital hunter and archery classes in our K–12 schools.

Now, due to the overly antigun Department of Education, the law is being used to pressure schools rather than enhance their security. Republican negotiators feel frustrated by the Department's actions. Democrats feel let down by the Department. Above all, the American people feel wronged by the Department and scared that at a Federal level it would take such actions.

This is because the Department has taken the funding ban for the provision of or training in the use of a dangerous weapon and misinterpreted it as a funding ban on archery, shooting, and hunter safety programs—some even speculate culinary programs.

How do I know that this anger is widespread? Look no further than the commentary from Democrats over the past few weeks. Without explicitly naming names, Democrats have called the administration overly ambitious, simply mistaken, and with a blatant disregard for the law. Too many people on the other side of the aisle are looking for any pretext to prevent American citizens from using firearms, even if the purpose is to increase safety.

Archery and hunting safety programs are not dangerous. They instill core values in schoolchildren—values like responsibility, patience, and discipline. In fact, our society could use more of these values and more of these programs.

Moreover, education programs such as hunting and archery foster a sense of connection and belonging among classmates. They are a win-win for our schools and communities. In Wisconsin alone, we have 272 schools offering archery programs, 37 of which are located in my district.

What we have here is yet another example of Federal bureaucrats who are out of touch with the American people. I know my constituents back home support these programs, and so do I. Therefore, I urge passage of H.R. 5110, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I supported the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act when it came to the House last year, and I am glad it was indeed a bipartisan bill. It was passed in response to the horrific shootings that occurred in Uvalde, Texas, and in Buffalo, New York. However, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act was negotiated in a bipartisan manner in the Senate and then it came over to the House where we voted on it with no changes and sent it to the President for his signature.

In attempting to make clear that Title IV funds provided under the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act through the ESEA could not be used to arm teachers or school staff, Senate negotiators used language stating that no funds could be used to provide to any person a dangerous weapon or training in the use of a dangerous weapon.

Now, the term ''dangerous weapon'' is broadly defined. So in using this language, Senate negotiators inadvertently, I believe, precluded the use of funds by students for certain activities in school and extracurricular programs that were previously permitted prior to the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act.

The gentleman from Wisconsin has made the claim that it is the Department of Education that is misinterpreting the law. They, in fact, are following the law to the very letter. If we want to place some scrutiny, it should be on the Senate, which I believe drafted this language imprecisely which resulted in the need for this technical fix.

H.R. 5110 is an attempt to fix that language to permit the use of such items for students in school and extracurricular activities, and I am glad that we were able to work in a bipartisan manner once again to agree on the language that we are voting on today.

As this issue has come to light, many people have targeted the Department of Education as the problem, stating that the Department has misinterpreted congressional intent in applying the law. That is absolutely incorrect. The Department has been following the law as written and passed by Congress and signed by the President. Of course, we all remember that the President takes an oath to faithfully execute the laws of our country.

Today's legislation makes clear that we are not trying to preclude the use of items by students in the pursuit of educational and extracurricular activities, and the list in the example list in the legislative text is not exhaustive.

That said, the language would preclude ESEA funding from being used to arm teachers or school staff or train teachers or school staff in the use of dangerous weapons remains intact.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 5110, the Protecting Hunting Heritage and Education Act and urge my colleagues to do the same. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX).

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the Biden Department of Education shares a distinct and familiar trait with every government agency in Washington right now: It has a habit of making crackpot decisions.

One such decision made by the Department recently was to block funding for hunting and archery education under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, ESEA.

Nobody at the Department of Education can truly believe Congress sought to block this funding, yet they refuse to interpret the law consistent with congressional intent.

The idea that schools should offer valuable educational enrichment activities like teaching hunting, archery, and culinary skills have never been a partisan issue.

Mr. Speaker, that same magnitude of support should be on display when the House passes the bipartisan Protecting Hunting Heritage and Education Act.

This legislation clarifies that the prohibition on the use of ESEA funds for certain weapons does not apply to learning in activities like archery, hunting, other shooting sports, or culinary arts.

It is a simple bill that would safeguard learning opportunities for millions of American students every year, especially those who live in rural areas across our country.

Hunting and archery programs teach America's schoolchildren self-esteem, responsibility, and, ultimately, how to use these recreational tools safely. The National Archery in Schools Program has served over 18 million students since 2002.

Mr. Speaker, there is no logical reason why anyone should oppose this legislation because there is no logical argument to be made in doing so.

It is just that simple.

I am proud to support the bipartisan Protecting Hunting Heritage and Education Act. I look forward to its swift passage in the House.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I just remind the chairwoman, the gentlewoman from North Carolina, that it was Congress that sent language in the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act which proscribed the ability for these activities to occur in our schools, and to characterize faithfully executing the laws of our country as ''crackpot'' I think is quite off base.

The President and his administration support this technical fix that is being sought, and I support this technical fix. Congress needs to take care that we send language that reflects our intent.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOYLE).

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from California for yielding time.

I rise in strong support of the Protecting Hunting Heritage and Education Act, which passed unanimously out of the Education and Workforce Committee by a 42–0 vote. This is how Congress is supposed to work.

The bill would ensure that archery, hunter safety, culinary, and related outdoor education programs will continue to receive Federal funding through the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, or ESEA.

For decades, schools across the country in districts like mine have provided archery and hunter safety education classes with funding provided by the ESEA.

These programs get kids off of their phones, out from behind the TV, into the outdoors. They learn focus, physical agility, and a respect for the outdoors. In many districts like mine, people hunt for food.

Again, we want to promote gun safety, and, again, hunter training.

Unfortunately, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, an important gun violence prevention law that Congress passed last year, contained language that mistakenly cut off the Federal funding from these programs. It was no one's intent.

The Federal funding prohibition was not the original intent of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. I was proud to lead a bipartisan letter along with Representative MIKE THOMPSON from California urging support for continued Federal funding for these programs.

The Protecting Hunting Heritage and Education Act will clarify that Federal funding for these programs will continue.

I thank Representative MARK GREEN, Chairwoman VIRGINIA FOXX, and Ranking Member BOBBY SCOTT for their bipartisan work on this issue that matters so much in districts like mine.

I call on the Senate to swiftly pass this legislation and ensure our young people can continue to have access to these vital programs.

Our rural communities can't wait any longer.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the author of this bill, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN).

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairwoman FOXX for the opportunity to speak about my vital piece of legislation.

I rise today as an avid hunter and fisherman and as someone who wants to see these timeless traditions and skills passed down to the next generation.

My bill, the Hunting Heritage and Education Act, will prohibit the Department of Education from withholding Federal funds from school archery programs, hunting safety courses, and culinary classes.

The Biden administration's misinterpretation of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act unfairly targeted archery and shooting sports programs in K–12 schools. It didn't address fencing programs.

Democrats and Republicans agree, the Biden administration missed the target here in Congress by a long shot. In fact, the bill came out of committee unanimously. Under the Department of Education's current interpretation of the law, other school activities like fencing and the culinary arts would also be at risk eventually. This would be unacceptable.

□ 1645

For my family and those in my district, hunting and fishing are more than just hobbies. They are a way of life. The early mornings and long hours that I have spent hunting and fishing, first with my father and now with my son and son-in-law, are extremely important to me. I cherish these memories, and I know many families across the country feel the same way. I will tell you this: You can really get to know someone after spending a few hours in a duck blind with them.

Hunters and fishers are also the best conservationists. As Psalms 24:1 says: The Earth is the Lord's and all it contains, the world and those who live in it.

I believe we are all called to steward God's creation, and this is a part of what we teach our children when we take them hunting.

The truth is, being out in nature is good for kids. Education policies oriented toward K–12 schools should place a larger focus on getting kids out from behind screens and into the great outdoors. Our Nation is blessed with beautiful lands and waters, and we need more kids to put down the controller and take up the rod or a bow.

Despite the administration's flawed ruling, many are. Across the country, thousands of students participate in shooting sports and archery. In fact, 9,000 schools belong to the National Archery in the Schools Program, and many of these students go on to receive college scholarships. It would be cruel to take these opportunities away from these students.

I am glad to lead this charge, and I thank all those who are behind me, such as 24 State attorneys general, including my own attorney general from Tennessee, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, the Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports, the Boone and Crockett Club, the National Shooting Sports Foundation, the Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, the National Wildlife Federation, and the bipartisan members of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Let's get this done.

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

Mr. Speaker, I will just point out again that the last speaker made the claim that it was a faulty interpretation by this administration. I would argue we sent a bill to the President that had a technical error. Let's place the onus of responsibility on a situation in which we had the choice of returning the bill back to the Senate with a technical correction, risking a potential derailment of a landmark bill.

The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act represents a significant step forward in terms of gun safety in our country. I will remind my colleagues that this was in the wake of the Uvalde shootings in Texas and the Buffalo shootings. The American people were demanding action from this Congress.

I think the decision was made to not return the bill to the Senate with a technical fix but to send it to the President. The Senate, in my estimation, could have done a better job of making sure this language was clearer, but the administration has been enforcing the law according to the legislative text that we sent them.

I will take a moment to talk about how significant this bill has been for our kids. The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act included authorization for a lot of funding to address the mental health crisis that our students are facing across the country. This is also a bipartisan concern.

I will let this body know that in my own district, I have seen the schools respond in a magnificent way. One school district has directly hired clinical social workers. Instead of having to refer students out to nonexistent therapists in the community, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act is enabling us to expand this model where school districts directly hire clinical social workers. In fact, this one school district that I am talking about has a clinical social worker assigned to every school. This has made access to mental health much easier. The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act has made this happen. I will speak more on this as we continue the discussion.

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN).

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5110, the Protecting Hunting Heritage and Education Act, which would correct the Biden Department of Education's misguided interpretation of Federal law to now prohibit the use of funding for school-based hunting and archery programs. The Department's effort is not only facing bipartisan backlash but also blatantly skirts congressional intent.

H.R. 5110 is an important step toward ensuring American schools have the resources and funding necessary to continue teaching students important safety skills as they engage in these outdoor activities.

Many of my constituents in rural Georgia, including me and many of my family, are passionate about hunting, and we should be encouraging our Nation's youth to get outside more, not cutting off funds for programs that help achieve that goal.

One of my greatest memories is my son going to hunter safety school and spending time in the woods together. That is the greatest bond, I believe, between a father and son.

Members on both sides of the aisle believe students should be able to receive safe, responsible hunting and archery education.

I am proud to stand with the next generation of sportsmen and -women.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a ''yes'' vote on the Protecting Hunting Heritage and Education Act.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on H.R. 5110, the Protecting Hunting Heritage and Education Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation to protect our students' access to hunting, archery, and similar programs across the country.

Virginians are passionate about these outdoor sports, and school programs are a wonderful way to cultivate that passion while teaching aspiring outdoorsmen how to safely exercise their Second Amendment rights.

That our action is necessary today to fight back against the radical, activist Department of Education is a testament to how much the Biden administration hates our constitutional rights and wants to use every means possible to restrict those rights and impose gun control on law-abiding citizens.

Currently, the leftist Department of Education interprets the law to restrict funding for hunting and archery programs in the schools. Congress never intended this, and we shouldn't even have to clarify it to the agenda-driven, unaccountable bureaucrats in the Biden administration.

Nevertheless, today's bill provides that clarification and ensures that Federal dollars can continue to go to schools with hunting and archery programs.

The genesis of this problem comes from a law that I opposed last Congress, the so-called Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, which was actually a gun-grabbing effort by the left that prevents States and districts from hardening schools to protect their students, teachers, and staff.

We should do more to repeal and reverse the harmful impacts this legislation has had on our schools. If we permit teachers to be armed and trained, it will discourage the threat and reduce the potential impact of bad guys with guns attacking our schools.

Instead of blocking funding for defensive training, we should support training teachers and staff to use the Second Amendment to protect our children.

I believe our schools will be safer if we prosecute criminals, support our law enforcement, including SROs, and support teachers and staff who want to be trained and permitted to concealed carry in schools.

Federal investment and resources can play a key role, but Congress must also reduce and eliminate Federal legal barriers so that States and communities can protect their own students in the most effective way possible.

Mr. Speaker, I support the legislation today because it is a step in the right direction, but we should go further and also permit teachers to be trained to defend their students in schools. I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on H.R. 5110.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. OWENS).

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Protecting Hunting Heritage and Education Act.

The Department of Education's decision to block funding for hunting and archery education under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act eliminates valuable opportunities for students to participate in safe and responsible firearm handling, recreational shooting sports, and outdoor recreational activities.

School programs such as hunting and archery have enjoyed longstanding bipartisan support, and for good reason. The National Archery in the Schools Program has served over 18 million students since 2002. Forty percent of these students claim to be more engaged in the classroom, and a remarkable 91 percent pursue, or express their desire to pursue, other outdoor activities.

Hunting and archery programs provide more than dexterity and mental skills. They foster character development, a sense of responsibility, and a profound connection with the natural beauty of our Nation.

In Utah, hundreds of thousands of Utahns spend quality time with their family, friends, and neighbors during the hunting season. Additionally, these sports provide 13,000 jobs and generate $550 million for the Beehive State's economy annually.

There is a bipartisan consensus that students should be able to receive safe, responsible hunting and archery education.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues across the aisle to support H.R. 5110, bipartisan legislation to stand behind student hunters and archers, and ensure these programs are preserved for future generations of Americans to use these recreational tools safely.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to reclaim my time.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I speak in support of the Protecting Hunting Heritage and Education Act. This bill would amend the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act so that it explicitly states that school programs that train students ''in archery, hunting, or other shooting sports'' are eligible for Federal funding.

Currently, the Department of Education, under the Biden administration, has misinterpreted the phrase ''training in the use of a dangerous weapon'' so that classes for archery or hunting safety are being deemed as a violation of Federal law. This simply makes no sense.

If we use the Department of Education's wrongheaded and broad way of interpreting the definition of a ''weapon,'' then culinary classes might be next on the exclusion list since knives are used in those classes.

This bill would correct the Department of Education's misguided interpretation under the current statute by clarifying that archery and hunting courses are not teaching the training and the use of dangerous weapons and schools that choose to teach such courses cannot be stripped of their Federal funding.

I have been involved in classes that teach hunting and archery through organizations like the Boy Scouts, and I know firsthand that they teach and reinforce skills like responsibility, self-reliance, preparation, and attention to detail. They build self-esteem in young men and women and also reinforce the ideas of conservation and stewardship of our natural resources and instill a love and appreciation for the world that God created.

These classes also teach safety and responsibility relating to rifles and bows and arrows. All of these are skills and characteristics that we want in our children. Why misinterpret statutes to prevent classes that reinforce these skills and characteristics in our youth?

I proudly support the Protecting Hunting Heritage and Education Act and urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of its passage to return local control to our school districts and to make right what is now currently wrong.

□ 1700

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

Mr. Speaker, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, I believe, passed, as the title would suggest, with bipartisan support. It was a significant step forward, although, in my estimation, not

enough in terms of addressing the gun violence issue that we have in our country.

We have seen since the Uvalde shooting and the Buffalo shooting many more mass shootings occur in our country, and I believe the American people want to see more done.

Instead of just thoughts and prayers, we did pass the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, which came with many provisions that address gun violence in our schools. The most significant element of the bill, in my estimation, is the broad and deep support for expanding access to mental health care for our young people. This is truly a great achievement.

I am very pleased that we are addressing the technical error that Congress made in drafting this language that it sent to the President. I am glad that we are correcting that today. I will point out that the President and his administration support this technical fix.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote for H.R. 5110, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, overturning the funding ban on hunting and archery programs is a no-brainer. I was glad, as a member of the Committee on Education, to see that when this bill passed, it came out of committee unanimously 42–0. That is because the value of these programs is universally recognized. They are certainly not unsafe. In fact, the best thing we could do would be to expand them, offer more of them, and teach more children how to handle recreational tools appropriately.

Furthermore, just like when the effort was made by the Governor of New Mexico, there is a bipartisan consensus that the people who were trying to restrict ownership or restrict acquainting themselves with firearms were shot down on a bipartisan basis.

Because of this administration's actions, however, many schools were proactively nixing hunting and archery programs to comply with the Department's wrongheaded and heavy-handed reading of the law. That is already going too far.

Congress should respond quickly with swift action and pass the Protecting Hunting Heritage and Education Act.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5110, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. GROTHMAN. 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 motion will be postponed.

EXTENDING AND MODIFYING CERTAIN AUTHORITIES AND REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2795) to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend and modify certain authorities and requirements relating to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2795

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. TWO-YEAR EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY CLARIFICATION OF LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTRACTOR MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS TO PERFORM MEDICAL DISABILITY EXAMINATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS UNDER PILOT PROGRAM FOR USE OF CONTRACT PHYSICIANS FOR DISABILITY EXAMINATIONS.

Section 2002(a)(4) of the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 (Public Law 116–315; 38 U.S.C. 5101 note) is amended by striking ''three years'' and inserting ''five years''.

SEC. 2. TWO-YEAR EXTENSION OF PERIOD OF APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN RELIEF FOR RECIPIENTS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE WHO ARE AFFECTED BY CLOSURE OR DISAPPROVAL OF AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.

Section 3699(c)(2)(C) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking ''September 30, 2023'' and inserting ''September 30, 2025''.

SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Section 8117(g) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking ''2023'' and inserting ''2028''.

SEC. 4. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HOUSING LOAN FEES.

The loan fee table in section 3729(b)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking ''November 14, 2031'' each place it appears and inserting ''November 15, 2031''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 2795.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2795, a bill that extends VA's expiring authorities.

The Veterans' Affairs Committee works on an extender bill every year. This year, it was introduced by my friends, Senators TESTER and MORAN.

The 2023 extender bill does three things.

It would extend VA's participation in the National Disaster Medical System for 5 years. VA has a mission to protect veterans and staff and support public health during disasters or emergencies.

Second, the bill would also allow medical professionals who are contracted to perform veterans' disability exams to continue practicing across State lines. Now, VA depends on the contractors to perform most of the disability exams, and the contractors depend on this authority. This bill would continue the authority for 2 more years.

Finally, the bill would continue to protect student veterans if their school closed or gets disapproved under the GI Bill. It would also allow the Secretary to restore the entitlement to education benefits for 2 more years.

I support this legislation because it gives VA important tools to take care of all of our veterans. Without extending these authorities, serious impacts to operations might mean VA's ability to protect Americans during disasters would be limited, veterans' claims for disability compensation would grind to a halt, and student veterans would be left out in the cold if they attended a college that closed due to fraud or mismanagement. We can't let that happen.

I once again thank Senators TESTER and MORAN for working on this legislation in the Senate, and I also thank Dr. MURPHY for his work to lead and champion the legislation here in the House.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support S. 2795, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for S. 2795.

Before I speak on the bill, I would like to note that September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. I remind everyone that help is available any time of day or night. If you are a veteran in crisis, or if you are concerned about a veteran, confidential help is available by calling 988 and selecting 1, or you can text 838255. You are not alone.

The House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs have worked together in a bipartisan manner on S. 2795, which extends expiring authorities for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Senate passed this bill by unanimous consent, and I hope my colleagues will support it. This bill must be signed into law before Sunday so that important programs at VA do not lapse.

It is a bit ironic that we all recognize the need to pass this bill before Sunday because of how important VA programs are and that we work to extend them the same week that we are facing a

government shutdown that will shutter some important services at VA.

Nevertheless, this is a must-pass piece of legislation. Section 1 of the bill extends VA's authority to enlist medical professionals across State lines for the purposes of conducting disability medical exams on behalf of veterans.

When a veteran files a claim with VA for a service-connected disability, they are often required to receive an exam to document and substantiate their injury or illness and its severity. This exam requires a medical professional who is well-versed in the injuries and illnesses that are unique to the veterans population and in the forms VA requires to be submitted. It may be the case that a provider with this expertise is not reasonably near the veteran.

To alleviate this problem, Congress enabled VA to authorize certain medical professionals to practice across State lines. This vital authority has been used by VA and its contract examiners to tremendous effect, greatly reducing the potential wait time a veteran may face in scheduling their exam and also reducing the distance many veterans must travel to attend that exam.

Extending this authority means removing roadblocks to veterans accessing the care and benefits they have earned.

Section 2 of S. 2795 provides relief to veterans who are affected by the closure or disapproval of an educational institution.

Student veterans should not be the ones penalized when their school closes. While we can't give student veterans back their time when their higher education institution closes, at the very least we should give them back their GI eligibility. Section 2 of this legislation extends the relief established in the Isakson and Roe law for more than 2 years.

Our committee remains committed to making it straightforward for student veterans to get their benefits back when a school fails to uphold its promise. While it is important to make sure that the authority being extended in the legislation before us today does not lapse on Sunday, I note that a permanent solution authored by Representative RAMIREZ, H.R. 1767, the Bipartisan Student Veterans Benefit Restoration Act, has been favorably reported out of the committee and is widely supported by the veterans service organizations but is still awaiting a vote before the full House.

Representative RAMIREZ' bill would address the inequity in protections and relief for current and former student veterans who have lost their GI Bill benefits due to fraud when their benefits were not restored while their nonveteran classmates have had their student loans discharged.

It is inexplicable that, in our current system, these student veterans are still waiting for their relief and that Congress allows this inequity to persist.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to take up and pass H.R. 1767 as soon as possible. It would grant relief to thousands of student veterans who have lost their GI Bill benefits due to fraud and would finally ensure that GI Bill beneficiaries have the same protections as student loan borrowers.

Section 3 of the bill before us today will extend VA's authority to prepare for and respond to disasters and emergencies for the next 5 years.

This authority is commonly referred to as ''VA's Fourth Mission.'' The bill authorizes appropriations to carry out this authority.

Under its Fourth Mission, VA carries out several major responsibilities. First and foremost, it ensures VA medical facilities are prepared to protect veterans and staff during a public health emergency.

Second, under this authority, VA serves as a contingency backup to the Department of Defense medical system during a national emergency. VA can also provide support under this authority, such as staff or medical supplies, to assist civilian patients.

Finally, VA may furnish hospital care or medical services at its own facilities to nonveteran patients on a humanitarian basis during emergencies.

The COVID–19 emergency proved what a vital role VA's Fourth Mission authority plays in protecting public health, not just for veterans but for all Americans. I could not be prouder of how heroically the Department of Veterans Affairs carried out this mission during the height of the pandemic. VA not only sustained its own capacity to provide care to veterans and prevent the spread of the virus among its workforce, but it also provided critical care to civilians, serving as the backstop to the American healthcare system through Fourth Mission assignments in nearly every State and territory.

More than 6,000 VA employees volunteered to deploy to assist civilian or Tribal health systems. VA provided nearly 1.2 million pieces of PPE, such as masks, gloves, and gowns to non-VA facilities. VA admitted nearly 700 nonveterans for care at its medical facilities.

The difference VA made through its Fourth Mission authority cannot be overstated. Countless lives have been saved, and it is imperative that we extend this authority.

Finally, this bill includes a noncontroversial section regarding housing loan fees that provides an offset to the small cost of this bill.

Congress has extended these authorities countless times with the support of the VSO community, which ensures that this legislation does not increase the debt or deficit.

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MURPHY), the author on our side of this Chamber for this piece of legislation.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2795, a critical piece of legislation that extends the authority of the Department of Veterans Affairs to continue providing several essential services.

I am proud to have introduced the House version of this bill and grateful for Senator TESTER's leadership in the other Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, my district is home to over 76,000 veterans, and it is my honor and privilege to represent them in Congress.

I thoroughly believe that when a man or a woman signs on the dotted line to serve our country, that is their contract, but when they come home, it is our contract to take care of them.

It is an absolute priority of mine to make sure that their VA benefits, which were promised and earned, are given to them.

This legislation enables the Department of Veterans Affairs to continue carrying out its duty to care for our veterans efficiently and effectively. It allows physicians and nurses that do veterans' compensation and pension plans to practice across State lines. It allows the VA to restore veterans' GI benefits if they use them at an educational institution that closes or gets decertified from the program. It extends the Veterans Health Administration's emergency preparedness measures to protect access to care during times of crisis.

Our veterans have made great sacrifices to protect our way of life and our freedom. It is only right that we, in turn, serve them and give them the benefits that they have adamantly earned.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation and urge my colleagues to do the same.

□ 1715

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE), my good friend who holds a seat on the House Budget Committee, Homeland Security Committee, and the House Judiciary Committee. She is indeed a staunch advocate for all of our military servicemembers and veterans.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California, particularly for his extended leadership and work on behalf of the Nation's veterans. I thank our manager, who is leading on the majority.

This is an important and bipartisan effort to ensure the promise that we make to the men and women of the United States military that ultimately serve—and I always use this term—particularly, for those who have come from the city of Houston, and Texas, and then for the Nation. These men and women put on the uniform unselfishly. They are ready to serve. They own up to their responsibilities. They are going away from their families, and they come back and are in need of important services.

This bill is important because it extends from 3 to 5 years the authority for additional licensed healthcare professionals to perform medical disability examinations as part of an existing VA pilot program related to the use of contract physicians for disability examinations.

If you do casework in your district, you are well aware of the challenges of our veterans in getting assessed for disability. Some feel unfairly treated and analyzed for the percentages that they get.

This is certainly extremely important with 18.5 million veterans in the United States, and with 1.5 million of them from my own State of Texas.

Several initiatives that I have designed in the past have aided Active-Duty servicemen and servicewomen, along with veterans, such as enforcing accurate reporting of maternity mortality rates among the Armed Forces, addressing physical and mental health concerns, and securing triple negative breast cancer funding.

This legislation is extremely important because it adds, if you will, additional services, expands additional services, and it also reflects our commitment to every soldier, sailor, airman, and marine that is welcomed back with all the care and compassion that this grateful Nation can show.

Our Nation has a proud legacy of appreciation and commitment to the men and women who have worn the uniform in defense of this county. Veterans continue to have unanswered needs.

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

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, veterans continue to have many unanswered needs, and I will continue to fight for their rights.

The reason why it is important to move quickly on the extension in this bill is because in addition to the ability to assess one's benefits, it is, of course, recognizing the myriad of issues they face, such as homelessness.

Mr. Speaker, I will conclude by saying, should we not focus on their service, their commitment, and realize that shutting down the government is not in any way an expression of gratitude to those men and women who serve us unselfishly?

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support S. 2795, and for us to proceed in a way that honors this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2795, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend and modify certain authorities and requirements relating to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2795, a bill passed by the Senate on September 13, 2023, is an important and necessary measure that I encourage all of my colleagues to vote in favor of today because it will serve as a critical and necessary source of support for our veterans by extending the eligibility or applicability of various Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) programs and benefits.

First, the bill extends from three to five years the authority for additional licensed health care professionals (i.e., physician assistants, nurse practitioners, audiologists, and psychologists) to perform medical disability examinations as part of the existing VA pilot program related to the use of contract physicians for disability examinations.

Currently, when an individual transfers fewer than 12 credits from a program of education that is closed or disapproved, the individual is deemed to have not received those credits, and no charge from the individual's entitlement to education assistance may be made for that period of enrollment.

Under the bill, this period of relief for those affected by a closure or disapproval is extended by two years to apply to programs that close or discontinue before September 30, 2025.

This bill also extends authorization for VA emergency preparedness for public health emergencies through FY2028.

Additionally, the bill also extends the applicability of certain loan fee rates under the VA's home loan program through November 15, 2031.

These proposed changes align with my longstanding support for veterans.

Of the 18.5 million veterans in the United States, 1.5 million of them are from my own state of Texas.

Several initiatives I have designed in the past have aided active-duty servicemen and women along with veterans, such as enforcing accurate reporting of maternity mortality rates among the Armed Forces, addressing physical and mental health concerns, and securing authorization for Triple Negative Breast Cancer as well as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

In 2015, I was also proud to introduce the H.E.R.O.E.S. Act which offers assistance and materials to help veteran's transition from the battlefield to the workforce.

I am very proud of the work Congress has done to address the health concerns of active duty and veteran servicemen and women, but there are still improvements to be made.

According to Texas State University researchers, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has found "a lack of effective interventions persist for the veteran population from public agencies such as the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs VA) and private organizations."

In other words, although programs and resources have been implemented to assist veterans, there is still work to be done, as the veteran community is still suffering.

According to CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System data, "the overall health of the average U.S. veteran is far worse than that of the average American, with veterans suffering more from such conditions as obesity, skin cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), arthritis, kidney disease and mental health disorders."

Members of the armed forces are vital to our nation, and I am committed to ensuring that veterans receive the quality healthcare and other services that they deserve.

We must be united in seeing that every soldier, sailor, airman, and marine is welcomed back with all the care and compassion this grateful nation can bestow.

Our nation has a proud legacy of appreciation and commitment to the men and women who have worn the uniform in defense of this country.

Veterans continue to have many unanswered needs, and I will continue to fight for the rights of our most patriotic Americans.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California has 10 minutes remaining.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, it is important that we pass this legislation, but it is cold comfort when the operation of the entire government is hanging in the balance this week.

We aren't any closer to extending funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs, or any other Federal agencies that servicemembers and veterans depend on.

I think we all need to consider what a shutdown means for servicemembers and veterans. It will undermine the PACT Act by delaying the onboarding of much-needed veteran service representatives, and negatively impact customer service for veterans. The claims backlog will grow, delaying benefits and services.

Important research will come to a halt, including life-improving prosthetics research.

There will be no setting of headstones at veteran cemeteries.

Student veterans will have counseling appointments canceled.

Hiring and training of new employees will stop, creating delays that will last for months.

The Veterans Benefits Administration, the office that oversees student veteran benefits, veteran housing, pensions, and servicemember transition will have 40 percent of its staff furloughed.

At the Department of Defense, over 1 million soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, space guardians, and their families will go without pay.

Training will stop, impacting our long-term readiness and security.

Commissaries will be closed on many bases, making it harder to get basic essentials that military families need.

At the Department of Agriculture, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, commonly known as WIC food assistance, will be cut off. Nearly a quarter, 24 percent of the Active-Duty servicemembers and families are food insecure, and 9 percent of those families depend on WIC. You heard that right—9 percent of our military families depend on WIC.

How are our servicemembers supposed to focus on their job, which is inherently dangerous, or a deployment when they are worried if their family has enough to eat?

My colleagues may not think about these issues as they relate to veterans. They are too busy giving lip service to half-hearted attempts to cut the deficit

that they helped create rather than thinking about the actual consequences of their rhetoric.

There is growing evidence that both older and disabled veterans are suffering from food insecurity, as well as student veterans and Native veterans. The Rand Corporation released a study examining the issue of food insecurity among veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Rand report be included in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection. Https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/research_reports/RRA1300/RRA1363-2/RAND_RRA1363–2.pdf

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, food insecurity is linked to many poor outcomes for physical and mental health, including increased risk of suicide. Food insecure veterans have a 400 percent higher rate of suicidal ideation. Food insecure veterans with a diagnosed mental health issue have a 900 percent higher rate of suicidal ideation.

We, as Members of Congress, like to stand here on the floor of the House or in front of the press or at a Memorial Day parade in our districts saying that we are working every angle, trying with all our might to eliminate or at least bring down the rate of veteran suicide. But how we spend or don't spend taxpayer money reveals our true values.

When we are trying to do everything possible to address veteran suicide, these pernicious cuts around the edges are simply increasing risk for vulnerable Americans, and this includes veterans, servicemembers, and their families.

Maybe my colleagues don't want to think about the ugly truth of members of the military not getting paid. The ugly truth is that those who serve are being asked to go without. Is that fair?

As noted in a recent article in Task and Purpose, cost of living and food insecurity are ongoing concerns for military families and veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD the Task and Purpose article titled ''More than a million veterans experience food insecurity.''

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

There was no objection.

More than a million American military veterans are food insecure, according to a new study. And of those, several hundred thousand veterans are not enrolled or signing up for available food assistance from the federal government.

That's according to a report from the Rand Corporation, released Thursday. The report, ''Food Insecurity Among Veterans: Examining the Discrepancy Between Veteran Food Insecurity and Use of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP),'' looked at the gap between the overall number of veterans experiencing food insecurity or hunger and the smaller amount that take advantage of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP. Although 7.5% of all veterans—approximately 1.4 million people—experience food insecurity, only 4.9% are enrolled in or part of a household signed up for SNAP.

Compared to non-veterans, that is a much higher rate. Although food insecurity is higher among non-veterans (10.4%), 8.6% of people experiencing that report living in a household signed up for SNAP benefits.

''Low enrollment by food-insecure veterans could be the result of not meeting nutrition assistance eligibility requirements, perceived lack of eligibility, social stigma associated with SNAP participation, or negative messaging around nutrition assistance,'' the report said.

The largest discrepancy is among the oldest veterans. The vast majority of those 70 years or older experiencing food insecurity are not enrolled in SNAP, with only 30% signed up. Meanwhile, for non-veterans, 40% of those 70 and up are enrolled.

As a result, the authors of the RAND paper are proposing several ways to close that gap. The strongest recommendation calls for better and increased screenings for food insecurity in veterans at places such as Department of Veterans Affairs sites. Additional screenings at other clinical sites would be helpful, in order to reach veterans who don't get care through the VA. Additionally, the authors note that there could be better communication and coordination among the VA, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Agriculture, which administers the SNAP program.

The new Rand report highlights the main forces behind the food insecurity veterans face. Among other factors, veterans are disproportionately represented among the number of unhoused Americans in the country.

It also points to issues tied to food insecurity. Not having enough to eat can lead to poor physical and mental health and well-being. That in turn can lead veterans to committing suicide.

Cost of living concerns and food insecurity have been ongoing issues for military families and veterans, particularly exacerbated by the economic upheavals of the COVID–19 pandemic. Efforts to alleviate those challenges, including cost of living adjustments and increased benefits for veterans have not fully eliminated the problems.

However, the study found that more research is needed to better learn why so many veterans are not signed up for assistance and experiencing food insecurity.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, the plain truth is that military families depend on programs like SNAP and WIC to make ends meet. I have been working with my Democratic colleagues over the last several months on ways to address the barriers faced by veterans to access important services like SNAP and housing vouchers. We should be focused on increasing access rather than looking to undermine or cut services for veterans.

The plain truth is just that the threat of a government shutdown, the uncertainty created by the House Republicans' inability to govern creates unknowns and stress for our servicemembers and families. We should be providing predictability and stability to those who serve. Instead, the Speaker can't even tell us what funding measures we will be voting on this week.

This looming shutdown is a self-inflicted wound by the House majority, who are choosing politics over the responsibilities of governance.

Mr. Speaker, the impact of this shutdown will be felt worldwide by military and veteran families.

Mr. Speaker, S. 2795 is a good bill and I urge its support by all my colleagues. It is impossible to pass this legislation, which we should do, without recognizing what House Republicans aren't doing.

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, many people know that I was in the State legislature prior to coming to Congress, I was a foreleader there and I knew and could identify when, for some reason, whether it is leadership on one side of the aisle or the other side of the aisle, who wants to drag the debate out. So I am going to do whatever I can to help them out here.

Some things that were claimed here—I think it is amazing that the claims that actually cause fear through our Nation and through people who are providing services—we are going to try to work every way we can not to have a shutdown, but we have a responsibility, and that responsibility is to pass a budget.

That is not what we were supposed to be debating here at this time, but I am glad to do that. If you remember when we were working on the cap, where we would increase the cap, I think the other side of the aisle said we were going to cut benefits for veterans. Veterans were scared all over the United States because they claimed we were going to cut benefits for veterans.

Oh, and what happened?

I told that—not only I as chair, but the Speaker and others—we are not cutting benefits for veterans. Okay.

Let's see what actually—if the shutdown occurs, what actually is still covered at the VA? I think it is very important that the American people know.

Healthcare will not be cut. It won't even slow down. Compensation and pension benefits and processing of claims on appeals, they will still be done. The Veterans Crisis Line, it is most important, and I know both myself and the ranking member know it is vitally important to make sure that those veterans—the veteran numbers right now are 17 per day that are committing suicide—we want to make sure that is open.

Housing benefits for the homeless, open. National cemeteries and burial services and benefits, still going to be done. Essential IT functions, network data centers, cybersecurity operations, are still all going to be done with VA. The Office of General Counsel is still going to operate.

The financial accounting and debt management center, maintenance and management of VA facilities, VA customer service operations, workforce management for electronic health records, the modernization office, VA appeal court operations, small and disadvantaged veterans business support operations—all not cut. Why?

Because we have been working already with the Secretary of the VA to make sure those services remain in place.

Are there certain things that will slow down, paperwork and things like that? I hope we don't go into the shutdown, but those essential services we are going to make sure are provided for our veterans. Why?

Because our veterans deserve it.

We want to make sure that we don't have fearmongering and concern in that way.

I think there are people that should be concerned about a shutdown. I am concerned about a shutdown. That is why we are going to be—and this is very important for the American people to know—I know for a fact that I am possibly going to be offering an amendment tonight somewhere around 1 o'clock in the morning.

We are going to work through the day and through the night. We are going to do it all this week to try to take care of the business of this Nation. People should feel secure that we are.

That is not why we were here today. We wanted to talk about this bill and the importance of it. Why?

Because these are essential services we must also pass by the end of the month. As you can see, we are going to continue to do the work. We are going to continue to work in this way, and I hope in a bipartisan manner that we are.

We can go out and do press conferences and stand on this floor and claim, oh, this isn't getting done or that isn't getting done. I understand that. I have been around this process a long time. But understand, we are here to do our job and we are going to do our job.

There are 435 Members in this Chamber, and all of them have opinions and all of them have ideas.

You know what? We are doing a thing called regular order because many people called for that.

You know what? There are two things in this life you should not watch being made because it ruins the taste of both—sausage and law. Now we are making law. We are coming together and running our heads together and arguing and debating.

We are debating on our side of the aisle with our own colleagues, we are debating on that side of the aisle with their colleagues, and we are debating together to come up with the answers that we need to for this Nation to do it right.

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

□ 1730

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I remind my esteemed colleague and friend—and I do believe the gentleman from Illinois is my friend—that we are about to tonight bring up, again, the rule for the Defense appropriations bill. This body failed to even pass a rule and to bring to the floor the Defense appropriations bill.

Barring an ability to fund a continuing resolution before October 1, which is this Sunday, we are facing our military servicemembers going without a paycheck. This is a very serious moment. As far as I know, none of the 12 appropriations bills have been agreed to and been sent to the President's desk.

The bill before us today, this moment, is a bipartisan, noncontroversial bill that needs to be signed by the President before Sunday. Time is of the essence, but we can't forget all the things that we are not accomplishing for veterans today, that we are not accomplishing for our servicemembers who are in harm's way.

Servicemembers, veterans, and their families deserve to have access to food, deserve to have access to housing, and deserve to have access to healthcare and mental health care. If we look at the reauthorization of the agriculture bill, it is atrocious what is done to all the nutrition programs that our veterans and our military families depend on.

Do not be fooled by the fact that we have passed a military construction bill that fully funds VA but has not yet been agreed to because of all of the poison pills that have been put into that bill. We stand here waiting to see if the House Republicans can fulfill the most basic role of Congress, which is to fund the government.

The brinksmanship of extremists in control of this Chamber is putting servicemember pay and the WIC program at risk. This situation is both unconscionable and was totally avoidable, yet we are here at the precipice.

Madam Speaker, again, I ask all my colleagues to join me in passing S. 2795. Fund the government. Feed veterans, feed servicemembers, and feed their families.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, may I request the time remaining for each side?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia). The gentleman from Illinois has 12 minutes remaining. The gentleman from California has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I am so proud to be on this floor and for what we do for the people, but it is interesting to watch the debates that occur on this floor sometimes to try to stretch, as I said, and draw things out.

I actually had the opportunity earlier this afternoon during 5-minute speeches to talk about a friend of mine from the Illinois State legislature who did this very, very well. He was a floor leader in the State of Illinois. His name was William ''Bill'' Black. Bill was a great orator, and he could talk on every issue.

I explained during that time that because he was an educator and then the president of a community college, when he became a legislator, he knew how to explain the issues exactly the way they needed to be explained so that whether you were a scholar or just an average person on the street, you could understand what was going on.

Basically, he used a good southern Illinois term that said he would put the cabbage down where the hogs could eat it. Let me tell you, that is what I would like to do.

As we have listened here, going off and leaving the bill we were actually debating on, we have talked about everything that is going on around here. I said earlier that it will continue to go on. Why? Because we have been elected by the people to work through this process. We are going to work through this process.

I hope that there is not a shutdown. If there is a shutdown, is this the first time we have shut down? No, it is not. What we have to know is that we want to make sure we are getting it right. The American people want us to get it right.

