



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 169

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2023

No. 176

## House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. McHENRY).

### PRAYER

Reverend Jeremy Leganski, Immaculate Conception Church, Elmhurst, Illinois, offered the following prayer:

Good and gracious God, we praise You, we love You, and we thank You for this day.

Draw near to these Members of Congress. Remind them of their calling to serve the true common good. Help them to be instruments of unity, peace, and reconciliation in our country and throughout the world. Bless them, guide them, and fill them with an abundance of Your grace.

May they decide everything for the well-being of all, and may they never turn aside from Your will.

May all that they do begin from You and, by You, be brought to completion. In Your name we pray.  
Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

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

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

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. NEWHOUSE 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.

### CALL OF THE HOUSE

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker pro tempore, pursuant to clause 7 of rule XX, I move a call of the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 7(b) of rule XX, the Chair confers recognition for that purpose.

Without objection, a call of the House was ordered.

There was no objection.

The call was taken by electronic device, and the following Members responded to their names:

[Roll No. 526]

### ANSWERED "PRESENT"—429

Adams	Burlison	Cuellar	Frankel, Lois	Johnson (LA)	McCormick
Aderholt	Bush	Curtis	Franklin, Scott	Johnson (OH)	McGarvey
Aguilar	Calvert	D'Eposito	Frost	Johnson (SD)	McGovern
Alford	Cammack	Davidson	Fry	Jordan	McHenry
Allen	Caraveo	Davis (IL)	Fulcher	Joyce (OH)	Meeks
Allred	Carbajal	Davis (NC)	Gaetz	Joyce (PA)	Menendez
Amodei	Cárdenas	De La Cruz	Gallagher	Kamlager-Dove	Meng
Armstrong	Carey	Dean (PA)	Gallego	Kaptur	Meuser
Arrington	Carl	DeGette	Garamendi	Kean (NJ)	Mfume
Auchincloss	Carson	DeLauro	Garbarino	Keating	Miller (IL)
Babin	Carter (GA)	DelBene	Garcia (IL)	Kelly (IL)	Miller (OH)
Bacon	Carter (LA)	Deluzio	Garcia (TX)	Kelly (MS)	Miller (WV)
Baird	Carter (TX)	DeSaulnier	Garcia, Mike	Kelly (PA)	Miller-Meeks
Balderson	Cartwright	DesJarlais	Garcia, Robert	Khanna	Mills
Balint	Casar	Diaz-Balart	Jimenez	Kiggans (VA)	Molinaro
Banks	Case	Dingell	Golden (ME)	Kildee	Moolenaar
Barr	Casten	Doggett	Goldman (NY)	Kiley	Mooney
Barragán	Castor (FL)	Donalds	Gomez	Kilmer	Moore (AL)
Bean (FL)	Castro (TX)	Duarte	Gonzales, Tony	Kim (CA)	Moore (UT)
Beatty	Chavez-DeRemer	Duncan	Good (VA)	Kim (NJ)	Moore (WI)
Bentz	Cherfilus-	Dunn (FL)	Gooden (TX)	Krishnamoorthi	Moran
Bera	McCormick	Edwards	Gosar	Kuster	Morelle
Bergman	Chu	Ellzey	Gottheimer	Kustoff	Moskowitz
Beyer	Ciscomani	Emmer	Granger	LaHood	Moulton
Bice	Clark (MA)	Escobar	Graves (LA)	LaLota	Mrvan
Biggs	Clarke (NY)	Eshoo	Graves (MO)	LaMalfa	Mullin
Bilirakis	Cleaver	Espallat	Green (TN)	Lamborn	Murphy
Bishop (GA)	Cline	Estes	Green, Al (TX)	Landsman	Nadler
Bishop (NC)	Cloud	Evans	Greene (GA)	Langworthy	Napolitano
Blumenauer	Clyburn	Ezell	Griffith	Larsen (WA)	Neal
Blunt Rochester	Clyde	Fallon	Grijalva	Larson (CT)	Neguse
Boebert	Cohen	Feenstra	Grothman	Latta	Nehls
Bonamici	Cole	Ferguson	Guest	LaTurner	Newhouse
Bost	Collins	Finstad	Guthrie	Lawler	Nickel
Bowman	Comer	Fischbach	Hageman	Lee (CA)	Norcross
Brecheen	Connolly	Fitzgerald	Harder (GA)	Lee (FL)	Norman
Brown	Costa	Fitzpatrick	Harris	Lee (NV)	Nunn (IA)
Brownley	Courtney	Fleischmann	Harshbarger	Lee (PA)	Oberholte
Buchanan	Craig	Flood	Hayes	Leger Fernandez	Ocasio-Cortez
Buck	Crane	Foster	Hern	Lesko	Ogles
Bucshon	Crawford	Foushee	Higgins (LA)	Letlow	Omar
Budzinski	Crawshaw	Fox	Higgins (NY)	Levin	Owens
Burchett	Crockett	Franklin	Hill	Lieu	Pallone
Burgess	Crow	Garcia	Himes	Lofgren	Palmer
			Hinson	Loudermilk	Panetta
			Horsford	Lucas	Pappas
			Houchin	Luetkemeyer	Pascrell
			Houlahan	Luna	Payne
			Hoyer	Luttrell	Pelosi
			Hoyle (OR)	Lynch	Peltola
			Hudson	Mace	Pence
			Huffman	Magaziner	Perez
			Huizenga	Malliotakis	Perry
			Hunt	Mann	Peters
			Issa	Manning	Pettersen
			Ivey	Massie	Pfluger
			Jackson (IL)	Mast	Phillips
			Jackson (NC)	Matsui	Pingree
			Jackson (TX)	McBath	Pocan
			Jackson Lee	McCarthy	Porter
			Jacobs	McCaul	Posey
			James	McClain	Pressley
			Jayapal	McClellan	Quigley
			Jeffries	McClintock	Ramirez
			Johnson (GA)	McCollum	Raskin