What legislators discover once we are here, with the 435 districts, what is happening in the ranking member's district, quite often his people feel different than the people of the Illinois 12th District, which I represent. They feel different because they come from different cultures. It is our job to try to come up with something that is balanced and that can actually operate this Nation the way we need to have it operated.

Let me also say this: We also know that we can do a whole lot of things at the same time. Right now we are working on appropriation bills, and my colleague from the other side of the aisle said that we have not passed an appropriation bill. Well, we actually had one appropriation bill out, and there wasn't a single Democrat vote on it. It is kind of interesting to watch on this floor when somebody claims you haven't done anything. However, not a single vote came in from that side of the aisle. As we are moving forward, though, we do have the 12 budget bills to move.

Now, will there be a CR? I don't know. Let me tell you the first thing we are going to do is we are going to move rules because that is what we do. We are going to move the rule, and we are going to have debates. I thank the members of the Rules Committee who worked all weekend long to try to make sure that through this process they are crossing the T's and dotting the I's.

As I said in a speech on this floor earlier today, every comma, every dot, and every word matters. Every comma, every dot, and every word matters. Why? It matters because it is going to affect generations to come. It will affect people next week, next year, and 10 years down the road.

What we do here is serious business. I am getting concerned sometimes that the only thing people want to see is the rhetoric back and forth when they don't understand how much time we do

spend working across the aisle together to having successful pieces of legislation that actually get things done.

We both knew, the Senate knew, with Senator MORAN and Senator TESTER, that this piece of legislation that we are working on today needed to be moved by the last of this month or these services would fail. Rightfully so, in a bipartisan manner, we have and we will move this tonight, and it will move on to the President so those vital services are not removed or even say a flaw in them where a problem could happen. Remember, all I said about the words and the dots and the commas: They aren't just words; they affect people's lives. That is why we have got to get it right, and we are going to work to get it right.

Madam Speaker, I am ready to close, but I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I am pleased that the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST), my friend and colleague, would like to feed cabbage to his hogs, but I want to feed America's veterans, America's military families, and America's servicemembers.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in not only passing S. 2795, but we also need to fund the government, and we need to make sure that our military families, our veterans, and our servicemembers have enough to eat.

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

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him for the spirited debate. Once again, that is the rhetoric I was talking about, to think that people on this side of the aisle don't want to take care of our veterans and feed our veterans, don't want to make sure that SNAP programs are passed and that those people in need are taken care of, that is the rhetoric we have got to stop.

In this particular bill, this bill actually does provide and make sure that we can carry on these three areas of service in the VA that are vitally important. We want to make sure that our colleagues on both sides of the aisle support this legislation. I will encourage mine. I just heard the ranking member support and encourage his Members to support this legislation as well.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2795.

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.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4365, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4367, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4665, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4368, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 723 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 723

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4365) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived.

SEC. 2. (a) No amendment to H.R. 4365 shall be in order except those printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution, and pro forma amendments described in section 13 of this resolution.

(b) Each amendment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided by section 13 of this resolution, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

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

SEC. 3. It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or her designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of amendments printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc offered pursuant to this section shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided by section 13 of this resolution, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

SEC. 4. At any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4367) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived.

SEC. 5. (a) No amendment to H.R. 4367 shall be in order except those printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, amendments en bloc described in section 6 of this resolution, and pro forma amendments described in section 13 of this resolution.

(b) Each amendment printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided by section 13 of this resolution, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

(c) All points of order against amendments printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules or against amendments en bloc described in section 6 of this resolution are waived.

SEC. 6. It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or her designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of amendments printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc offered pursuant to this section shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided by section 13 of this resolution, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

SEC. 7. At any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4665) making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The amendment printed in part C of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered

as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived.

SEC. 8. (a) No further amendment to H.R. 4665, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part D of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, amendments en bloc described in section 9 of this resolution, and pro forma amendments described in section 13 of this resolution.

(b) Each further amendment printed in part D of the report of the Committee on Rules shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided by section 13 of this resolution, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

(c) All points of order against further amendments printed in part D of the report of the Committee on Rules or against amendments en bloc described in section 9 of this resolution are waived.

SEC. 9. It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or her designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of amendments printed in part D of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc offered pursuant to this section shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided by section 13 of this resolution, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

SEC. 10. At any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4368) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The amendment printed in part E of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived.

SEC. 11. (a) No further amendment to H.R. 4368 shall be in order except those printed in part F of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, amendments en bloc described in section 12 of this resolution, and pro forma amendments described in section 13 of this resolution.

(b) Each further amendment printed in part F of the report of the Committee on Rules shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided by section 13 of this resolution, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

(c) All points of order against amendments printed in part F of the report of the Committee on Rules or against amendments en bloc described in section 12 of this resolution are waived.

SEC. 12. It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or her designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of amendments printed in part F of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc offered pursuant to this section shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided by section 13 of this resolution, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

SEC. 13. During consideration of each bill—H.R. 4365, H.R. 4367, H.R. 4665, and H.R. 4368—for amendment, the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees may offer up to 10 pro forma amendments each at any point for the purpose of debate.

SEC. 14. At the conclusion of consideration of each bill—H.R. 4365, H.R. 4367, H.R. 4665, and H.R. 4368—for amendment the Committee shall rise and report such bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on such bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit.

SEC. 15. The Clerk shall not transmit to the Senate a message that the House has passed H.R. 4367 until notified by the Speaker that H.R. 2, as passed by the House on May 11, 2023, has been enacted into law.

□ 1745

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, pursuant to section 426 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, I make a point of order against consideration of the rule, House Resolution 723.

Section 426 of the Budget Act specifically states that the Rules Committee may not waive the point of order prescribed by section 425 of that same act.

The first section of House Resolution 723 states that all points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. Therefore, I make a point of order pursuant to section 426 that this rule may not be considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts makes a point of order that the resolution violates section 426(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

The gentleman has met the threshold burden under the rule and the gentleman from Massachusetts and a Member opposed each will control 10 minutes of debate on the question of consideration. Following debate, the Chair will put the question of consideration as the statutory means of disposing of the point of order.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

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

Madam Speaker, decades ago, Republicans came up with a rule that basically says that we cannot impose mandates on States and local governments that will cost them significant amounts of money. That rule is routinely waived, including in this rule.

Do you know what will cost States and local governments significant amounts of money? A government shutdown.

The Congressional Budget Office, CBO, estimated that the 5-week partial government shutdown in 2018–2019 reduced economic output by $11 billion in the following two quarters, including $3 billion that the U.S. economy never regained. Moody's Analytics estimated that the 2013 full government shutdown reduced GDP growth by $20 billion. At the same time of the 2013 shutdown, consumer confidence fell, threatening the economic recovery following the Great Recession.

A shutdown this fall would jeopardize the improvements of consumer confidence as inflation has returned to more normal levels. A bipartisan congressional report found that the last three government shutdowns led to the equivalent of 56,940 years in lost productivity from Federal workers being furloughed. These lost work hours deprive the American people of important public services, delayed furloughed Federal employees from receiving backpay, and cost the government at least $338 million in additional processing costs and late fees.

While Federal employees are guaranteed backpay during shutdowns, a prolonged shutdown could mean multiple missed paychecks and strained household budgets for these workers.

In 2013 and again in 2018, roughly 850,000 out of 2.1 million nonpostal Federal employees were furloughed. Additionally, at the beginning of the 2018–2019 partial shutdown, about 380,000 Federal employees were furloughed and another 420,000 reported to work but went unpaid.

Over 80 percent of Federal workers live and work outside of the D.C. area, meaning that local economies across the country would be harmed by Federal worker furloughs as families delay purchases or are forced to miss regular bill payments.

Let's consider more impacts of the Republican shutdown and how it will cost State and local governments. It would force servicemembers and law enforcement officers to work without pay. Under a Republican shutdown, all Active-Duty military personnel and many law enforcement officers would remain at work but receive no pay until appropriated funds are available.

It would endanger disaster response. A Republican shutdown would create an increased risk that FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund is depleted and would complicate new emergency response efforts

if additional catastrophic disasters occur. Funding for long-term recovery projects would also remain halted, worsening ongoing delays as FEMA awaits new appropriations.

It would undermine research on cancer and other diseases. A Republican shutdown would stall critical research on diseases like cancer and Alzheimer's disease because the National Institutes of Health would be forced to delay new clinical trials. New patients, many of whom are desperately waiting for a chance for a new treatment through a clinical trial, would be turned away.

It would eliminate Head Start slots for kids. Under a Republican shutdown, 10,000 children across the country would immediately lose access to Head Start as the Department of Health and Human Services wouldn't be able to award Head Start grants during a shutdown, with the impacts only growing worse over time.

It would risk significant delays for travelers. Air traffic controllers and TSA officers would have to work without pay, potentially leading to significant delays and longer wait times for travelers at airports across the country like there were during the previous shutdown.

It would undermine public health and environmental protections. Most EPA-led inspections at hazardous waste sites, as well as drinking water and chemical facilities, would stop. EPA would halt oversight and review of permits and plans to ensure safe water and clean air in communities. Additionally, efforts to address dangerous contaminants that are linked to severe health effects would be stopped. This would be a disaster.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1800

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, I claim the time in opposition to the point of order in favor of consideration of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 10 minutes.

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, the question before the House of Representatives is: Should the House now consider House Resolution 723, the rule that is before us, a rule that we are looking to advance this evening to advance four appropriations bills that, when combined with the appropriations bill we passed in July, would fund 73 percent of government.

Meanwhile, the United States Senate has passed no appropriations bills, and in fact, sent a continuing resolution to the floor just now, just this evening, having not done its job to pass appropriations bills.

The fact of the matter is the waiver we are talking about here in the rules is a prophylactic waiver that my colleagues used all the time when they were in the majority. They know full well that is what they are doing. This is dilatory. This is purposeful. I would do it too if I didn't have all my folks back for the vote. That is what I would do. That is the reality of what we are talking about here.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle are talking about unfunded mandates. Let's talk about unfunded mandates.

Let's talk about all of the subsidies that are going out for electric vehicles to subsidize the elite in this country that make over $200,000 and $250,000 a year.

Let's talk about the subsidies, 90 percent of the corporate subsidies going to billion-dollar corporations.

Let's talk about the mandates in the form of vaccine mandates, mask mandates, and all of the mandates during COVID that shut down the largest economy that this world has ever known.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle complain about a shutdown. Yet, they are the masters of shutdown. They shut down and brought to a halt the great American economy resulting in exactly what you are experiencing right now: what the American people are feeling in terms of inflation, in terms of inability to afford homes, inability to afford gasoline, inability to afford power. Those are the mandates that the American people are concerned about. Those are the unfunded mandates that are killing their way of life right now at home.

That is the simple fact.

My colleagues are talking about the government and what it might cost if there is a government shutdown Saturday. Let's be very clear. If there is a shutdown on Saturday, it is because President Biden, CHUCK SCHUMER, and my Democratic colleagues would prefer to shut down the government of the United States than shut down the border of the United States and protect the American people.

That is the simple truth. That is how there would be a resulting shutdown on Saturday.

They lament what might be the impact on government, and that is because they have a government, the American people have a government that is on autopilot. We have a government that is so big and is funded with mandatory spending and is on autopilot such that you cannot constrain it.

The American people are asking why. The American people are asking what can you do about it.

I will give you the answer: My Democratic colleagues want more of the same. That is why our Democratic leadership in the United States Senate has put forward a continuing resolution on the floor of the Senate just now, in the last hour, that will perpetuate the status quo, will continue to fund government exactly as it was funded last December at the obscene levels of that $1.7 trillion omnibus spending bill.

They are going to send that bill over here to the House and say to the American people they want status quo, business as usual, and they are going to pile on additional supplemental funding. That is their response to what the American people are feeling and seeing.

I, if I were my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, would also want to have a dilatory vote because I would not have actual solutions for the American people.

What we are trying to put forward here, again, are four appropriations bills that fund 73 percent of the government when combined with MILCON-VA, which we passed in July. That is what my colleagues on the other side of the aisle do not want to go ahead and move to. They want to put forward a dilatory point of order because they don't have answers for the American people.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, the gentleman said the Democrats shut down the economy during the pandemic. I should remind him that Donald John Trump was the President of the United States and the Republicans controlled the House.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts for yielding.

Madam Speaker, let me announce breaking news.

I don't want to see the government shut down.

Democrats don't want to see the government shut down.

The American people don't want to see the government shut down.

I am standing with the American people and cities and hamlets and villages and counties and States.

What has failed to be enunciated, I say to my friend on the other side, is that we had a deal. We should have been finished with this.

The Speaker of the House and the President of the United States already agreed in the spring on what the numbers would be, what we were going to do for the government to keep operating. It has already been done.

We are here now because of the upheaval of MAGA Republicans talking about undermining a deal that was made on behalf of the good people of this Nation. We are facing an uphill battle.

We just came out of the Budget Committee where they are fighting to eliminate $400 million in Medicare cuts and $2 trillion in cuts to mandatory health spending.

The reason why we are on the floor now is because we believe in the people back home. They can't afford another unfunded mandate. Cities are now carrying over their fund balances with Federal dollars that Democrats were able to give to keep them alive. If we have these unfunded mandates, childcare goes out the window; Active-Duty military have problems with getting paid, our veterans don't get their

services; Social Security payments may be up in the air; the burden of having to pay money for unfunded mandates; the hanger-on amendments that are being put into these bills are just tragic.

Law enforcement may be impacted negatively. Those who are in need of getting violent criminals off the street may be put in jeopardy. People who are working-class Americans going to community colleges are in jeopardy of getting their resources.

Madam Speaker, let me just say this: No more unfunded mandates. Let's do the deal that we have and save the American people.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the rule governing debate on these four appropriation bills before us today: H.R. 4365—Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2024; H.R. 4367—Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2024; H.R. 4665—Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2024; and H.R. 4368—Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024.

I oppose the Rule and the underlying legislation as it pertains to H.R. 4365, for the following reasons:

The bill, which should be earnestly attempting to best support the Department of Defense, is being used by Republicans to sneak partisan and damaging policies under our noses.

The underlying bill does not reflect the input of nearly half the Members of this body and is strongly opposed by the ranking members who sit on the very committee this bill originated from.

In order to further promote a culture war, the members who oversaw this bill are going to put many Americans at risk.

First, they are targeting the many brave servicewomen currently employed by the Department of Defense by directly going against the Secretary of Defense's promises for them to have access to reproductive healthcare regardless of their station.

Women currently make up 1 in 5 members of our military.

Denying them their previously promised ability to check their reproductive health is not only dangerous, but also grossly irresponsible. The loss of these rights also increases the risk for low retention amongst female servicemembers who need these benefits this bill would strip away.

Second, the bill targets the LGBTQ+ community, who are increasingly victimized by Republican agendas around the country.

Regardless of your beliefs, it is important to treat everyone with respect and equality, which this bill does not do.

This bill would prohibit hormone therapy or surgical treatment for gender affirming care, directly affecting those who experience gender dysphoria. Individuals who feel they do not belong in their own body is a serious issue and has led to 1 in 5 transgender and nonbinary young people attempting suicide in the past year.

Our priority as the legislative body of this country is to protect the wellbeing of ALL citizens, regardless of personal beliefs and ideologies.

The language in this legislation would further embolden those who wish to commit harm and violence against a minority group already facing so much hardship, both socially and legally.

This is unacceptable.

The lives and wellbeing of those who live across the country should not be put at risk simply to push a regressive agenda that does not promote the diversity of our nation but rather seeks to suppress it.

This brings me to my third point, which is the underhanded way Republicans sought to eliminate "Critical Race Theory?" or "CRT".

Let me be clear: Republicans have a warped understanding of what this term means, and they are using it as a means to remove any diversity in education.

Critical Race Theory is a collegiate field of study that examines the complex ways in which race fits into the structures of our society; it is not an attack on white people for their history, just as it does not victimize Black people based on ours.

Based on an incorrect definition, Republican leaders at all levels of government have worked to eliminate all diverse viewpoints providing a complete framework of the history of this country, and instead wash over the negative to present a false narrative.

At the same time, legislation aimed at elementary schools against a Critical Race Theory—which again, is only offered at the collegiate level—deprives diverse students of hearing their voice reflected accurately in the history of this multicultural nation.

Another issue with this Defense Appropriations bill is the cut of $714 million to adapt military equipment to be more climate friendly.

Climate change is a crisis that requires global attention and efforts.

The refusal to even allow for updating our military alternative source of energy is regressive and promoted under a false message.

It was not Biden who indicated that he wanted an "all electric" fleet of tanks as is commonly stated, but rather the United States Army.

This part of the bill stands directly in the way of innovation as well as keeping us from doing our part in the world to strive towards a net zero future.

In 2020 alone, the United States military was responsible for 51 million tons of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere; more than most countries.

But now, when the U.S. Army decides for themselves that they want to scale back on their emissions, certain members in Congress want to limit their choice.

One bright spot of this bill—though it is short-lived—is the Jackson Lee Amendment to H.R. 4365 that was made in order by the committee.

The Jackson Lee amendment H.R. 4365 seeks to allocate $10 million to fund triple negative breast cancer research.

This issue is extremely important, especially for the brave men and women in the military, who are up to 20 to 40 percent more likely to develop breast cancer.

I must offer my appreciation to both the military and the Biden administration for making research into breast cancer a priority, but there is still work to be done.

This amendment would allow for more research so we can one day hopefully learn a way to reduce the number of military personnel affected by breast cancer.

Several initiatives I have designed in the past have aided active-duty servicemen and women along with veterans, such as enforcing accurate reporting of maternity mortality rates among the Armed Forces, addressing physical and mental health concerns, and securing authorization for Triple Negative Breast Cancer as well as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

I am very proud of the work that I and Congress has done to address the health concerns of active duty and veteran servicemen and women, but there are still improvements to be made.

The men and women who are on the front lines or have already completed their valiant service to this country have many pressing issues and challenges they already must face; breast cancer should not be one of them.

While this amendment is important, the negatives of this defense appropriations bill vastly outweigh the positives.

As with all the additional appropriation bills on the floor today, the Administration likewise strongly opposes the passage of this bill for a myriad of reasons—including the following:

Border Management Funding: It is disappointing this bill does not include funding for a new Southwest Border Contingency Fund. This fund would enable DHS to respond more effectively to changing conditions on the Southwest border and fulfill its critical and complementary missions of securing the border, performing efficient and effective screening and processing, and meeting the Nation's humanitarian obligations.

Shelter and Services Program: It also shameful that this bill seeks to eliminate the Shelter and Services Program, a priority grant program for DHS that provides temporary food, shelter, and other services to state and local entities and non-governmental organizations that provide support to migrants who are released from DHS custody. This grant program is a key mechanism for Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to relieve overcrowding in short-term holding facilities.

United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Funding: This bill further fails to provide appropriations for USCIS application processing and grant programs. Without this funding, USCIS would be unable to improve its operations and the application processing backlog would continue to grow in FY 2024.

Targeting Violence and Terrorism Prevention (TVFP) Grants: It is absolutely abhorrent that this bill eliminates the TVTP grant program. TVTP provides funding to nonprofits and to State, local, tribal, and territorial governments to develop multidisciplinary targeted violence and terrorism prevention capabilities in local communities, to pilot innovative prevention approaches, and to identify prevention best practices that can be replicated in communities across the Nation.

Immigration Enforcement Prohibitions and Requirements: I also stand with the Administration in strongly opposing section 220 of the bill, which would prohibit U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) from using appropriated funds to carry out the Administration's immigration enforcement priorities, as well as the requirement in the bill for ICE to fill 41,500 detention beds and enroll all non-detained migrants in Alternatives to Detention. These requirements are unrealistic, pose implementation challenges, and would dilute the Department's focus on protecting America from security threats.

Restrictions on Alternatives to Detention (ATD): This bill wrongfully eliminates funding for the Young Adult Case Management Program, as well as for Operation Horizon, and grant funds for a case management pilot program. These restrictions would simultaneously strain limited resources and remove valuable flexibilities in managing low-risk populations.

Limiting Interior Transportation: Prohibiting the transport of noncitizens to interior locations risks overcrowding at border processing sites and other DHS facilities, threatening to exacerbate life and safety concerns of those in custody.

Restrictions on Access to Healthcare: Section 222 of the bill is also particularly harmful, which would make it more difficult to access lawful reproductive healthcare. I stand in strong opposition to this section, which targets LGBTQI+ individuals who are in ICE detention.

Prohibiting the Implementation of the Asylum Processing Rule: This bill further prohibits the use of funds to implement the Administration's Asylum Processing Rule—which serves as a key part of the Administration's efforts to streamline the immigration system, allowing USCIS Asylum Officers to hear and decide certain asylum claims in the first instance.

Prohibiting the Implementation of the Legal Pathways Rule: I further oppose the bill's prohibition on using funds to implement the Administration's Circumvention of Lawful Pathways Rule. The Rule encourages migrants to use lawful, safe, and orderly processes for entering the United States; imposes conditions on asylum eligibility for those who fail to do so or fail to seek protection in a country through which they transit; and supports the swift return of migrants who do not have valid protection claims. The bill would undermine DHS's continued ability to safely, effectively, and humanely enforce and administer U.S. immigration law.

Restricting the Use of the CBP One Application: I also strongly oppose the bill's restrictions on using the CBP One application. A key part of the Administration's efforts to foster fair and orderly conditions at the border, the CBP One application allows border officials to screen migrants seeking asylum along the Southwest border, and issue them a document to appear in court upon their arrival.

Border Wall: Lastly, I oppose the homeland security appropriation bill for its rescession and reappropriation of $2.1 billion in border wall funding. Building a border wall is not a serious policy solution nor is it a responsible use of Federal funds.

While I am grateful the Rules Committee made my Jackson Lee Amendment No. 16/No. 43 in order, I strongly oppose this rule and the underlying bill.

I will, however, briefly recap why my amendment is important for this particular measure should we be able to move forward with a feasible appropriations bill that can accommodate this amendment.

The Jackson Lee Amendment increases funds by $1,000,000 and decreases funding by $1,000,000 for the Global Health Programs account to highlight and support the fight against the practice of Female Genital Mutilation.

I have been a dedicated champion against this practice for a long while, working closely with former Congressman Joe Crowley of New York to introduce legislation targeted at supporting the elimination of this ludicrous practice of mutilating young women.

Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) comprises all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.

This practice is rooted in gender inequality and is often linked to other elements of gender-based violence and discrimination, such as child marriage and recognized internationally as a violation of the human rights of women and girls.

Unfortunately, this means an estimated 200 million girls and women alive today have been victims of FGM/C, with girls 14 and younger representing 44 million of those who have been cut.

For example, consider that around the world, at least five girls are mutilated/cut every hour and more than 3 million girls are estimated to be at risk of FGM/C, annually.

The impacts of FGM/C on the physical health of women and girls can include bleeding, infection, obstetic fistula, complications during childbirth and death.

Other significant barriers to combatting the practice of FGM/C include the high concentration in specific regions associated with several cultural traditions, that is not tied to any one religion.

According to UNICEF, FGM/C is reported to occur in all parts of the world, but is most prevalent in parts of Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.

Due to the commonality of this practice many migrants to the U.S. bring the practice of FGM/C with them, increasing the importance of combatting FGM/C abroad.

Jackson Lee Amendment No. 16/No. 43 prioritizes funding for foreign assistance to combat Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C), an internationally recognized violation of the human rights of girls and women comes to an end.

Lastly, as it pertains to the bill to determine appropriations for the Department of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration, and related agencies for the 2024 fiscal year, I strongly oppose this rule and the underlying legislation.

While I am again grateful the Rules committee made in order my Jackson Lee Amendment, listed as No. 18 in the Harris (MD)—En Bloc, this bill seeks to return America's agriculture back to 2006 funding levels—with an allocation of $17.1 billion, nearly $8 billion below last year's enacted bill.

The Jackson Lee Amendment increases funding that provides grant research financial support for "1890s Land Grant Universities," which are 28 Historically Black Colleges and Universities. This amendment also proposes decreasing funding for the Office of the Chief Information Officer.

The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities' (APLU) Council of 1890s includes all Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) that are land-grant universities.

Under the Morrill Act of 1890, at least 19 universities have been designated with land-grant status. The Historically Black Colleges and Universities—Excellence in Research HBCU-EiR program was established in response to direction provided in the Senate Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee Report (Senate Report 115-139). That initiative was built on prior and continuing efforts by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to strengthen research capacity at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

The Jackson Lee Amendment would provide sufficient funding and guidance to enable the NSF to be successful with the HBCU Excellence in Research program.

This amendment would further provide opportunities for both public and private HBCUs, particularly for those who have not been successful in competing with larger NSF Research & Related Activities.

Increasing Funding for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) agency that provides grant research would help to stimulate sustainable improvement in research and development capacities of HBCUs.

By increasing funding for relevant agencies that provide appropriate financial support for these historically underserved institutions, we can ensure that federal funds are redirected toward more critical funding needs of the American people.

However, the proposed underlying bill as is would mean a pull back on investment, slashing the number of loans awarded to financially distressed farmers.

H.R. 4368 rescinds $500 million from the Renewable Energy for America Program (REAP), which helps farmers facing high input costs.

Many provisions in this bill seek to limit access to viable programs and put many out of reach of energy efficient projects that help American farmers to lower their energy bills and live decent lives.

For everyday rural Americans, the implementation of this bill would have a substantially negative impact on their daily livelihood. These communities rely on crucial infrastructure, from water and wastewater systems to high-speed internet.

However, these infrastructure projects require huge upfront costs that smaller tax bases of rural communities cannot bear alone.

H.R. 4368 would cut federal grants to community facilities by a whopping 90 percent, obstructing the progress in bringing affordable health care to underserved and rural communities, and it will cut rural water and waste disposal loans by 30 percent and rural waste disposal grants by 36 percent.

All these senseless cuts to funding amount to 325 crucial projects for rural water and wastewater systems that simply will not have the funding to be implemented.

This bill also seeks to eliminate funding for the Distressed Communities program, which means hundreds of small local governments will not be able to renovate their systems to meet EPA standards for getting arsenic and lead out of their drinking water systems.

The cumulative and direct impact of these policies on the American people will be devastating. Thousands of American families could lose access to reliable sources of water, not knowing if they could turn on the spigot and get clean, safe water to drink or complete a myriad of other essential daily tasks.

H.R. 4368 further limits funding for Rural Electric Cooperatives that help close the gaps in our power grid across the country. Over 900 rural electric cooperatives serve 42 million people across 48 states—including 92 percent of persistent poverty counties—those who can least afford to build and maintain this crucial infrastructure. These Rural Electric Cooperatives play vital roles in ensuring that rural communities have access to affordable energy.

Additionally, H.R. 438 will contribute to food insecurity in our country. The bill calls for new work requirements for SNAP recipients, which exacerbates the cycle of poverty—particularly in rural communities.

We cannot deny the fact that SNAP recipients who are able to work, do work. However, even with a full-time job, many Americans, especially those in our rural communities, struggle to earn enough to escape poverty.

This is not an issue of pulling oneself up by the bootstraps, but of limited job opportunities, cut-back work hours, and other extenuating factors.

America cannot thrive if Americans are hungry, and this bill will take food out of the mouths of over 6 million Americans who will lose SNAP benefits due to the increased work requirements.

If this bill passes, it will rescind $500 million dollars in WIC funding, underfunding the account for 2024 directly affecting nearly 5 million hungry women and children.

H.R. 4368 will reduce levels for WIC fruit and vegetable vouchers by $1.2 billion—hurting both families and farmers.

As a result, 4.6 million of our people would lose out on produce and our farmers would lose an expected $1.2 million dollars in revenue.

Not only that, the nearly 30 percent cut to single family direct housing loans—from $1.25 billion in FY 2023 to $900 million in FY 2024—will make it harder for rural Americans to afford to buy a house.

This means that over 2800 rural families will not be able to get financing to put a roof over their heads; our farmers, producers, and rural communities deserve a more reliable partner in our Congress.

While it is without question that the USDA has a long and storied history of discrimination, Congress, however, has always been a steadfast partner and cornerstone of this country's agricultural industry. This appropriations bill, H.R. 4368, however, seeks to undermine enduring efforts of this Congress to ensure equal opportunity and access for every American.

These appropriations should be a reliable means by which we help Americans from all walks of life; unfortunately, the Republican proposed bill before us today does not meet the moment.

Too much is at stake—from the food we eat, to the medicine and medical devices on which we rely, and the fiber and materials that help clothe and build our country, and our national security. Americans deserve better.

America cannot permit a child, a family, or a small business that has their potential to be limited, and opportunities curtailed simply because they are located in a Rural Free Delivery (RFD) zip code.

This appropriations bill presented to us today takes food out of the mouths of hungry people, creates barriers for women who need access to medication, raises energy costs for rural Americans, and makes it harder for small farmers and poultry producers to meet their basic needs.

We can do better. We are better than this. The American people deserve better.

I cannot support this bill as it stands, and I urge all my colleagues to vote against this cruel proposal.

For all these reasons, I strongly urge my colleagues to oppose the rule and the underlying legislation for all four appropriation bills.

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, as I said, this is a dilatory tactic by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. I wouldn't want to speak about what is going on either.

I wouldn't want to speak about the story this afternoon of Hunter Biden receiving a $250,000 wire originating in Beijing with the beneficiary address listed as Joe Biden's home. I wouldn't want to talk about that.

I wouldn't want to talk about what we have been learning in the Committee on the Judiciary. I wouldn't want to be learning about what is going on or talking about what we have heard from the whistleblowers or from Devon Archer. I wouldn't want to talk about that at all. I would want to sweep that aside.

I wouldn't want to talk about the Department of Justice that targeted Scott Smith and put him on the domestic terrorism list.

I wouldn't want to talk about a Department of Justice that targeted Mark Houck and have used the FACE Act to go after pro-life Americans.

I wouldn't want to talk about anything that this administration is doing. I would want to delay.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON), my good friend.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for all of his hard work here.

I just heard one of our colleagues over here suggest that somehow Republicans are in favor of a government shutdown. No one desires a government shutdown.

What we desire and what we are working towards is changing how Washington works. That is the commitment that we made to the American people. That is why they gave us the majority.

How do we do that? We have to change the decades of reckless spending and corruption. We have to change the weaponization of the Federal agencies that are designed to protect and serve the American people instead of being used against them.

We have to change the opening of the borders that is destroying our communities contributing to the rising crime wave.

We have to change the way that the Biden administration is administering the economy.

We have to change the radical shift, the forced transition that they are trying to push us into, this radical green energy transition. It is nonsense.

The American people have had enough. They see the Democrat policies destroying our economy, destroying our security, destroying opportunity for their children and grandchildren.

We are taking a stand here. We are operating in good faith. We are negotiating together for the best outcome for the people, and we do not desire a shutdown.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's comments, but I should remind him that the Republicans set an amendment deadline on appropriations bills after the shutdown deadline, so don't tell me you are interested somehow in avoiding a shutdown.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BOYLE), the ranking member on the Budget Committee, to speak more about that.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, the previous speaker just said that no Republican Member wants a shutdown. I have the quotes right here, which I will submit for the RECORD when I am done.

One House Republican said: ''. . . let's shut it down.''

Another Republican colleague said: ''We should not fear a government shutdown . . . Most of the American people won't even miss it. . . .''

The leader of the Republican Party, the former President, said: ''Unless you get everything, shut it down.''

Make no mistake about it, we are here because certain Members on the other side of the aisle want a shutdown. They even said they want a shutdown.

Why should we be surprised about that?

Ever since I was in high school 30 years ago, we have had five government shutdowns; all five took place under House Republican leadership. When Democrats were in charge of the House, zero government shutdowns during that same time period.

Now, in terms of the one Republican Member who said that the American people won't miss it if there is a government shutdown, actually here is what would happen.

More than 7 million Americans would lose access to their benefits: women, infants, and children; 2½ million Active-Duty and Reserve personnel serving in our Nation's Armed Forces would go without the pay they deserve; 2.3 million Federal workers could be furloughed or forced to work without pay; millions of Americans who are going to our airports and going through TSA lines suddenly finding themselves with unending delay—by the way, 1.6 million Americans who fly through our airports every single day will be impacted; 660,000 college students who rely on Federal work study.

I was one of those students at one point who relied on that program, so make no mistake about it, there are real consequences to shutdowns.

My colleague from Massachusetts cited the data before. It cost us $11 billion the last shutdown. This one would do the same.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. HAGEMAN). The gentleman from Massachusetts has 1 minute remaining. The gentleman from Texas has 3½ minutes remaining.

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, again, my colleagues don't want to focus on the

issues the American people care about, and they certainly don't want to talk about the issues that are, frankly, pretty embarrassing to the track record of my Democratic colleagues.

As I said, they don't want to talk about Hunter Biden. They don't want to talk about the Department of Justice and how it has been weaponized against the American people.

They don't want to talk about a Strategic Petroleum Reserve that has been decimated and the high cost of gasoline and electricity. They don't want to talk about inflation. They don't want to talk about housing prices.

They don't want to talk about a Department of Defense that is more focused on social engineering than carrying out the mission that it is given.

They don't want to talk about crime.

They don't want to talk about woke policies in which men are swimming against women in swimming meets.

They don't want to talk about the border. We are going to talk about the border, but I assure you, they do not want to talk about the border.

They talk about consequences.

Last Thursday, Texas authorities recovered the bodies of two migrants, including a 3-year-old boy who tried crossing the Rio Grande. Then 2 weeks ago, a 10-year-old migrant boy drowned while trying to cross the Rio Grande.

Last year, 853 migrants died crossing the southern border; 53 in a tractor-trailer in the city of San Antonio, which I represent.

Thousands of Americans are dying from fentanyl poisoning. There are moms that I have to talk to, dads that I have to talk to in Texas who have to bury another child because we refuse utterly to secure the border of the United States.

Again, the President of the United States, the Democratic leadership of the Senate, and the Democrat minority in the House utterly refuse to do their job to shut down the open border of the United States to secure our people. They are perfectly content with then shutting down the government because they refuse to do their job.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I would just say to my colleagues, I have never seen such incompetence ever in this Chamber.

They say that they are against dilatory tactics. Yet they have only passed one appropriations bill. Now they are going to try to rush 11 more in record time across the finish line. This should have happened in June and July.

By the way, all these bills are so extreme that they are dead on arrival. They are going nowhere.

□ 1815

Their Homeland Security appropriations bill, even if we pass it, they are going to hold it at the desk until the Senate passes their ridiculous border bill, H.R. 2, which they know is going nowhere. They are not even sending that over to the Senate.

They are wasting all this time for what, I don't know, but in the meantime, right now we should be considering a continuing resolution so this government doesn't shut down.

I never thought I would ever be on the floor saying anything nice about the Senate, but over there Democrats and Republicans are actually talking to each other. They actually came to an agreement on a continuing resolution, and hopefully they will act on it and they will send it over here so we can end this nonsense.

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

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, last summer, our Democratic colleagues sent a package, a minibus of six appropriations bills, and in one vote wiped their hands and said they were done. Then there was a massive omnibus spending bill that was sent over to us in December.

What I ask my colleagues is: What would you cut? What would you do to actually reduce the deficit and reduce the debt of the United States when we are $33 trillion in debt and we are going to have $2 trillion of deficit spending this year?

We are putting forward bills that would reduce spending. We are putting forward bills that would actually move the Department of Defense appropriations bills over to the Senate, and do so responsibly, the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill, the State-Foreign Operations, and Agriculture, on top of MILCON–VA, which we already passed.

My colleague talks about wasting time. What have we been doing for the last 20 minutes besides waste time here on the floor of the House with a dilatory tactic, which my colleagues fully understand has no basis. They are objecting to a waiver that they have constantly used themselves.

The fact is they have no message so my colleagues are resorting to dilatory tactics.

Again, shut down the open border or risk shutting down the government of the United States.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

The question is, Will the House now consider the resolution?

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 209, nays 198, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 404]

YEAS—209

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

NAYS—198

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cohen
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crockett
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dingell
Doggett
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frankel, Lois
Frost
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Robert
Golden (ME)
Gomez
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jackson Lee
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur

Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Lieu
Magaziner
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McClellan
McGarvey
McGovern
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nickel
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Ross
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)

NOT VOTING—26

Allen
Baird
Bera
Burlison
Bush
Carson
Carter (TX)
Clyburn
Crenshaw
Crow
Dean (PA)
DesJarlais
Goldman (NY)
Huffman
LaMalfa
Lofgren
Lucas
Luna
Lynch
McCollum
Nunn (IA)
Peltola
Rogers (AL)
Stansbury
Van Drew
Wilson (FL)

□ 1837

Ms. CHU and Mr. COHEN changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

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

So the question of consideration was decided in the affirmative.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 404.

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "YEA" on rollcall No. 404.

Stated against:

Mr. BERA. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 404.

□ 1845

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS). The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, on Saturday, the Rules Committee reported a rule for four appropriations measures and made in order 440 total amendments.

We bring to the floor H.R. 4365, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act; 180 amendments were made in order.

This bill, combined with the amendments that were made in order, takes significant steps to invest in resources that will help deter China, will cut the bureaucracy, will support military families and servicemembers, and will restore the Department of Defense's focus to warfighting rather than social engineering.

We bring to the floor H.R. 4665, the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2024.

This bill would defund international bodies like the World Health Organization, eliminate woke offices at the State Department, defund John Kerry, and it stands up for Israel while funding our State Department and foreign operations.

H.R. 4368, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024, was also a part of the rule.

This bill makes significant strides to reduce spending to pre-COVID levels, prevents members of the Communist Party of China from buying United States farmland, defunds the FDA's rule allowing abortion drugs by mail, and makes strides in ending wokeness at the United States Department of Agriculture.

Madam Speaker, importantly, these three bills, combined with the next one that I am going to talk about, reflect our commitment to reduce spending and an agreement to reduce spending further than the FRA, which was passed earlier this year, to a target of $1.526 trillion of discretionary spending.

That is our goal. That is our objective. It is something the American people are clamoring for from their leaders in Washington—to actually address the debt crisis fueling inflation and undermining the sovereignty of our Nation.

This is why we are here. This is the job we are supposed to do. I have offered to my colleagues that I wish this were July. We passed MILCON-VA in July. The Senate has passed nothing.

Last year, under Democrat control, six bills were packaged together in the summer and passed, and then a massive omnibus bill was passed in December.

I had an exchange with one of my Democratic colleagues a minute ago about this not being regular order, but this actually is regular order.

It is late in the process, I acknowledge. We are trying to move four bills that would total, when combined with MILCON-VA, upwards of almost three-quarters of the discretionary funding for our government.

Hopefully, we can reach some resolution as to how to move forward funding the government appropriately. We obviously have disagreements on what funding the government appropriately means, which stands here at the center of the debate, stands here at the center of the impasse, which brings me to H.R. 4367, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act.

It is a good bill, has strong provisions, strong language in it to try to encourage the Department of Homeland Security and Secretary Mayorkas to do their jobs.

In our view, it is not sufficient because the Secretary, backed by the President of the United States, has utterly refused to do his job.

This should concern all of us. Every Member of this body, Democrat or Republican, Texas or New York, Florida or California, ought to be concerned with what is happening to our country, what is happening in Eagle Pass, Texas.

Madam Speaker, 11,000 human beings, 11,000 the night before last, 304,000 apprehensions in August—this is incomprehensible. The human toll is staggering; the deaths from fentanyl poisoning, the things that we have talked about ad nauseam on this floor.

As I was alluding to earlier, it is not compassionate to have open borders as currently exist under this administration and under the leadership of Secretary Mayorkas.

Last Thursday, Texas authorities recovered the bodies of two migrants, including a 3-year-old boy, trying to cross the Rio Grande.

Madam Speaker, 2 weeks ago, a 10-year-old migrant drowned while trying to cross the Rio Grande, and 853 migrants died last year.

This is every day in Texas. I get a phone call or a text from a rancher every day in Texas. They find a body on their ranch. How is that remotely acceptable?

That is at the center of this debate. There are countless issues we disagree on, countless issues we need to address, and the appropriations process can, in fact, through the power of the purse, address many of those issues. These bills do that.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle say, well, these bills are dead on arrival. Well, that is how this process works. We put forward bills, and if there is disagreement, if the Senate disagrees, then we conference. I hope we can get to that stage.

I, again, will posit I wish this were July or August or 3 weeks ago, but we sit here with four bills that will fund almost 75 percent of the government when added to MILCON–VA.

Let's do our job. Let's work to move the DHS bill. Let's work together to figure out how to deal with the border.

To be very clear, we must address the border. That is a nonnegotiable truth;

that we must address the border. We can sit around a table and debate how, but we must address it.

There has been too much death, too much destruction, too much damage to States and to human beings across this country, and the Federal Government has an obligation to do its job, and that is what we are endeavoring to do.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, forgive me, but what the hell is going on around here? We just heard the gentleman from Texas scream talking points that sound like they were written in Mar-a-Lago.

This is crazy. I can't believe I have to say this, but the Federal Government of the United States is shutting down on Saturday because a handful of MAGA Republicans didn't get everything they wanted. I have to tell you, that is a bad thing. It is a bad thing for our country.

Some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are acting like a shutdown is no big deal. Stop it. Stop it. This is not a mock Congress. This isn't the Model U.N.

We are talking about real people's lives here. Shutdowns cost taxpayer money. Shutdowns hurt the economy. Shutdowns mean people don't get paid. Shutdowns are bad. Yet, Republicans are on the verge of shutting down the government.

We have a Democratic President. We have a Democratic Senate. All we need is this Republican House of Representatives to get their act together, but they can't.

Their bumbling, incompetent leadership can't even do the basic job of standing up to their extreme Members so we can keep the lights on.

It might have made sense for them to pass these appropriation bills and send them to the Senate to iron out our differences if it were still June or July. It is September.

They have spent months fighting with themselves, and now we are 4 days from our deadline. Have they ever looked at a calendar? Have they ever heard of the concept of scheduling? Have they ever heard of clock management?

You don't start a months-long process 4 days before the deadline, but here we are, considering the most extreme, partisan, unhinged MAGA messaging bills this majority could come up with.

My colleague from Texas talks about the border, the border, the border. It is an important issue, but these bills cut funding for the border. He cares so much about securing the border that he is willing to—wait for it—defund the border.

Madam Speaker, they are not even sending their Homeland Security appropriations bill to the Senate. What brilliant legislative mind came up with this bright idea?

Let me explain what this rule does. The House is refusing to send this bill to the Senate until the Republicans' extreme immigration bill is signed into law, which is never going to happen.

What will happen because of all their nonsense is that the people who actually work to secure the border will not get paid. This is nuts.

These bills are chock full of MAGA culture wars. Their agriculture bill takes money away from food assistance for pregnant mothers and newborns. I could spend all day talking about how awful these bills are.

The bottom line is we have 4 days, and I am asking my Republican colleagues: Do not shut this government down because you are all fighting with yourselves. Do your job and keep the government open. That shouldn't be too much to ask.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

First of all, with all due respect to the gentleman from Massachusetts, the bill we put forward does not cut funding. It increases spending over last year.

We can debate the merits of that and debate how much we need to restrain spending, but it is simply not true. Let's at least speak about the facts before us and the legislation in front of us.

I heard my colleague talking about getting our act together. I would say to my colleague from Massachusetts: How about the Senate and the President get their act together? How about they actually do their jobs and secure the border of United States?

The gentleman from Massachusetts just blithely swept it aside. Oh, it is an important issue. Tell that to the people in Texas. In August, 304,000 encounters, the fifth month in fiscal year 2023 over 200,000, 2.2 million in fiscal year 2023 encounters.

Since the President took office, there have been nearly 6 million illegal migrants encountered along the southwest border, more than the populations of Houston and Dallas combined.

We have had 2 million released in the United States, thousands of migrants traveling through the Darien Gap, trains chock-full of people, children getting sold into the sex trafficking trade on a daily basis.

We know it because it is in Federal orders from judges. These are not made-up facts. They are right before us, and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle don't care, and the Senate leadership, the Democrats leading the Senate and the President don't care, and the Secretary of Homeland Security doesn't care.

My answer to the question about why we are saying that H.R. 2 must be signed into law before the funding bill gets passed is because the law must change, and the Secretary must be forced to do his job because he is refusing to do it.

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

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, it is interesting here, my colleagues on the other side saying, shutdown, shutdown, shutdown; that is all you hear.

What about the shutdown that occurred for the COVID virus for over a year and a half? What about the shutdown that kept children out of school for over a year and a half?

It is outrageous that here we are on this floor trying to pass legislation to cut spending to put money back in the pockets of the taxpayers.

Folks, we are in an economic crisis. We are in a national security crisis. The fact is my colleagues are continually against a shutdown, which is never good, but in this case, we are fighting for the American people.

As Representative ROY mentioned with Homeland Security, go to the border. Go to the border and see what is happening there. See the rape trees. See the people coming across this border that now number in excess of the 5.2 million from my State of South Carolina.

Think about the medical crisis. We don't know what they are coming with. Think about the hundreds of programs that they are automatically going to be enrolled in.

Think about the Social Security numbers and the driver's licenses that are given to illegals that occurred in New York City. Think about the flights paid for by taxpayers' money to go all over this country illegally.

It is un-American, it is an invasion, and my good friends on the other side of the aisle will pay a price as they are being booed in different parts of the country because of leaving this border open, leaving this country unsecure. We have never faced this kind of crisis that we face right now just on that issue alone.

On the spending issue, I would like for those listening today to realize it boils back to our $32 trillion, $20,000 per second it is costing the taxpayers.

They don't want to cut anything. They want to go on with a bloated Federal Government and continue spending as we have done before. We are saying no.

□ 1900

I am proud of my colleagues. We will sit up here and fight if it takes all night long. It is a sad day that we are arguing over things that should be common sense. It is un-American what they are trying to do.

Now, the four appropriations bills, the Homeland Security bill, tying H.R. 2 to it, is exactly the right thing. My good friends on the other side of the aisle talk about reduced funding. They are not enforcing anything.

Mayorkas is not enforcing anything. Why pay him? All this does is say: Unless you enforce the border and include

it, we are not paying Mayorkas a dime for homeland security.

Look at the Department of Defense. Look at the cuts, yet the increases overall which we have given our Department of Defense. The FDA, we have made some legitimate cuts on the FDA on some things that should have been.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, the gentleman from South Carolina says we keep on talking about government shutdown, government shutdown. The reason we do is because we listened to you.

On September 19 in the PBS Hour interview, you were asked: How likely is a shutdown right now?

Your response was: It is 100 percent.

We have heard that from other Members.

The gentleman keeps on talking about the border. We believe the border is a serious issue. The border is not open. Maybe people think it is open because you guys keep on saying it is open. You are signaling to people that it is open. It is not open, and we don't believe it should be open. We don't view this issue as a political talking point. We want to get results.

My friends on the other side of the aisle voted against a fiscal year 2023 government funding package that President Biden signed into law that provided Border Patrol with $7.153 billion, a 17 percent increase from the year before.

The funding package provided $65 million for 300 new Border Patrol agents, $60 million for 125 new personnel at every point of entry, and $230 million for technology, like the autonomous surveillance towers. Does any of that sound like open borders?

Here is the kicker. House Republicans voted ''no.''

By the way, Mr. NORMAN, this bill does nothing about Mr. Mayorkas' salary, but it does cut salaries for people who are working at the border, Border Patrol agents.

The gentleman from Texas said that he wants the Senate to get their act together.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD a press release from the chair of the Appropriations Committee, U.S. Senator PATTY MURRAY, who just announced that Democrats and Republicans have come to a bipartisan agreement on a continuing resolution.

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

There was no objection.

[From the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations, Sept. 26, 2023]

MURRAY RELEASES BIPARTISAN CONTINUING RESOLUTION

WASHINGTON, DC.—Today, U.S. Senator Patty Murray (D–WA), Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, released a bipartisan Continuing Resolution to extend government funding through November 17, prevent a government shutdown at the end of the month, and allow work on full-year appropriations bills to continue.

''A shutdown would be nothing short of a catastrophe for American families, our national security, and our economy. It is critical that we avoid one, and that's exactly what this bipartisan legislation will do,'' said Chair Murray. ''While we continue work on annual appropriations bills to address our country's full needs in the year ahead, this legislation prevents a shutdown, keeps our government funded, and provides critical dollars to support communities struck by disaster and support Ukraine at a pivotal moment in its defensive efforts against Putin's brutal, unprovoked war of aggression. This bill ensures wildland firefighters will not see a pay cut, and it prevents critical laws from lapsing to ensure the FAA and community health centers can continue operating. We have much more to do, but we should pass this legislation immediately—there is no time to waste.''

The bipartisan Continuing Resolution:

1. Extends government funding through November 17.
2. Extends funding to help communities struck by disaster and continues support for Ukraine at a pivotal moment.
3. Prevents critical health statutes from lapsing to ensure funding for community health enters and teaching health centers does not expire.
4. Extends the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) authorities through the end of the calendar year.
5. Ensures federal wildland firefighters will not see a pay cut.
6. Ensures the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) will continue to be able to serve the nearly 7 million women and children who rely on it.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, they are talking to each other. You can't even get an agreement amongst Republicans—how pathetic.

Madam Speaker, at this time I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their comments to the Chair and not to each other.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, the American people deserve to know why we are in this position. They need to know that less than 5 percent of the 435 Members of this body have put us in this position.

The gentleman from Texas indicated how they did that. They have held the rest of us hostage unless the bill that they want is passed. They are taking hostage the American people. They are taking hostage Federal employees. They have taken hostage the Congress of the United States.

What ought to happen is the over 300 of us—147 Republicans and 165 Democrats vote to compromise. I would call all of your attention to a 1998 speech in October by Newt Gingrich, he called it the ''Perfectionist Caucus'' speech.

He made a deal with Clinton because Clinton was the President. As Newt Gingrich pointed out, we had a lot of Democrats in the House, a lot of Democrats in the Senate, and a lot of Republicans in the Senate, who he said, by the way, don't always agree with us.

The American people expect us to make it work. How do we make it work?

We make compromises.

The 5 percent that shut down the Congress for a week did it because they didn't like the compromise, and they stomped their feet and they sent us home, which of course cost money because none of us took a salary cut. Nothing got done that week.

Yeah, maybe it should be back in July, but it was shut down again just last week when they sent us home because less than 5 percent—in this case, a little more than 1 percent, of the Congress—1 percent of this body had a tantrum.

They wouldn't vote for national security. They wouldn't vote for a rule that put a defense appropriation bill on the floor. Their bill, not our bill.

Madam Speaker, the American public needs to know why their House is in the chaos of which the gentleman from Texas talked about is occurring at the border.

We are going to be here for the next 4 or 5 days, maybe even longer, pretending that somehow we are compromising, and we are moving forward. That is not the case. We have had a small group take the House hostage, the American peoples' House hostage.

We can talk about the numbers and disagree on the numbers.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I only have 30 seconds left to say some pretty substantive things, and I won't have the time to do it.

Madam Speaker, Mr. and Mrs. America ought to know that when I was the majority leader we didn't shut down the government. When I was the majority leader on this side of the House, we passed every bill we wanted to pass because we are not a divided party, as the party that is now in the majority has so clearly demonstrated on a regular basis how divided they are.

The Speaker made a deal. Keep the deal. Stop taking hostage the American people and their government.

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, the only people being held hostage are the American people by Democrat leadership in the Senate and in the White House; holding them hostage to a wide open border, endangering them every single day, including the 110,000 someodd migrants that have been sent to and gone to New York City, and that are endangering our people on the streets.

The American people are, in fact, being held hostage because this Democratic leadership refuses to do their job to secure the border.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS), my friend and colleague.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I thank the members of the Rules Committee who put in so many hours over the past several days to prepare what is an unprecedented rule, in my experience. It is important for moving us forward.

To the members of the Rules Committee who put in the long hours this weekend, I certainly want to thank the members of that committee and the staff for working so hard. We are going to get this underlying legislation to the floor. It is important.

You are hearing a lot about the border this evening for a reason. A lot of us have studied the problems at the border for several years, but I will just tell you, it has never been this bad, and people see that. We are constantly asked at home: Why can't you do something about that?

Mr. ROY is exactly right. We did pass a very significant policy bill, H.R. 2, earlier this year, but it does no good to continue to fund it if the administration is not going to enforce the law—even the current law—but enforce the law, which is essentially the will of the Congress.

What we are doing here today is critical. We are fulfilling our obligation to our constituents and the American people. We are going to fund the government in a responsible and fiscally sound manner, as opposed to this business of usual stuff that has been going on for several years where Congress is expected to rubberstamp what comes over from the Senate or rubberstamp what is asked for by the President.

Our duty extends far beyond what is happening just today. The next generation and the next generation after that, our future, the country's future depends on us standing strong at this moment and ensuring that the funds of the American taxpayer are wisely spent.

This administration's track record has failed on so many levels—failed my constituents, failed your constituents, Madam Speaker, the people of Texas, and the migrants who have lost their lives on this dangerous journey to cross our border.

Madam Speaker, this administration is not only complicit, but bears the sole responsibility for this humanitarian crisis that is unfolding before our very eyes.

The Biden administration's failure to enforce our laws, their shameful handcuffing of our courageous Border Patrol agents from effectively safeguarding our borders has allowed the southern border to fall from anarchy into a calamity.

Madam Speaker, our work here today signifies our crucial mission to rectify past errors and steer our Nation back on the path of fiscal responsibility. People need to know that we recognize our solemn duty to correct course and restore fiscal sanity, not only for our sake but for the sake of those who will come after.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, breaking news, news flash, the Senate just voted on cloture on the motion to proceed on the CR, 77–19. They are working in an overwhelmingly bipartisan fashion to get this thing done so we don't shut the government down.

What are my Republican friends doing?

They are still fighting amongst themselves. We don't even have a draft of anything that they are proposing in terms of avoiding a shutdown.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Nevada (Mrs. LEE).

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my Republican colleagues to end this MAGA meltdown and come together to avert a government shutdown and the chaos it will bring our country.

I just returned from my hometown of Las Vegas—the entertainment capital of the world—and spent the weekend talking to my constituents who are fed up with the political theater here in Washington.

They can't understand how extreme Members of this body won't stop until they force this country into a government shutdown.

Maybe those Members should have spent the weekend talking to the thousands of TSA agents who are going to be forced to work without pay; or the 53,000 women and children in Nevada whose vital nutrition assistance will be put in jeopardy; or maybe the 200,000 Nevada veterans whose VA claims processing and wait times will grow; or the tens of thousands of Nevadans whose Medicare and Social Security inquiries will be put on hold.

Most importantly, maybe they should have listened to the thousands of hospitality workers and small businesses who make Las Vegas the magical place that it is, and whose livelihoods will be put at risk by a shutdown.

Have no doubt, without funding to keep the 50 million visitors moving through Harry Reid International Airport each year, our city, our hardworking families, and our local economy will suffer the consequences of these extremists' political games, and the rest of the country will, too.

The U.S. Travel Association estimates that a government shutdown will cost the U.S. travel economy as much as $140 million every single day. Let's be clear: we all know how this story ends. It ends by working across the aisle, that is what will get us out of this mess.

House Democrats are ready to fund the government to avert a shutdown. The question right now is: Can Republican leadership stand up to the most extreme minority wing of their party and end this nonsense?

Madam Speaker, I urge a ''no'' vote on the rule.

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, the American people are fed up, my constituents are fed up, the people we represent are fed up, and they are fed up with the very deal that the gentleman from Massachusetts just described that came out of the Senate.

Madam Speaker, that is 45 days of continued spending at the existing levels and continuing the status quo with an additional $6 billion for Ukraine, and nothing to deal with the border. Nothing. Zero changes at the border.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

□ 1915

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, we were promised that this year would be different, that we would run all 12 spending bills individually and actually find some savings for the American people. Yet, this is another year where the taxpayers' hard-earned dollars are just squandered.

Congress has passed all required spending bills only four times in about the 50 years since we have been under the current system. The last time Congress actually passed all the bills was 1996, when the U.S. national debt was a staggering $5.2 trillion.

Just last week the debt hit $33 trillion. This is a cycle of perpetual failure, and, yes, our citizens are sick of it. The American people have lost faith in our ability to handle the country's fiscal issues.

Madam Speaker, the other side talks about how efficiently they moved through things. Yeah, they moved through things. In 1996, we were $5 trillion in debt. Now we are $33 trillion in debt. They have efficiently spent us into bankruptcy because there is no amount of money, Madam Speaker, there is zero amount of money that they won't spend. They will spend as much as the American people make and then so much more.

The cost of living is tied to the spending, Madam Speaker. Our citizens—my bosses and their bosses—can't afford their groceries, gasoline, or electricity because this town continues to spend like there is no tomorrow.

Madam Speaker, we should pass this rule so we can pass the 12 bills and so we can reject the nongermane Senate bill that hooks the FAA with Ukraine spending. Maybe both of those are important, Madam Speaker, but tell me why I have got to vote to keep airplanes flying in the United States and also vote to spend money in a war 8,000 miles away. The American people are sick of that failure theater, Madam Speaker.

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

Madam Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Pennsylvania complaining about the mismanagement of this House of Representatives. It is reinforcing our message. He can complain all he wants, but he can't blame Speaker PELOSI, Joe Biden, or anybody but his own leadership. I hate to tell him, but his party is in charge.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BOYLE), the distinguished ranking member of the Budget Committee.

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, a wise coach once said: You are your record.

Well, let's look at the record. Over the last 30 years, five government shutdowns, all five took place under House

Republican leadership. When Democrats were in charge of the House, those 30 years, zero government shutdowns. Heck, some on the other side like shutdowns so much, the last one was under a Republican House, a Republican Senate, and a Republican President.

Now, some on the other side have said publicly that there would be essentially no consequences to a government shutdown. One Member even said people won't even miss it.

Here is what happened during the last Republican shutdown: $11 billion lost to this economy, billions of taxpayer money wasted, 140,000 fewer jobs as a result of that shutdown.

You look at those that took place even before 2018, and you see similar results. This is all, by the way, from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. There are real costs to a government shutdown.

Here we are just 4 days, 4 hours, and some minutes away from the shutdown. It pains me to say this, but we see the Senate doing its job. They actually just voted on a bipartisan basis, by a 4–1 margin, to make sure we don't have a government shutdown.

What is the leadership doing here in the House? Debating bills that, frankly, will have no impact whatsoever on whether or not we shut down at midnight Saturday.

Let's stand up to this extreme MAGA shutdown. Let's say ''no'' to the shutdown. Let's pass the bipartisan continuing resolution tonight and make sure we don't disrupt the lives of the American people.

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GAETZ), my friend and colleague.

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, the gentleman is right, you are your record, and our record in this country right now is $33 trillion in debt, facing $2 trillion annual deficits. We are in so much debt, we are driving up deficits so fast, we are devaluing American money so rapidly that in America today, you can't even bribe Democratic Senators with cash alone. You need to bring gold bars to get the job done just so that the bribes hold value.

My friends, I am extremely in favor of this rule because this rule moves us onto single-subject spending bills, and this is the only way to liberate this House and this country from the scourge of governing by continuing resolution and omnibus legislation.

It is an insult to our governing authority to have the Senate lash Ukraine funding to the reauthorization of the FAA, and, by the way, every other thing in government. The American people know that in our State legislatures throughout this land there is a maturity and a seriousness to set a top line, balanced budget number and then appropriate to each of the agencies in government independently. The fact that we don't do that is not a bug of the system. It is a feature of the system.

The one thing I agree with my Democratic colleagues on is for the last 8 months, this House has been poorly led. We own that, and we have to do something about it. My Democratic colleagues will have an opportunity to do something about that, too, and we will see if they bail out our failed Speaker.

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

Madam Speaker, there is a pattern here that I have seen develop over the years. When Republicans are in charge, the debt doesn't matter. When Democrats are in charge, all of a sudden, the debt is the central issue. It is funny, when Donald Trump, who I don't know how many indictments he has against him at this particular point, how many dozens of years in jail he faces if he is convicted, but when he was President, he added $8 trillion to the debt, and there was silence from the other side of the aisle. That was only in 4 years, by the way. It is a little bit ironic to hear some of this back and forth here.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I just got off the telephone with one of my chief law enforcement officers in Houston, Texas, in Harris County, who just simply begged us not to shut down the government.

As everyone knows, I was on the floor just an hour or so ago saying, breaking news, I am against a government shutdown. We will fight against the government shutdown. My good friend on the other side of the aisle is complaining that the Senate did their work with such an amazing, overwhelming majority.

Let me tell you how we can solve that before I get into discussion of why we are standing here today. Put the Senate bill on the floor. That is the rules that are the operational underpinnings of the House and Senate. They send it over, and we put it on the floor. If you don't like it, you change it and send it back. That way, you are engaged in stopping the shutdown.

However, if we sit here tonight and do nothing, the government shutdown, in particular, is going to impact the gross domestic product from 2 to 6 percentage points or $2- to $6 billion in lost output. That is people without jobs, resulting in the creation of 120,000 fewer private-sector jobs.

In addition, things like Medicare and Medicaid are going to be in jeopardy. Our economic security will be in jeopardy. Education and training will be in jeopardy, infrastructure dollars; and, particularly, my seniors and others in need of Social Security checks are just going to be out in the cold.

Combining, however, the bills that my friends want us to move on, they attack women's reproductive rights, they attack the LGBTQ+ community, who are continuously victimized for medical care that they need. They talk about Homeland Security, and it is completely untenable that they exclude funding for a new southwest border contingency fund that would enable DHS to respond more effectively to changing conditions on the southwest border. They cut out shelter and services programs. It is shameful to eliminate those programs that provide temporary food and shelter.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. SALAZAR). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, in addition—can you believe it?—they slash or eliminate the number of loans awarded to financially distressed farmers under the agriculture bill; and then targeting violence and terrorism prevention grants, they take that out.

What are we talking about here? Let's deal with the CR from the Senate. You don't like it, add something to it, and send it back. Today is September 26. We will be able to say to the American people, we are adults, and we can stop the shutdown.

Let's go to work. These bills have to go back to the table again. I want to make sure we don't have a shutdown, and we can do it with the Senate CR right now.

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, how much time is remaining on both sides?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 10½ minutes remaining.

The gentleman from Massachusetts has 13½ minutes remaining.

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), my good friend.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam Speaker, our debt, our deficit, and our spending are indefensible. Three years ago, our national debt was $23 trillion, a staggering sum by any measure. Since then, it has grown by 50 percent to $33 trillion.

We have heard allegations tonight from one side of the Chamber that everybody deserves blame for that crisis, so let me be very clear. During that time, I voted against $13 trillion in spending. Nevertheless, we find ourselves at a tipping point.

In the last 10 years, we have spent $3 trillion just on interest on the debt. In the next 10 years, we won't spend $3 trillion on interest, we will spend $10 trillion. For that money, our country gets nothing. No sailor, no soldier, no safety net. We get nothing.

Making matters worse, in 7 years, Medicare is insolvent and in 10 years, Social Security is insolvent.

We must get our fiscal house in order.

Now, the appropriations bills before us move us in that direction. They do so through real, robust, and significant cuts, billions of dollars in cuts.

Are the bills perfect? No.

Do I support every single cut in every single bill? No.

Can we balance the budget through nondefense discretionary cuts alone? No.

To be honest, these bills will not solve all that ails us, but they are a critically important step toward stopping this runaway train. Business as usual, Madam Speaker, is unacceptable. A ''yes'' vote acknowledges that and moves us in the right direction.

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

Business as usual for my Republican friends is more tax cuts for corporations and millionaires and billionaires, slashing programs that help the most vulnerable in our country, and subsidies to Big Oil companies and more and more money to big defense contractors.

Let me just explain to some of my colleagues, especially the moderate Republicans, if there are any of them left:

The ag appropriations bill, before the manager's amendment, which, by the way, imposed even deeper cuts in some of these programs, slashes WIC by $800 million. It reduces the value for WIC fruit and vegetable vouchers by $1.2 billion, hurting both families and farmers.

It guts the Rural Energy for America Program by $500 million.

It guts rural electric investments in clean energy and energy efficiency from the Inflation Reduction Act by $1 billion.

It eliminates a lifeline that has already helped more than 20,000 distressed farmers who have received assistance from the Inflation Reduction Act.

It blocks FDA from acting on important tobacco issues, banning menthol cigarettes and flavored cigars, and limiting the nicotine in cigarettes.

It blocks the Biden executive orders on diversity, equality, inclusion, and accessibility.

It reverses the 2023 FDA decision to allow mifepristone to be dispensed in certified pharmacies with a prescription instead of only hospitals, clinics, and medical offices.

This bill, made worse by a manager's amendment, guts food programs, nutrition programs to our kids, to pregnant mothers and newborns.

What are they thinking? What sense does that make? How does anybody on that side of the aisle vote for a bill that does that? To my moderate friends, if they are still around, how do they do that? This is unacceptable. By the way, read the fine print in these appropriations bills, look at the programs they cut.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LOIS FRANKEL).

□ 1930

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to this rule, which is for a bad bill that takes food out of the mouths of children, hurts our farmers, guts climate change actions, and is another step toward the Republicans' dark and extreme goal to ban abortion nationwide. More specifically, it nullifies the FDA's decision to make the abortion pill, mifepristone, more accessible.

The medication abortion pill has been used effectively and safely for 20 years. FDA made an evidence-based decision to allow patients to fill this medication as they would fill any other prescription, by going to a drugstore or to their doctor or getting it through the mail.

The FDA decision removed a barrier for women in underserved communities in need of care. Reversing this decision harms the most vulnerable populations—women in maternity care deserts, women without reliable access to transportation or childcare, and women who can't take time off from work to visit a doctor.

Madam Speaker, I say this with emphasis: All women deserve the freedom to decide whether or when to start or grow a family without interference from politicians.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to listen to the science, listen to the FDA, and reject this rule for these and so many reasons.

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

Madam Speaker, one of the previous speakers from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle talked about victims, and I would note the extent to which we have countless victims, as we have talked about before, from the scourge of fentanyl poisonings across this country.

Two weeks ago, 1-year-old Nicholas Feliz Dominici died from fentanyl exposure from a kilo of fentanyl at an at-home daycare in the Bronx, New York, that, reportedly, a new arrival from the Dominican Republic was renting out.

More than 25,000 pounds of fentanyl have been seized in FY23. I spent time in August sitting on panels with moms and dads who lost their children to fentanyl poisonings—six children in the school district in which I reside. It is commonplace in Texas. It is becoming, unfortunately, more commonplace around the country.

How about the woman who was stabbed 28 times by an illegal immigrant with a criminal record in Pennsylvania, or the 10-year-old boy who was on a schoolbus on the first day of school killed by an illegal immigrant who ran into the bus? How about the father in Florida who opened his home to a supposedly unaccompanied alien child, who was 19 years old, and he stabbed and killed the father of this family who opened his home?

This is happening every day to the American people, and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle do not care. They watch Secretary Mayorkas completely ignore his duty to secure the border of the United States, leaving us entirely exposed to cartels and to the flood of fentanyl pouring into our communities. Border Patrol is overwhelmed, trying to manage numbers at the border, which is completely avoidable if the Secretary and the President would actually follow the law.

Republicans have responded with a bill that would force the Secretary to follow the law and that would improve the laws of the United States to secure the border of the United States, as we are constitutionally required to do. We have made that a condition precedent for giving more money to the Secretary of Homeland Security as he ignores his job and endangers the American people. We will continue to do that.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, for the gentleman to say that people on our side of the aisle don't care about the fentanyl problem in this country, that we don't care that our constituents are dying, that people are dying in this country, that is offensive.

One of the reasons why people watching this debate despise Congress at this moment is because of the characterizations that are made by the gentleman.

I will tell you this: We believe we should fund our Border Patrol agents. We believe we should do more to confront these issues. We don't use these matters as a political football or political talking point. To come down here and say that somehow we don't care, that is offensive.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD an article from CBS News titled: ''Government shutdown could jeopardize U.S. credit rating, Moody's warns.''

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

There was no objection.

[From CBS News, September 25, 2023]

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN COULD JEOPARDIZE U.S. CREDIT RATING, MOODY'S WARNS

(By Aimee Picchi)

The U.S.' credit worthiness is one of its most prized fiscal assets, with global investors relying on the guarantee that the nation can make good on its debts. But now, a leading credit agencies is warning that a possible federal government shutdown this week could tarnish the country's goldplated rating.

Time is running out for for House Speaker Kevin McCarthy to find a compromise to keep government agencies running and to avoid a shutdown on October 1, the first day of the new fiscal year. If McCarthy and other Republicans are unable to find a solution, funding would expire on September 30 and many agencies would be forced to halt some of their operations. Hundreds of thousands of federal workers also wouldn't draw a paycheck until the crisis is resolved.

With Congress divided between a Democratic-controlled Senate and Republican-led House—and with some far-right conservatives looking to use the shutdown as leverage to force government spending cuts—many are bracing for a stoppage that could last weeks. While the actual economic impact of a shutdown is likely to be reversed once the government reopens, the damage

could be longer-lasting for other reasons, Moody's Investors Service said Monday in a report.

''A shutdown would be credit negative'' for the U.S. debt, while a shutdown ''would underscore the weakness of U.S. institutional and governance strength relative to other Aaa-rated sovereigns that we have highlighted in recent years,'' Moody's analysts wrote.

The credit rating firm added, ''In particular, it would demonstrate the significant constraints that intensifying political polarization put on fiscal policymaking at a time of declining fiscal strength, driven by widening fiscal deficits and deteriorating debt affordability.''

Moody's didn't change its Aaa rating on U.S. debt, but cautioned that the nation's ''lack of an institutional focus on medium-term fiscal planning . . . is fundamentally different from what is seen in most other Aaa-rated peers, for instance historically in Germany (Aaa stable) and Canada (Aaa stable).''

NO LONGER AAA

The warning comes roughly two months after Fitch Ratings, another major credit ratings agency, downgraded U.S. credit from the highest rating, citing the nation's rising debt and eroding political stability. In that case, the firm lowered the nation's rating to AA+, from its previous AAA level.

Fitch cited the country's ''repeated debt-limit political standoffs and last-minute resolutions'' as weakening investors' faith in U.S. fiscal management.

Like Fitch, Moody's also cited the nation's ballooning debt as a pressing issue, partly because it requires higher costs to service the debt, resulting in less fiscal flexibility. Meanwhile, political infighting could create ''extremely difficult'' conditions for creating a plan to reverse widening fiscal deficits by either increasing federal revenue or cutting entitlement spending, it warned.

''In the absence of significant fiscal policy measures, we expect debt affordability to deteriorate at a much faster pace, with federal interest payments relative to revenue and GDP rising to around 27 percent and 4.6 percent, respectively, by 2033, from 9.7 percent and 1.9 percent in 2022, driven by materially higher interest rates and relatively weak revenue,'' Moody's said.

COSTS OF A GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

Despite such concerns, the economic effects of a government shutdown itself is likely to be short, with the impact most heavily felt in industries and geographical areas with a high concentration of federal workers, such as Washington, D.C., Moody's noted.

''Some defense contractors and municipal issuers, including mass transit systems, and certain municipal housing sector bonds that rely on annual federal appropriations could be affected,'' Moody's, led by analyst William Foster, said in the report. ''Mass transit authorities, already grappling with lower post-ridership and the looming expiration of pandemic relief funds, may face further challenges due to potential delays in federal grants.''

Even so, a shutdown would occur just as millions of American workers are set to face another economic challenge with the resumption of student debt repayments in October.

Furloughed government workers ''will not receive pay until the shutdown ends,'' noted High Frequency Economics in a research report. ''They are likely to step back from spending, at least temporarily.''.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, months after Fitch Ratings downgraded the U.S. credit rating, a Moody's analyst wrote that a shutdown ''would underscore the weakness of U.S. institutional and governance strength relative to other AAA-rated sovereigns that we have highlighted in recent years.''

Extreme MAGA Republicans are embarrassing our country internationally and exacerbating economic hardship at home when they openly brag about how they would welcome a government shutdown.

Madam Speaker, this is the theater of the absurd. The gentleman comes down here and talks about the border. Once again, his bill defunds border security. Does he propose to secure the border through volunteerism?

I am so sick of listening to the Republicans rant and rave about spending. Joe Biden has added $1.8 trillion to the national debt. That is a fact. Donald Trump, the last Republican President, added $8.2 trillion. Trump added as much in 4 years as his predecessor did in 8 years, and Republicans added $2 trillion to the debt with their tax cuts for the rich.

Now, the so-called pro-life party has the nerve to try to cut WIC, the women, infants, and children program, which helps provide food to new moms and very young children.

Now, let me explain this to the gentleman from Texas and to my Republican colleagues: Cutting funding for WIC means more malnourished babies. Malnourished babies end up needing expensive healthcare. Who pays the bill? It is Medicaid that pays. It is taxpayers who pay. In fact, according to USDA, every dollar spent on WIC means $3 in taxpayer savings.

Madam Speaker, what kind of twisted values would make someone think it is a good idea to cut taxes on billionaires but a bad idea to fund WIC, a program that saves money, a program that helps women, infants, and children?

All of these appropriations bills that are being brought to the floor at this last minute are so extreme that Republicans in the Senate won't even support them. These bills shouldn't go over to the Senate. They should go to a shredder.

Republicans want to gut programs that help seniors, gut programs that help students, gut programs that help working people. Instead of trying to do anything that helps anyone, they are obsessed with banning Pride flags from flying at our embassies. What is wrong with them?

This is absurd. What is happening here is not governing.

Just so everyone is clear: All of this should have been done months and months ago, and doing it now, 4 days before a shutdown and having no plan to avoid a shutdown, is incompetence, pure and simple.

I just saw a tweet from a reporter about conference calls that are going on amongst Republican Members, where Republicans are warning each other about getting their list of priorities straight, trying to figure out how you get to a deal, if you can get to a deal. They are saying we need some organization. You are just having those conference calls now.

Let me just say that it is clear that my Republican friends have no idea at all what they are doing. It is clear they have no plan to get us out of this mess. My Republican friends need to move out of the way and let serious people on both sides of the aisle do what we have to do to clean up the GOP's mess and keep government funded.

The Senate right now has come to a bipartisan compromise. That is a good thing. They are trying to avoid a shutdown that my friends on the other side of the aisle in this Chamber don't seem to think is a big deal. They will know it is a big deal when they shut the government down and their constituents start calling and complaining about not getting paid, about the services that are being cut. They will hear loud and clear from their constituents—Democrats, Independents, and Republicans.

Now is time for the adults in the room to figure this out. The Senate has given us a way forward. We should take it.

When my friends say that they need more time to figure all this out, what have they been doing? For months, what have they been doing?

We have had enough of this nonsense. We have had enough talk about shutdowns. We need to work together in a bipartisan way, work in the way that our constituents expect us to work to get things done, not to shut things down, not to tear things apart, not to blow things up.

At the end of the day, we have our policy differences. When I look at these appropriations bills, I can say honestly to my friends that we don't share the same values. I don't understand how you can gut food and nutrition programs. I don't even understand how you can cut border security. I don't get the thinking behind all of that, but that is your problem to work out.

In the meantime, let's come together and do the right thing. Let's keep this government open.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I have absolutely no idea what the gentleman from Massachusetts was just talking about. We have four bills before us here in the House of Representatives, four bills that, when combined with the MILCON–VA bill that we passed in July, would fund upward of 75 percent of our discretionary spending of government. That is what is on the floor of the House.

The fact is, the four bills we have before us represent this body doing its job. The gentleman says the Senate is going to be the adults who save us. This is a Senate that has passed not one appropriations bill. This is a Senate that today dropped on the floor of

the Senate a bill that no one had seen 45 minutes prior to the vote, a bill which would continue to spend at the levels adopted last December that are yielding $2 trillion a year in deficit spending.

If that represents the adults, I think I want to hang out with the kids because that is not the job that we are supposed to do—$2 trillion a year of deficit spending when we are $33 trillion in debt, continuing to fund an administration completely at war with the well-being of the American people and a Department of Justice weaponized against the people like Mark Houck, a father who wakes up with a raid at his home for defending his son, for exercising his free speech rights, completely not pursued by local authorities, taken to Federal court, and summarily dismissed within an hour by a jury. That is your FBI and Department of Justice at work.

This is the same Department of Justice that wants to label Scott Smith a domestic terrorist. That is your Department of Justice at work.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle would say the Senate being adults and writing another check to that Department of Justice is a good use of your money.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle would say it is a good idea to continue to rack up $2 trillion in deficit spending, to borrow more money, to increase inflation, to devalue the dollar, to spend money we don't have to fund a Department of Homeland Security that refuses to secure the homeland.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle want to do this while thousands of Americans die from fentanyl poisonings, while cartels are empowered, while China is empowered, while China is selling the printing presses and the fentanyl pills to the cartels, while thousands pour into Eagle Pass, while 11,000 people just the day before yesterday poured across into Eagle Pass, while people are in railroad cars, while children are dying, while children get sold into the sex trafficking trade, where migrants are being held for ransom so their little girl doesn't get raped in a stash house in Fort Worth, Texas. All of that, I suppose, is from the adults we have in the Senate. They want to continue to fund a lawless administration, exposing our people to danger and exposing migrants to danger, all in the false name of compassion.

□ 1945

Well, if that is what adults look like, count me out. I am going to stand up for the American people who sent me here to stand up for them.

Madam Speaker, we are going to pass these four bills. We are going to work hard to do the work for the American people while the Senate can preen and posture with yet another swamp game by putting forward another continuing resolution of the status quo rather than trying to change this place, rather than trying to stand up for the people who sent us here to do something different: to reduce spending, to secure the border, to fund our troops at a higher level than we have ever funded them; a $28 billion increase for the Department of Defense while we undo the social engineering experiment and refocus the military on its mission to defend the United States.

I am proud of these four bills. I am proud to stand up here and advance them forward but let me be very clear: We are going to secure the border of the United States.

It will be up to Democrats to make a choice. Will they shut down this open border or will they shut down the government of the United States.

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

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on ordering the previous question will be followed by 5-minute votes on:

Adoption of the resolution, if ordered;

Motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 5110; and

Agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 215, nays 209, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 405]

YEAS—215

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

NAYS—209

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

Stevens
Strickland
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—9

Bush
Carter (TX)
Costa
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lucas
Luna
Peltola
Smith (MO)

□ 2006

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

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 405.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK). The question is on the resolution.