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

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



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H5047

Reschenthaler	Slotkin	Torres (NY)
Rodgers (WA)	Smith (MO)	Trahan
Rogers (AL)	Smith (NE)	Trone
Rogers (KY)	Smith (NJ)	Turner
Rose	Smith (WA)	Underwood
Rosendale	Smucker	Valadao
Ross	Sorensen	Van Drew
Rouzer	Soto	Van Duyne
Roy	Spanberger	Vargas
Ruiz	Spartz	Vasquez
Ruppersberger	Stansbury	Veasey
Rutherford	Stanton	Velázquez
Ryan	Stauber	Wagner
Salazar	Steel	Walberg
Salinas	Stefanik	Waltz
Sánchez	Steil	Wasserman
Santos	Steube	Schultz
Sarbanes	Stevens	Waters
Scalise	Strickland	Watson Coleman
Scanlon	Strong	Weber (TX)
Schakowsky	Swalwell	Webster (FL)
Schiff	Sykes	Wenstrup
Schneider	Takano	Westerman
Scholten	Tenney	Wexton
Schrier	Thanedar	Wild
Schweikert	Thompson (CA)	Williams (GA)
Scott (VA)	Thompson (MS)	Williams (NY)
Scott, Austin	Thompson (PA)	Williams (TX)
Scott, David	Tiffany	Wilson (FL)
Self	Timmons	Wilson (SC)
Sessions	Titus	Wittman
Sewell	Tlaib	Womack
Sherman	Tokuda	Yakym
Sherrill	Tonko	Zinke
Simpson	Torres (CA)	

## NOT VOTING—4

Boyle (PA)	Gonzalez,	Van Orden
Correa	Vicente	

□ 1245

The SPEAKER pro tempore. On this roll call, 429 Members have recorded their presence.

A quorum is present.