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

RECORDED VOTE

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

A recorded vote was ordered.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 216, noes 212, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 406]

AYES—216

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

NOES—212

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

NOT VOTING—5

Carter (TX)
De La Cruz
Lucas
Luna
Peltola

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 2012

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROTECTING HUNTING HERITAGE AND EDUCATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5110) 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, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 424, nays 1, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 407]

YEAS—424

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Alford
Allen
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Auchincloss
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Balint
Banks
Barr
Barragán
Bean (FL)
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NC)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Boebert
Bonamici
Bost
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brecheen
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budzinski
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cardenas
Carey
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Ciscomani
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Cline
Cloud
Clyburn
Clyde
Cohen
Cole
Collins
Comer
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davids (KS)
Davidson
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Eshoo
Espaillat
Estes
Evans
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher

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

NAYS—1

Escobar

NOT VOTING—8

Bush
Carter (TX)
De La Cruz
Griffith
Lucas
Luna
Peltola
Peters

□ 2020

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.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

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

N O T I C E

Incomplete record of House proceedings. Except for concluding business which follows, today's House proceedings will be continued in the next issue of the Record.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. ROY: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 723. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4365) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4367) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4665) making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4368) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes (Rept. 118–216). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 3447. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to authorize a hydrogen powered vehicle to exceed certain weight limits on the Interstate Highway System, and for other purposes (Rept. 118–217). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 1836. A bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to make technical corrections with respect to ocean shipping authorities, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118–218). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas: Committee on Small Business. H.R. 5427. A bill to prohibit individuals convicted of defrauding the Government from receiving any assistance from the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes (Rept. 118–219). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas: Committee on Small Business. H.R. 5426. A bill to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to provide a link to resources for submitting reports on suspected fraud relating to certain COVID–19 loans (Rept. 118–220). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas: Committee on Small Business. H.R. 5425. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to enhance the Office of Rural Affairs, and for other purposes (Rept. 118–221). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas: Committee on Small Business. H.R. 5424. A bill to amend the Small Business Economic Policy Act of 1980 to examine how the competitiveness of small businesses is affected by the enforcement of Federal antitrust laws, and for other purposes (Rept. 118–222). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas: Committee on Small Business. H.R. 5265. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to require a report on the performance of the Office of Rural Affairs, to require a report on the memorandum of understanding between the Small Business Administration and the Department of Agriculture entered into on April 4, 2018, and for other purposes (Rept. 118–223). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. FOXX: Committee on Education and the Workforce. H.R. 5340. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to ensure that pension plans provide notice to participants and beneficiaries on risks associated with certain investments, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118–224). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. FOXX: Committee on Education and the Workforce. H.R. 5339. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to specify requirements concerning the consideration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary factors, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118–225). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. FOXX: Committee on Education and the Workforce. H.R. 5338. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to establish that fiduciaries must act

with prudence and loyalty when selecting service providers for pension plans; with an amendment (Rept. 118–226). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. FOXX: Committee on Education and the Workforce. H.R. 5337. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to clarify the application of prudence and exclusive purpose duties to the exercise of shareholder rights; with an amendment (Rept. 118–227). 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. VAN DUYNE:

H.R. 5687. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modernize health savings accounts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SMUCKER (for himself and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 5688. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve health savings accounts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. CHU (for herself, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. EVANS, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. SEWELL, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 5689. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the age limitations on eligibility for the earned income tax credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MOORE of Utah:

H.R. 5690. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow for certain distributions from a health savings account for medical expenses incurred during the 60-day period before the account was established; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. LETLOW:

H.R. 5691. A bill to improve drought related disaster assistance programs of the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. KEAN of New Jersey:

H.R. 5692. A bill making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:

H.R. 5693. A bill to protect the health and welfare of covered horses and improve the integrity and safety of horseracing by authorizing States to enter into an interstate compact to develop and enforce scientific medication control rules and racetrack safety rules that are uniform for each equine breed, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. DE LA CRUZ (for herself, Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. MACE, Mrs. BICE, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. MILLS, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, Mr. LUTTRELL, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, Mr. CUELLAR, Mrs. HOUCHIN, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SELF, and Mr. STEUBE):

H.R. 5694. A bill making appropriations for the salaries and expenses of certain U.S. Customs and Border Protection employees working during a Government shutdown in fiscal year 2024, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. CURTIS:

H.R. 5695. A bill to prohibit the pay of Members of Congress during periods in which a Government shutdown is in effect, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ARRINGTON (for himself and Mr. PANETTA):

H.R. 5696. A bill to provide for a period of continuing appropriations in the event of a lapse in appropriations under the normal appropriations process, and establish procedures and consequences in the event of a failure to enact appropriations; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committees on Rules, House Administration, the Budget, and 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. BILIRAKIS (for himself and Mr. PAPPAS):

H.R. 5697. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure veterans may obtain a physical copy of a certain form by mail or at medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 5698. A bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to reduce Federal spending on crop insurance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER (for herself, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. BURGESS, and Mr. TONKO):

H.R. 5699. A bill to provide programs to assist diagnosis, awareness, and education of blood clot conditions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. CARAVEO:

H.R. 5700. A bill to direct the Secretary of State to develop and submit to Congress a strategy to improve the processing of passport applications; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CASAR:

H.R. 5701. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to prohibit the placement of a photograph of any household member on an electronic benefit card used by such household to purchase food with supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits provided under such Act; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. CISCOMANI (for himself, Mr. STANTON, Mr. VAN ORDEN, and Ms. STANSBURY):

H.R. 5702. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the monthly housing stipend under the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program for individuals who pursue summer programs of education solely through distance learning; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself and Mr. BANKS):

H.R. 5703. A bill to establish an Office of Economic and Security Preparedness and Resilience, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DESAULNIER (for himself and Mr. STAUBER):

H.R. 5704. A bill to promote State requirements for local educational agencies and public elementary and secondary schools relating to the prevention and treatment of concussions suffered by students; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. DINGELL (for herself and Mr. DESAULNIER):

H.R. 5705. A bill to support national training, technical assistance, and resource centers, to ensure that all individuals with significant expressive communication disabilities have access to the augmentative and alternative communication the individuals need to interact with others, in order to learn, work, socialize, and take advantage of all aspects of life in the United States; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DONALDS:

H.R. 5706. A bill to direct the Architect of the Capitol, using existing funding, to study the feasibility of retrofitting the Capitol Power Plant to incorporate an advanced nuclear reactor; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. FEENSTRA (for himself and Ms. SEWELL):

H.R. 5707. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude debt held by certain insurance companies from capital assets; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FINSTAD (for himself and Mr. PHILLIPS):

H.R. 5708. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to extend a priority review program to encourage treatments for agents that present national security threats; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. FISCHBACH:

H.R. 5709. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals entitled to Medicare Part A to make contributions to health savings accounts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GARAMENDI (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 5710. A bill to provide for the refinancing and recalculation of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri (for himself, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. SMITH of Missouri):

H.R. 5711. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Science, Space, and Technology, 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. GROTHMAN (for himself, Mr. STEIL, Mr. POCAN, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. TIFFANY, and Mr. GALLAGHER):

H.R. 5712. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 220 Fremont Street in Kiel, Wisconsin, as the ''Trooper Trevor J. Casper Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana (for himself, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. STRONG, Mr. BABIN, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. GROTHMAN):

H.R. 5713. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to authorize Homeland Security Investigations to perform certain drug enforcement functions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means,

and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KHANNA:

H.R. 5714. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to report on the country of origin of end items and components procured by Department of Defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI:

H.R. 5715. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax rate parity among all tobacco products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LAHOOD (for himself and Mr. HERN):

H.R. 5716. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow contributions to a health savings account when a spouse has a health flexible spending account; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LALOTA (for himself, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. WILLIAMS of New York, and Mr. GIMENEZ):

H.R. 5717. A bill to provide that sanctuary jurisdictions that provide benefits to aliens who are present in the United States without lawful status under the immigration laws are ineligible for Federal funds intended to benefit such aliens; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LATTA (for himself, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. BALDERSON, and Ms. KUSTER):

H.R. 5718. A bill to require the Secretary of Energy to establish a Nuclear Fuel Security Program, expand the American Assured Fuel Supply Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, 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. LEE of California:

H.R. 5719. A bill to establish the Black Panther Party National Historical Park in the State of California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. LEE of Nevada (for herself, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. BACON, and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin):

H.R. 5720. A bill to assist trafficking survivors who lack government issued identification in accessing air travel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Ms. MACE (for herself, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. SALINAS, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. BALINT, Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. LEE of Florida, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. MOYLAN, Mrs. LESKO, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. ZINKE, Ms. VAN DUYNE, and Ms. ROSS):

H.R. 5721. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to require certain reporting on sexual assault kit testing; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. MILLER of Illinois (for herself, Mr. BOST, Mr. SORENSEN, and Mr. LAHOOD):

H.R. 5722. A bill to require the Corps of Engineers to update Upper Mississippi River levee and floodwall design standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MOLINARO (for himself, Ms. CARAVEO, and Ms. SLOTKIN):

H.R. 5723. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to provide information and education tools to farmers on the cost savings, energy savings, water conservation, and carbon emissions reductions that can be realized through the use of energy-efficient pumping systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 5724. A bill to amend the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to establish a pilot Civic Corps; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. NORMAN (for himself, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. DONALDS, and Mr. MCCORMICK):

H.R. 5725. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for the halt in pension payments for Members of Congress sentenced for certain offenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. OGLES:

H.R. 5726. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to deny Federal retirement benefits to individuals convicted of child sex abuse; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. PANETTA:

H.R. 5727. A bill to require the search and retention of certain records with respect to conducting criminal background checks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. PEREZ (for herself and Mr. NUNN of Iowa):

H.R. 5728. A bill to direct the Congressional Budget Office to submit daily reports during the period in which a Government shutdown is in effect on the effects of the shutdown on the economy and the costs of the shutdown to taxpayers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. PFLUGER (for himself, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, and Mr. EZELL):

H.R. 5729. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds to establish a Homeland Intelligence Experts Group, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. RYAN:

H.R. 5730. A bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to submit to the congressional defense committees a report on the honor codes and related adjudicatory processes of the Service Academies; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. RYAN:

H.R. 5731. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to report on illicit drug use and overdoses by members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. SCHOLTEN (for herself, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. BERGMAN, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. WALBERG, Ms. STEVENS, and Ms. SLOTKIN):

H.R. 5732. A bill to reaffirm and clarify the Federal relationships of the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians of Michigan as a federally recognized Indian tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. SLOTKIN:

H.R. 5733. A bill to establish a competitive grant program at the Department of Housing and Urban Development to support the construction, preservation, or rehabilitation of affordable workforce housing in areas with shortages of affordable housing units for sale, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. STEIL (for himself and Mr. MORELLE):

H.R. 5734. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to extend the Administrative Fine Program for certain reporting violations; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. STEVENS (for herself, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. POCAN, Ms. TITUS, Mr. LIEU, Ms. WILD, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. MAGAZINER, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. PORTER, Mr. SORENSEN, Ms. KAPTUR, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. CARSON, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. MCGARVEY, and Mr. NORCROSS):

H.R. 5735. A bill to require information about the motor vehicle plant in which vehicles are assembled for Federal procurement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. TIFFANY:

H.R. 5736. A bill to require interviews conducted by officers and employees of Federal law enforcement agencies to be recorded; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. VAN DUYNE (for herself and Mr. HERN):

H.R. 5737. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the maximum contribution limit for health savings accounts; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. WALTZ (for himself, Mr. MOULTON, and Mr. MILLS):

H.R. 5738. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to direct the Secretary concerned to pay, rather than provide reimbursement, for the transportation of certain remains to two locations if the second location is a national cemetery; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. WEXTON (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. TRONE, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. RASKIN):

H.R. 5739. A bill to require the Federal financial regulators to issue guidance encouraging financial institutions to work with consumers and businesses affected by a Federal Government shutdown, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. WILD (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. TRONE):

H.R. 5740. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to promote comprehensive campus mental health and suicide prevention plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida (for himself, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. OGLES, Mr. MANN, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. LAMBORN, Ms. MACE, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska,

Mr. BOST, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. BANKS, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. POSEY, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. GUEST, and Mrs. BOEBERT):

H.J. Res. 92. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Food and Nutrition Service relating to ''Application of Bostock v. Clayton County to Program Discrimination Complaint Processing-Policy Update''; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. NADLER, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. CHU, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. MENG, Ms. MCCLELLAN, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia):

H. Con. Res. 68. Concurrent resolution expressing support for the recognition of September 26, 2023, as ''World Contraception Day'' and expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding global and domestic access to contraception; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FEENSTRA:

H. Res. 724. A resolution honoring the life and legacy of Jack Trice; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. KILMER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. HIGGINS of New York):

H. Res. 725. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 30, 2023, as ''Rare Cancer Day'' to highlight the challenges patients with rare cancers face and to raise awareness and support efforts to improve early diagnosis and treatment; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS (for herself, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. BACON, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. TIMMONS, Ms. MACE, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. AMODEI, Mrs. STEEL, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. TONKO, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. FLOOD, Mr. COSTA, Mr. EVANS, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. COHEN, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. NADLER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. MOLINARO, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. SORENSEN, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BENTZ, Ms. ROSS, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mrs. PELTOLA, Mr. LIEU, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. PETTERSEN, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. CISCOMANI, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. TRONE, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. ESPAILLAT):

H. Res. 726. A resolution supporting the designation of the week of September 25 through September 29, 2023, as ''National Clean Energy Week''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. NORTON:

H. Res. 727. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 2023 as National Campus Sexual Assault Awareness Month; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. PAYNE (for himself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina):

H. Res. 728. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 2023 as ''Peripheral Artery Disease Awareness Month''; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. TRONE (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. KUSTER, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. WILD, and Mr. SABLAN):

H. Res. 729. A resolution supporting the designation of September 2023 as ''National Recovery Month''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

ML-64. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 71, urging the United States Congress not t support legislation, or other efforts, relating to the adoption of a central bank digital currency in the United States; to the Committee on Financial Services.

ML-65. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 103, urging and requesting each member of t Louisiana congressional delegation to support continued funding of the ACP so that low-income Louisiana households can continue to receive the support they need to participate in the digital marketplace; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

ML-66. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 42, memorializing the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to establish Fort Jackson in Plaquemines Parish as a national park; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

ML-67. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 55, memorializing the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to pass legislation allowing taxpayers to establish tax-advantaged catastrophe saving accounts for disaster-related expenses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

ML-68. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 113, memorializing the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to ban the import of shrimp and crawfish from outside the United States; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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. VAN DUYNE:

H.R. 5687.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Tax

By Mr. SMUCKER:

H.R. 5688.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Section VIII of Article I of the U.S. Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill makes improvements to the regulation of Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) to expand access to more Americans.

By Ms. CHU:

H.R. 5689.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause I of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

EITC Age Parity

By Mr. MOORE of Utah:

H.R. 5690.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

The single subject of this legislation is:

Health

By Ms. LETLOW:

H.R. 5691.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To improve drought related disaster assistance programs of the Department of Agriculture.

By Mr. KEAN of New Jersey:

H.R. 5692.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 9, Clause 7

The single subject of this legislation is:

Making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024 for Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:

H.R. 5693.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power ''to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof''

The single subject of this legislation is:

To protect the health and welfare of covered horses and improve the integrity and safety of horseracing by authorizing States to enter into an interstate compact to develop and enforce scientific medication control rules and racetrack safety rules that are uniform for each equine breed, and for other purposes.

By Ms. DE LA CRUZ:

H.R. 5694.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7

The single subject of this legislation is:

To pay our Border Patrol agents during a potential government shutdown.

By Mr. CURTIS:
H.R. 5695.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
To prevent Members of Congress from being paid during a government shutdown
By Mr. ARRINGTON:
H.R. 5696.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
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:
Governance of Member spending, travel, and procedure during a government shutdown.
By Mr. BILIRAKIS:
H.R. 5697.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
A bill that would mandate the VA maintain the ability to receive Veteran/Beneficiary Claims for Reimbursement of Travel Expenses (VA Form 10–3542) by mail or in person at the VA facility where they receive care.
By Mr. BLUMENAUER:
H.R. 5698.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution
The single subject of this legislation is:
Agriculture
By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER:
H.R. 5699.
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:
Health Care
By Ms. CARAVEO:
H.R. 5700.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
THE U.S. CONSTITUTION
ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS
CLAUSE 18
The Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for
The single subject of this legislation is:
To direct the Secretary of State to develop and submit to Congress a strategy to improve the processing of passport applications.
By Mr. CASAR:
H.R. 5701.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution
The single subject of this legislation is:
To amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to prohibit the placement of a photograph of any household member on an electronic benefit card used by such household to purchase food with supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits provided under such Act.
By Mr. CISCOMANI:
H.R. 5702.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Monthly Housing Allowance for veteran students
By Ms. DELAURO:
H.R. 5703.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
To ensure resilient United States supply chains.
By Mr. DESAULNIER:
H.R. 5704.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
To promote specified minimum requirements for local educational agencies and public elementary and secondary schools relating to the prevention and treatment of concussions suffered by students.
By Mrs. DINGELL:
H.R. 5705.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The Constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
The single subject of this legislation is:
To support training and resource centers to ensure individuals with communication disabilities have access to augmentative and alternative communication.
By Mr. DONALDS:
H.R. 5706.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Art. I, Sec. 8 of the U.S. Constitution
The single subject of this legislation is:
Energy
By Mr. FEENSTRA:
H.R. 5707.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 7
The single subject of this legislation is:
Tax
By Mr. FINSTAD:
H.R. 5708.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution
The single subject of this legislation is:
To reauthorize the Material Threat Medical Countermeasure Priority Review Voucher (MCM PRV) program.
By Mrs. FISCHBACH:
H.R. 5709.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1 Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
A bill related to Health Savings Accounts.
By Mr. GARAMENDI:
H.R. 5710.
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 provides for the refinancing or deferral of certain federal student loans.
By Mr. GRAVES of Missouri:
H.R. 5711.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, clause 1, clause 2, clause 3, and clause 18.
The single subject of this legislation is:
To amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.
By Mr. GROTHMAN:
H.R. 5712.
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:
Renaming a post office
By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:
H.R. 5713.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Under Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power ''to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof''
The single subject of this legislation is:
To amend the Controlled Substances Act to authorize Homeland Security Investigations to perform certain drug enforcement functions, and for other purposes.
By Mr. KHANNA:
H.R. 5714.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution
The single subject of this legislation is:
Defense manufacturing
By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI:
H.R. 5715.
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:
To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax rate parity among all tobacco products, and for other purposes.
By Mr. LAHOOD:
H.R. 5716.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 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 Power, 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 amend the Internal Revenue Code to allow contributions to a health savings account when a spouse has a health flexible spending account.
By Mr. LALOTA:
H.R. 5717.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution
The single subject of this legislation is:
To provide that sanctuary jurisdictions that provide benefits to aliens who are present in the United States without lawful status under the immigration laws are ineligible for Federal funds intended to benefit such aliens.
By Mr. LATTA:
H.R. 5718.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18:
The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Executive the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.
The single subject of this legislation is:
to establish and expand U.S. nuclear fuel programs to boost domestic nuclear energy.
By Ms. LEE of California:
H.R. 5719.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution
The single subject of this legislation is:
Interior, Civil Rights
By Ms. LEE of Nevada:
H.R. 5720.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 provides Congress with 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:

Homeland security

By Ms. MACE:

H.R. 5721.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to Require Certain Reporting on Sexual Assault Kit Testing

By Mrs. MILLER of Illinois:

H.R. 5722.

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:

Infrastructure

By Mr. MOLINARO:

H.R. 5723.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Agriculture

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 5724.

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 pilot program that would establish a national Civic Corps.

By Mr. NORMAN:

H.R. 5725.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Eliminates pension payments for Members of Congress who have been convicted of various criminal offenses

By Mr. OGLES:

H.R. 5726.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To deny federal retirement benefits to individuals convicted of child sex abuse

By Mr. PANETTA

H.R. 5727.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

Requires the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) to complete all gun-purchase background checks

By Ms. PEREZ:

H.R. 5728.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1

The single subject of this legislation is:

Government Shutdown

By Mr. PFLUGER:

H.R. 5729.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Prohibits DHS from establishing a Homeland Intelligence Experts Group or any variation of the group

By Mr. RYAN:

H.R. 5730.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1

The single subject of this legislation is:

Armed Services

By Mr. RYAN:

H.R. 5731.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1

The single subject of this legislation is:

Armed Services

By Ms. SCHOLTEN:

H.R. 5732.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have Power . . . To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Tribal Recognition

By Ms. SLOTKIN:

H.R. 5733.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To establish a competitive grant program at the Department of Housing and Urban Development to support the construction, preservation, or rehabilitation of affordable workforce housing in areas with shortages of affordable housing units for sale, and for other purposes.

By Mr. STEIL:

H.R. 5734.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 ''To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill would create a clean extension of the Federal Election Commission's Administrative Fine Program through December 31, 2033.

By Ms. STEVENS:

H.R. 5735.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Motor vehicle plants

By Mr. TIFFANY:

H.R. 5736.

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:

Requires interviews conducted by officers and employees of Federal law enforcement agencies to be recorded.

By Ms. VAN DUYNE:

H.R. 5737.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Tax

By Mr. WALTZ:

H.R. 5738.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The Congress shall have the power to provide for the common defense.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Gold Star Families benefits

By Ms. WEXTON:

H.R. 5739.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require federal financial regulators to issue guidance to financial institutions regarding the impacts of government shutdowns

By Ms. WILD:

H.R. 5740.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section VIII

The single subject of this legislation is:

Encourages colleges and universities to address the mental health crisis among students by creating proactive plans for preventing suicide and promoting positive mental health.

By Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida:

H.J. Reg. 92.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress is granted the authority to introduce and enact this legislation pursuant to Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Food and Nutrition Service relating to ''Application of Bostock v. Clayton County to Program Discrimination Complain Processing—Policy Update''.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 16: Mr. POCAN, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 30: Ms. VAN DUYNE.

H.R. 86: Mr. TIMMONS.

H.R. 234: Mr. CROW and Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 303: Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 329: Mr. FEENSTRA.

H.R. 431: Mr. FALLON.

H.R. 447: Mr. GIMENEZ.

H.R. 465: Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 491: Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 536: Ms. TLAIB.

H.R. 542: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. NEGUSE, and Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 574: Mr. NEHLS and Ms. MACE.

H.R. 594: Mr. SORENSEN.

H.R. 595: Mr. SORENSEN.

H.R. 607: Mr. TORRES of New York.

H.R. 625: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 630: Ms. JAYAPAL.

H.R. 669: Mr. CARBAJAL.

H.R. 700: Mr. MANN, Mr. GUEST, Mr. MEUSER, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. ALFORD, and Mr. EZELL.

H.R. 709: Ms. MACE.

H.R. 781: Mr. CISCOMANI.

H.R. 807: Mr. PHILLIPS and Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 830: Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania and Mr. KEATING.

H.R. 871: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 889: Mr. WENSTRUP and Mr. GALLEGO.

H.R. 890: Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 915: Mr. FINSTAD.

H.R. 989: Mr. TIMMONS.

H.R. 1020: Mrs. CAMMACK.

H.R. 1045: Mr. POSEY.
H.R. 1092: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. HARDER of California, and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 1139: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. STRONG, Ms. OMAR, and Ms. BALINT.
H.R. 1209: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. BUCK, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.
H.R. 1210: Mr. TIMMONS.
H.R. 1222: Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 1228: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.
H.R. 1235: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, and Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 1249: Mr. MASSIE.
H.R. 1259: Mr. CARSON.
H.R. 1267: Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 1301: Mr. BEYER.
H.R. 1385: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.
H.R. 1422: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 1437: Mrs. HARSHBARGER.
H.R. 1490: Mr. ADERHOLT.
H.R. 1491: Ms. BONAMICI and Mr. PANETTA.
H.R. 1517: Ms. BALINT.
H.R. 1555: Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 1572: Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 1582: Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 1594: Mr. GOOD of Virginia.
H.R. 1602: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 1610: Mr. SMUCKER and Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 1627: Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER and Mr. NEWHOUSE.
H.R. 1634: Mr. DUNN of Florida.
H.R. 1639: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 1649: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 1666: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
H.R. 1691: Mrs. FISCHBACH and Mr. MAST.
H.R. 1699: Mr. GARAMENDI and Ms. UNDERWOOD.
H.R. 1788: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 1810: Mr. BARR.
H.R. 1818: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 1822: Mr. BUCSHON.
H.R. 2367: Ms. MANNING.
H.R. 2378: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 2402: Mr. BACON, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 2407: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 2410: Ms. LEE of Florida and Mr. SIMPSON.
H.R. 2411: Mr. LALOTA and Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 2414: Mr. NEAL.
H.R. 2439: Mr. HUFFMAN.
H.R. 2474: Mrs. SYKES, Mr. COSTA, Mr. PANETTA, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. OBERNOLTE, and Mr. JACKSON of Texas.
H.R. 2480: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 2548: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 2552: Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 2601: Mr. ROUZER and Mr. GIMENEZ.
H.R. 2629: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 2630: Mr. KEATING, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. TRONE, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, and Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 2656: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 2667: Ms. BUDZINSKI.
H.R. 2703: Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 2732: Mr. MANN.
H.R. 2766: Mr. GARBARINO.
H.R. 2846: Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 2871: Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 2940: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut and Mr. MANN.
H.R. 2949: Mr. MCGARVEY and Mr. CASTEN.
H.R. 3016: Mr. WITTMAN and Ms. TENNEY.
H.R. 3029: Ms. FOXX and Mr. LAHOOD.
H.R. 3047: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 3146: Ms. SÁNCHEZ.
H.R. 3159: Ms. SHERRILL.
H.R. 3194: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
H.R. 3312: Mr. TRONE and Mr. MORELLE.
H.R. 3380: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 3381: Ms. TENNEY.
H.R. 3432: Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 3433: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. ROUZER.
H.R. 3435: Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, and Ms. TENNEY.
H.R. 3474: Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 3475: Ms. ROSS and Mr. GARBARINO.
H.R. 3492: Mrs. HARSHBARGER.
H.R. 3497: Mr. CISCOMANI and Mr. BURLISON.
H.R. 3503: Ms. PETTERSEN, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 3523: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 3537: Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. RYAN, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 3538: Ms. LEE of Nevada, Ms. SLOTKIN, and Mr. FALLON.
H.R. 3545: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 3546: Mr. ROUZER.
H.R. 3561: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 3576: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 3581: Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 3638: Ms. VAN DUYNE.
H.R. 3668: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 3682: Ms. CARAVEO, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. TRONE, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. COHEN, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, and Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 3702: Mr. WALTZ, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. PANETTA, and Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 3734: Ms. SALAZAR.
H.R. 3737: Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 3774: Mr. SORENSEN and Mr. MAST.
H.R. 3782: Mr. MCGARVEY.
H.R. 3792: Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. FALLON, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. SORENSEN, Mr. WOMACK, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 3838: Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 3847: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 3879: Ms. STANSBURY.
H.R. 3881: Mr. GOOD of Virginia.
H.R. 3916: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
H.R. 3934: Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 3946: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. SCHRIER, and Mr. LIEU.
H.R. 3949: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.
H.R. 4035: Mr. CARTER of Georgia and Mr. GOLDEN of Maine.
H.R. 4038: Mr. BRECHEEN.
H.R. 4061: Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 4104: Mr. MRVAN.
H.R. 4175: Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 4212: Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 4273: Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. JACOBS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE.
H.R. 4274: Ms. CARAVEO and Mr. CASTEN.
H.R. 4278: Mr. ROUZER.
H.R. 4328: Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 4333: Mr. NEHLS.
H.R. 4536: Mr. LIEU and Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 4551: Mr. SELF.
H.R. 4561: Mr. NADLER, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 4581: Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. BURGESS.
H.R. 4603: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 4619: Mr. HIMES and Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 4699: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
H.R. 4721: Mr. TIFFANY.
H.R. 4769: Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Ms. CRAIG, and Ms. WILD.
H.R. 4780: Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 4815: Ms. SHERRILL.
H.R. 4818: Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 4826: Mr. PFLUGER.
H.R. 4831: Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 4840: Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 4889: Ms. SHERRILL.
H.R. 4895: Ms. PINGREE, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, and Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.R. 4896: Ms. TENNEY, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. CRAIG, and Ms. WILD.
H.R. 4897: Ms. CRAIG, Mr. NADLER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. BUSH, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. BOWMAN.
H.R. 4902: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 4917: Mr. POSEY and Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 4942: Ms. MATSUI, Ms. SALAZAR, and Mr. CUELLAR.
H.R. 4954: Ms. STANSBURY.
H.R. 4972: Mr. GARCI AE1A of Illinois, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 4988: Mr. PFLUGER.
H.R. 5003: Ms. MANNING, Mr. DESAULNIER, and Mr. CROW.
H.R. 5012: Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. Sehr ier, and Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 5035: Mr. GOMEZ.
H.R. 5041: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 5049: Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 5061: Mr. HARDER of California and Mr. DUARTE.
H.R. 5062: Mr. HARDER of California and Mr. DUARTE.
H.R. 5077: Mr. BOWMAN.
H.R. 5082: Mr. GIMENEZ.
H.R. 5097: Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 5100: RUPPERSBERGER.
H.R. 5103: Mr. LALOTA.
H.R. 5130: Mr. ROUZER.
H.R. 5155: Mr. KHANNA.
H.R. 5163: Mr. ARMSTRONG.
H.R. 5198: Mr. EDWARDS.
H.R. 5239: Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 5244: Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 5248: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. NORTON, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. KHANNA.
H.R. 5266: Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. NEWHOUSE, and Mr. BOST.
H.R. 5274: Mr. MANN.
H.R. 5275: Ms. TENNEY, Mr. PANETTA, and Mr. MURPHY.
H.R. 5291: Mr. CASAR.
H.R. 5295: Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 5329: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.
H.R. 5342: Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, and Mr. JACKSON of Texas.
H.R. 5353: Mr. IVEY and Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 5354: Ms. CROCKETT.
H.R. 5377: Mr. MOYLAN.
H.R. 5399: Ms. DELAURO, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. ALLRED, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 5403: Mr. CALVERT, Mr. DUNN of Florida, and Ms. DE LA CRUZ.
H.R. 5411: Mr. GOOD of Virginia.
H.R. 5414: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 5433: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Ms. UNDERWOOD, and Mr. CASAR.
H.R. 5455: Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. MANN, and Ms. MACE.
H.R. 5484: Mr. MCGARVEY.
H.R. 5486: Ms. JACOBS.
H.R. 5502: Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 5504: Mr. MANN.
H.R. 5520: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina and Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 5526: Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 5530: Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, and Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER.
H.R. 5535: Ms. DE LA CRUZ.
H.R. 5555: Mrs. TRAHAN.
H.R. 5561: Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. ALFORD, Mrs. BICE, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. MANN, and Mr. GUEST.
H.R. 5569: Mrs. HAYES, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 5587: Ms. NORTON and Ms. LEE of Nevada.
H.R. 5590: Mr. ALFORD.
H.R. 5599: Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. MOYLAN, Ms. SALAZAR, and Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 5601: Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 5607: Ms. TENNEY.

H.R. 5610: Ms. TITUS, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. BALINT, and Ms. CROCKETT.

H.R. 5614: Mr. GIMENEZ and Mr. DIAZ-BALART.

H.R. 5623: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 5635: Mrs. BOEBERT.

H.R. 5636: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. DUNCAN, Mrs. LUNA, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. HERN, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. BABIN, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. STEUBE, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. POSEY, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. CLYDE, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. SANTOS, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. MANN, Mr. OWENS, Mr. COMER, Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. OGLES, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. CARL, and Mr. PALMER.

H.R. 5641: Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. FALLON, Mr. ZINKE, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Ms. MACE, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SELF, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. ALFORD, Mr. SANTOS, Mr. LUTTRELL, Mrs. BICE, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. EZELL, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. GUTHRIE, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. HUIZENGA, Ms. TENNEY, Ms. JACOBS, and Mr. Bergman.

H.R. 5651: Ms. VAN DUYNE and Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 5653: Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. MCCLELLAN, and Mr. D'ESPOSITO.

H.R. 5654: Mr. GOSAR and Mr. GOOD of Virginia.

H.R. 5657: Mr. LANDSMAN.

H.R. 5664: Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 5667: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. BROWN, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. NICKEL, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. KEATING, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. CARSON, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. KILMER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. BUDZINSKI, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 5672: Mr. LAWLER, Mr. COSTA, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 5683: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 5685: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. VEASEY, and Mr. PALLONE.

H.R. 5686: Mr. COSTA.

H. J. Res. 66: Mr. PFLUGER.

H. Con. Res. 13: Mr. GOODEN of Texas.

H. Res. 50: Mr. MCCAUL.

H. Res. 108: Mr. STANTON.

H. Res. 204: Mr. POCAN.

H. Res. 443: Ms. SHERRILL.

H. Res. 462: Mr. SCHIFF.

H. Res. 588: Mr. LAHOOD.

H. Res. 616: Mr. SCHIFF.

H. Res. 625: Mr. COHEN.

H. Res. 627: Mr. RUTHERFORD and Mr. TIFFANY.

H. Res. 628: Mr. BRECHEEN.

H. Res. 677: Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Mrs. PELTOLA.

H. Res. 678: Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. COHEN, Ms. WILD, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. TRONE, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. POCAN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Ms. STANSBURY.

H. Res. 700: Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE.

H. Res. 707: Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. CORREA.

United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 169 WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023 No. 156

Senate

(Legislative day of Friday, September 22, 2023)

The Senate met at 3 p.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord and King, You are forever. Send Your light and truth to guide our Senators. As they move into crisis mode in an attempt to avoid a government shutdown, give them insights that will help them solve the riddles of these times. Empower them to possess discernment in order to know what is right.

Lord, imbue them with a passion for truth that will compel them to do Your will. Strengthen them also with a humility that seeks to listen and learn. May they find joy in their work as they seek to please You. Remove from them discouragement and despair as You make them partners with You in building a nation where truth and justice will prevail.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The senior assistant executive clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 26, 2023.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WELCH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

SECURING GROWTH AND ROBUST LEADERSHIP IN AMERICAN AVIATION ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 3935, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 211, H.R. 3935, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize and improve the Federal Aviation Administration and other civil aviation programs, and for other purposes.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, as I have said for months, the only solution for avoiding a harmful government shutdown is bipartisanship. We now have 4 days to go until funding expires on Saturday at midnight. We are now right at the precipice. Yet, all last week, Speaker MCCARTHY, instead of focusing on bipartisanship, catered to the hard right and has nothing—nothing—to show for it. And now the Speaker will put on the floor hard-right appropriation bills that have nothing to do with avoiding a shutdown.

So, this week, the Senate will move forward first. Over the weekend, Senate Democrats and Republicans together worked in good faith to reach an agreement on a continuing resolution that will keep the government open beyond September 30. We are very close to finishing our work and hope to release text very soon.

This bipartisan CR is a temporary solution, a bridge toward cooperation and away from extremism, and it will allow us to keep working to fully fund the Federal Government and spare American families the pain of a shutdown. While, for sure, this bill does not have everything either side wants, we will continue to fund the government at present levels while maintaining our commitment to Ukraine's security and humanitarian needs and while also ensuring those impacted by natural disasters across the country begin to get the resources they need.

In a few hours, we will hold the first procedural vote to move forward on the vehicle for the CR, and I thank my colleagues and staff from both sides of the aisle who spent all weekend negotiating in good faith to get us to this point. The Senate CR is a good, sensible, and bipartisan—let me emphasize, bipartisan—bill. It will achieve the most important immediate goal,

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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avoiding a shutdown. It will protect American families from needless pain, pay our troops, and make good on our promise to American seniors. It will promote access to affordable healthcare, sustain investment in life-saving research, and avoid costly disruptions to our supply chains.

Now, of course, today's agreement won't have everything that both sides want. But let me repeat: This CR is a bridge, not a final destination. It will help us achieve our immediate and necessary goal of avoiding a government shutdown and move us away from the senseless and aimless extremism that has dominated the House so we can get to work on appropriations.

We can and must do more to respond to disasters that have ravaged the country. We can and must do more to lower costs and grow the middle class. We can and must do more to stand with our friends in Ukraine and resist Putin's dangerous attacks on democracy and freedom. And we can and must do more to finish the bipartisan appropriations process in a way that makes strong investments in our country, in our families, and in our future.

We will continue to work on these and many more, but, right now, this CR is a must-needed bridge away from extremism and toward cooperation. Make no mistake, a shutdown would be a terrible outcome for the country, despite what some on the hard right would have us ludicrously believe.

It is hard for me to believe that some on the extreme right in the other Chamber say they actually want a shutdown—what insanity. This will avoid that, that terrible outcome.

It will pay for our servicemembers, which could be halted if there is a shutdown. It would prevent millions of Americans who count on government services from suffering. It would prevent food safety, public health protection, small business loans, and infrastructure projects from being cut and, at least temporarily, ended, because they are all at risk right now, if there is a shutdown.

If there is a shutdown, TSA could be thrown into chaos, meaning possible delays and disruptions for all flyers. Border enforcement Agencies would be undermined. Even FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund could actually dry up.

We don't need to go through any of this. The Senate's bipartisan CR will ensure that none of the bad things I just enumerated happen. I urge—I urge strongly—reasonable Members of both Chambers to come together to pass this bridge CR and move forward, freed from the hard-right extremists who are hell-bent on destroying trust in government and hurting millions and millions of middle-class families.

UNITED AUTO WORKERS STRIKE

Mr. President, now on labor, the UAW, and the WGA, early this morning, before I came to Washington, I went to Rockland County, NY, and stood with UAW Local 3039 on the picket line in solidarity with their fight for better wages, better benefits, safer working conditions. Rain or shine—and today it was mostly rain—UAW Local 3039 is out there, standing for a fair, equitable contract to share in the profits they helped create.

We must not forget that during the auto crisis of 2008, unions and workers gave back plenty. It is one of the reasons that the auto companies are making such large profits. And the workers are entitled to have a fair share of those profits. So we need to make sure the settlement is fair to working people.

It is simple: When unions win, workers win; the middle class wins; America wins. Just take the WGA strike—the Writers Guild—for example. This past weekend, after nearly 5 months on strike, the WGA announced a tentative settlement with Hollywood studios to get members back to work. The WGA deal proves that progress is possible, that workers can gain, and I hope it encourages the big three auto companies to stay at the table and bargain in good faith.

Today, in a milestone for the UAW strike and the history of working people in this country, President Biden traveled to Michigan today to stand with the UAW on the picket line. It is likely to be the first time in 100 years a sitting President joined workers on the picket line. It shows how important strong labor unions are to this President and to Democrats. That is why I thought it was appropriate for me this morning to join some of our New York UAW members on the picket lines in New York, as the President marched in Michigan.

President Biden's visit underscores a historic moment for the American labor movement. We may be on track to see the most labor activity in 40 years. And I am proud that so many of my colleagues on the Democratic side of the aisle have stood on the line with workers, fighting for a better life.

As President Biden said today, ''The middle class built this country. And unions built the middle class.'' Praise God we have a President as pro-union and pro-worker as President Biden in office at a time like this. Of course, we weren't always so lucky. Former President Trump will also be in Michigan this week, where he will no doubt try to style himself as a champion of unions and working Americans. That is pretty rich coming from someone who led one of the most anti-worker administrations in recent memory, one openly hostile to labor unions, disinterested in the well-being of working families, and who appointed anti-labor people to many of the Agencies that regulate labor.

No working American should believe Donald Trump when he claims to fight for them. Where was Donald Trump when UAW went on strike against GM in 2019? All talk, no substance. Even now, he is openly attacking the UAW that is trying to secure better contracts.

The difference between the Biden administration's record on labor and the Trump administration's record couldn't be starker. Under the Biden administration, Democrats secured historic relief to protect hard-earned pensions through the American Rescue Plan. Under the Trump administration, on the other hand, Republicans reversed rules to expand overtime pay for 8 million workers, loosened infection and safety rules for oil rigs and coal companies, and reversed bans on toxic pesticides that protected farm workers.

Under the Biden administration, Democrats broke the nearly decade-long funding freeze on the National Labor Relations Board. But under the Trump administration, Republicans appointed the most anti-labor NLRB nominees, and they voted to make it harder for workers to organize, while making it easier for employers to oust existing unions.

Under the Biden administration, we passed historic bills, like the infrastructure bill, CHIPS and Science, and the Inflation Reduction, all of which are creating good-paying jobs. As majority leader, I made sure that pro-union provisions were written into this legislation. But under the Trump administration, Republicans passed a $1.5 trillion tax cut that overwhelmingly benefited big corporations and the ultrawealthy, while giving peanuts to working families whom Donald Trump claimed to fight for.

So it easy to see who is really on the side of unions and working Americans and who isn't.

I was proud to stand with the UAW this morning, and I am proud that President Biden is standing with working people of this country today.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, at midnight on Saturday, current appropriations will run out, and the Federal Government will shut down. Over the years, I have been pretty clear in my view that government shutdowns are bad news, whichever way you look at them. They don't work as political bargaining chips. They create unnecessary hardships for millions of Americans—for example, the nearly 46,000 servicemembers and 22,000 civilian workers in my home State of Kentucky who earn Federal Government paychecks—and they hardly ever produce meaningful policy outcomes at the end of the day.

A government shutdown would be an unnecessary disruption of the important work on the Senate's agenda. So I would urge each of my colleagues to work this week to avoid one.

For the past several months, Senator COLLINS, Senator MURRAY, and our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee have worked diligently to help the Senate fulfill our commitment to funding the government through regular order. As that important work

continues, colleagues in both Chambers are rightly concerned about a number of distinct priorities.

They are focused on taking further action to rein in reckless spending as we continue to rebuild our national defense. They are concerned about addressing the consequences of the Biden administration's failure to secure our southern border. They are eager to provide relief to communities recovering from natural disasters, from Hawaii to Florida. And bipartisan majorities recognize the ongoing need to counter Russia and China and continue to provide lethal aid to Ukraine. In the coming weeks, I hope the administration will work with Congress to address these pressing needs.

But in order for work on appropriations to continue uninterrupted, Congress needs to extend government funding by the end of this week. The sooner Congress keeps the lights on, the sooner these important conversations can resume.

The clearest path forward is a standard, short-term continuing resolution. Our work this week needs to produce the resources and flexibility to maintain essential government functions at their current rates of operation while progress on full-year appropriations continues.

Just to reiterate, delaying action on short-term government funding doesn't advance the ball on any meaningful policy priorities. Shutting the government down over a domestic budget dispute doesn't strengthen anyone's political position; it just puts important progress on ice, and it leaves millions of Americans on edge.

So I expect that the Appropriations Committee will finalize a short-term funding extension in the very near future for the Senate to review. I would encourage each of our colleagues to join me in supporting the standard, responsible step forward.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to join the Republican leader, as well as the Democratic leader, with our hopes that we can still rescue the situation on Capitol Hill before the deadline. We have an impending government shutdown that is only 5 days away.