## ELECTION OF SPEAKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question now recurs on the election of a Speaker. The tellers will please come forward to take their seats once again.

The nominations are now in order.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK).

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker pro tempore, Mr. Clerk, colleagues, on behalf of the House Republican Conference, I rise today to nominate the gentleman from Louisiana, MIKE JOHNSON, as Speaker of the people's House.

We convene this esteemed body today at a time of great crisis across America, a time of unprecedented challenges in this hallowed Chamber, and a time when the very existence of our most precious ally, Israel, is under attack from forces of evil.

Yesterday, our dear colleague, our former Conference chair, the chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee, CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS, nominated MIKE JOHNSON in our Conference. She put it best when she said: "Trust has been broken, and we have come to a standstill. How do we restore trust between Members, leadership, and ultimately between Congress and we the people?"

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS noted that there is a sense that it cannot be business as usual. She said: "Above the Speaker's chair in the House Chamber is our Nation's motto, In God We Trust."

She went on to say: "The times in which we are living demand boldness,

unity, and transformational leadership that begins with trust in God and each other. Trust is when the magic happens. In the story of King David, we are reminded that man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

Today is the day that House Republicans will humbly look in our hearts and elect MIKE JOHNSON as Speaker of the people's House.

A man of deep faith, MIKE epitomizes what it means to be a servant leader. A deeply respected constitutional lawyer, MIKE has dedicated his life to preserving America's great principles of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

MIKE is a titan on the Judiciary Committee and a dedicated member of the House Armed Services Committee. As vice chair of our Conference, he has united all of our members to speak clearly and boldly on behalf of the American people. A friend to all and an enemy to none, MIKE is strong, tough, and fair. Above all, MIKE is kind.

At this very moment, this Republican Conference knows that we live in perilous times and that the American people are hurting. Families are struggling under the pain of inflation caused by reckless, far-left spending, unable to afford groceries, heat, or gas.

We have an inhumane open border, with millions illegally smuggled and trafficked and tens of thousands of children lost in the chasm of the incompetence and negligence of the Biden administration.

Israel is under attack by Iranian-backed Hamas terrorists committing atrocities, with Israelis suffering the bloodiest days in modern memory.

Crime is skyrocketing on our streets, while there are vicious calls from the left to defund our great men and women in blue.

American energy production has been crushed by Joe Biden's radical, failed far-left Democrat policies, causing seniors, farmers, and families to pay more at the pump.

Americans fundamentally understand that the Federal Government has been illegally weaponized against we the people, shredding the Constitution, targeting conservatives and parents.

Yes, I will say it again: The Federal Government has been illegally weaponized against we the people, shredding the Constitution, targeting conservatives, parents, and even Joe Biden's top political opponents.

The people are looking to this great Chamber to save America, and save America we will.

As we embark on the path ahead, I am reminded of Galatians 6:9: "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap if we do not give up."

House Republicans and Speaker MIKE JOHNSON will never give up. Today is the day we get this done.

May God bless our next Speaker, MIKE JOHNSON, and may God bless the United States of America.

□ 1300

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. AGUILAR).

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker pro tempore, I notice a little bit more of a smile on your face today than we have in the past.

Mr. Speaker pro tempore, I rise today at the direction of the Democratic Caucus to place into nomination for the position of Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Honorable HAKEEM JEFFRIES from New York.

Mr. Speaker pro tempore, you may agree with this, but we are back here 22 days into this Republican-manufactured chaos and House Republicans have brought us to the exact same position that we were back then. All of the infighting, all of the disarray just to end up where we were 3 weeks ago.

These past few weeks, we have been left wondering if Republicans were truly intent on solving our issues, reopening the House of Representatives, and rallying around someone to lead this Chamber, or has this been about something else? Has this been about a focus of House Republicans to find the person who can pass their extreme litmus test to oppose marriage equality, enact a nationwide abortion ban without exceptions, gut Social Security and Medicare, and support overturning a free and fair election?