The House Republicans on the other side of the Rotunda have not taken on their responsibility at this moment, and we are doing our best on a bipartisan basis to do the opposite. Extreme factions of the Republican Party continue to list their demands for reckless cuts and partisan proposals in exchange for keeping the lights on in the Federal Government. In doing so, their radical agenda is holding the livelihood of the American people and the proper functioning of our government hostage.

House Republicans' proposals, which some of their own Members don't even agree with, would cut millions of dollars from public health, childcare, education, food safety, law enforcement, housing, and more. These cuts would create uncertainty for hard-working families across the country, and they would put our national security and economic well-being at risk.

Instead of negotiating in good faith, House Republicans are willing to put the country through the pain of a shutdown. Now, we have had shutdowns before. I remember them well—2013, 2018, and now the threat of one in 2023. It appears to be a 5-year cycle. The shutdowns in 2013 and 2018 reduced economic output and GDP growth by projections in the billions. They forced Federal employees to go without checks, to either work without pay or be furloughed, and that included our military at the time. Servicemembers would not be paid until Congress funds the government. That would mean missed paychecks and strained household budgets for the duration of a shutdown, until extreme MAGA Republicans felt their demands had been met.

Take one Agency for example—the National Institutes of Health, the premier medical research Agency in the world. They would have to delay new clinical trials during a government shutdown, stalling critical medical research on diseases like cancer and Alzheimer's.

A shutdown would halt training of 2,600 air traffic controllers at a time when our country desperately needs them, and the air traffic controllers already on the job would have to work without pay. How would you like to have the pressure of that job and in the back of your mind wonder if you are going to make your mortgage payment? That would potentially lead to delays, longer wait times for those traveling, as we have seen in past shutdowns. The same goes for TSA.

The shutdown would delay major infrastructure projects that were created by the bipartisan infrastructure bill.

It could jeopardize the benefits of more than 6 million American participants in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Children, and Infants, including 170,000 in my home State of Illinois.

Public housing operations and housing choice voucher subsidies could be at risk of running out of funding.

A shutdown could deplete relief funds and slow emergency responses in the case of natural disasters. We have seen evidence of plenty of those.

In short, it would be nothing less of a disaster for the economy and for American families for this handful of MAGA Republicans to stop the funding of our government.

Here in the Senate, we have taken a bipartisan approach to the task of keeping our government funded.

I have served on the Senate Appropriations Committee for a number of years, and I have watched carefully as the procedure of that committee—one of the most important committees in the Senate—has changed.

For the last almost 5 years, we have gone without a meaningful, bipartisan effort to write budget bills, and we have taken from the Members the opportunity on the floor of the Senate to actually review those bills and make amendments.

It is our good fortune that the leaders in the Senate Appropriations Committee currently are two of the best. One of the best Democratic Senators and legislators, PATTY MURRAY, of Washington, chairs the Appropriations Committee. Her ranking Republican member, SUSAN COLLINS, of Maine, is another extraordinary legislator. What they managed to achieve so far in the Appropriations Committee is a tribute not only to their skill but also a tribute to bipartisanship.

They have reported out all 12 appropriations bills to the floor of the U.S. Senate for consideration on the floor for the first time in 5 years. Instead of a massive package called an omnibus, they were leading us toward individual appropriations bills and an amendment process on the floor we haven't seen for a long, long time. Unfortunately, it was set aside by one Republican Member last week, but we haven't given up on the notion of making this bipartisan.

I heard earlier a statement made by the Democratic leader in the Senate that there were negotiations through the weekend for a temporary spending bill. I hope that spirit continues when it comes to the appropriations bills. I am sure with Senators MURRAY and Collins working on it, we have a good possibility.

Now we recognize, more than ever before, the need to keep the lights on in Washington on Capitol Hill. This week is going to be our test. What must be top of mind in any compromise is keeping the Federal employees paid, their families fed, keep the economy moving forward, keep our affairs in order so that our adversaries know that the United States of America can actually fund its own government.

That is why here in the Senate we are going to consider a bipartisan continuing resolution to keep the government open at current funding levels while we work toward a longer term answer.

Instead of considering a similar, serious short-term proposal to prevent a shutdown, some House Republicans are now trying to consider 11 individual appropriations bills before Sunday. Let me tell you, the track record doesn't look so good. Speaker MCCARTHY has already pulled down more than one vote on the defense spending bill, despite the fact his own party actually drafted the bill. They drafted the bill, then they couldn't pass it with their own members of the House.

I am not sure what his plan is. But in the Senate, ours is to prevent a government shutdown and have an orderly process of spending bills considered by the Senate. We owe it to every American family to do our jobs and to do it in a timely, respectful manner.

I urge my colleagues in the House to put the needs, well-being, and livelihood of Americans above any partisan loyalty. I am committed to working with my colleagues to prevent a shutdown. I look forward to the Senate considering a continuing resolution that does just that.

UNITED AUTO WORKERS STRIKE

Mr. President, on a separate topic, I heard my colleague earlier, Senator SCHUMER, talk about visiting a picket line for the United Auto Workers this morning. I did the same thing yesterday morning in Bolingbrook, IL, where UAW local warehouse workers were out on the line drinking coffee and eating a few donuts, holding their signs that said ''solidarity'' with their union. I wanted to walk over there and be with them at this moment.

You have to understand, when a worker like a UAW worker goes on strike, they are really walking away from their regular paycheck and receiving emergency pay from the unions, which, historically, has never quite been the same or as much. The same thing is true when it comes to the medical benefits. They may lose the coverage they had in the workplace and have the union program that is an alternative that doesn't provide the same level of benefits.

What I am trying to get to is the bottom line is, these strikes are personal, and families sacrifice on behalf of the workers.

Why would they do that? Why would they walk off the job, stand in the cold or outside weather from time to time like this? Because there is more at stake than their own personal well-being. They are fighting not only for their fellow members of the union, they are fighting for working people all over the United States.

The organized labor movement—which I was happy to be a childhood union family growing up—really made a difference in the life of America. The 40-hour work week, overtime, vacation, healthcare benefits, pension—virtually every one of those elements that are part of a modern job—a good modern job—were fought for and sometimes died for by those who were working in the labor movement in the earliest stage.

The UAW is a good example. It was back in the forties when a young fellow named Walter Reuther decided to make the UAW a viable force in Detroit, MI. There was the famous confrontation at a River Rouge plant where the UAW workers were on strike and violence broke out. Some people were seriously injured. Those sacrifices were made, and America changed as a result of it.

Now the modern struggle of the UAW is not unlike that of the forties. The President of the UAW, Mr. Fain, came by my office several times to talk about his goals. He made it clear—and we all knew the answer—that when it came to the question of the survival of these automobile makers in 2008 when the economy plunged, it was the workers who stood up and said: We will make sacrifices and changes so that these companies can survive. Some people, even those on the floor of the Senate, were arguing: Let them go. That is capitalism. There are winners and losers.

But President Obama and I and many others felt just the opposite. Automobile manufacturing is a critical part of the American economy. President Obama was determined to keep those companies alive during that period of time. UAW did its part, and it did it well. They sacrificed wages and benefits. They said that the new workers would get paid dramatically less than those who had been there for years, and they literally saved those companies.

Now those companies are profitable to the tune of billions of dollars a year. What the UAW is saying is, for goodness' sake, make sure the workers are part of the success. Don't let them read in the papers how much the company is making while they are breaking their backs to make the products that are successful.

That is what the strike is all about. There was a time not that long ago in the early sixties when the executives of automobile companies and similar corporations were making about 30 times the wages of those who were working on production lines. Now the number is 500 times. The three executives who lead the automobile manufacturers all make over $20 million a year, each and every one of them. I believe the one from General Motors makes $29 million a year. Meanwhile, the wages for the executives have gone up 40 percent in the last 5 years and for the workers, 6 percent. So there is a disparity there that needs to be addressed and done fairly.

We want to make sure that the companies are profitable—they build products we are proud of. But we want to make sure the workers who are sacrificing every single day share in that profitability, share in that productivity. And they can do it if they are part of the contract that is now being negotiated.

I was out there on the line for about a half hour yesterday, standing along with the workers and encouraging the workers to be strong during this period. It is a time of personal sacrifice, but it is well worth it, not only for sisters and brothers in the union but workers all over America who prosper with the achievements made by the UAW.

I am proud to have had their support over the years, and I am proud to stand with them in this time of challenge.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Tennessee.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, in March of 2021, I came to the floor and spoke about Xavier Becerra's abysmal record before voting to confirm him as Secretary of Health and Human Services. Here is what I pointed out to my colleagues: He had no meaningful experience in public health, no meaningful experience in running a large-scale logistical operation, and a career's worth of hostility toward basic constitutional rights. My colleagues across the aisle didn't listen on this, and now his record as Secretary is worse than anyone could have imagined or predicted.

My colleagues who helped confirm him entrusted him with the lives of some of the world's most vulnerable children. Unaccompanied minors who are apprehended by Border Patrol are transferred to the care of Health and Human Services. This is clearly a big job considering that the Biden border crisis has led to over 300,000 encounters with unaccompanied children at our Nation's southern border. I am sure that these precious children thought they would finally be safe under the care of Health and Human Services and the sponsors they were ultimately going to be released to.

But Secretary Becerra proved what we already knew; that he was not up to the challenge of such a large Department with such expansive authority and that he had no experience that was relative.

Without explanation, HHS loosened the vetting requirements for sponsors, eliminating certain background checks and reviews of the children's files. Since then, HHS has lost contact with more than 85,000 of these children.

Back in February, the New York Times released a horrific exposé showing how these children have since been trafficked and exploited for labor—and these are only the stories of the children that the reporters could find.

Think about the enormity of the situation: 85,000 children. They cannot locate them. They do not know who is in charge of them. They do not know if they are dead or alive. They do not know if they are working in a processing plant or a manufacturing plant, or if they are being trafficked for sex, or if they are in a labor gang, because they cannot find these children.

And they decided to loosen the vetting requirements: Vetting takes too long. We need to speed up the process.

That is the mess that we find coming from Health and Human Services and its Secretary, Chief Officer Becerra.

If you have any doubt that Mr. Becerra has direct knowledge of this crisis, look no further than his own words. That same New York Times report referenced an audio recording taken during a staff meeting with the Office of Refugee Resettlement. That is a department within Health and Human Services.

When Becerra was admonishing his staff about their lack of speed in vetting sponsors and discharging these children into their care, he said:

> If Henry Ford had seen this in his plants, he would have never become famous and rich. This is not the way you do an assembly line.

If that doesn't convince you, listen to the whistleblowers who begged HHS

leadership to listen. HHS employees on the ground noticed alarming signs of exploitation and raised it to their supervisors. ''This is urgent,'' one wrote. She was ignored.

Again and again, staffers and contractors told HHS something was wrong, and the reports allegedly reached Secretary Becerra's desk. Even the senior staffer overseeing the unaccompanied minors program noted in an email to the Department's leadership:

> If nothing continues to be done, there will be a catastrophic event.

These reports were not just ignored. Those who spoke up were retaliated against. They were fired. They were silenced.

Think about this. You are working in a Department. You see things are going wrong. You hear the chief guy say:

> If Henry Ford had seen this in his plants, he would have never become famous and rich. This is not the way you do an assembly line.

You report it. You say: Things aren't right here. Children are being exploited. They are being used for labor. They are being used for sex. We cannot find these children. Nothing has been done.

Don't just take my word for it. That is according to a report from the Health and Human Services inspector general.

When Secretary Becerra appeared before the Senate Finance Committee back in March, I asked him what he knew about the exploitation of these children and when he knew it. Unsurprisingly, he evaded that question. I didn't get an answer. So after the hearing, I wrote him a letter asking again about his knowledge of these neglected and lost children and what role he had in firing the very people who were trying to sound the alarm and say that something needs to be done.

I didn't hear a word until September 8, and the response I got from HHS was a little more than an outline of their failed policies. They did not answer a single one of the questions about the Secretary's involvement in the decision-making process of what needed to be done to go find 85,000 children—not a word. So I sent a followup letter, giving the Secretary one more chance to answer the questions.

The Senate has a duty to conduct oversight, and I take that responsibility and that duty seriously. The Secretary should take this responsibility and his duty to respond to us seriously.

Where are these children? How are you vetting these children?

I had really hoped that my friends across the aisle—for all of their talk about compassion and trying to be compassionate to individuals and looking at border policies—that they would take this responsibility seriously as well. But our Senate Judiciary Committee Democrats seem content with distracting and deflecting from the crisis of leadership that is occurring over at Health and Human Services.

In a hearing back in June that was supposedly intended to ''ensure the well-being of unaccompanied migrant children,'' Chairman DURBIN didn't call a single government witness to testify about what is happening with these unaccompanied alien migrant children.

We cannot just turn a blind eye or try to sweep this under the rug. We are talking about children—children who are in a strange country, children who do not have an adult to look after them, children who maybe were lured here on a false premise.

This is something our Judiciary Committee and Chairman DURBIN should take up. We should bring the Secretary in and find out what is happening at Health and Human Services with the Office of Refugee Resettlement and with these children.

I said it back in 2021, and I will say it again. Secretary Becerra is not fit to serve as the HHS Secretary, and his continued disregard for the lives of these children—the nonresponse on answering these questions—proves that point.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, so ordered.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise tonight to urge my colleagues to support cloture on the motion to proceed to the FAA authorization bill.

Now, let me explain what this is about. The vote to get on the shell legislation is simply a vote to move the process forward to prevent a disastrous government shutdown. It does not indicate support or opposition to any particular component of a continuing resolution. It does not bind Members to vote one way or the other on a continuing resolution.

What this really is, is a vote on whether or not Members want government to shut down at the end of this week. It does indicate, in the strongest possible terms, that the Senate is committed to working to prevent a government shutdown. We still have time to consider legislation to keep the government open and funded, but in order to do so, the process must move forward.

I would ask all Senators who wish to avoid a shutdown of government and all that that entails to vote yes on cloture. Again, let me stress that voting yes on cloture tonight is a vote against a government shutdown and for letting the process move forward. It is just the first step. It does not bind Members to support the continuing resolution and to support every provision in the continuing resolution.

Now, what happens if we don't move forward tonight? We are increasing the chances that government will shut down. I have been through two government shutdowns, and I can tell you, they are never good policy. They do not accomplish the goals that people who advocate government shutdowns think will be accomplished, and they impose real hardship.

Don't we want our military to be paid on time? Don't we need paychecks going to those brave Border Patrol agents who are overwhelmed in trying to defend our southern border? Don't we want the Coast Guard, an entity very important to the Presiding Officer as well as to my State of Maine, to be able to continue to rescue our fishermen and patrol our seas, intercepting drug smugglers? Don't we want the DEA to be able to continue to work to keep fentanyl out of our communities?

The stakes are very high. I hope that all of my colleagues will vote to proceed to this shell bill tonight so that, then, we can debate the continuing resolution to fund government until the middle of November. That will allow us to continue our work on the appropriations bills. That is so important.

The Appropriations Committee, for the first time in 5 years, reported all 12 of the appropriations bills independently and with overwhelming bipartisan support. Three of them are in a package that is before us, that were on the floor all last week and have been just put aside temporarily so that we can work on the continuing resolution.

And my hope is, during that 45-day period when the continuing resolution is keeping government functioning at the levels that are needed, that we can continue our progress on the appropriations bills, bringing them across the floor. We have already cleared some 20 amendments to the three-bill package that the appropriators brought to the floor. Those 20 amendments will receive rollcall votes.

So we are making progress. Let's not stop that progress by shutting down government and causing tremendous hardship to our military, to our law enforcement officers, to those who are serving Americans through so many different Agencies. Let's not have that happen.

Please, I implore my colleagues, let's proceed by voting yes on the motion to invoke cloture tonight.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. WELCH. First, I want to thank Senator COLLINS and assure her that I appreciate the excellent work that she and Senator MURRAY have been doing, and I will be a vote for cloture so that we can proceed.

Mr. President, Vermont is one of the States that suffered devastating damages as a result of recent floods and very much is in need of the replenishing of the FEMA disaster aid fund.

As a Congress, as a Senate, our leaders, Senator MCCONNELL and Senator SCHUMER, and our Appropriations chair and vice chair, Senator MURRAY and Senator COLLINS, have been working

very hard to get a continuing resolution passed so that we will keep the lights on in government.

And we can't shut down. Just think about it. Military people won't get paid. That is just absolutely unacceptable. Start there, and the cascade of terrible things that are all avoidable will happen.

I am very appreciative of the efforts of our leadership, especially our committee chair and vice chair, for their work to avoid a shutdown. I am totally committed to avoiding a shutdown. It is unacceptable to inflict so much unnecessary harm on so many innocent people because of a crackpot theory that if you shut things down and burn the place down, it is going to result in a good outcome.

There are no good outcomes, as Senator MCCONNELL said earlier, when you use as a tactic to try to get your way to shut the government down.

So I will be supportive of the efforts on a bipartisan basis here to work toward a resolution. It is still very much in play as to what is going to happen to the FEMA money that is so essential to people who have suffered as a result of natural disasters.

I talk about Vermont, of course—and I will do that right now—but I am very mindful that my colleagues in Hawaii suffered that devastating fire in Maui, and, of course, we have had hurricanes and storms in Texas, in North Carolina, in Georgia, in Florida. So one thing all of us should be doing is helping each other when our citizens are the victims of a natural disaster.

So the No. 1 priority is to keep the lights on because we are going to fight another day. No. 2, my hope, is that there is still time to include aid for the Federal Emergency Management Agency to help us in Vermont, to help folks in Hawaii, to help folks in North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and elsewhere.

But I want to talk a little bit about what the situation is in Vermont. We remember the iconic photo that was broadcast nationwide of the downtown of the capital city of Vermont, Montpelier, underwater. The water is gone now. It has dried up.

This is a local business in Montpelier, and that is the Minikin toy shop in Montpelier. The water was up to here. This is now gone, but the question is—this shop, the Minikin toy shop, where I bought things for my grandkids—Kelly Tackett, the owner, she spoke with the Burlington Free Press about the flooding in her toy store. And she said:

> This was my lifelong dream shop. Those photos [of the flooding] make me realize this is likely the end of Minikin. I worked so hard to bring it to life.

She really needs a second chance here, and our FEMA funding can make a difference. I visited and spoke with her and her young family as they were cleaning up the shop right after the flood.

Cabot, VT, is a small community, the home of Cabot cheese. It is at the headwaters of the Winooski River, and all of the businesses in the town were hit by flooding. The owners of Harry's Hardware, which also serves—this is a real Vermont story—as a bar and the town's only gas station, were trapped in the building by the floodwaters, which rose from a trickle to a flood within minutes.

Vermont is still dealing with major infrastructure damage. There were more than 1,100 damage sites on roads and bridges in the State, causing significant challenges for commuting in rural areas due to unclear information on closures. We are still dealing with the recovery from that.

Over 12 million pounds of debris from the flooding have been cleared, and the community has stepped up to extract it, as seen on Flood Recovery Day, where volunteers cleaned up over 100,000 pounds in 1 day. But there is still much more to go. Other key components of Vermont's infrastructure and economic drivers—railways, rail and hiking trails, ski resorts—suffered damage and need to be repaired.

For the vast majority of these business owners, the disaster recovery loans offered by the Small Business Administration, they are not a financial reality; it will only force folks into more debt. They need grants. They need flexibility. They need options.

I want to thank my senior Senator, my colleague Senator SANDERS, who convened a meeting with the FEMA Administrator, with Governor Scott, and Congresswoman BALINT. But the Administrator, Criswell—who is doing a terrific job, by the way, and Vermonters thank FEMA for their great work—she was very candid that the FEMA fund is running on vapors. It needs to be replenished.

So as tough as the situation is—and I do agree we have to avoid the shutdown—my hope is that, before the end of the day, we will be able to have included FEMA relief to replenish that fund and make certain that the good work that FEMA is doing can continue.

It is really a basic question here: No. 1, do we use shutdown threats and shutdown reality as a tactic? We, in this body, have rejected that.

And the second is, do we find a way to make certain that when citizens throughout our country—not just Vermont or Hawaii but any citizens—who are in harm's way when a natural disaster occurs, that we are here so they can count on us to help them get to the other side?

We have an opportunity to begin the process of keeping government functioning and rejecting the politics of shutdown threats. And we have the opportunity to work together again to replenish the FEMA disaster relief—the farm relief—that is so essential so that our citizens who have been in harm's way can get the recovery funds that they need.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to complete my remarks before the vote is called at 5:30.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I have been working nonstop, reaching out to my colleagues, who have heard from me all hours of the day and night this past weekend, to put together a straightforward, bipartisan CR package that we can pass quickly to prevent a completely unnecessary government shutdown.

I am pleased to say the senior Senator from Maine and I have put together a bill that keeps our government funded while we continue to work on full-year appropriations. It provides critical dollars for communities that are struck by disasters and Ukraine, which is at a pivotal moment in its defensive efforts against Putin's brutal, unprovoked war of aggression. These are important downpayments as we continue to work now on a full-year bill, but we have more to do.

Importantly, this CR also ensures that wildland firefighters will not see a pay cut. It prevents critical laws from lapsing to make sure the FAA and community health centers can continue operating and more.

I hope that all of our colleagues in the Senate and the House will work with us to get this signed into law as soon as possible so we can avoid a shutdown that would be nothing short of devastating for our economy and for families everywhere.

This should not be hard. We have a simple, bipartisan CR, a truly reasonable bill. We have the support to get it signed into law if it is put up for a vote in both Chambers. We do not have a moment to waste. Let's get this done and get right back to work on passing the 12 bipartisan appropriations bills that are ready to come to the Senate floor.

Mr. President, I am here tonight to urge a ''yes'' vote on the motion to invoke cloture.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, let me first thank the Senator from Washington State, the chair of Appropriations. We worked together so hard and diligently over the weekend, and we produced a result, I think, that shows that bipartisanship can triumph over extremism. Here in the Senate, we are bipartisan. I want to thank Leader MCCONNELL. He worked with us throughout. I want to thank Ranking Member COLLINS. They worked with us throughout because we all know, together, that a government shutdown will be devastating—devastating—for this country.

It amazes me that some in the other body—just an extreme few—say they want a shutdown. That hurts tens of millions, hundreds of millions of Americans for only some kind of ideological political purpose. But we said no. The funding levels continue at the same level as before.

There is $6.1 billion for Ukraine on the defense side and on the—on the State Department side. There is $6 billion for disaster relief. On all of these, this is a bridge towards cooperation. This is not going to be the final proposal for the whole year. But to avoid a government shutdown, we needed a bridge. It is a bridge toward cooperation and away from extremism, which will allow us to keep working to fully fund the Federal Government and spare families the pain of a shutdown.

Let us hope that we get many people on both sides of the aisle voting for this product and that the House understands that bipartisanship there is the only way to go to avoid a shutdown.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 211, H.R. 3935, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize and improve the Federal Aviation Administration and other civil aviation programs, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Patty Murray, Jack Reed, Benjamin L. Cardin, Martin Heinrich, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tina Smith, Alex Padilla, Christopher A. Coons, Jeanne Shaheen, Tim Kaine, Mark R. Warner, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher Murphy, Chris Van Hollen, Debbie Stabenow, Gary C. Peters.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on H.R. 3935, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize and improve the Federal Aviation Administration and other civil aviation programs, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mrs. SMITH), are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 77, nays 19, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 240 Leg.]

YEAS—77

Baldwin	Crapo	Lankford
Barrasso	Duckworth	Luján
Bennet	Durbin	Manchin
Blumenthal	Ernst	Markey
Booker	Fetterman	McConnell
Boozman	Gillibrand	Menendez
Brown	Graham	Merkley
Cantwell	Grassley	Moran
Capito	Hassan	Mullin
Cardin	Heinrich	Murkowski
Carper	Hickenlooper	Murphy
Casey	Hirono	Murray
Cassidy	Hoeven	Ossoff
Collins	Hyde-Smith	Padilla
Coons	Kaine	Peters
Cornyn	Kelly	Reed
Cortez Masto	Kennedy	Romney
Cotton	King	Rosen
Cramer	Klobuchar	Rounds
Rubio	Sullivan	Warren
Sanders	Tester	Welch
Schatz	Thune	Whitehouse
Schumer	Tillis	Wicker
Shaheen	Van Hollen	Wyden
Sinema	Warner	Young
Stabenow	Warnock	

NAYS—19

Blackburn	Hagerty	Ricketts
Braun	Hawley	Schmitt
Britt	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Budd	Lee	Tuberville
Cruz	Lummis	Vance
Daines	Marshall	
Fischer	Paul	

NOT VOTING—4

Feinstein	Scott (SC)
Risch	Smith

(Mr. KING assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KELLY). The yeas are 77, the nays are 19.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I am very glad to see cloture was adopted by a very large, bipartisan majority. This shows we can work together, even with our differences, for the betterment of the country. I hope the House follows suit.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE RELATING TO ''ENDANGERED AND THREATENED WILDLIFE AND PLANTS; LESSER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN; THREATENED STATUS WITH SECTION 4(D) RULE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTINCT POPULATION SEGMENT AND ENDANGERED STATUS FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTINCT POPULATION SEGMENT''—Veto

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE RELATING TO ''ENDANGERED AND THREATENED WILDLIFE AND PLANTS; ENDANGERED SPECIES STATUS FOR NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT''—Veto

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the veto messages on S.J. Res. 9 and S.J. Res. 24 be considered as having been read and be printed in the RECORD and spread in full upon the Journal.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The veto messages are ordered to be printed in the RECORD as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

I am returning herewith without my approval S.J. Res. 9, a joint resolution that would disapprove the final rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Lesser Prairie-Chicken; Threatened Status with Section 4(d) Rule for the Northern Distinct Population Segment and Endangered Status for the Southern Distinct Population Segment.''

The final rule, issued by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), provides Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections to an American bird species whose historical habitat on the Great Plains has diminished by approximately 90 percent and whose populations have plummeted toward disappearance. Following a rigorous review of the best available scientific and commercial information regarding the past, present, and future threats, as well as ongoing conservation efforts, the USFWS listed the Southern Distinct Population Segment of the lesser prairie-chicken as endangered, and the Northern Distinct Population Segment of the lesser prairie-chicken as threatened. The rule also affirms and protects locally led and crafted voluntary conservation agreements that landowners and land managers have developed in recent years, which provide certainty for industry as well as safeguards for prairie-chicken populations.

S.J. Res. 9 would overturn a science-based rulemaking that follows the requirements of the law, and thereby undermines the ESA. The lesser prairie-chicken serves as an indicator for healthy grasslands and prairies, making the species an important measure of the overall health of America's grasslands. If enacted, S.J. Res. 9 would undermine America's proud wildlife conservation traditions, risk the extinction of a once-abundant American bird, and create uncertainty for landowners and industries who have been working for years to forge the durable, locally led conservation strategies that this rule supports.

Therefore, I am vetoing this resolution.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *September 26, 2023.*

To the Senate of the United States:

I am returning herewith without my approval S.J. Res. 24, a joint resolution that would disapprove the final rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Northern Long-Eared Bat.''

The final rule, issued by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), provides Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections to the northern long-eared bat, whose populations have been heavily impacted by white-nose syndrome. The northern long-eared bat now faces extinction due to white-nose syndrome, a deadly disease that has spread across approximately 79 percent of the northern long-eared bat's entire range and is expected to affect 100 percent of the species' range by the end of the decade. Data indicate white-nose syndrome has caused estimated declines of 97 to 100 percent in affected northern long-eared bat populations. Following a rigorous review of the best available scientific and commercial information regarding the past, present, and future threats, as well as ongoing conservation efforts, the USFWS listed the northern long-eared bat as an endangered species under the ESA.

S.J. Res. 24 would overturn a science-based rulemaking that follows the requirements of the law, and thereby undermines the ESA. Bats are critical to healthy, functioning ecosystems and contribute at least $3 billion annually to the United States agriculture economy through pest control and pollination. If enacted, S.J. Res. 24 would undermine America's proud wildlife conservation traditions and risk extinction of the species.

Therefore, I am vetoing this resolution.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *September 26, 2023*.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the veto messages with respect to S.J. Res. 9 and S.J. Res. 24 be considered at times to be determined by the majority leader in concurrence with the Republican leader prior to October 4; that there be up to 2 hours for debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees on each resolution; that the Senate then vote on passage of each joint resolution, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions: S. Res. 365, S. Res. 366, S. Res. 367, S. Res. 368, and S. Res. 369.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

MORNING BUSINESS

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REHABILITATION ACT

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I rise today to highlight the importance of the Rehabilitation Act and to recognize the law's significance as we celebrate its 50th birthday today.

The Rehabilitation Act prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in programs that receive Federal funding. It helped lay the foundation for the Americans with Disabilities Act, which wasn't signed into law until almost two decades later. But aside from that, the anniversary of the Rehabilitation Act also serves as a reminder that we are where we are now because of the sheer willpower of disability activists from across the country—activists like my late friend Judy Heumann, whom I can't help but remember today.

Even though the Rehabilitation Act was signed into law in 1973, it was not implemented until 4 years later, and that was only after hundreds of disabled activists sat in and occupied Federal buildings across the country. At San Francisco's sit-in, which lasted for weeks, protestors like Judy refused to be moved. Authorities shut off the phone lines. They shut off the water so those protesting went thirsty. But our community stuck together and stayed strong. I am grateful these dedicated activists persisted despite difficult obstacles, and their persistence and determination should inspire our country to push further towards achieving the ultimate goal of full accessibility and inclusion.

People with disabilities continue to face discrimination every day. From lack of access to healthcare, to disparately low employment rates; from inaccessible websites and official documents, to suffering the indignity of having airlines destroy wheelchairs and assistive equipment on flights, our Nation must push past complacency and work to ensure the letter and spirit of the Rehabilitation Act and Americans with Disabilities Act are applied to all aspects of life in the 21st century.

Our community is already more than 61 million strong—a number that will continue to grow in the years ahead—because the truth is that every American is just 1 day away from becoming disabled and everyone should hope to live long enough that they eventually gain some sort of disability. Our Nation's laws and policies should reflect that. That is one reason why I am proud that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services acted on my request that Medicare finally cover seat elevation systems in power wheelchairs. It is why I am proud that the Government Accountability Office agreed to study health disparities experienced by people with disabilities. And it is why I will keep working with the disability community to honor and carry on the work of Judy and all the advocates, activists, and allies who helped get us to this point.

So here is to 50 years of the Rehabilitation Act and to everything we do in the next 50.

REMEMBERING THOMAS HUGH SEYMOUR

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise today in tribute to the late Thomas Hugh Seymour for his service to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

Mr. Seymour's illustrious career spanned two decades as the OCWR Fire Protection Engineer and Safety and Health consulting expert. His journey was marked by the highest levels of dedication, expertise, and passion for workplace safety, and his work has helped to save lives. Prior to his role at OCWR, Mr. Seymour had a distinguished career at OSHA, where he ascended to the position of Deputy Director for the Directorate of Safety Standards Programs. During his tenure at OSHA, Mr. Seymour played an instrumental role in shaping and drafting critical safety standards that have since become integral to safeguarding workplaces nationwide. He was an advocate for safer working conditions and a guardian of fire safety. This year, Mr. Seymour received a posthumous Safety Advocate Award from the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights and National Safety Council.

I offer my heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Seymour's family for his service and also recognize all the distinguished recipients of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights' 2023 Safety Recognition Awards. May their dedication continue to guide us as we strive to create workplaces that are safe and accessible.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING DUNLAP LIVESTOCK AUCTION, INC.

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week it is my privilege to recognize Dunlap Livestock Auction of Dunlap, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

The Schaben family's involvement in Dunlap Livestock Auction began in 1948 under Jim Schaben, Sr., who served as manager of the livestock auction. Two years later, in 1950, Jim Schaben, Sr., purchased Dunlap Livestock Auction with his wife Ruth. Jim is a 1945 graduate of the Reppert School of Auctioneering in Indiana following his honorable service in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II. The current facility was completed in 1974 and was passed on to his sons Jay, Jim Jr., and Jon. Jim Sr. passed away in 2013 at the age of 87, leaving behind a legacy of service, generosity, and auctioneering excellence.

Today, the Schaben family still owns and operates Dunlap Livestock Auction and has grown to include multiple generations of the family. In addition to livestock, they also offer home and estate, farm machinery, gun, and real estate auctions serving clients throughout Iowa and the Midwest. The Schaben family has continually advocated for the cattle industry. In 2021, Jon Schaben testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee on behalf of the Iowa Cattlemen's Association, an organization of which he is a member.

In 2023, Dunlap Livestock Auction celebrated its 73rd business anniversary of being operated by the Schaben family.

Dunlap Livestock Auction and the Schaben family are a staple of the Harrison County and Dunlap community. Jim Sr. served in the Iowa Senate from 1967 until 1975 on the Agriculture Committee. Jim Sr. and Ruth donated 80 acres of land in the 1970s to Harrison County, which now bears the name Schaben Park. Dunlap Livestock Auction has also been recognized for its work. In 2020, they won the Iowa Beef Industry Council's Beef Quality Assurance Iowa Marketer Award. In 2022, Will Epperly represented Dunlap Livestock Auction and won the World Livestock Auctioneer Championship. Jon Schaben won the World Livestock Auctioneer Championship in 2003.

Dunlap Livestock Auction's commitment to providing livestock auctioneering services in Western Iowa is clear. I want to congratulate the Schaben family and the entire team at Dunlap Livestock Auction for their continued dedication to providing auctioneering services to Iowans. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

TRIBUTE TO JEREMY CRISS

● Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated public servant and champion of our agricultural community, Jeremy Criss. With over 30 years of unwavering service to Montgomery County, Mr. Criss has proven himself to be an indispensable asset not only to his community but also to the State of Maryland as a tireless advocate for our farmers.

What sets Mr. Criss apart is not just his deep understanding of what our farmers do but, more importantly, why they do it. He has always recognized that agriculture is not just an occupation; it is a way of life, a vital pillar of our society. As the director of agricultural services for Montgomery County, MD, Mr. Criss's commitment to the betterment of our society through agriculture has been nothing short of exceptional.

Under Mr. Criss's leadership, the Montgomery County Office of Agriculture has been a beacon of support for farmers, offering invaluable resources and guidance, allowing our agricultural community not only to survive but also to thrive. Mr. Criss's personal commitment to the cause of agriculture is evident to anyone who knows him. He has not only been a director but also a friend and mentor to many in our farming community, offering guidance and a listening ear during both good times and challenging ones. His kindness and unwavering support have made him a beloved figure among our farmers and greater community, and his absence will be keenly felt.

I commend Mr. Criss for the invaluable contributions he has made to our agricultural community. His legacy is one of dedication, passion, and a deep love for the land and the people who work it. Montgomery County, the State of Maryland, and our farmers are stronger today because of Mr. Criss, and I congratulate him and wish him a well-earned, enjoyable, and fulfilling retirement.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Kelly, one of his secretaries.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES

REPORT OF THE VETO OF S.J. RES. 9, A JOINT RESOLUTION THAT WOULD DISAPPROVE THE FINAL RULE ENTITLED ''ENDANGERED AND THREATENED WILDLIFE AND PLANTS: LESSER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN: THREATENED STATUS WITH SECTION 4(D) RULE FOR THE DISTINCT POPULATION SEGMENT AND ENDANGERED STATUS FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTINCT POPULATION SEGMENT''—PM 22

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States was ordered to be printed in the Record, spread in full upon the Journal, and held at the desk:

To the Senate of the United States:

I am returning herewith without my approval S.J. Res. 9, a joint resolution that would disapprove the final rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Lesser Prairie-Chicken; Threatened Status with Section 4(d) Rule for the Northern Distinct Population Segment and Endangered Status for the Southern Distinct Population Segment.''

The final rule, issued by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), provides Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections to an American bird species whose historical habitat on the Great Plains has diminished by approximately 90 percent and whose populations have plummeted toward disappearance. Following a rigorous review of the best available scientific and commercial information regarding the past, present, and future threats, as well as ongoing conservation efforts, the USFWS listed the Southern Distinct Population Segment of the lesser prairie-chicken as endangered, and the Northern Distinct Population Segment of the lesser prairie-chicken as threatened. The rule also affirms and protects locally led and crafted voluntary conservation agreements that landowners and land managers have developed in recent years, which provide certainty for industry as well as safeguards for prairie-chicken populations.

S.J. Res. 9 would overturn a science-based rulemaking that follows the requirements of the law, and thereby undermines the ESA. The lesser prairie-chicken serves as an indicator for healthy grasslands and prairies, making the species an important measure of the overall health of America's grasslands. If enacted, S.J. Res. 9 would undermine America's proud wildlife conservation traditions, risk the extinction of a once-abundant American bird, and create uncertainty for landowners and industries who have been working for years to forge the durable, locally led conservation strategies that this rule supports.

Therefore, I am vetoing this resolution.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, *September 26, 2023*.

REPORT OF THE VETO OF S.J. RES. 24, A JOINT RESOLUTION THAT WOULD DISAPPROVE THE FINAL RULE ENTITLED ''ENDANGERED AND THREATENED WILDLIFE AND PLANTS; ENDANGERED SPECIES STATUS FOR NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT''—PM 23

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, spread in full upon the Journal, and held at the desk:

To The Senate of the United States:

I am returning herewith without my approval S.J. Res. 24, a joint resolution that would disapprove the final rule entitled ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Northern Long-Eared Bat.''

The final rule, issued by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), provides Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections to the northern long-eared bat, whose populations have been heavily impacted by white-nose syndrome. The northern long-eared bat now faces extinction due to white-nose syndrome, a deadly disease that has spread across approximately 79 percent of the northern long-eared bat's entire range and is expected to affect 100 percent of the species' range by the end of the decade. Data indicate white-nose syndrome has caused estimated declines of 97 to 100 percent in affected northern long-eared bat populations. Following a rigorous review of the best available scientific and commercial information regarding the past, present, and future threats, as well as ongoing conservation efforts, the USFWS listed the northern long-eared bat as an endangered species under the ESA.

S.J. Res. 24 would overturn a science-based rulemaking that follows the requirements of the law, and thereby undermines the ESA. Bats are critical to healthy, functioning ecosystems and contribute at least $3 billion annually to the United States agriculture economy through pest control and pollination. If enacted, S.J. Res. 24 would undermine America's proud wildlife

conservation traditions and risk extinction of the species.

Therefore, I am vetoing this resolution.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *September 26, 2023*.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to section 4 of the United States Semiquincentennial Commission Act of 2016 (Public Law 114–196), the Minority Leader appoints the following individual from private life to serve as a Commissioner to the United States Semiquincentennial Commission: Mr. Reginald Matthew Browne of Newtown, Pennsylvania.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. DAINES:

S. 2913. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to deny Federal retirement benefits to individuals convicted of child sex abuse; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 2914. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to exempt certain employees engaged in outdoor recreational outfitting or guiding services from maximum hours requirements; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WELCH:

S. 2915. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to authorize the allocation of the costs of certain interstate electric power transmission lines and electric power transmission lines that are located offshore, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. MULLIN):

S. 2916. A bill to provide for digital communication of prescribing information for drugs (including biological products), and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. 2917. A bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to establish an emergency preparedness and response technical assistance program to assist entities that operate rural water or wastewater systems in preparing for and responding to natural or man-made disasters; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 2918. A bill to reauthorize the program of surveillance and education regarding infections associated with illicit drug use and other risk factors; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 2919. A bill to require research with respect to fentanyl and xylazine test strips, to authorize the use of grant funds for such test strips, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2920. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the exclusion of Pell Grants from gross income; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARSHALL:

S. 2921. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit 529 plans to be used for certain non-degree technical training certificate programs, apprenticeship programs, and other training programs; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 2922. A bill to advance population research for chronic pain; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 2923. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to improve the calculation and reduce the taxpayer cost of payment errors under the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 2924. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to improve the management of improper payments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 2925. A bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to set the rate of pay for employees of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection in accordance with the General Schedule; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. KELLY, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 2926. A bill to prohibit the importation, sale, manufacture, transfer, or possession of .50 caliber rifles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. 2927. A bill to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to increase Tribal access to water conservation and efficiency grants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. KELLY (for himself and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 2928. A bill to amend the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 to establish payment and performance security requirements for projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. REED):

S. 2929. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax rate parity among all tobacco products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. KING):

S. 2930. A bill to make exclusive the authority of the Federal Government to regulate the labeling of products made in the United States and introduced in interstate or foreign commerce, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 2931. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to modify the Rural Energy for America Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 2932. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide guidance to State Medicaid agencies, public housing agencies, Continuums of Care, and housing finance agencies on connecting Medicaid beneficiaries with housing-related services and supports under Medicaid and other housing resources, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Ms. HASSAN, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 2933. A bill to reauthorize the program of first responder training; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 2934. A bill to amend the Trademark Act of 1946 to provide for contributory liability for certain electronic commerce platforms for use of a counterfeit mark by a third party on such platforms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CASEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. Res. 361. A resolution recognizing the importance of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 on the lives of individuals with disabilities and calling for further action to advance access, opportunity, and equity for individuals with disabilities; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARSHALL:

S. Res. 362. A resolution to express the sense of the Senate regarding the constitutional right of State Governors to repel the dangerous ongoing invasion across the United States southern border; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. MARKEY):

S. Res. 363. A resolution supporting continued United States and Taiwan cooperation in education; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself and Ms. ERNST):

S. Res. 364. A resolution relating to proceedings of the Senate in the event of a partial or full shutdown of the Federal Government; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. Res. 365. A resolution honoring the 50th anniversary of the National Cemetery Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Mr. PETERS):

S. Res. 366. A resolution designating September 2023 as ''School Bus Safety Month''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. Res. 367. A resolution designating September 2023 as ''National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. WARNER, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. Res. 368. A resolution supporting the designation of the week of September 17 through September 23, 2023, as ''Telehealth Awareness Week''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BOOKER (for Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BROWN, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. YOUNG, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. CARPER, and Ms. WARREN)):

S. Res. 369. A resolution expressing support for the designation of September 2023 as ''Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month'' in order to educate communities across the United States about sickle cell disease and the need for research, early detection methods, effective treatments, and preventative care programs with respect to complications from sickle cell disease and conditions related to sickle cell disease; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 41

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 41, a bill to reauthorize the READ Act.