It is a fair question. Nowhere in that candidate questionnaire is it about growing the middle class, helping our communities, keeping the costs of healthcare lower, and making life for everyday Americans better.

The gentlewoman from New York said it right: This has been about one thing. This has been about who can appease Donald Trump. House Republicans have put their names behind someone who has been called the most important architect of the electoral college objections.

He spearheaded the legal effort, joined by more than 100 of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle in support of a dangerous and baseless lawsuit to overturn the results of the 2020 election.

On the eve of January 6, some of my Republican colleagues even called this a failed strategy. Yet those same individuals plan to stand right next to him today.

Mr. Speaker pro tempore, House Democrats believe that when Members of this body voted to reject the results of the 2020 election, they forfeited their ability to lead this Chamber.

On this side of the aisle, we know what leadership looks like. HAKEEM JEFFRIES has never turned his back on the will of the American people. The son of two social workers, he has always stood by the side of working families. The most pressing needs of everyday Americans are his North Star. He believes that everyone in America should have the opportunity to get ahead and achieve their version of the American Dream. He believes that access to affordable healthcare is a right,

not a privilege. He believes that reproductive freedom must be guaranteed, not stripped away. He believes that working families, not the wealthy and the well-connected, should be rewarded. He believes in growing the middle class so that everyone can succeed. He believes that our schools and our communities should be safe and free from gun violence. He believes in investing in public schools, not depriving students of fact-based education by banning books. He believes in taking care of our seniors and our veterans, not slashing their benefits. He believes in living up to the promise that America is a beacon of hope and a land of opportunity. He believes in defending democracy against all enemies and adversaries, foreign and domestic. He believes in standing by our allies, Israel and Ukraine. He believes in keeping our government running and open.

Let me be clear: This is not just a belief system. Leader JEFFRIES has the track record to back it up. He is certainly a far contrast from who Republicans have nominated, with or without their votes, to nominate today, but if House Republicans choose they can still join us on a bipartisan path forward.

Let's come together to fund our government, support our allies abroad, and deliver for working families. Let's open up the people's House and end the chaos, end the dysfunction, end the extremism.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Reading Clerk will now call the roll.

The tellers having taken their places, the House proceeded to vote for the Speaker.

The following is the result of the vote:

[Roll No. 527]  
JOHNSON (LA)—220

Aderholt	Clyde	Garcia, Mike
Alford	Cole	Gimenez
Allen	Collins	Gonzales, Tony
Amodoi	Comer	Good (VA)
Armstrong	Crane	Gooden (TX)
Arrington	Crawford	Gosar
Babin	Crenshaw	Granger
Bacon	Curtis	Graves (LA)
Baird	D'Esposito	Graves (MO)
Balderson	Davidson	Green (TN)
Banks	De La Cruz	Greene (GA)
Barr	DesJarlais	Griffith
Bean (FL)	Diaz-Balart	Grothman
Bentz	Donalds	Guest
Bergman	Duarte	Guthrie
Bice	Duncan	Hageman
Biggs	Dunn (FL)	Harris
Bilirakis	Edwards	Harshbarger
Bishop (NC)	Ellzey	Hern
Boebert	Emmer	Higgins (LA)
Bost	Estes	Hill
Brecheen	Ezell	Hinson
Buchanan	Fallon	Houchin
Buck	Feenstra	Hudson
Bucshon	Ferguson	Huizenga
Burchett	Finstad	Hunt
Burgess	Fischbach	Issa
Burlison	Fitzgerald	Jackson (TX)
Calvert	Fitzpatrick	James
Cammack	Fleischmann	Johnson (LA)
Carey	Flood	Johnson (OH)
Carl	Foxx	Johnson (SD)
Carter (GA)	Franklin, Scott	Jordan
Carter (TX)	Fry	Joyce (OH)
Chavez-DeRemer	Fulcher	Joyce (PA)
Ciscomani	Gaetz	Kean (NJ)
Cline	Gallagher	Kelly (MS)
Cloud	Garbarino	Kelly (PA)