S. 45

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 45, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify reporting requirements, promote tax compliance, and reduce tip reporting compliance burdens in the beauty service industry.

S. 133

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 133, a bill to extend the National Alzheimer's Project.

S. 135

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) were added as cosponsors of S. 135, a bill to provide for a period of continuing appropriations in the event of a lapse in appropriations under the normal appropriations process, and establish procedures and consequences in the event of a failure to enact appropriations.

S. 592

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 592, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the mileage rate offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs through their Beneficiary Travel program for health related travel, and for other purposes.

S. 652

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) and the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) were added as cosponsors of S. 652, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require a group health plan or health insurance coverage offered in connection with such a plan to provide an exceptions process for any medication step therapy protocol, and for other purposes.

S. 722

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 722, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit certain expenses associated with obtaining or maintaining recognized postsecondary credentials to be treated as qualified higher education expenses for purposes of 529 accounts.

S. 740

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 740, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to reinstate criminal penalties for persons charging veterans unauthorized fees relating to claims for benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 928

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 928, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to prepare an annual report on suicide prevention, and for other purposes.

S. 993

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 993, a bill to prohibit certain uses of xylazine, and for other purposes.

S. 1199

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1199, a bill to combat the sexual exploitation of children by supporting victims and promoting accountability and transparency by the tech industry.

S. 1294

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1294, a bill to provide for payment rates for durable medical equipment under the Medicare program.

S. 1384

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1384, a bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors.

S. 1507

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1507, a bill to provide grants to State, local, territorial, and Tribal law enforcement agencies to purchase chemical screening devices and train personnel to use chemical screening devices in order to enhance law enforcement efficiency and protect law enforcement officers.

S. 1557

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1557, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the low-income housing credit, and for other purposes.

S. 1792

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1792, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers of veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 1800

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1800, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and extend the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Prevention and Services program, and for other purposes.

S. 2085

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2085, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multicancer early detection screening tests.

S. 2090

At the request of Mr. MULLIN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2090, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to prevent the elimination of the sale of motor vehicles with internal combustion engines.

S. 2238

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2238, a bill to direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to develop a National Strategy to Close the Digital Divide, and for other purposes.

S. 2284

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2284, a bill to require the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to be appointed by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

S. 2407

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2407, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coordination of programs to prevent and treat obesity, and for other purposes.

S. 2444

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2444, a bill to establish an interactive online dashboard to improve

public access to information about grant funding related to mental health and substance use disorder programs.

S. 2515

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2515, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes.

S. 2581

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2581, a bill to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

S. 2738

At the request of Mr. VANCE, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2738, a bill to prohibit through December 31, 2024, the imposition of a mask mandate on passengers of air carriers or public transit and in educational settings within the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2757

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2757, a bill to limit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from modifying the rate of payment or reimbursement for transportation of veterans or other individuals via special modes of transportation under the laws administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes.

S. 2781

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2781, a bill to promote remediation of abandoned hardrock mines, and for other purposes.

S. 2817

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2817, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to prohibit employers from paying employees in the garment industry by piece rate, to require manufacturers and contractors in the garment industry to register with the Department of Labor, and for other purposes.

S. 2835

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2835, a bill making continuing appropriations for military pay in the event of a Government shutdown.

S. 2860

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2860, a bill to create protections for financial institutions that provide financial services to State-sanctioned marijuana businesses and service providers for such businesses, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. KELLY, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 2926. A bill to prohibit the importation, sale, manufacture, transfer, or possession of .50 caliber rifles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2926

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Stop Arming Cartels Act of 2023''.

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON RIFLES CAPABLE OF FIRING .50 CALIBER AMMUNITION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 922, by adding at the end the following:

''(aa) RIFLES CAPABLE OF FIRING .50 CALIBER AMMUNITION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), it shall be unlawful for any person to import, sell, manufacture, transfer, or possess, in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce, a rifle capable of firing .50 caliber ammunition.

''(2) EXCEPTIONS.—

''(A) GOVERNMENT USE.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to the importation for, manufacture for, sale to, transfer to, or possession by the United States, a department or agency of the United States, a State, or a department, agency, or political subdivision of a State, of a rifle capable of firing .50 caliber ammunition.

''(B) GRANDFATHERED RIFLES.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to the sale, transfer, or possession of any rifle otherwise lawfully possessed on or before the date of enactment of the Stop Arming Cartels Act of 2023.''; and

(2) in section 924(a)(1)(B), by striking ''or (q)'' and inserting ''(q), or (aa)''.

(b) INCLUSION OF CERTAIN RIFLES AS FIREARMS UNDER NATIONAL FIREARMS ACT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 5845(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''and (8) a destructive device'' and inserting ''(8) a destructive device; and (9) a rifle which is capable of firing .50 caliber ammunition and is lawfully possessed on or before the date of enactment of the Stop Arming Cartels Act of 2023''.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the amendments made by this subsection shall take effect on the date which is 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

(B) REGISTRATION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A) or any other provision of law, any person possessing a rifle which is capable of firing .50 caliber ammunition which is not registered to such person in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record shall register each such rifle so possessed with the Secretary in such form and manner as the Secretary may require within the 12-month period immediately following the date of enactment of this Act. No fee or tax shall be imposed with respect to any registration required under this subparagraph.

(ii) INCLUSION IN REGISTRY.—Any registration described in clause (i) shall become a part of the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record. No information or evidence required to be submitted or retained by a natural person to register a firearm under this subparagraph shall be used, directly or indirectly, as evidence against such person in any criminal proceeding with respect to a prior or concurrent violation of law.

(C) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

(i) NATIONAL FIREARMS REGISTRATION AND TRANSFER RECORD.—The term ''National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record'' means the registry established pursuant to section 5841 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(ii) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' has the same meaning given such term under section 7701(a)(11)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

SEC. 3. EXCEPTION TO COVERAGE UNDER PROTECTION OF LAWFUL COMMERCE IN ARMS ACT.

Section 4(5)(A) of the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (15 U.S.C. 7903(5)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (v), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(2) in clause (vi), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(vii) an action brought against a manufacturer or seller that knowingly sells or transfers a qualified product, or attempts or conspires to do so, knowing or having reasonable cause to believe that the transaction is prohibited under section 805(c) of the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (21 U.S.C. 1904(c)).''.

SEC. 4. FEDERAL FIREARM PROHIBITOR FOR SIGNIFICANT FOREIGN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS AND CERTAIN OTHER FOREIGN PERSONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 922(d) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (10), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(2) by redesignating paragraph (11) as paragraph (12);

(3) by inserting after paragraph (10) the following:

''(11) is—

''(A) a significant foreign narcotics trafficker publicly identified by the President in a report under subsection (b) or (h)(1) of section 804 of the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (21 U.S.C. 1903); or

''(B) a foreign person designated by the Secretary of the Treasury under section 805(b) of the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (21 U.S.C. 1904(b)); or''; and

(4) in paragraph (12), as so redesignated, by striking ''(10)'' and inserting ''(11)''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS RELATING TO NICS.—Section 103 of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (34 U.S.C. 40901) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2)(D), by inserting ''or that transfer of a firearm or ammunition to the individual would violate subsection (d)(11) of such section 922'' after ''section 922 of title 18, United States Code,'';

(2) in subsection (e)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting ''or to whom transfer of a firearm would violate subsection (d)(11) of such section 922,'' after ''section 922 of title 18, United States Code or State law,'';

(B) in subparagraph (C), by inserting ''or that transfer of a firearm or ammunition to the person would violate subsection (d)(11) of such section 922,'' after ''section 922 of title 18, United States Code,'';

(C) in subparagraph (F)(iii)(I), by striking ''(g) or (n)'' and inserting ''(d)(11), (g), or (n)''; and

(D) in subparagraph (G)(i), by striking ''(g) or (n)'' and inserting ''(d)(11), (g), or (n)'';

(3) in subsection (g), by inserting ''or that transfer of a firearm to a prospective transferee would violate subsection (d)(11) of such section 922,'' after ''section 922 of title 18, United States Code or State law,''; and

(4) in subsection (i)(2)—

(A) by striking ''persons,'' and inserting ''persons who are''; and

(B) by inserting before the period at the end the following: '', or to whom transfer of a firearm would violate subsection (d)(11) of such section 922''.

SEC. 5. ADDING RIFLES TO MULTIPLE FIREARM SALES REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

Section 923(g)(3)(A) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking ''pistols, or revolvers, or any combination of pistols and revolvers'' and inserting ''pistols, revolvers, or rifles, or any combination of pistols, revolvers, and rifles''.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. REED):

S. 2929. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax rate parity among all tobacco products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2929

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Tobacco Tax Equity Act of 2023''.

SEC. 2. INCREASING EXCISE TAXES ON CIGARETTES AND ESTABLISHING EXCISE TAX EQUITY AMONG ALL TOBACCO PRODUCT TAX RATES.

(a) TAX PARITY FOR ROLL-YOUR-OWN TOBACCO.—Section 5701(g) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''$24.78'' and inserting ''$49.56''.

(b) TAX PARITY FOR PIPE TOBACCO.—Section 5701(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''$2.8311 cents'' and inserting ''$49.56''.

(c) TAX PARITY FOR SMOKELESS TOBACCO.—

(1) Section 5701(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''$1.51'' and inserting ''$26.84'';

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking ''50.33 cents'' and inserting ''$10.74''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) SMOKELESS TOBACCO SOLD IN DISCRETE SINGLE-USE UNITS.—On discrete single-use units, $100.66 per thousand.''.

(2) Section 5702(m) of such Code is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking ''or chewing tobacco'' and inserting '', chewing tobacco, or discrete single-use unit'';

(B) in paragraphs (2) and (3), by inserting ''that is not a discrete single-use unit'' before the period in each such paragraph; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

''(4) DISCRETE SINGLE-USE UNIT.—The term 'discrete single-use unit' means any product containing, made from, or derived from tobacco or nicotine that—

''(A) is not intended to be smoked; and

''(B) is in the form of a lozenge, tablet, pill, pouch, dissolvable strip, or other discrete single-use or single-dose unit.''.

(d) TAX PARITY FOR SMALL CIGARS.—Paragraph (1) of section 5701(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''$50.33'' and inserting ''$100.66''.

(e) TAX PARITY FOR LARGE CIGARS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 5701(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking ''52.75 percent'' and all that follows through the period and inserting the following: ''$49.56 per pound and a proportionate tax at the like rate on all fractional parts of a pound but not less than 10.066 cents per cigar.''.

(2) GUIDANCE.—The Secretary of the Treasury, or the Secretary's delegate, may issue guidance regarding the appropriate method for determining the weight of large cigars for purposes of calculating the applicable tax under section 5701(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 5702 of such Code is amended by striking subsection (l).

(f) TAX PARITY FOR ROLL-YOUR-OWN TOBACCO AND CERTAIN PROCESSED TOBACCO.—Subsection (o) of section 5702 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by inserting '', and includes processed tobacco that is removed for delivery or delivered to a person other than a person with a permit provided under section 5713, but does not include removals of processed tobacco for exportation'' after ''wrappers thereof''.

(g) IMPOSITION OF TAX ON NICOTINE FOR USE IN VAPING, ETC.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 5701 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (i) and by inserting after subsection (g) the following new subsection:

''(h) NICOTINE.—On taxable nicotine, manufactured in or imported into the United States, there shall be imposed a tax equal to the dollar amount specified in section 5701(b)(1) per 1,810 milligrams of nicotine (and a proportionate tax at the like rate on any fractional part thereof).''.

(2) TAXABLE NICOTINE.—Section 5702 of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(q) TAXABLE NICOTINE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the term 'taxable nicotine' means any nicotine which has been extracted, concentrated, or synthesized.

''(2) EXCEPTION FOR PRODUCTS APPROVED BY FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION.—Such term shall not include any nicotine if the manufacturer or importer thereof demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Secretary of Health and Human Services that such nicotine will be used in—

''(A) a drug—

''(i) that is approved under section 505 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act or licensed under section 351 of the Public Health Service Act; or

''(ii) for which an investigational use exemption has been authorized under section 505(i) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act or under section 351(a) of the Public Health Service Act; or

''(B) a combination product (as described in section 503(g) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act), the constituent parts of which were approved or cleared under section 505, 510(k), or 515 of such Act.

''(3) COORDINATION WITH TAXATION OF OTHER TOBACCO PRODUCTS.—Tobacco products meeting the definition of cigars, cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, pipe tobacco, and roll-your-own tobacco in this section shall be classified and taxed as such despite any concentration of the nicotine inherent in those products or any addition of nicotine to those products during the manufacturing process.

''(4) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe such regulations or other guidance as is necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this subsection, including regulations or other guidance for coordinating the taxation of tobacco products and taxable nicotine to protect revenue and prevent double taxation.''.

(3) TAXABLE NICOTINE TREATED AS A TOBACCO PRODUCT.—Section 5702(c) of such Code is amended by striking ''and roll-your-own tobacco'' and inserting ''roll-your-own tobacco, and taxable nicotine''.

(4) MANUFACTURER OF TAXABLE NICOTINE.—Section 5702 of such Code, as amended by paragraph (2), is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(r) MANUFACTURER OF TAXABLE NICOTINE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Any person who extracts, concentrates, or synthesizes nicotine shall be treated as a manufacturer of taxable nicotine (and as manufacturing such taxable nicotine).

''(2) APPLICATION OF RULES RELATED TO MANUFACTURERS OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS.—Any reference to a manufacturer of tobacco products, or to manufacturing tobacco products, shall be treated as including a reference to a manufacturer of taxable nicotine, or to manufacturing taxable nicotine, respectively.''.

(h) INCREASING TAX ON CIGARETTES.—

(1) SMALL CIGARETTES.—Section 5701(b)(1) of such Code is amended by striking ''$50.33'' and inserting ''$100.66''.

(2) LARGE CIGARETTES.—Section 5701(b)(2) of such Code is amended by striking ''$105.69'' and inserting ''$211.38''.

(i) TAX RATES ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION.—Section 5701 of such Code, as amended by subsection (g), is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(j) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any calendar year beginning after 2023, the dollar amounts provided under this chapter shall each be increased by an amount equal to—

''(A) such dollar amount, multiplied by

''(B) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) for the calendar year, determined by substituting 'calendar year 2022' for 'calendar year 2016' in subparagraph (A)(ii) thereof.

''(2) ROUNDING.—If any amount as adjusted under paragraph (1) is not a multiple of $0.01, such amount shall be rounded to the next highest multiple of $0.01.''.

(j) FLOOR STOCKS TAXES.—

(1) IMPOSITION OF TAX.—On tobacco products manufactured in or imported into the United States which are removed before any tax increase date and held on such date for sale by any person, there is hereby imposed a tax in an amount equal to the excess of—

(A) the tax which would be imposed under section 5701 of the Internal Revenue Code of

1986 on the article if the article had been removed on such date, over

(B) the prior tax (if any) imposed under section 5701 of such Code on such article.

(2) CREDIT AGAINST TAX.—Each person shall be allowed as a credit against the taxes imposed by paragraph (1) an amount equal to $500. Such credit shall not exceed the amount of taxes imposed by paragraph (1) on such date for which such person is liable.

(3) LIABILITY FOR TAX AND METHOD OF PAYMENT.—

(A) LIABILITY FOR TAX.—A person holding tobacco products on any tax increase date to which any tax imposed by paragraph (1) applies shall be liable for such tax.

(B) METHOD OF PAYMENT.—The tax imposed by paragraph (1) shall be paid in such manner as the Secretary shall prescribe by regulations.

(C) TIME FOR PAYMENT.—The tax imposed by paragraph (1) shall be paid on or before the date that is 120 days after the effective date of the tax rate increase.

(4) ARTICLES IN FOREIGN TRADE ZONES.—Notwithstanding the Act of June 18, 1934 (commonly known as the Foreign Trade Zone Act, 48 Stat. 998, 19 U.S.C. 81a et seq.), or any other provision of law, any article which is located in a foreign trade zone on any tax increase date shall be subject to the tax imposed by paragraph (1) if—

(A) internal revenue taxes have been determined, or customs duties liquidated, with respect to such article before such date pursuant to a request made under the first proviso of section 3(a) of such Act, or

(B) such article is held on such date under the supervision of an officer of the United States Customs and Border Protection of the Department of Homeland Security pursuant to the second proviso of such section 3(a).

(5) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Any term used in this subsection which is also used in section 5702 of such Code shall have the same meaning as such term has in such section.

(B) TAX INCREASE DATE.—The term ''tax increase date'' means the effective date of any increase in any tobacco product excise tax rate pursuant to the amendments made by this section (other than subsection (j) thereof).

(C) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary's delegate.

(6) CONTROLLED GROUPS.—Rules similar to the rules of section 5061(e)(3) of such Code shall apply for purposes of this subsection.

(7) OTHER LAWS APPLICABLE.—All provisions of law, including penalties, applicable with respect to the taxes imposed by section 5701 of such Code shall, insofar as applicable and not inconsistent with the provisions of this subsection, apply to the floor stocks taxes imposed by paragraph (1), to the same extent as if such taxes were imposed by such section 5701. The Secretary may treat any person who bore the ultimate burden of the tax imposed by paragraph (1) as the person to whom a credit or refund under such provisions may be allowed or made.

(k) EFFECTIVE DATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) through (4), the amendments made by this section shall apply to articles removed (as defined in section 5702(j) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) after the last day of the month which includes the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) DISCRETE SINGLE-USE UNITS AND PROCESSED TOBACCO.—The amendments made by subsections (c)(1)(C), (c)(2), and (f) shall apply to articles removed (as defined in section 5702(j) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) after the date that is 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) LARGE CIGARS.—The amendments made by subsection (e) shall apply to articles removed after December 31, 2023.

(4) TAXABLE NICOTINE.—The amendments made by subsection (g) shall apply to articles removed in calendar quarters beginning after the date which is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(l) TRANSITION RULE FOR PERMIT AND BOND REQUIREMENTS.—A person which is lawfully engaged in business as a manufacturer or importer of taxable nicotine (within the meaning of subchapter A of chapter 52 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended by this section) on the date of the enactment of this Act, first becomes subject to the requirements of subchapter B of chapter 52 of such Code by reason of the amendments made by this section, and submits an application under such subchapter B to engage in such business not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, shall not be denied the right to carry on such business by reason of such requirements before final action on such application.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 361—RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 ON THE LIVES OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES AND CALLING FOR FURTHER ACTION TO ADVANCE ACCESS, OPPORTUNITY, AND EQUITY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CASEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 361

Whereas September 26, 2023, marks the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.);

Whereas, with the enactment of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), the discrimination faced by individuals with disabilities was recognized as systemic, rather than as an experience of the individual;

Whereas the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.) was modeled on anti-discrimination laws on the basis of race and sex;

Whereas the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.) recognized individuals with disabilities as a class of people subject to discrimination based on the identity individuals with disabilities share;

Whereas Congress worked in a bipartisan manner to enact legislation to address the civil rights of individuals with disabilities;

Whereas Congress passed the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), which President Richard Nixon signed into law on September 26, 1973;

Whereas, in enacting the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), Congress, for the first time, addressed the civil rights of individuals with disabilities;

Whereas the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.) expanded employment opportunities and further advanced independent living for individuals with disabilities through improvements to vocational rehabilitation services;

Whereas section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 791)—

(1) prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in Federal employment and has resulted in the Federal Government benefitting from the efforts of the nearly 10 percent of the Federal workforce who have disabilities; and

(2) requires Federal agencies to establish an affirmative action program for the hiring, placement, and advancement of individuals with disabilities;

Whereas section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 793) prohibits Federal contractors from discriminating in employment against individuals with disabilities and requires employers take affirmative actions to recruit, hire, promote, and retain individuals with disabilities;

Whereas title VII of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796 et seq.) established the Independent Living Services and Centers of Independent Living programs to promote the independence, self-determination, equal access, and leadership of individuals with disabilities;

Whereas section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794) prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in all federally assisted programs or activities and laid the foundation for the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.);

Whereas section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794) has impacted access to and equity in healthcare, education, community living, employment opportunities, housing, transportation, electronic information and technology, and all other facets of life for individuals with disabilities;

Whereas, on April 28, 1977, nearly 4 years after the enactment of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), disability rights activists secured implementation of the rights established under that Act after leading sit-ins of Federal buildings across the United States;

Whereas section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794d), an important addition made to the Act in 1986 and expanded in 1998, improves the information and communications technology of Federal agencies to be accessible to individuals with disabilities;

Whereas 50 years after the enactment of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), individuals with disabilities still experience discrimination and barriers that interfere with their full participation in economic and social life in the United States; and

Whereas, 50 years after the enactment of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), the Act remains a critical law in advancing access, opportunity, and equity for individuals with disabilities, especially in historically underserved communities, and in meeting the goals of full participation, equal opportunity, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency for individuals with disabilities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the importance of access, opportunity, and equity for individuals with disabilities, made possible by the enactment of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.);

(2) encourages individuals of the United States to celebrate the advancements made possible by the enactment of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.);

(3) pledges to continue to work in a bipartisan manner to address access and equity barriers that remain for individuals with disabilities, particularly multimarginalized individuals, including Black, indigenous, and other people of color, immigrants, LBGTQ people, low-income individuals, and people living in rural and underserved areas;

(4) pledges to continue to work with State and local educational agencies to provide equal access to a free appropriate public education for all students with disabilities, including individuals with disabilities with multimarginalized identities;

(5) pledges to continue to work with public health and health care delivery systems to address health care disparities and inadequate services for individuals with disabilities, from preventive care to home and community-based services;

(6) calls on Federal agencies to improve equal employment opportunities for workers with disabilities in the Federal sector through recruitment, hiring, promotion, and retention initiatives; and

(7) calls on the Department of Justice and the General Services Administration to improve their enforcement of, and oversight and compliance with, section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794d).

SENATE RESOLUTION 362—TO EXPRESS THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT OF STATE GOVERNORS TO REPEL THE DANGEROUS ONGOING INVASION ACROSS THE UNITED STATES SOUTHERN BORDER

Mr. MARSHALL submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 362

Whereas, during a 2019 Democratic presidential primary debate, President Biden called for ''all those people seeking asylum'' to ''immediately surge to the border'';

Whereas, during a 2019 Democratic presidential primary debate, President Biden raised his hand when candidates were asked if their health plans will provide coverage for illegal immigrants;

Whereas, during a 2020 Democratic presidential primary debate, President Biden pledged support for ''sanctuary cities'' when he stated that illegal immigrants arrested by local police should not be turned over to Federal immigration authorities;

Whereas, on January 20, 2021, one of President Biden's first actions as President was sending proposed legislation, the U.S. Citizenship Act, to Congress, which would provide a path to citizenship for an estimated 10,000,000 to 12,000,000 illegal immigrants who are currently residing in the United States;

Whereas, on January 20, 2021, President Biden also issued a ''Proclamation on the Termination Of Emergency With Respect To The Southern Border Of The United States And Redirection Of Funds Diverted To Border Wall Construction'', which halted construction of physical barriers along the international border between the United States and Mexico, and he later terminated existing border wall construction contracts and failed to obligate more than $1,000,000,000 that Congress had lawfully appropriated for border wall construction;

Whereas, on January 20, 2021, President Biden also halted enrollments in the Migrant Protection Protocols policy, which is also known as the ''remain in Mexico'' program;

Whereas on February 6, 2021, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken suspended and terminated the Asylum Cooperative Agreements with the Governments of El Salvador, of Guatemala, and of Honduras;

Whereas in March 2022, the Department of Homeland Security began implementing the interim final rule titled ''Procedures for Credible Fear Screening and Consideration of Asylum, Withholding of Removal, and CAT Protection Claims by Asylum Officers'' which authorizes U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services to consider the asylum applications of individuals subject to expedited removal and violates the law enacted by Congress that requires asylum seekers to offer evidence to persuade a judge in an immigration court;

Whereas in August 2022, the Department of Homeland Security terminated the Migrant Protection Protocols (commonly known as the Remain in Mexico policy), which required aliens with pending asylum claims to wait in Mexico.

Whereas, during fiscal year 2021, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement executed 59,000 deportations, which represents the lowest number of deportations since fiscal year 2008, and fewer than ⅓ as many deportations as the number of people who were deported during fiscal year 2020, and is significantly lower than the 226,000 to 410,000 removals that occurred every fiscal year since 2008;

Whereas, during fiscal year 2021, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement—

(1) arrested 48 percent fewer convicted criminals than had been arrested during the prior fiscal year;

(2) deported 63 percent fewer criminals than had been deported in the prior fiscal year; and

(3) issued 56 percent fewer ''detainer requests'' to local authorities than had been issued in the prior fiscal year;

Whereas, during fiscal year 2021, U.S. Customs and Border Protection made more than 1,700,000 arrests of illegal immigrants along the international border between the United States and Mexico, which was the highest level ever recorded until more than 2,300,000 illegal immigrants were arrested along such border during fiscal year 2022;

Whereas, on April 1, 2022, President Biden announced the termination of a public health policy used to expel potentially infected illegal immigrants during the COVID–19 pandemic (commonly known as ''title 42'');

Whereas, on September 30, 2021, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas issued a memorandum titled ''Guidelines for the Enforcement of Civil Immigration Law'', which stated that an alien's illegal status in the United States should not be the sole basis of an enforcement action and prioritized for apprehension and removal aliens who are a threat to national security, public safety, or border security;

Whereas, on October 12, 2021, Secretary Mayorkas issued a memorandum titled ''Worksite Enforcement: The Strategy to Protect the American Labor Market, the Conditions of the American Worksite, and the Dignity of the Individual'', which included Department-wide guidance to cease mass worksite operations, among other instructions;

Whereas, on October 27, 2021, Secretary Mayorkas issued a memorandum titled ''Guidelines for Enforcement Actions in or Near Protected Areas'', which listed numerous protected areas where the enforcement of Federal immigration law should not occur;

Whereas, in May 2022, U.S. Customs and Border Protection arrested 239,416 illegal immigrants along the international border between the United States and Mexico, which is the highest number of arrests ever recorded in a single month;

Whereas President Biden's fiscal year 2023 budget request aims to shift the Department of Homeland Security's border management away from enforcement and toward ''effectively managing irregular migration along the Southwest border'';

Whereas in November 2022, Texas Governor Greg Abbott—

(1) declared a state of invasion at the southern border; and

(2) increased security at the border to protect the state of Texas by invoking—

(A) section 10 of Article I of the Constitution of the United States; and

(B) the invasion clauses in the Texas Constitution;

Whereas in March 2023, at a hearing of the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives, U.S. Border Patrol Chief Raul Ortiz told lawmakers that the Department of Homeland Security did not have operational control of the border;

Whereas in March 2023, at a hearing of the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas stated that he does not use the statutory definition of operational control under section 2(b) of the Secure Fence Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–367; 8 U.S.C. 1701 note) when asked if the Department of Homeland Security had operational control of the border;

Whereas on January 6, 2023, the Biden Administration abused its parole authority under section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5)) to create a new parole program for nationals of Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela;

Whereas on April 27, 2023, the Biden Administration further abused its parole authority by creating a new family reunification parole process, which grants parole to entire categories of aliens rather than granting parole on a case-by-case basis, as required under such section 212(d)(5);

Whereas the Biden Administration created a parole with conditions policy authorizing U.S. Border Patrol agents to release aliens through parole before they are given a Notice to Appear or entered into removal proceedings;

Whereas the Biden Administration has expanded the use of the CBP One app, allowing tens of thousands of aliens to enter the United States unlawfully to hide the mass immigration surge following the termination of the order of suspension issued by the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention under section 362 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 265) as a result of the public health emergency relating to the COVID–19 pandemic (commonly known as the ''title 42 order'');

Whereas drug cartels are receiving an estimated $13,000,000,000 each year from their human smuggling operations across the southern border of the United States, which represents an enormous increase from the estimated $500,000,000 the drug cartels received in 2018 from such operations;

Whereas in March 2023, according to the non-detained docket, an estimated 5,290,000 illegal aliens were at large in the United States, including 407,983 criminal aliens;

Whereas the estimated fiscal burden of illegal immigration on taxpayers in fiscal year 2023 is estimated to be $150,700,000,000, which is a massive increase from the estimated fiscal burden of $116,000,000,000 during fiscal year 2017. Tax payments by illegal aliens are equal to approximately ⅙ of the costs incurred by government entities in the United States on their behalf;

Whereas during fiscal year 2022, total Federal justice enforcement expenditures as a result of illegal immigration were $25,100,000,000 and total Federal welfare program expenditures for illegal aliens were $11,600,000,000;

Whereas in April 2023, the Biden Administration proposed a plan to expand healthcare

access for aliens granted deferred action pursuant to the final rule submitted by the Department of Homeland Security titled ''Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals'' (87 Fed. Reg. 53152 (August 30, 2022)), further encouraging illegal aliens to enter the United States;

Whereas on May 3 2023, the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security issued a report titled ''Intensifying Conditions at the Southwest Border Are Negatively Impacting CBP and ICE Employees' Health and Morale'';

Whereas in June 2023, the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives opened an investigation into Secretary of Homeland Security Mayorkas for dereliction of duty;

Whereas in June 2023, an estimated 16,800,000 illegal aliens resided in the United States, which represents an increase of an estimated 16 percent during the first 2 years of the Biden presidency;

Whereas on June 30, 2023, U.S. Customs and Border Protection announced the expansion of available CBP One appointments to 1,450 per day;

Whereas U.S. Customs and Border Protection has apprehended illegal immigrants from Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Cuba, Haiti, Brazil, other Central and Latin American nations, Turkey, India, Russia, and other nations outside of the Western Hemisphere;

Whereas U.S. Customs and Border Patrol has apprehended 50 people since October 1, 2021 along the international border between the United States and Mexico who are listed on the Federal Bureau of Investigations' terrorist screening database;

Whereas, U.S. Customs and Border Protection arrested more than 10,800 illegal aliens during fiscal year 2023 who have been convicted of 1 or more crimes in the United States or abroad, including—

(1) 225 convicted sexual criminals;

(2) 24 who were convicted of homicide or manslaughter;

(3) 232 who were convicted of illegal weapons possession, transport, or trafficking;

(4) 644 who were convicted of burglary, robbery, larceny, theft, or fraud; and

(5) 924 who were convicted of assault, battery, or domestic violence;

Whereas, during fiscal year 2022, U.S. Customs and Border Protection seized—

(1) 14,599 pounds of fentanyl;

(2) 1,871 pounds of heroin;

(3) 175,410 pounds of methamphetamine;

(4) 70,293 pounds of cocaine; and

(5) 13,755 pounds of ketamine;

Whereas, provisional data from the National Center for Health Statistics of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that there were 107,622 drug overdose deaths in the United States during 2021, an increase of nearly 15 percent from the estimated 93,655 deaths in 2020, with overdose deaths involving opioids increasing from an estimated 70,029 in 2020 to an estimated 80,816 in 2021, and overdose deaths from synthetic opioids (primarily fentanyl), psychostimulants (such as methamphetamine), and cocaine also increasing during 2021.

Whereas clause 1 of section 10 of article I of the United States Constitution states, in part, ''No State shall, without the Consent of Congress . . . engage in War, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent Danger as will not admit of delay.'';

Whereas section 4 of article IV of the United States Constitution states, in part, ''The United States shall guarantee to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and shall protect each of them against Invasion'';

Whereas, in the context of known security concerns due to a lack of proper vetting processes and systems, and in conjunction with how the mass unlawful movement of people across the border of the United States directly empowers and enriches cartels and transnational gangs, the totality of such activity constitutes an invasion;

Whereas, on October 26, 2021, Arizona State Representative Jake Hoffman sent a letter to Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich requesting a formal legal opinion determining whether President Biden has violated his obligations to protect Arizona from invasion under section 4 of article IV of the United States Constitution; and

Whereas, on February 7, 2022, Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich issued a formal legal opinion, which states, in part—

(1) ''The on-the-ground violence and lawlessness at Arizona's border caused by cartels and gangs is extensive, well-documented, and persistent. It can satisfy the definition of 'actually invaded' and 'invasion' under the U.S. Constitution.''; and

(2) ''Arizona retains the independent authority under the State Self-Defense Clause to defend itself when actually invaded.'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate finds that—

(1) President Biden's dereliction of duty and failure to take care that the laws be faithfully executed at our southern border has directly put the citizens of all 50 States in danger and has resulted in loss of life;

(2) the violent activity and smuggling of drugs, humans, guns, and other illicit goods carried out by drug cartels and transnational criminal organizations, and the crossing of the international border between legal ports of entry by significant numbers of individuals contrary to the laws of the United States, meet the definitions of—

(A) ''actually invaded'' under clause 3 of section 10 of article I of the United States Constitution; and

(B) ''invasion'' under section 4 of article IV of the United States Constitution; and

(3) Governors of all 50 States possess the authority and power as Commander-in-Chief of their respective States to repel the invasion described in paragraph (2).

SENATE RESOLUTION 363—SUPPORTING CONTINUED UNITED STATES AND TAIWAN COOPERATION IN EDUCATION

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. MARKEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 363

Whereas Mandarin is the second most spoken language in the world with more than 1,000,000,000 speakers;

Whereas Mandarin is a critical language that is essential to United States national security and prosperity, as identified by the Department of State Critical Language Scholarship Program;

Whereas learning a foreign language benefits students academically and improves critical thinking, communication, and knowledge of different cultures;

Whereas the internet has made it easier for companies to serve a global market and employers report favoring candidates who can speak a foreign language;

Whereas, in December 2020, the U.S.-Taiwan Education Initiative, a two-way educational exchange between the two countries, was created—

(1) to expand opportunities for students from the United States to learn Mandarin from Taiwanese teachers;

(2) to promote United States educators choosing Taiwan as a destination to teach English; and

(3) to deepen educational cooperation between the United States and Taiwan;

Whereas the U.S.-Taiwan Education Initiative coincides with widespread closures of Confucius Institutes in the United States and around the world;

Whereas there continues to be high student demand for studies relating to Mandarin language, culture, and history delivered in a censorship and coercion-free environment; and

Whereas, due to continuing political, economic, and security challenges, there is a need for continued access to the Mandarin language and expertise in Taiwan affairs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the U.S.-Taiwan Education Initiative; and

(2) encourages—

(A) institutions of higher education to continue partnering with Taiwan in order to meet the demand for Mandarin instruction and learning programs;

(B) schools, school districts, and State and local educational agencies to host teacher exchange programs, such as those offered by the Department of State Teachers of Critical Language Program; and

(C) United States teachers to choose Taiwan as a destination to learn Mandarin and to teach English, particularly through the J. William Fulbright Educational Exchange Program.

SENATE RESOLUTION 364—RELATING TO PROCEEDINGS OF THE SENATE IN THE EVENT OF A PARTIAL OR FULL SHUTDOWN OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. BENNET (for himself and Ms. ERNST) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 364

Resolved,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This resolution may be cited as the ''Shutdown Accountability Resolution''.

SEC. 2. PROCEEDINGS OF THE SENATE DURING A FULL OR PARTIAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term ''Government shutdown'' means a lapse in appropriations for 1 or more agencies of the Federal Government; and

(2) the term ''Sergeant at Arms'' means the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate.

(b) CONVENING OF THE SENATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any rule or order of the Senate, during the period of a Government shutdown—

(A) the Senate shall convene at 8:00 a.m. each day, unless the body is in continuous session; and

(B) it shall not be in order to ask for, and the Presiding Officer shall not entertain a request for, unanimous consent to change the hour or day on which the Senate shall convene under subparagraph (A).

(2) SENATE NOT IN SESSION.—If the Senate is not in session on the first calendar day of a Government shutdown, the majority leader, after consultation with the minority leader, shall notify Members of the Senate that, pursuant to this standing order, the Senate shall convene at 8:00 a.m. on the next calendar day of the Government shutdown.

(c) PRESENCE OF A QUORUM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—During the period of a Government shutdown, and notwithstanding any provision of the Standing Rules of the Senate—

(A) immediately after the Presiding Officer takes the chair in accordance with rule IV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Presiding Officer shall direct the Clerk to call the roll to ascertain the presence of a quorum; and

(B) 1 hour after the presence of a quorum has last been demonstrated, the Presiding Officer shall direct the Clerk to call the roll to ascertain the presence of a quorum.

(2) LACK OF QUORUM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If, upon a calling of the roll under paragraph (1), it shall be ascertained that a quorum is not present—

(i) the Presiding Officer shall direct the Clerk to call the names of any absent Senators; and

(ii) following the calling of the names under clause (i), the Presiding Officer shall, without intervening motion or debate, submit to the Senate by a yea-and-nay vote the question: ''Shall the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate be directed to request the attendance of absent Senators?''.

(B) DIRECTION TO COMPEL ATTENDANCE.—If a quorum is not present 15 minutes after the time at which the vote on a question submitted under subparagraph (A)(ii) starts, the Presiding Officer shall, without intervening motion or debate, submit to the Senate by a yea-and-nay vote the question: ''Shall the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate be directed to compel the attendance of absent Senators?''.

(C) ARREST OF ABSENT SENATORS.—Effective 1 hour after the Sergeant at Arms is directed to compel the attendance of absent Senators under subparagraph (B), if any Senator not excused under rule XII of the Standing Rules of the Senate is not in attendance, the Senate shall be deemed to have agreed an order that reads as follows: ''Ordered, That the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate be directed to arrest absent Senators; that warrants for the arrests of all Senators not sick nor excused be issued under the signature of the Presiding Officer and attested by the Secretary, and that such warrants be executed without delay.''.

(D) REPORTS.—Not less frequently than once per hour during proceedings to compel the attendance of absent Senators, the Sergeant at Arms shall submit to the Senate a report on absent Senators, which shall—

(i) be laid before the Senate;

(ii) identify each Senator whose absence is excused;

(iii) identify each Senator who is absent without excuse; and

(iv) for each Senator identified under clause (iii), provide information on the current location of the Senator.

(3) REGAINING THE FLOOR.—If a Senator had been recognized to speak at the time a call of the roll to ascertain the presence of a quorum was initiated under paragraph (2)(A), and if the presence of a quorum is established, that Senator shall be entitled to be recognized to speak.

(d) ADJOURNING AND RECESSING.—During the period of a Government shutdown—

(1) a motion to adjourn or to recess the Senate shall be decided by a yea-or-nay vote;

(2) if a quorum is present, the Presiding Officer shall not entertain a request to adjourn or recess the Senate by unanimous consent or to vitiate the yeas and nays on such a motion by unanimous consent;

(3) a motion to adjourn or a motion to recess made during the period beginning at 8:00 a.m. and ending at 11:59 p.m., shall only be agreed to upon an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Senators present and voting, a quorum being present; and

(4) if the Senate must adjourn due to the absence of a quorum, the Senate shall reconvene 2 hours after the time at which it adjourns and ascertain the presence of a quorum in accordance with subsection (c)(1).

(e) NO SUSPENSION OF REQUIREMENTS.—The Presiding Officer may not entertain a request to suspend the operation of this standing order by unanimous consent or motion.

(f) CONSISTENCY WITH SENATE EMERGENCY PROCEDURES AND PRACTICES.—Nothing in this standing order shall be construed in a manner that is inconsistent with S. Res. 296 (108th Congress) or any other emergency procedures or practices of the Senate.

(g) STANDING ORDER.—This section shall be a standing order of the Senate.

SENATE RESOLUTION 365—HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 365

Whereas, in 1973, Congress passed the National Cemeteries Act of 1973 (Public Law 93–43), creating an agency within the Veterans Administration to oversee the national cemetery system;

Whereas, in 2023, the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) celebrates 50 years of upholding a sacred duty to inter, honor, and memorialize those who have served in the United States Armed Forces;

Whereas the National Cemetery Administration operates and ensures perpetual care of 155 national cemeteries and 34 soldiers' lots and monument sites that honor and serve as the final resting places for 4,000,000 veterans representing every era throughout the history of the United States;

Whereas the National Cemetery Administration provides burial and memorial benefits for eligible veterans and family members, at no cost, including—

(1) a gravesite or niche in any national cemetery with available space;

(2) opening and closing of the grave and perpetual care; and

(3) a government headstone, marker, or medallion, burial flag, and Presidential memorial certificate;

Whereas the establishment of the Veterans Cemetery Grants Program (VCGP) has furthered the commitment of the United States to the proper burial and honoring of veterans by awarding more than $1,000,000,000 to assist States, Territories, and Tribal governments in establishing, expanding, and operating veterans' cemeteries that complement and help expand burial access;

Whereas, through the VCGP, the National Cemetery Administration has provided grant funding to 122 veterans' cemeteries in 49 States, Tribal trust lands, and Territories including Guam, Saipan, and Puerto Rico;

Whereas, in fiscal year 2022, the National Cemetery Administration processed more than 350,000 requests for headstones, markers, and medallions to honor veterans and their loved ones in national, State, Tribal, and private cemeteries, and issued more than 463,000 Presidential memorial certificates to the family members of veterans;

Whereas the sacred landscapes in national cemeteries and grant-funded veterans' cemeteries serve as places of solemn remembrance to convey the stories of generations of veterans encompassing the entirety of United States history, including 529 recipients of the Medal of Honor and those honored by nearly 1,370 military memorial monuments;

Whereas the consistent commitment of the National Cemetery Administration to ''national shrine'' standards of care for 50 years has preserved the beauty of the sites that veterans and their families deserve, welcoming more than 1,700,000 visitors at national cemeteries in fiscal year 2022, and has immortalized those who lay at rest on those sacred grounds, ensuring that all visitors, past and present, are able to bear witness to the serene and historic shrines and leave with a sense of awe and gratitude for the sacrifices those heroes made for the United States;

Whereas the National Cemetery Administration has been awarded a score of 97, the highest achieved score on record, in the reputable American Customer Satisfaction Index, leading all organizations, public or private, for the seventh consecutive time, a testament to the exemplary service of National Cemetery Administration team members to veterans and their families;

Whereas the National Cemetery Administration established the Veterans Legacy Program (VLP), which has funded 35 programs that engage students and teachers in communities large and small to further educate themselves and their communities on the legacies and service of veterans by using the expansive resources within the Department of Veterans Affairs, resulting in the production of over 2,500 veteran biographies, 50 documentary videos, and over 100 lesson plans; and

Whereas the National Cemetery Administration continues to memorialize the stories and sacrifices of veterans through the Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM), a digital interactive platform created to preserve the memories of nearly 5,000,000 veterans laid to rest in cemeteries managed and funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Defense cemeteries, and National Park Service cemeteries: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) applauds the National Cemetery Administration, on its 50th anniversary, having stood firm in its mission of ensuring proper final resting places adhering to national shrine standards that commemorate the extraordinary commitment of veterans and their families to the United States;

(2) recognizes that the National Cemetery Administration has been a driving force in the preservation of, and passing down, the heroic heritage and stories of members of the United States Armed Forces of all backgrounds, from all corners of the United States, and in educating future generations on the importance of the service and sacrifice of veterans; and

(3) commends the individuals who work for the National Cemetery Administration for their continued excellence ensuring that the veterans of the United States are forever honored and remembered in the hallowed grounds of the national cemeteries of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

SENATE RESOLUTION 366—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2023 AS ''SCHOOL BUS SAFETY MONTH''

Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Mr. PETERS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 366

Whereas, in an average year, on every school day in the United States, approximately 506,520 public and private school buses carry more than 26,000,000 K-12 students to and from school;

Whereas school buses comprise the largest mass transportation fleet in the United States;

Whereas, in an average year, 48 percent of all K-12 students ride a school bus for each of the 180 school days in a year, and school bus operators drive school buses a total of nearly 4,400,000,000 miles;

Whereas the Child Safety Network (referred to in this preamble as the ''CSN''), which is celebrating 34 years of public service in the United States, supports the CSN Safe Ride campaign, which is designed to provide the school bus industry with driver training, the latest technology, and free safety and security resources, including resources to help parents raise safer and healthier children;

Whereas the designation of School Bus Safety Month will allow broadcast and digital media and social networking industries to commit to disseminating public service announcements that are produced to—

(1) provide free resources designed to safeguard children;

(2) recognize school bus operators and professionals; and

(3) encourage the driving public to engage in safer driving behavior near school buses when students board and disembark from school buses;

Whereas key leaders who deserve recognition during School Bus Safety Month and beyond have—

(1) provided security awareness training materials to more than 14,000 public and private schools;

(2) trained more than 118,139 school bus operators; and

(3) provided more than 166,798 counterterrorism guides to individuals who are key to providing both safety and security for children in the United States; and

Whereas School Bus Safety Month offers the Senate and the people of the United States an opportunity to recognize and thank the school bus operators and the professionals focused on school bus safety and security in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates September 2023 as ''School Bus Safety Month''.

SENATE RESOLUTION 367—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2023 AS ''NATIONAL SPINAL CORD INJURY AWARENESS MONTH''

Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 367

Whereas approximately 302,000 individuals in the United States live with spinal cord injuries, which cost society billions of dollars in health care costs and lost wages;

Whereas there are approximately 18,000 new spinal cord injuries in the United States each year;

Whereas more than 42,000 individuals with spinal cord injuries are veterans;

Whereas motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of spinal cord injuries;

Whereas almost half of all spinal cord injuries sustained by individuals 30 years of age or younger occur as a result of a vehicular accident;

Whereas the average remaining years of life for individuals living with spinal cord injuries has not improved significantly since the 1980s;

Whereas there is an urgent need to develop new neuroprotection, pharmacological, and regeneration treatments to reduce, prevent, and reverse paralysis; and

Whereas increased education and investment in research are key factors in improving outcomes for individuals living with spinal cord injuries, enhancing the quality of life of individuals with spinal cord injuries, and ultimately curing paralysis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2023 as ''National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month'';

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month;

(3) continues to support research to find better treatments, therapies, and a cure for spinal cord injuries;

(4) supports clinical trials for new therapies that offer promise and hope to individuals living with paralysis; and

(5) commends the dedication of national, regional, and local organizations, researchers, doctors, volunteers, and people across the United States who are working to improve the quality of life of individuals living with spinal cord injuries and their families.

SENATE RESOLUTION 368—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 17 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 23, 2023, AS ''TELEHEALTH AWARENESS WEEK''

Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. WARNER, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 368

Whereas telehealth allows a health care practitioner to furnish health care to a patient or a practitioner at a different physical location than the health care practitioner;

Whereas telehealth played a significant role in supporting access to quality health care for millions of patients during the COVID–19 public health emergency and continues to be important beyond the end of the public health emergency;

Whereas Medicare beneficiaries used 88 times more telehealth services during the first year of the COVID–19 pandemic than they did in the prior year;

Whereas more than 8,000,000 unique Medicare beneficiaries received at least 1 telehealth service in 2022;

Whereas, in 2022, over 90 percent of Medicare beneficiaries who received a telehealth service were satisfied with their experience;

Whereas, in 2022, telehealth was a routine health care modality with 15 percent of Medicare beneficiaries using telehealth in the last quarter of the calendar year;

Whereas, following the unprecedented use of telehealth services in response to the public health emergency, telehealth now represents a critical component of health care delivery;

Whereas legislative efforts to increase telehealth access have received bipartisan support in the Senate and the House of Representatives;

Whereas the United States has an opportunity to help improve access to health care for all individuals, including members of rural and underserved communities; and

Whereas ''Telehealth Awareness Week'' unites the efforts of patients, caregivers, health care providers, policymakers, and other stakeholders to advance the role of telehealth in health care: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of September 17 through September 23, 2023, as ''Telehealth Awareness Week'';

(2) recognizes the impact of telehealth in delivering health care for patients across the United States; and

(3) urges that steps should be taken to—

(A) raise awareness about the benefits of telehealth;

(B) highlight resources for health care providers and patients regarding telehealth;

(C) collect and analyze data on the impacts of telehealth; and

(D) promote continued access to telehealth for all communities and across settings.

SENATE RESOLUTION 369—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF SEPTEMBER 2023 AS ''SICKLE CELL DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH'' IN ORDER TO EDUCATE COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES ABOUT SICKLE CELL DISEASE AND THE NEED FOR RESEARCH, EARLY DETECTION METHODS, EFFECTIVE TREATMENTS, AND PREVENTATIVE CARE PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO COMPLICATIONS FROM SICKLE CELL DISEASE AND CONDITIONS RELATED TO SICKLE CELL DISEASE

Mr. BOOKER (for Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BROWN, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. YOUNG, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. CARPER, and Ms. WARREN)) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 369

Whereas sickle cell disease (referred to in this preamble as ''SCD'') is an inherited blood disorder that is a major health problem in the United States and worldwide;

Whereas SCD causes the rapid destruction of sickle cells, which results in multiple medical complications, including anemia, jaundice, gallstones, strokes, restricted blood flow, damaged tissue in the liver, spleen, and kidneys, and death;

Whereas SCD causes acute and chronic episodes of severe pain;

Whereas SCD affects an estimated 100,000 individuals in the United States;

Whereas approximately 1,000 babies are born with SCD each year in the United States, with the disease occurring in approximately 1 in 365 newborn Black or African-American infants and 1 in 16,300 newborn Hispanic-American infants, and can be found in individuals of Mediterranean, Middle Eastern, Asian, and Indian origin;

Whereas more than 3,000,000 individuals in the United States have the sickle cell trait and 1 in 13 Black or African Americans carries the trait;

Whereas there is a 1 in 4 chance that a child born to parents who both have the sickle cell trait will have the disease;

Whereas the life expectancy of an individual with SCD in the United States is often severely limited;

Whereas sickle cell anemia can shorten life expectancy by more than 20 years;

Whereas sickle cell anemia is a common cause of childhood stroke, and, in 2019, fewer than half of children with sickle cell anemia who were 2 to 16 years old received the recommended screening for stroke;

Whereas, in 2019, only 2 in 5 children with sickle cell anemia who were 2 to 9 years old used recommended medication that can prevent sickle cell anemia complications;

Whereas, in 2020, the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine developed a comprehensive strategic plan and blueprint for action to address sickle cell disease, which, among other things, cited the need for new innovative therapies as well as the need to address barriers that may impact delivery of and access to approved treatments;

Whereas, while hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (commonly known as ''HSCT'') is currently the only cure for SCD and advances in treating the associated complications of SCD have occurred, more research is needed to find widely available treatments and cures to help individuals with SCD; and

Whereas September 2023 has been designated as Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month in order to educate communities across the United States about SCD, including early detection methods, effective treatments, and preventative care programs with respect to complications from SCD and conditions related to SCD: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of ''Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month''; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to hold appropriate programs, events, and activities during Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month to raise public awareness of the sickle cell trait, preventative care programs, treatments, and other patient services for those suffering from sickle cell disease, complications from sickle cell disease, and conditions related to sickle cell disease.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2023

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it recess until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, September 27; that following the prayer and pledge, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 3935, postcloture; that the Senate recess from 12:30 to 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; finally, that all time during adjournment, recess, morning business, and leader remarks count towards postcloture debate time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS UNTIL WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2023, AT 10 A.M.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand in recess under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:04 p.m., recessed until Wednesday, September 27, at 10 a.m.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING EMPLOYEES OF THE OFFICERS AND INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WITH 25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. BRYAN STEIL

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize today a special group of dedicated and outstanding employees of the Officers (Clerk of the House, Sergeant at Arms, and Chief Administrative Officer) and of the Inspector General of the U.S. House of Representatives and congratulate them for reaching the milestone of 25 years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

The House's most important asset is its exceptional and steadfast employees, whose work is essential to keeping the operations and services of the House running efficiently and effectively, allowing legislators and their staff to focus on their primary mission. The employees we acknowledge today are commended for their hard work, dedication, professionalism, and teamwork; support of House Members, their staffs, and their constituents, and for their day-in and day-out efforts and impacts to the overall operations of the House. These employees, whose work is primarily performed behind the scenes, possess a wide range of responsibilities, skills, and knowledge that supports the legislative process, ensures the security of this great institution, maintains our technology and service infrastructure, and contributes to more efficient and productive House support operations. These devoted employees have accomplished noteworthy and essential work in a diverse range of activities, and the House of Representatives, its Members, staff, and the American public is better served because of them.

We recognize and honor the following individuals for 25 years of loyal service to the House. Collectively, the employees listed have provided 250 years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Trena Gates, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Karen Granger, Office of the Clerk of the House; Gregory Holland, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Tanya Hughes-Goins, Office of the Sergeant at Arms; Steven Johnson, Office of Inspector General; Kathleen Joyce, Office of the Sergeant at Arms; Jimmy Lambert, Office of the Clerk of the House; Justin Supon, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Stanley Turek, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer; Kevin Wood, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

On behalf of the entire House community, I once again congratulate, acknowledge, and express our gratitude to these employees for their professionalism and commitment to the U.S. House of Representatives as a whole, and in particular to their respective House Officer or the Inspector General, and collaboratively across these organizations. Their long hours, hard work, diverse skills, and team spirit are invaluable, and their years of unwavering service and dedication to the House sets an impressive example for their colleagues and for the employees who will follow in their footsteps. I applaud all our honorees, and I am proud to stand before you and our great Nation on their behalf to recognize the importance of their public service.

COMMEMORATING THE SKY TOP TOWER AT MOHONK MOUNTAIN HOUSE

HON. PATRICK RYAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Sky Top tower on the Mohonk Preserve in Ulster County, New York. For over a century, Sky Top has been a testament to our region's natural beauty and a symbol of home for many in the New Paltz area.

In 1870, the twins Albert and Alfred Smiley constructed the original Sky Top tower on the grounds of the Mohonk Mountain House resort. Although severe weather and fires destroyed the original tower, it was rebuilt three times. The fourth and current iteration of Sky Top, built in 1923 as a memorial to Albert Smiley, celebrates its 100th birthday this year.

Located on a high point of land overlooking Lake Mohonk, Sky Top provides a view of nearby states New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont. Over the years, the tower has been a beacon for hikers and nature lovers from New York and all over the country. Today, Sky Top stands as a symbol of the collaboration and determination of our community.

Sky Top owes its continued existence to the commitment and hard work of countless individuals who have contributed to the project over the decades.

Among them are the Smiley brothers, stonemasons John and Frank Lawrence, architect Francis Allen, and Charles Miller, who led the committee to construct the current tower. Their efforts embody our shared history and our commitment to preserving our community's abundant natural wonders.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring this enduring landmark and the hard work of the community that sustains it.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE CITY OF RIVERVIEW

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the city of Riverview, Michigan on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of their founding. The growth of the city over the last century and the contributions it has made to Southeastern Michigan is worthy of commendation.

Riverview began as limestone quarry and source of lumber for the nearby city of Trenton. As the quarry grew, so did the local population, but the area lacked city water. With that in mind, the people of the area decided to incorporate the Village of Riverview in 1923 with a population of 704 and an annual budget of $20,000. The first thing they did after the vote was to start a city water system, allowing for the growth of their village well into the future. The Village of Riverview remained intact until the late 1950s, when some residents drew up petitions to become a city. At the same time, the city of Trenton was trying to annex Riverview to become part of their own city. The petitions arrived in Lansing in 1958 only an hour apart, but Riverview's were submitted first. On March 24, 1959, Riverview officially became the City of Riverview.

From 1956 to 1963, the city of Riverview was home to a Nike Missile site, one of many that dotted our homeland during the height of the Cold War. Crucial to our home defense, the site at Riverview was tasked with protecting the automobile and steel industries in the Detroit area from a Soviet missile strike. The current Riverview Community Center was once the barracks for the men serving at the Nike missile site.

Riverview has been called home by some of our most famous Michiganders. These names include Woody Widenhofer, defensive coordinator for the Pittsburgh Steelers, who won four Super Bowls with their famous "Steel Curtain" defense in the 1970s and Lloyd Carr, who served as Michigan's head football coach from 1995 to 2007, including leading our 1997 team to the national championship.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the centennial of the city of Riverview. From their humble beginnings, they have developed into a modern, progressive city that is crucial to the cultural fabric of Southeastern Michigan. We are excited to see what the residents of this great city can accomplish over the next 100 years.

RECOGNIZING ACHARYA DR. LOKESH MUNI JI FOR HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize His Holiness Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni Ji for his lifetime dedication to promoting peace, religious tolerance, and universal values.

At a young age, Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni Ji committed himself to the study and teaching of Jainism, Buddhism, and Vedic philosophy.

Dr. Lokesh eventually received the title of Acharya, the highest honor in the Jain faith. He founded an organization called Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti, which supports Acharya's various initiatives related to interfaith cooperation, environmental, and physical and spiritual wellness. Acharya has also written dozens of books to spread his message of peace.

Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni Ji has dedicated himself to the promotion of peace and tolerance among different faith groups. He has helped defuse communal violence on multiple occasions and recently opened the World Peace Center in Gurugram, India. With the support of Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti, Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni Ji leads interfaith dialogues with the goal of finding common ground among the participants.

Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni Ji's work has positively impacted individuals throughout the world. Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my thanks and appreciation to Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni Ji for his many accomplishments.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED MILITARY SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT JOHN H. WHITE

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Lieutenant John H. White of Sullivan County for his heroic military service in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War.

Lieutenant White first received his Naval commission as an Ensign in 1966 following his completion of Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps at the Georgia Institute of Technology. He then attended the Communications School at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island and continued his education for Officer Electronics Communications at the Great Lakes Training Center in Waukegan, Illinois.

In March of 1967, Lieutenant White received his first deployment aboard the U.S.S. *Pocono* (AGC–16), serving in the Communications Department as an assistant communications officer. The U.S.S. *Pocono* was the command ship for all amphibious forces in the Atlantic Ocean. From September 1968 to September 1969, Lieutenant White served ashore in Chu Lai and Danang, Vietnam with the Military Sea Transportation Service (MSTS), overseeing the arrival of shipping supplies in support of the war effort.

Following his deployment to Vietnam, he joined the Kingsport Naval Reserve Unit, where he served an additional seven years and received the ''Navy Achievement Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device,'' presented by Vice Admiral L.P. Ramage. Lieutenant White recalls his experiences aboard a naval destroyer in the Mediterranean Sea and conducting a Summary Court Marial in Philadelphia as memorable occasions while on active duty in the Reserves. Lt. White resigned in 1976, after having served his country proudly for more than a decade.

Please join me in recognizing Lieutenant White and his valiant military service to the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING SARAH GARD

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Sarah (Meyer) Gard as she is inducted into the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) Hall of Fame.

A graduate of Lena High School, Sarah started four years for the Lena Varsity Girls Basketball Team. During her career at Lena High School, she surpassed the 2,000-point milestone and ended her career with a total of 2,176 points. The team made appearances at the Wisconsin Girls State Tournament twice and Sarah was named First Team All-State. Sarah's career at Lena High School is one that will be remembered for generations.

After Sarah's very successful high school career, she continued her education and athletics at UW–Green Bay, where she joined the Women's Basketball Team. During her seasons at UW–Green Bay, Sarah excelled and was named to the Mid-Continent Conference Second Team in 1995. The UW–Green Bay record books reflect Sarah's hard work and commitment as she remains in the top 10 for Field Goals Attempted, Scoring Average, and Three-Point Field Goals Made. It is quite evident through these many records that Sarah's talent and dedication to the game never wavered.

Since graduating from UW–Green Bay, Sarah has remained in Northeast Wisconsin and has been teaching in the Peshtigo School District for 18 years, where she is currently a second-grade teacher. I extend my sincere congratulations to Sarah as she receives this outstanding honor and for her years of dedication and commitment to our community.

I once again congratulate Sarah Gard for being inducted into the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) Hall of Fame and wish her, her husband Peter Gard and sons, Simon and Sam, nothing but the best for years to come.

HONORING TEPHRA INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART'S ALLOY PROJECT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Tephra Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) on the occasion of its Alloy Project, a fundraising initiative that offers both art and art experiences for audiences of all ages. The event brings together artists, collectors, art enthusiasts, and professional leaders from not only the Washington D.C. Metropolitan area, but from many unique parts of the country.

This non-profit endeavor was founded in Reston, Virginia as the Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) in 1974 to showcase the phenomenal talent of Northern Virginia. Tephra ICA works with artists, galleries, institutions, thought leaders, and collectors around the globe to promote creativity and the generation of ideas and growth that the arts can facilitate. They are committed to promoting innovative contemporary art and innovative thinking to accompany it. By building intimate connections between artists and audiences, including insights into the creative processes by which this art comes to be, Tephra ICA is able to extend their impact beyond the museum itself and instill these values into the Northern Virginia community at large.

The event will include many unique aspects for a diverse audience that includes works for purchase, an opportunity to listen to artist dialogues, live music, and more, promising attendees a jubilant and interactive night of fun.

Tephra's ''Choosing to Portage'' is an exemplary collection that emphasizes diversity. The raw authenticity of this project is palpable as it delves into topics such as the absurdities of white masculinity, the erasure of indigenous cultures, police killings of Black men, the visibility of Iraqi culture in the U.S., the ravages of war, and the loneliness of grieving. This dedication to creation around such vital and urgent topics that simultaneously are difficult for many demonstrates the necessity of contemporary art.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Tephra Institute of Contemporary Art on its Alloy Project and in recognizing the visionaries and leaders who help to make our Northern Virginia communities rich with cultural opportunities.

RECOGNIZING IAN ''SHIGE'' AINOA

HON. MARILYN STRICKLAND

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a standout member of our South Sound community, Mr. Ian ''Shige'' Ainoa. An Air Force veteran, a steward of our South Sound waters as a scientific diver, and a Little League coach, Shige brings Aloha, goodwill, and good spirits to everyone he encounters.

Shige currently works for the Environmental Protection Agency as an IT specialist and a scientific diver, working to support the preservation of our Sound's ecosystem through his skilled fieldwork. A leader in advancing equity and fighting for justice, Shige also served as the manager of the Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Program for the EPA's Northwest region.

Outside of his day job, Shige goes above and beyond as an active board member of the University Place Veterans Plaza and volunteers his time to engrave and install new commemorative tiles. He has also coached Little League softball for the last three years.

I thank Shige for his commitment and service to our Nation, our waters, and our South Sound community.

RECOGNIZING RESPONSIBLE GAMING EDUCATION MONTH

HON. DINA TITUS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize September as Responsible Gaming Education

Month. Twenty-five years ago. the American Gaming Association established Responsible Gaming Education Week to promote responsible gaming nationwide and to educate employees and customers on the subject. This effort was expanded to Responsible Gaming Education Month in 2022.

I am proud to represent Las Vegas which sets the gold standard when it comes to gaming and gaming regulation. Casino gaming is legal in 44 states and sports betting is legal and operational in 35 states, providing jobs to 1.8 million individuals around the country. Last year, consumers spent a record $60 billion at commercial casinos. This translated to $13.5 billion in direct gaming taxes to state and local governments, exclusive of the billions of dollars in income and sales tax that casinos contribute to communities. All this revenue supports a range of needed public services like hospitals, schools, transportation, and public safety.

Responsible gaming is a central tenant of the gaming industry which goes to great lengths to make sure employees are trained in best practices for recognizing and dealing with problem gaming and patrons are aware of options for help if they need it. Last year, states earmarked $104 million for problem gaming research and the promotion of responsible gaming resources. Many operators go above and beyond the minimum, partnering with organizations to educate consumers and employees and adhering to voluntary responsible gaming and marketing codes. This includes deploying responsible gaming tools like limits on deposits, wagers, and play time.

This year, Responsible Gaming Education Month has four themes: Empowering Customers to Play Responsibly; Legal, Regulated Gaming Protects Players; Building a Responsible Gaming Culture Within; and Advancing Responsible Gaming Research.

I commend operators around the country for their work on these important issues and for ensuring that the customer is always put first. I thank the many employees of the gaming industry in my district and around the country for their efforts to educate patrons about responsible gaming.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF DR. JOSEPH CARTER CORBIN

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of Professor Joseph Carter Corbin and his contributions to education in the state of Arkansas. Mr. Corbin was an educator, journalist, mathematician, and scholar. He became one of the most educated men of his day, earning an Artium Baccalaureus degree and two master's degrees from Ohio University.

In 1872, Professor Corbin made the Natural State home for him and his family. He was then elected as the Superintendent of Public Instruction and President of the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees. Mr. Corbin recognized the need for teachers and laid the foundation for a teacher's college of the ''poorer class.'' Branch Normal College of the Arkansas Industrial University is what we now know as the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. Professor Corbin became the first African American superintendent of public education in Arkansas, and he had a profound impact on the school. He worked tirelessly to advocate on behalf of Arkansas's black educators. His dedication to serving the people of Pine Bluff is most admirable, and his legacy shall not be forgotten.

I want to thank Professor Corbin for making such a deep and lasting impact on his community, the 4th District of Arkansas, and our country. I hope his record of service will be an inspiration to all who follow in his footsteps. I am proud to recognize September 27, 2023, as Professor Joseph Carter Corbin Day in Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

HONORING FRIENDS OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER 30TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the vital work of the Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) on the 30th anniversary of its founding. Founded in 1993 to be ''a voice for the river,'' this nonprofit organization has grown to more than 2,500 members and countless volunteers. These dedicated guardians and the nearly two dozen staff are committed to protecting the health of America's greatest river as well as its creatures and the communities that live along its banks and rely upon its waters.

Founded in 1993 by Peter Gove, attorney George Dunn, former Mississippi National River & Recreation Area superintendent John Anfinson, and river boat dispatcher Hokan Miller, FMR started with a mission to engage the public to protect, restore and enhance the Mississippi River in the Twin Cities region. Whitney Clark joined the organization as Executive Director in 1997, quickly growing the organization and expanding its mission from community stewardship projects to include legislative advocacy concerning the entire length of the Mississippi river beyond Minnesota.

The Mississippi River is one of our nation's most important natural resources, cherished each year by millions of residents and visitors alike. As one of the world's longest rivers, the Mississippi is a defining geographic feature of North America with a watershed that drains all or parts of 31 states and provides drinking water for 20 million Americans. The river's ecosystem is a natural resource of global significance, with nearly half of North America's ducks, geese and swans relying on the Mississippi River for food, direction, and resting places during seasonal migrations.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of its staff, board and the hundreds of members and volunteers that support it, FMR is one of Minnesota's leading nonprofit citizen organizations for land conservation, watershed protection and river stewardship. As the ecological vitality of the Upper Mississippi River continues to be under threat, FMR faces the important task of protecting the river's ability to support native plant and animal species. FMR provides expertise and technical assistance critical to the protection of the Mississippi River and they engage public and private landowners, local governments and concerned citizens as stewards of the river for current and future generations.

Now, FMR continues to lead efforts critical to the long-term wellbeing of the entire Mississippi River as a vital partner in supporting the Mississippi River Resilience and Restoration Initiative, which will create a comprehensive federal strategy to coordinate efforts on conservation and environmental restoration along the entire river corridor. FMR's years of advocacy have helped to make the Twin Cities a model for watershed planning and decision-making. Today, FMR's advocacy extends well beyond Minnesota to the entirety of the river, from the northernmost headwaters in Lake Itasca to the Mississippi Delta.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in rising to honor the commitment and dedication of the many members, volunteers, and staff of Friends of the Mississippi River as they commemorate their 30th anniversary. May Friends of the Mississippi River continue its mission to restore and protect this river for future generations of Minnesotans and indeed all Americans.

HONORING THE COURAGEOUS SERVICE OF MASTER SERGEANT DONALD W. JACKSON OF GREENEVILLE

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Master Sergeant Donald W. Jackson of Greeneville for his courageous military service during the Vietnam War. Master Sergeant Jackson risked his life to defend this Nation. From 1965 to 1996, Master Sergeant Jackson served in the United States Army, Navy, and National Guard.

Master Sergeant Jackson first began his career as an aircraft mechanic, stationed in Ft. Rucker, Alabama in 1965. The following year, Master Sergeant Jackson received his first tour of duty in the Mekong Delta. Assigned to the 1st Platoon of the 121st Assault Helicopter Company, also known as the Blue Tigers, he assisted the South Vietnamese 9th Infantry division and auxiliary American forces during combat.

In the battlefield, Master Sergeant Jackson's helicopter company made emergency helicopter medical evacuations from ongoing combat operations, and also transported supplies and personnel to remote outposts—often too dangerous to reach by road. Additionally, Master Sergeant Jackson's helicopter company frequently accompanied General Nguen Van Minh, commander of all South Vietnamese forces in the Mekong Delta, and his staff.

Despite suffering an injury in 1967, Jackson extended his tour for another 6 months and served during the Tet Offensive, one of the deadliest battles of the Vietnam War. Master Sergeant Jackson returned from Vietnam in 1968, achieving the rank of a Specialist 5. Committed to protect and defend our Nation, he continued his dedicated career of military service for more than 25 years as a servicemember in the U.S. National Guard, the U.S. Navy, and the U.S. Army Reserves.

Please join me in thanking Master Sergeant Donald W. Jackson for his bravery and distinguished military service to our great Nation.

RECOGNIZING THE 151ST ANNIVERSARY OF GREATER SAINT PAUL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the 151st Anniversary of Greater Saint Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church in West Columbia, South Carolina.

I am grateful for the strong leadership at Greater Saint Paul AME Church, including Reverend Dr. Tobie H. Pollock, Reverend Rosalyn G. Coleman, Mrs. Phyllis N. Green, and Bishop Samuel L. Green, Sr. I appreciate their dedication to spreading the word of God in our community, making an impact in the lives of so many people.

Established in 1816, the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church holds the distinction of the inaugural African American denomination organized in the United States. The church played a significant role in the African American community, championing civil rights and evangelizing. Over 200 years later, the AME Church continues to serve many people throughout our communities.

Greater Saint Paul will be celebrating their anniversary on Sunday, October 29, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

RECOGNIZING THE AWARD RECIPIENTS OF THE 2023 CENTREVILLE IMMIGRATION FORUM ANNUAL DINNER

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Centreville Immigration Forum on the occasion of its 6th Annual Dinner. The theme of this year's gala is "Celebrating a Community United for Justice" and will recognize the rich diversity of cultures in Northern Virginia. The Centreville Immigration Forum has done tremendous work in Northern Virginia to support our immigrant community by implementing sustainable programs that provide immigrants in need with the means to improve their lives and become more integrated into the community.

Northern Virginia is blessed by its diversity. In Fairfax County, nearly 1 in 4 residents are foreign born. More than 200 languages are spoken in our schools, and we are home to more minority-owned technology firms than anywhere else in the Nation. Our variety of cultures and heritages do not divide us; they make us stronger.

Three exceptional individuals will be honored during this gala who have gone above and beyond in ensuring that everyone, regardless of their country of origin, has full access to the benefits and opportunities this community and our nation provide. I am pleased to include in the RECORD the names of the following 2023 Annual Dinner honorees.

MS. ANNABEL PARK

Annabel Park is a Korean American documentary filmmaker, political activist and community volunteer. She shined light on the struggles of immigrants in America through her documentary 9500 Liberty which was an interactive project, allowing viewers to comment and give direction to the production. It highlighted the struggles in Manassas and Prince William County in 2008 through 2009, when some leaders passed laws to make life difficult for immigrants. The story of building community in the face of bigotry inspired Centreville to organize in the years following. Ms. Park went on to co-produce the Story of America documentary series about voting rights across the country.

MR. HASSAN AHMAD

Hassan Ahmad is the principal and founder of HMA Law Firm. He is fluent or proficient in eight languages in addition to English, and this gives his clients comfort when telling their stories. His perspective on immigration as a means to prosperity is borne from his belief in unity in diversity, advising nationals of 117 countries around the world for nearly 20 years. He is a strong voice for justice and writes and speaks fearlessly against laws and policies that limit the lives of immigrants. He is an expert on the roots of anti-immigration organizations. About one-third of his practice is devoted to asylum cases.

MONICA SARMIENTO

Monica Sarmiento is the Executive Director for the Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Rights (VACIR), an organization dedicated to the defense of dignity, power, and quality of life for all immigrant and refugee communities. She is from the DC metropolitan area and is Salvadoran-American. She was the founding Executive Director of VACIR and built it into a coalition of immigrant rights groups with a respected voice in the Virginia General Assembly. She organized lobby days, press conferences. and campaigns that led to Driver Privilege Cards, increased language access to public information, and in-state tuition for all high school graduates.

Mr. Speaker, the efforts of these individuals are noteworthy not only because they are rooted in an appreciation for our region's cultural and ethnic diversity, but also because they help to strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation in our community. I congratulate them on their awards and ask my colleagues to join me in commending them for their service to the Northern Virginia region.

HONORING REYMUNDO ESPINOZA

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the accomplishments of Mr. Reymundo Espinoza upon his retirement. He has worked to provide healthcare for those in need for 48 years throughout California and Arizona.

Mr. Espinoza was raised in the small desert town of Coachella, California, where farming was the predominant industry. Upon graduation from Coachella Valley High School, he attended Stanford University and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. He received his Master of Public Health degree, specializing in Hospital Administration, from UC Berkeley in 1975.

Since 1987, he has served as CEO of the Gardner Family Health Centers. For 37 years, his vision for health equity and his commitment to access for the most vulnerable and underserved in our community have yielded impressive results:

Growing Gardner from a single clinic to thirteen sites (including two mobile units).

Increasing patients served from 8,000 to nearly 45,000 while providing high quality comprehensive medical and behavioral healthcare including prevention and education, early intervention, treatment, and advocacy services.

Participating in the Healthy Kids Initiative to ensure all children who are part of low-income households in our community could have access to a health coverage program.

Being a Founder, Chairperson and Board Member of Community Health Partnership health centers, a consortium of community clinics that advocate for and create healthcare access to low-income populations in Santa Clara County.

Co-Founding the California Primary Care Association to advocate for and create healthcare access to low-income populations in California.

During the Pandemic, Gardner Family Health Centers held the first community large-scale COVID–19 testing and vaccination clinic in Santa Clara County. From April 2020 to June 2021, approximately 12,000 individuals were tested, and 26,000 COVID–19 vaccinations were provided.

He has received many awards and recognition for his leadership in healthcare. For example, in 2023 he was awarded the Silver Medal Jefferson Award for expanding quality affordable healthcare so the South Bay's underserved can live healthier lives. In 2023 he received the Latinx Business Leadership Award from the Silicon Valley Business Journal.

His vision and legacy remain an inspiration and guiding light in these challenging but hopeful times. His expertise, good judgment, skillful leadership, and compassion have made him an outstanding member of our community. I consider him a valued colleague and friend and I join the community of Silicon Valley in honoring him and wishing him well in retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commemorate a milestone of profound significance—the 150th anniversary of the charitable endeavors of the Sisters of Providence.

For a century and a half, this venerable institution has been a bedrock of our community, demonstrating unwavering resilience and fostering a culture of compassion and service.

In Holyoke's industrial infancy, the Sisters began their mission, filling a void by providing essential care to the underprivileged, setting a firm foundation of charity that resonates deeply with the principles of the American Dream.

Their presence in our community has led to a myriad of invaluable initiatives; from establishing hospitals and nursing homes to spearheading programs that cater to the needs of the homeless, the Sisters have acted as an embodiment of selfless service and as a symbol of hope and healing in the Holyoke community since 1873.

As they celebrate this significant milestone with the symbol of the ''Tree of Hope,'' I am reminded of the spirit of togetherness that has been a cornerstone in the journey of the Sisters of Providence. This celebration is not just a reflection of a rich history, but a beacon lighting the way for future generations, illustrating unity, healing, and boundless possibilities.

Mr. Speaker, it is with heartfelt pride and admiration that I extend my congratulations to the Sisters of Providence as they mark 150 years of selfless service. As we honor their past, let us also embrace the future with a spirit of optimism and a commitment to nurturing a society grounded in their principles of love, empathy, and service.

RECOGNIZING OCTOBER AS NATIONAL SPINE HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing October as National Spine Health Awareness Month.

In the U.S. 100 million people suffer from neck or back conditions every year according to the CDC. Back pain is the number one cause of missed workdays, the leading cause of job-related disability and pain in the U.S., and the most common non-cancer related reason for an opioid prescription in the U.S. In addition, those with back and neck pain are four times more likely to become clinically depressed.

The National Spine Health Foundation located in my district in Reston, Virginia, is the only national patient-centered non-profit dedicated to helping patients overcome debilitating spinal conditions and take back their lives. During the past 5 years, the Foundation has renewed its commitment to and has developed award winning patient education, advocacy, and research work to give patients the tools they need to make informed decisions about their spine health and navigate their own treatment journeys with confidence.

I would like to congratulate the National Spine Health Foundation on its award-winning year in patient education and clinical research. NSHF received a 2023 Digital Health Award for its patient education videos, the E Healthcare Leadership Award for best healthcare podcast, and the Global Spine Congress award for best research paper for work on examining augmented reality for improving spine surgery. In addition, NSHF received the best paper award from the International Society for the Advancement of Spine Surgery for their work on the nation's only prospective, multi-center spine robotic surgery study.

The Foundation is strongly committed to spine health research. Patient reported outcomes have been part of the fabric of NSHF since its inception. As they are deeply invested in supporting evidence-based health care decision making, it is important to be part of the process of creating the evidence. Their cloud-based research tool called 'Spine-online' enables them to conduct multi-center studies and partner with research teams both in the U.S. and internationally. Active studies are currently occurring on robotic surgery, enhanced surgical recovery, augmented reality, genetic basis for personalized spine treatments, stem cell therapy, and more.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the importance of good spinal health, supporting individuals who suffer from spinal issues, and thanking the NSHF and the health care providers who help not just in October, but all year long.

RECOGNIZING TAMMY VAN DYKE

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the distinguished career of retiring Leonardo da Vinci School for Gifted Learners Principal, Mrs. Tammy Van Dyke.

Mrs. Van Dyke has held several leadership roles throughout the education system in Northeast Wisconsin. Prior to assuming the role of Principal at Leonardo da Vinci School for Gifted Learners, Mrs. Van Dyke was the Principal at Nicolet Elementary School in Green Bay. During her time at Nicolet, she played an instrumental role in improving leadership skills in students and developed the LIONS (Leaders in Our Neighborhood and School) Club, which provided opportunities for students to interact with guest speakers, learn, and organize events for the school.

Throughout her impressive career, Mrs. Van Dyke has been committed to bettering the lives of her students and their families. Her knowledge and leadership led to the growing enrollment rate at Green Bay Area Public Schools, which played a significant role in the recruitment and retainment of both gifted teachers and students at Leonardo da Vinci School for Gifted Learners. Mrs. Van Dyke's expertise and knowledge will surely be missed by her students, peers, and the entire Green Bay community.

While Mrs. Van Dyke is leaving behind a notable legacy that will be admired by educators for years to come, I am confident that she will continue to be a valuable member of the Northeast Wisconsin community. Her dedication to Northeast Wisconsin has been truly remarkable, and I extend my sincere thanks to Mrs. Van Dyke for her years of service. Mrs. Van Dyke's distinguished career is deserving of the highest degree of recognition, and I wish her all the best in retirement.

RECOGNIZING RONALD E. MYERS

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to recognize Ronald E. Myers, upon the auspicious occasion of his retirement on October 1, 2023 after 32 years of service as Director of Maintenance for the Graham Capitol Corporation.

Mr. Myers enlisted in the Army on October 31, 1978, after graduating high school in Lower Dauphin. He completed basic training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and became qualified as a helicopter mechanic at Fort Rucker, Alabama. Then-Sergeant Myers specialized in the UH–I/Iroquois (''Huey'') aircraft (his favorite), the critical aircraft for troop and logistics transport, and direct combat gun support capabilities. Sergeant Myers' performance and duty as a mechanic of these premier and complex aircraft was critical to the Army mission.

After his service in the active component Army, Sergeant Myers honorably served in the Pennsylvania National Guard, wherein he earned the rank of Staff Sergeant (E–6) and continued to serve our Nation for 22 years. In May 1991, after his military retirement, he transitioned to the civilian/private sector, wherein he became Director of Maintenance for the Graham Capital Corporation flight department, now culminating his duties after 32 years on October 1, 2023.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 10th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, I'm privileged to commend former Staff Sergeant Ronald E. Myers for his tireless and selfless service to our communities, Commonwealth, and Nation. I wish him Godspeed, and great health, prosperity, and happiness in his future adventures.

HONORING OFFICER JAMES BROWN

HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer James Brown for his devotion to Eastern North Carolina as a police officer. Officer Brown has served for more than 65 years within the Jacksonville Police Department and received the lifetime achievement award from NC Project. Recently, I had the distinct pleasure of meeting Officer Brown at the Homeland Heroes Banquet, an event recognizing first responders and law enforcement.

Residents of Jacksonville witness Officer Brown's dedication to his community every day as he manages traffic and leads local students across the City's busiest neighborhood streets. He is undoubtedly a man to admire as he is the oldest serving officer in Jacksonville's police department. In fact, he is thought to be the most senior serving officer in the United States.

I would be remiss if I failed to honor Officer Brown's service to our Nation during WWII. Those who continue their service in law enforcement after military deployments, like Officer Brown, are special people and among our Nation's heroes.

Officer Brown has said that he has no plans of ending his career. He is an incredible example of service, duty, and honor that our Nation cherishes. I want to say thank you to Officer Brown for his faithfulness to our Country and community and wish him a Happy 96th Birthday this November.

RECOGNIZING GURUDEV SRI SRI RAVI SHANKAR FOR HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HON. RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar's distinguished career as a global humanitarian and spiritual leader. For over 40 years, Gurudev has helped guide individuals in Illinois and throughout the world in their search for inner peace with his programs rooted in meditation and yoga. Through his charity work and educational efforts, Gurudev has spread his belief that if individuals find inner peace, it can lead to real world reductions in violence and conflict.

In 1981, Gurudev founded the Art of Living Foundation, a non-profit focused on the promotion of meditation and humanitarianism. To date, Gurudev and the Art of Living Foundation have engaged in humanitarian efforts in numerous conflict zones and currently operates in over 100 countries. He also founded the International Association for Human Values, which offers programs to reduce stress. Together, these organizations have thousands of volunteers who continue the important work of supporting individuals and communities in need.

Gurudev's knowledge and experience with conflict resolution have allowed him to play vital roles in peace negotiations globally. In particular, Gurudev has promoted multiple interfaith dialogues to establish mutual respect and understanding, including between religious groups that may have been in conflict previously. This unique approach to conflict resolution, which focuses on communication and universal values, has proven its merit repeatedly.

Furthermore, Gurudev has had a long-term focus on youth empowerment. He started over 1,000 schools that provide a free education within disadvantaged communities, benefiting over 82,000 students and equipping them with the skills and confidence necessary to succeed in life. Additionally, Gurudev has shown his commitment to a cleaner and healthier environment by leading an effort that restored approximately 70 rivers and thousands of bodies of water in India, as well as planting some 80 million trees throughout the world.

With his message of peace and commitment to education and humanitarianism, Gurudev has lived a life dedicated to the betterment of others. Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my immense gratitude to Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar for his invaluable contributions.

HONORING THE COURAGEOUS SERVICE OF SERGEANT CHARLES TERRIAL WILLIAMS

HON. DIANA HARSHBARGER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Sergeant Charles Terrial Williams from Bristol in Sullivan County, TN for his valiant military service in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War. Sergeant Williams proudly served our country both abroad and domestically from 1969 to 1973.

As a Crew Chief on C–130Es, a military transport aircraft designed to operate from unpaved airstrips, Sergeant Williams was assigned to Tan Son Nhut Air Base in Vietnam, as well as Ching Chan Kang Air Base in Taiwan and Langley Air Base in Virginia. As Crew Chief, he was responsible for assisting supply delivery, relocating Vietnamese civilians out of danger, and retrieving the wounded and deceased.

Among his many acts of heroism, Sergeant Williams prevented a hand grenade from detonation during a relocation operation, and also volunteered his service during a helicopter evacuation under live fire. After 4 years of valiant service, Sergeant Williams was honorably discharged from the U.S. Air Force.

Please join me in thanking Sergeant Charles Terrial Williams for his bravery and heroic military service to our great Nation.

APPRECIATING THE DRUZE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to have spoken with Sheikh al-Aql Hikmat Alhajiri, one of the three senior most Druze religious leaders in Syria, to discuss his impactful work at the forefront of the mass mobilization of Druze against the Assad regime.

The Druze is a religious sect that grew out of Islam a thousand years ago, with a population of 1.5 million, living mostly in Syria, Lebanon, Israel, and Jordan. Due to the courageous leadership of Sheikh Alhajiri, thousands of Druze residing in the southeast province of Swaida, adjacent to Jordan and Israel, have rallied together demanding the downfall of the current regime. Unfortunately, last week marked a tragic turn of events, following weeks of extensive protests, as the regime fired at Druze demonstrators, further adding to the grim toll of over half a million Syrians who have been killed by the criminal Assad regime.

As Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia, I am proud to have led H.R. 3202, the Assad Regime Anti-Normalization Act, which places responsibility on the Bashar al-Assad regime, supported by war criminal Putin and the terrorist Mullahs in Tehran, for its crimes against the Syrian people and highlights the significant consequences of governments considering normalization with the Assad regime. This bill successfully passed the committee, reinforcing the bipartisan commitment to punish offenders, while enhancing protection for humanitarian organizations serving the Syrian people.

I am grateful for the great leadership and strength of Sheikh Alhajiri and the Druze, and look forward to continuing to work together in the fight for a free and democratic Syria.

HONORING UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA-LED NASA OSIRIS-REX FIRST-EVER ASTEROID SAMPLE RETURN MISSION

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of University of Arizona-led NASA mission of spacecraft *OSIRIS-REx* and the first ever return of an asteroid sample to Earth. Launched seven years ago, in 2016, the Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security-Regolith Explorer (*OSIRIS-REx*) successfully arrived at the asteroid Bennu in 2018. Because Bennu is older than Earth, studying a sample of Bennu will provide understanding of what might have been delivered to early Earth during Precambrian time. The asteroid is 500 meters across, roughly the height of the Empire State Building. *OSIRIS-REx* used complex imagery to successfully map and determine the best place to obtain a sample. On October 20, 2020, *OSIRIS-REx* landed and collected a sample of Bennu, four times more sample than originally expected.

On May 10, 2021, *OSIRIS-REx* began its return voyage to Earth. This past Sunday, September 24, *OSIRIS-REx* released a capsule containing the Bennu sample before continuing on to rendezvous with the asteroid Apophis. Apophis will come very close to Earth's orbit in 2029.

The sample return capsule made a spectacular descent as it hit the Earth's atmosphere, traveling 27,000 miles per hour and reaching five thousand degrees Fahrenheit. The capsule safely reached the drop zone, traveling a mere 11 miles per hour. Crews determined the integrity of the capsule; it is now in a clean room preparing for analysis.

The sample will be analyzed by students at the University of Arizona to determine Bennu's physical and chemical properties, windows into the most fundamental questions of our universe—namely how planets formed and how life began. Examining Bennu will also aid scientists in planning for possible impact mitigation missions. Asteroids like Bennu contain natural resources such as water, organics, and precious metals.

I am extremely proud that Tucson is once again a key player in a critical NASA mission, just as it has been with many others throughout our Nation's history. *OSIRIS-REx* is an $800 million University of Arizona-led NASA mission that demonstrates the importance of vital scientific investments.

The *OSIRIS-REx* mission is funded by NASA and its science is led by the University of Arizona (UA). I would like to once again congratulate Dr. Dante Lauretta of the UA Lunar and Planetary Laboratory for his leadership as principal investigator and, along with his team, for bringing this exciting mission to the sample analysis phase. I greatly look forward to celebrating even more milestones with

his team as analysis reveals untold mysteries of our universe and as the now *OSIRIS-REx-APEX* continues towards the asteroid Apophis. This mission is the latest in a long list of achievements by scientists at the University of Arizona in my home district. In fact, UA scientists have collaborated in every single American mission to the Moon and Mars since 1964, including serving as the lead on the Phoenix Mars Mission.

The University of Arizona is involving undergraduate and graduate students and continuing to cultivate the next generation of STEM leaders—many of whom will be from my home state of Arizona. I wish the *OSIRIS-REx* team the best of luck in the analysis stage of their historic mission and congratulate them in their profound success in the first ever return of an asteroid sample to Earth.

CELEBRATING THE WORK OF DR. CLARENCE JONES

HON. RITCHIE TORRES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. TORRES of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Dr. Clarence Jones' work on the 60th anniversary of the March on Washington.

Sixty years ago, those words were spoken by Dr. Martin Luther King but written by Dr. Clarence Jones, who lived in the Bronx, and in Riverdale, in the fateful year of 1963. The members of the Bronx family have gathered here today to celebrate not only a great American, but one of the greatest. We're here to celebrate a man who labored and loitered behind the scenes and behind the dream for the greatest cause in American history. The cause of equal rights, equal justice, and equal protection under the law.

As a lawyer, Clarence Jones not only practiced law, he transformed it. As a civil rights leader, Clarence Jones not only had a dream, he realized it and by the grace of God, he has lived to see it.

We are in a room full of people of every color and every creed. Black and white, Latino and Asian, Jews, Christians, and Muslims. We are collectively the realization of Dr. Jones' dream. Our unity is the culmination of his life's work. The legacy of Dr. King and Dr. Jones achieved nothing less than the liberation of the people and the reconstruction of a Nation. America has lived through two reconstructions and its history. Whereas the first reconstruction largely failed in the hands of Jim Crow. The second reconstruction, I believe, has largely succeeded on the strength of the civil rights movement. In spite of all the challenges confronting America, despite the racism that persists even in our own time, there can be no denying how far we have come as a country. How much we have overcome as a people and how high Dr. Jones and Dr. King have lifted us all.

And if anyone has any doubts about the moral magnitude of what has been achieved in these past 60 years, look no further than our own city. For the first time in history, the Speaker of the New York City Council, the Speaker of the New York State Assembly, and the future Speaker of the United States House of Representatives are all African American. For the first time in history, the mayors of America's four largest cities, including New York, are all African American. There are 1000s of elected officials, like myself, of all races and religions who stand firmly on the shoulders of moral giants like Dr. King and Dr. Jones. We owe these giants a debt that we can never repay, but it is a debt that we must never forget. Dr. Clarence Jones was a counsel and close confidant of Dr. Martin Luther King. When Dr. King was jailed in Birmingham, Alabama for protesting segregation, it was Clarence Jones who visited Dr. King in jail twice a day. And it was Clarence Jones who smuggled out Dr. King's famous Letter from a Birmingham Jail. As a Riverdale resident, Dr. Jones played a pivotal role in co-organizing America's greatest March and in co-writing America's greatest speech. Not only did he reside in Riverdale in 1963, he arranged for Dr. King to move into his Riverdale home in the lead up to the March on Washington and the I Have a Dream speech. The Riverdale home of Dr. Jones came to be known as Dr. King's quote, "Command Post North." Dr. Martin Luther King and Dr. Clarence Jones were both American revolutionaries in 1963. The most powerful revolutions in history are not only those that change the nature of an economy or the nature of technology. The revolutions that ultimately matter most are those that changed the hearts and minds of a people.

Dr. King and Dr. Jones inspired a revolution where it mattered most in the very soul of America. That revolution of the American soul remains with us 60 years later. Clarence Jones remains with us 60 years later. And as one of the few living members of Dr. King's innermost circle, Clarence Jones has been described as the last of the lions. At age 92, Dr. Jones shows no signs of retiring from his lifelong struggle for social justice. He presently serves as the chair of a non-for-profit, known as Spill the Honey, which is dedicated to building bridges between the black community and the Jewish community. Dr. Jones is the product of the civil rights movement that inspired powerful moments of black Jewish solidarity. The image of Dr. Martin Luther King, and Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, marching for voting rights all the way from Selma to Montgomery. These two men of faith in the words of Rabbi Heschel "were praying with their feet." There were Jewish Americans and African Americans who not only fought together, but also died together for the cause of civil rights. Andrew Goodman, Michael Schwerner, James Cheney, all were murdered in the Mississippi Burning. The least we can do is honor their memory with unity in our own time. The moral lesson of history is that we are all in this together. What matters more than the particulars of our race and religion. What matters more than the details of our color and creed is something universal, our common humanity. Upholding that common humanity has been the life work of Clarence Jones.

Dr. King famously said, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere". Bearing those words in mind, a decade ago, I went to Yad Vashem the Holocaust memorial in Israel. I came across an unforgettable quote that has remained with me ever since. Quote, "First the Nazis came from the socialists, and I did not speak out because I was not a socialist. Then they came to the trade unions, and I did not speak out because I was not a trade unionist. And then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak up because I was not a Jew. And then they came from me, and there was no one left to speak for me." Let us never forget that we are all in this together. That we are all bound together by shared humanity. That we are all equal creations in the image of God. There is no one in America who knows the self-evident truth more deeply in his mind, feels it more deeply in the soul, and who has lived it more faithfully in his life for nearly a century than Clarence Jones. So on behalf of the people of the Bronx, I have the district pleasure of honoring Dr. Jones' roots in Riverdale, his role in America's greatest March, America's greatest speech, and America's greatest moral revolution and reconstruction.

HONORING WILLIAM "BILL" ROOT ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to a local hero on his 100th birthday. William "Bill" Root of East Lansing, Michigan, began serving his country in World War II and has never stopped, taking on various high level governmental and advisory positions over the course of his long and fruitful career, and devoting his life to working for global peace.

Born on September 20, 1923 in Boston, Massachusetts, it's not likely that a young Bill Root aspired to one day be named the "Grandfather of Export Controls," but he did know he wanted to use his life to make his Nation a stronger, better place. After graduating from Colorado College, Bill was spurred into action after the attack on Pearl Harbor and joined the United States Navy. There, he served as a radar maintenance officer in the Pacific Theater, and upon his honorable discharge from the Navy, Bill was in the first graduating class from what is now the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University where he received his Master's Degree along with a certificate from the Russian Institute. Around the same time, he married the love of his life, Constance Young. Over the course of their incredible 72 year marriage, the Roots would go on to raise four children, and those "roots" have spread with seven surviving grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Bill's first civilian job was with the Bureau of the Budget, where he worked from 1948 to 1950, before joining the State Department later that year. There he stayed for 33 years, serving as an economics officer in various United States embassies including Germany, Denmark, and Vietnam. Root learned years later that he was the only State Department employee stationed in Vietnam who filed a message protesting the U.S. invasion of Cambodia using the dissent channel that was formally established to communicate outside the normal chain of command. In 1976, he became director of the Office of East-West Trade at the State Department. He resigned from that position in 1983 in protest over inter-departmental deliberations about export control policy.

For the last 30 years, Bill has consulted on export controls, first from his home near Washington, D.C., and then, virtually, from East Lansing, Michigan, where he moved in 2015. In 1989 he co-authored the book, ''United States Export Controls,'' which he updated regularly through 2013 and is still today considered the definitive volume on the issue. In recent years he has continued to provide expert commentary on export controls with respect to China, Russia, and global issues like the distribution of COVID–19 vaccines. At 100, Bill is still widely regarded as a leading national expert on the topic.

Since leaving the federal government, Bill has pursued his passion for working for world peace by participating in the Friends Committee on National Legislation and other organizations with a global focus. For a full century, he has lived an extraordinary life of principled service, and continues to give back to the Nation and global community he so intricately understands and loves. As he now celebrates his 100th birthday, I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him on this milestone and thanking him for his myriad contributions.

HONORING REVOLUTIONARY WAR VETERANS LIEUTENANT SAMUEL WALDRON AND DRUMMER ARCHIBALD ARMSTRONG AS THEY RECEIVE PLAQUES IN SALINE'S OAKWOOD CEMETERY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Revolutionary War Veterans Lieutenant Samuel Waldron and Drummer Archibald Armstrong on the occasion of the laying of a plaque in their honor at Oakwood Cemetery located in Saline, Michigan by the Huron Valley Chapter of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. Freedom is not free, and today we pause to remember two men who served their country during the Revolutionary War. Their service to our Nation at the time of its birth is worthy of commendation.

Born and raised in New Jersey, Lieutenant Waldron first enlisted in the Continental Army as a private in 1776. He was later promoted to First Lieutenant in the New Jersey Militia and served in this position for the remainder of the war. He died in Washtenaw County, Michigan in 1837 at the age of 75.

Archibald Armstrong was a native of New York City, New York. As a 10-year-old boy, he was taught by his father to be the drummer for his father's militia company. Although the minimum enlistment age was 16, exceptions were made for quality drummers. Archibald moved to Ypsilanti, Michigan where he passed away at the age of 82.

Both Lieutenant Waldron and Drummer Armstrong are remembered for their honorable military service and dedication to our Nation. They are just a few of the native and adopted Michiganders who fought for our country during the revolution. It is important for us to honor the veterans of our community who fought for the freedom of our Nation, a value we continue to hold dear today. We are thankful for the path these soldiers laid out for past, present, and future Americans over two centuries ago.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating the honorable men Lieutenant Samuel Waldron and Drummer Archibald Armstrong as they are memorialized in Saline, Michigan. We join with Americans everywhere in extending our thanks to the Huron Valley Chapter of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, Ypsilanti Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Sarah Caswell Angell DAR for their work remembering these important men. Today and every day, we honor the brave patriots we lost in the fight for our independence. We are grateful for their military service and their willingness to fight for the freedom and liberty that we enjoy today.

CELEBRATING RAYMOND LOPEZ OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL NO. 444

HON. PATRICK RYAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Raymond Lopez on being named ''Knight of the Year'' by the Knights of Columbus Council No. 444.

Raymond was born in New York City on September 18, 1941. After graduating from Harren High School, he worked in the city's Garment District. In 1960, Ray enlisted in the Army and served his country honorably for four years, one of which he served in Vietnam.

Upon returning home, Ray married the love of his life, Gloria, on June 27, 1964. He went on to work as a parking lot supervisor for the Museum of Natural History and LaGuardia Airport. Ray then began the position of railroad clerk for the New York City Transit Authority, before receiving a promotion to collecting agent on the money train.

Ray retired from the Transit Authority after 22 years of service in 1990. Ray then began working in the Hudson Valley at New York Stewart International Airport in New Windsor, New York.

Ray joined the Monsignor Henry O'Carroll Council No. 444 of the Knights of Columbus in Newburgh, N.Y. Council No. 444 was established on September 5, 1899, and currently has over 150 members.

Ray quickly moved up the ranks and became a third-degree knight and served Council No. 444 as Grand Knight from 2020 to 2022. This year, Council No. 444 is honoring Ray for his service to the Knights of Columbus by recognizing him as ''Knight of the Year.''

The Knights of Columbus Council No. 444 have worked tirelessly to support food pantries, disaster relief, assistance to the homeless in the community, vocations development, the Special Olympics, and many more worthy nonprofits. I am honored to recognize Raymond Lopez's many contributions he has made to the Council and our community.

In addition to his work at the Knight of Columbus, Ray is a dedicated husband to his wife, Gloria, and loving father to his 2 children, Annette and Raymond Jr. He is also the proud grandfather of 6 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Raymond Lopez. It is my privilege to rise in recognition of his service to our country and our community.

RECOGNIZING THE NEW AUTHORITY OF THE TENNESSEE OLD-TIME MUSIC AND DANCE ASSOCIATION TO BESTOW THE TITLE OF THE NATIONAL BUCKDANCING CHAMPION

HON. SCOTT DesJARLAIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize a cultural staple in Middle Tennessee that has left an indelible mark on the history of the Volunteer State for over a century. Each year, communities across Tennessee unite in celebration of the rich tradition of rhythmic flatfoot buckdancing through the National Buckdancing Championship.

The annual National Buckdancing Championship has recently experienced a change of venue, with the Tennessee Old-Time Music and Dance Association now shouldering the responsibility of commemorating this time-honored tradition. Through their production of the Thomas Maupin Festival, affectionately known as MaupinFest, in Unionville, Tennessee, the Tennessee Old-Time Music and Dance Association has played a pivotal role in preserving this significant piece of American cultural heritage. I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to the Uncle Dave Macon Days Association, who diligently oversaw the National Buckdancing Championship annually since 1986 when Congress entrusted them with this duty, up until 2019. Since its inception in 2019, the Tennessee Old-Time Dance Association has organized MaupinFest and has continued to bestow the title of National Buckdancing Champion on behalf of Uncle Dave Macon Days. In light of this transition in production, the Uncle Dave Macon Days Association has expressed their desire to transfer the responsibility for the National Buckdancing Championship permanently to the Tennessee Old-Time Music and Dance Association.

MaupinFest aims to pay tribute to Mr. Maupin's dance style, which stands as the quintessential representation of traditional Tennessee rhythmic flatfoot buckdancing, distinct from the more common clogging. Mr, Maupin's old-time buckdancing style merits preservation as a cherished Tennessee treasure. Therefore, I proudly announce that henceforth, the title of National Old-Time Buckdancing Champion will be conferred by the Tennessee Old-Time Music and Dance Association. This ensures that this historical American art form receives the recognition it so rightfully deserves.

HONORING VERA PUNKE

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize my constituent, Ms. Vera Punke, for turning 108 years old last month.

Vera was born on August 29, 1915. She celebrated her birthday with friends and family around, along with an abundance of Arlington dignitaries. Vera has been a highly successful businesswoman, community organizer, co-founder of the Woman's Youth League of Rhode Island, Den Mother, Brownie and Girl Scout Leader, Mother, Grandmother, and Great Grandmother. She has been an exemplary volunteer at The Jefferson community and remains as active, engaged, energetic, and decisive as ever.

Vera always remains available to anyone needing a helping hand, a shoulder to cry on, a sympathetic listener to anyone just wanting to talk, and an inspiration to anyone who knows her life's story. She lives by her personal motto: ''If I have helped ease one ache or pain, I have not lived in vain.'' Arlington is honored to celebrate her accomplished life and this milestone birthday.

HONORING KANKO ZONOU

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the service and accomplishments of Kanko Zonou, my congressional staffer who has consistently served my office and the people of Florida's 24th Congressional District. Kanko has proven to be a very articulate young woman and shows great promise for her future endeavors. Kanko has assisted my office in various areas, such as legislative research, constituent outreach, and team management. She had demonstrated an excellent drive and a continuous willingness to learn.

Kanko Zonou was born in Lomé, Togo and raised in the state of Georgia, She is a Magna Cum Laude graduate of Georgia State University where she earned her Bachelor's degree in Political Science. At Georgia State University, she served as Women's Rights chair for the NAACP, and she received the Nell Hamilton Trotter Student Leadership Award for her service. During her junior year, she presented two research projects centered around economic issues at the Southern Political Science Association's 2022 annual conference. Kanko is currently a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. Her experiences have empowered her to advocate for human rights, as well as social justice.

Upon transitioning from my office, Kanko will continue to work in legislation as she fights for justice.

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Kanko Zonou for her exemplary character, dedication to teamwork, and willingness to learn.

SALUTING THE CLEMENCEAU HERITAGE MUSEUM

HON. ELIJAH CRANE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the Clemenceau Heritage Museum for their unwavering dedication to preserving the rich history of Arizona's Verde Valley. Originally opened in November 1991 through the efforts of the Verde Historical Society, the museum showcases artifacts and pieces of historical significance that are indicative of the rich heritage of both our district and state.

Since 1991, the members of the Verde Historical Society have been committed to ensuring that our community's history is honored and maintained through the museum's educational services to the public. The Verde Historical Society's vision made the museum a reality and their continued faithfulness enables the history of Verde Valley to be appreciated by all residents of the valley today. The countless hours they devote to the upkeep of the museum is commendable, and through their work, the history of the region is kept alive.

The Museum's exhibits and displays have blessed our community with a steady reminder of where we came from and the factors, including mining, ranching, and farming, that empowered our society and economy to prosper.

I applaud the Verde Historical Society for their commitment to presenting the history of the region and for carrying the torch necessary for current and future generations to enjoy and benefit from our heritage.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S4669–S4687

Measures Introduced: Twenty-two bills and nine resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2913–2934, and S. Res. 361–369. **Pages S4678–79**

Measures Passed:

50th Anniversary of the National Cemetery Administration: Senate agreed to S. Res. 365, honoring the 50th anniversary of the National Cemetery Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs. **Page S4676**

School Bus Safety Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 366, designating September 2023 as ''School Bus Safety Month''. **Page S4676**

National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 367, designating September 2023 as ''National Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Month''. **Page S4676**

Telehealth Awareness Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 368, supporting the designation of the week of September 17 through September 23, 2023, as ''Telehealth Awareness Week''. **Page S4676**

Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 369, expressing support for the designation of September 2023 as ''Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month'' in order to educate communities across the United States about sickle cell disease and the need for research, early detection methods, effective treatments, and preventative care programs with respect to complications from sickle cell disease and conditions related to sickle cell disease. **Page S4676**

Measures Considered:

Securing Growth and Robust Leadership in American Aviation Act—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 3935, to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize and improve the Federal Aviation Administration and other civil aviation programs. **Pages S4669–75**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 77 yeas to 19 nays (Vote No. 240), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of bill. **Page S4675**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, post-cloture, at approximately 10:00 a.m., on Wednesday, September 27, 2023; and that all time during adjournment, recess, morning business, and Leader remarks count toward post-cloture debate time. **Page S4687**

Lesser Prairie Chicken CRA and Northern Long-Eared Bat CRA—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, the veto messages with respect to S.J. Res. 9, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Lesser Prairie-Chicken; Threatened Status with Section 4(d) Rule for the Northern Distinct Population Segment and Endangered Status for the Southern Distinct Population Segment'', and S.J. Res. 24, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to ''Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Northern Long-Eared Bat'', be considered at times to be determined by the Majority Leader, in concurrence with the Republican Leader, prior to Wednesday, October 4, 2023; that there be two hours for debate equally divided between the two Leaders or their designees on each joint resolution; and that Senate then vote on passage of each joint resolution, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding. **Pages S4675–76**

Message from the President: Senate received the following messages from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to the Constitution, the report of the veto of S.J. Res. 9, a joint resolution

that would disapprove the final rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Lesser Prairie-Chicken; Threatened Status with Section 4(d) Rule for the Northern Distinct Population Segment and Endangered Status for the Southern Distinct Population Segment"; ordered to be printed in the Record, spread in full upon the Journal, and held at the desk. (PM–22) **Pages S4675–76**

Transmitting, pursuant to the Constitution, the report of the veto of S.J. Res. 24, a joint resolution that would disapprove the final rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Northern Long-Eared Bat"; ordered to be printed in the Record, spread in full upon the Journal, and held at the desk. (PM–23) **Page S4676**

Messages from the House: **Page S4678**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S4679–80**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S4680–87**

Additional Statements: **Page S4677**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—240) **Page S4675**

Recess: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and recessed at 7:04 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, September 27, 2023. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S4687.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 54 public bills, H.R. 5687–5740; and 8 resolutions, H.J. Res. 92; H. Con. Res. 68; and H. Res. 724–729, were introduced. **Pages H4497–99**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H4501–03**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H. Res. 723, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4365) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4367) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4665) making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4368) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–216);

H.R. 3447, to amend title 23, United States Code, to authorize a hydrogen powered vehicle to exceed certain weight limits on the Interstate Highway System, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–217);

H.R. 1836, to amend title 46, United States Code, to make technical corrections with respect to ocean shipping authorities, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–218);

H.R. 5427, to prohibit individuals convicted of defrauding the Government from receiving any assistance from the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–219);

H.R. 5426, to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to provide a link to resources for submitting reports on suspected fraud relating to certain COVID–19 loans (H. Rept. 118–220);

H.R. 5425, to amend the Small Business Act to enhance the Office of Rural Affairs, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–221);

H.R. 5424, to amend the Small Business Economic Policy Act of 1980 to examine how the competitiveness of small businesses is affected by the enforcement of Federal antitrust laws, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–222);

H.R. 5265, to amend the Small Business Act to require a report on the performance of the Office of Rural Affairs, to require a report on the memorandum of understanding between the Small Business Administration and the Department of Agriculture entered into on April 4, 2018, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–223);

H.R. 5340, to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to ensure that pension plans provide notice to participants and beneficiaries

on risks associated with certain investments, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–224);

H.R. 5339, to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to specify requirements concerning the consideration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary factors, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–225);

H.R. 5338, to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to establish that fiduciaries must act with prudence and loyalty when selecting service providers for pension plans, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–226); and

H.R. 5337, to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to clarify the application of prudence and exclusive purpose duties to the exercise of shareholder rights, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–227). **Pages H4496–97**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:28 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H4470**

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker approval of the Journal by voice vote. **Pages H4470, H4496**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:10 p.m. and reconvened at 4:30 p.m. **Page H4471**

Clean Slate through Repayment Act of 2023, Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2024, Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2024, and Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024—Rule for Consideration: The House agreed to H. Res. 723, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4365) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4367) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4665) making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4368) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, by a recorded vote of 216 ayes to 212 noes, Roll No. 406, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 215 yeas to 209 nays, Roll No. 405. Earlier Representative McGovern raised a point of order against the provisions of H. Res. 723 on the grounds that the resolution violates section 426(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. Representative Roy made a motion to consider the resolution, which was agreed to by a yea-and-nay vote of 209 yeas to 198 nays, Roll No. 404. **Pages H4480–95**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures: Protecting Hunting Heritage and Education Act: H.R. 5110, amended, 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, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 424 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 407; and **Pages H4471–75, H4495–96**

Amending title 38, United States Code, to extend and modify certain authorities and requirements relating to the Department of Veterans Affairs: S. 2795, to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend and modify certain authorities and requirements relating to the Department of Veterans Affairs. **Pages H4475–80**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H4486–87, H4494–95, H4495 and H4495–96.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 p.m. and adjourned at 3:11 a.m.

Committee Meetings

EXAMINING VA.GOV

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Technology Modernization held a hearing entitled "Examining VA.gov". Testimony was heard from Kurt DelBene, Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology, Office of Information and Technology, Department of Veterans Affairs.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, *p. D840)*

H.R. 2544, to improve the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network. Signed on September 22, 2023. (Public Law 118–14)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2023

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: to hold hearings to examine foreign ownership in U.S. agriculture, 10 a.m., SR–328A.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: business meeting to consider S. 2860, to create protections for financial institutions that provide financial services to State-sanctioned marijuana businesses and service providers for such businesses, 9:30 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on the Budget: to hold hearings to examine Medicare, 10 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: business meeting to consider S. 654, to amend the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act to reauthorize Delaware River Basin conservation programs, an original bill entitled, ''Brownfields Reauthorization Act'', and an original bill entitled, ''Strengthening Coastal Communities Act''; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine the General Services Administration, focusing on examining the Federal real estate portfolio, 9:45 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: business meeting to consider the nominations of Thomas G. Day, of Virginia, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission, and Katherine E. Oler, Judith E. Pipe, and Charles J. Willoughby, Jr., each to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, 10:15 a.m., SD–562.

Committee on Indian Affairs: to hold hearings to examine water as a trust resource, focusing on access in Native communities, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on Rules and Administration: to hold hearings to examine AI and the future of our elections, 3:30 p.m., SR–301.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold hearings to examine countering China's malign influence operations in the United States, 2:30 p.m., SH–216.

House

Committee on Education and Workforce, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, hearing entitled ''Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration'', 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials, hearing entitled ''Revitalizing America Through the Reauthorization of the Brownfields Program'', 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce, hearing entitled ''Proposals to Enhance Product Safety and Transparency for Americans'', 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Oversight of the Securities and Exchange Commission'', 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia, hearing entitled ''No Incentives for Terrorism: U.S. Implementation of the Taylor Force Act and Efforts to Stop 'Pay to Slay' '', 10 a.m., HVC–210.

Subcommittee on Africa, hearing entitled ''Examining the Current U.S.-South Africa Bilateral Relationship'', 2 p.m., HVC–210.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Counterterrorism, Law Enforcement, and Intelligence, hearing entitled ''The Future of Homeland Security: Addressing the Rise of Terrorism in Africa'', 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on House Administration, Subcommittee on Modernization, hearing entitled ''Legislative Branch Advancement: GAO Modernization'', 10:30 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet, hearing entitled ''Oversight of the U.S. Copyright Office'', 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Destroying America's Best Idea: Examining the Biden Administration's Use of National Park Service Lands for Migrant Camps'', 10:15 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Accountability, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation; and the Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs, joint hearing entitled ''Combating Ransomware Attacks'', 1 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Science and Technology at the EPA'', 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Action Through Innovation: Private Sector Solutions to Recouping Stolen Pandemic Loan Funds'', 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Ways and Means, Full Committee, business meeting on Documents protected under Internal Revenue Code section 6103, 10:30 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

Joint Meeting

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: to hold hearings to examine the United Nations and Ukraine, 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn Building.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of September 27 through September 29, 2023

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 3935, Securing Growth and Robust Leadership in American Aviation Act (the legislative vehicle for the continuing resolution), post-cloture.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: September 27, to hold hearings to examine foreign ownership in U.S. agriculture, 10 a.m., SR–328A.

Committee on Armed Services: September 28, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Derek H. Chollet, of Nebraska, to be Under Secretary for Policy, and Cara L. Abercrombie, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: September 27, business meeting to consider S. 2860, to create protections for financial institutions that provide financial services to State-sanctioned marijuana businesses and service providers for such businesses, 9:30 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on the Budget: September 27, to hold hearings to examine Medicare, 10 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: September 28, to hold hearings to examine opportunities to counter the People's Republic of China's control of critical mineral supply chains through increased mining and processing in the United States as well as international engagement and trade, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: September 27, business meeting to consider S. 654, to amend the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act to reauthorize Delaware River Basin conservation programs, an original bill entitled, ''Brownfields Reauthorization Act'', and an original bill entitled, ''Strengthening Coastal Communities Act''; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine the General Services Administration, focusing on examining the Federal real estate portfolio, 9:45 a.m., SD–406.

September 28, Subcommittee on Chemical Safety, Waste Management, Environmental Justice, and Regulatory Oversight, to hold hearings to examine solutions to address beverage container waste, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: September 28, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Marjorie A. Rollinson, of Virginia, to be Chief Counsel for the Internal Revenue Service and an Assistant General Counsel in the Department of the Treasury, and Patricia Hart Neuman, of the District of Columbia, and Demetrios L. Kouzoukas, of Virginia, both to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund, both to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund, and both to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: September 27, business meeting to consider the nominations of Thomas G. Day, of Virginia, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission, and Katherine E. Oler, Judith E. Pipe, and Charles J. Willoughby, Jr., each to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, 10:15 a.m., SD–562.

Committee on Indian Affairs: September 27, to hold hearings to examine water as a trust resource, focusing on access in Native communities, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: September 28, business meeting to consider the nominations of Richard E.N. Federico, of Kansas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit, Joshua Paul Kolar, of Indiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit, Jeffrey M. Bryan, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota, Eumi K. Lee, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, and Deborah Robinson, of New Jersey, to be Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, Executive Office of the President, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on Rules and Administration: September 27, to hold hearings to examine AI and the future of our elections, 3:30 p.m., SR–301.

Select Committee on Intelligence: September 27, to hold hearings to examine countering China's malign influence operations in the United States, 2:30 p.m., SH–216.

Joint Meeting

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: September 27, to hold hearings to examine the United Nations and Ukraine, 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn Building.

House Committees

Committee on Armed Services, September 28, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Examining Irregularity in the Strategic Basing Process for U.S. Space Command'', 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Workforce, September 28, Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development, hearing entitled ''How SCOTUS's Decision on Race-Based Admissions is Shaping University Policies'', 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, September 28, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled ''Investigating the Role of Electric Infrastructure in the Catastrophic Maui Fire'', 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

September 28, Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security, hearing entitled ''Powering America's Economy, Security, and Our Way of Life: Examining the State of Grid Reliability'', 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, September 28, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Reclaiming Congress's Article I Powers: Counterterrorism AUMF Reform'', 10 a.m., HVC–210.

September 28, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Communism on Our Doorstep: The Threat of China's Malign Influence in Latin America'', 2 p.m., HVC–210.

September 28, Subcommittee on Indo-Pacific, hearing entitled ''Lasers and Water Cannons: Exposing the Chinese Communist Party's Harassment in the South China Sea'', 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, September 28, Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security, hearing entitled ''Projecting Presence and Power in the Indo-Pacific: An Examination of the United States Coast Guard's Contributions to Maritime Security'', 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on House Administration, September 28, Full Committee, markup on Committee Resolution 118–22, updates and modernizes the Members Congressional Handbook; Committee Resolution 118–23, updates and modernizes the Committee Handbook; Committee Resolution 118–24, updates and modernizes the Eligible Congressional Member Organization (ECMO) Handbook; Committee Resolution 118–21, to approve an additional Committee Consultant Contract Agreement with the Committee on the Budget; legislation to updates House Rule 24 Clause 8 to clarify the Franking blackout period is 60 days prior to an election in which the members name will appear on a ballot to bring House Rules in line with the statute; H.R. 3196, the ''Architect of the Capitol Appointment Act of 2023''; H. Res. 458, requiring foreign state media outlets with credentialed members in the House news media galleries to comply with the Foreign Agents Registration Act by prohibiting the admission into such galleries of reporters and correspondents who are representatives of such outlets who are not in compliance with the requirements of such Act, and for other purposes; legislation which Extends the Federal Election Commission's Administrative Fine Program by 10 years; H.R. 4474, the ''Confirmation of Congressional Observer Access Act of 2023''; and H.R. 4460, the ''NO VOTE for Non-Citizens Act'', 12 p.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on the Judiciary, September 28, Full Committee, markup on legislation on the Federal Accountability in Interviews Reform Act; H.R. 1105, the ''Debbie Smith Act of 2023''; legislation on the Rape Kit Backlog Progress Act of 2023; H.R. 4531, the ''Support for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act''; H.R. 2553, the ''No More Political Prosecutions Act''; H.J. Res. 11, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to limit the number of terms that a Member of Congress may serve; and H.R. 786, to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide an additional place for holding court for the Pecos Division of the Western District of Texas, and for other purposes, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, September 28, Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries, hearing on H.R. 2437, to revise the boundaries of a unit of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System in Topsail, North Carolina, and for other purposes; H.R. 3415, the ''Pilot Butte Power Plant Conveyance Act''; H.R. 4385, the ''Drought Preparedness Act''; and H.R. 5490, the ''BEACH Act'', 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

September 28, Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs, hearing entitled ''Tribal Autonomy and Energy Development: Implementation of the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act'', 10:15 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

September 28, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing on H.R. 1121, the ''Protecting American Energy Production Act''; and H.R. 5616, the ''BRIDGE Production Act of 2023'', 2:15 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Accountability, September 28, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The Basis for an Impeachment Inquiry of President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.'', 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, September 28, Subcommittee on Rural Development, Energy and Supply Chains, hearing entitled ''Energy Independence: How Burdensome Regulations are Crushing Offshore Small Energy Producers'', 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, September 28, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, hearing entitled ''Clean Water Infrastructure Financing: State and Local Perspectives and Recent Developments'', 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, September 28, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, hearing entitled ''VA's Fiduciary Program: Ensuring Veterans' Benefits are Properly Managed'', 10 a.m., 360 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, September 28, Subcommittee on Work and Welfare, hearing entitled ''Modernizing Child Welfare to Protect Vulnerable Children'', 10 a.m., 2020 Rayburn.

September 28, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 5688, the ''Bipartisan HSA Improvement Act of 2023''; and H.R. 5687, the ''HSA Modernization Act of 2023'', 1 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Wednesday, September 27

Senate Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 3935, Securing Growth and Robust Leadership in American Aviation Act (the legislative vehicle for the continuing resolution), post-cloture.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Wednesday, September 27

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Continue consideration of H.R. 4368 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue.

HOUSE

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