Giggans (VA)	Mills
Kiley	Molinaro
Kim (CA)	Moolenaar
Kustoff	Mooney
LaHood	Moore (AL)
LaLota	Moore (UT)
LaMalfa	Moran
Lamborn	Murphy
Langworthy	Nehls
Latta	Newhouse
LaTurner	Norman
Lawler	Nunn (IA)
Lee (FL)	Obernolte
Lesko	Ogles
Letlow	Owens
Loudermilk	Palmer
Lucas	Pence
Luetkemeyer	Perry
Luna	Pfluger
Luttrell	Posey
Mace	Reschenthaler
Malliotakis	Rodgers (WA)
Mann	Rogers (AL)
Massie	Rogers (KY)
Mast	Rose
McCarthy	Rosendale
McCaul	Rouzer
McClain	Roy
McClintock	Rutherford
McCormick	Salazar
McHenry	Santos
Meuser	Scalise
Miller (IL)	Schweikert
Miller (OH)	Scott, Austin
Miller (WV)	Self
Miller-Meeeks	Sessions

Adams	Foushee
Aguilar	Frankel, Lois
Allred	Frost
Auchincloss	Gallego
Balint	Garamendi
Barragan	Garcia (IL)
Beatty	Garcia (TX)
Bera	Garcia, Robert
Beyer	Golden (ME)
Bishop (GA)	Goldman (NY)
Blumenauer	Gomez
Blunt Rochester	Gottheimer
Bonamici	Green, Al (TX)
Bowman	Grijalva
Brown	Harder (CA)
Brownley	Hayes
Budzinski	Higgins (NY)
Bush	Himes
Caraveo	Horsford
Carbajal	Houlihan
Cárdenas	Hoyer
Carson	Hoyle (OR)
Carter (LA)	Huffman
Cartwright	Ivey
Casar	Jackson (IL)
Case	Jackson (NC)
Casten	Jackson Lee
Castor (FL)	Jacobs
Castro (TX)	Jayapal
Cherfilus-	Jeffries
McCormick	Johnson (GA)
Chu	Kamllager-Dove
Clark (MA)	Kaptur
Clarke (NY)	Keating
Cleaver	Kelly (IL)
Clyburn	Khanna
Cohen	Kildee
Connolly	Kilmer
Costa	Kim (NJ)
Courtney	Krishnamoorthi
Craig	Kuster
Crockett	Landsman
Crow	Larsen (WA)
Cuellar	Larson (CT)
Davids (KS)	Lee (CA)
Davis (IL)	Lee (NV)
Davis (NC)	Lee (PA)
Dean (PA)	Leger Fernandez
DeGette	Levin
DeLauro	Lieu
DelBene	Loifgren
Deluzio	Lynch
DeSaulnier	Magaziner
Dingell	Manning
Doggett	Matsui
Escobar	McBath
Eshoo	McClellan
Espallat	McCollum
Evans	McGarvey
Fletcher	McGovern
Foster	Meeks

Simpson	Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)	Smith (NJ)
Smucker	Spartz
Staubert	Steel
Stefanik	Steil
Steube	Strong
Tenney	Thompson (PA)
Tiffany	Timmons
Turner	Valadao
Van Drew	Van Dyne
Wagner	Walberg
Walsh	Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)	Wenstrup
Westerman	Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)	Wilson (SC)
Wittman	Womack
Yakym	Zinke

Strickland	Tonko
Swalwell	Torres (CA)
Sykes	Torres (NY)
Takano	Trahan
Thandinar	Trone
Thompson (CA)	Underwood
Thompson (MS)	Vargas
Titus	Vasquez
Tlaib	Veasey
Tokuda	Velázquez

Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—0  
NOT VOTING—4

Boyle (PA)	Gonzalez,	Van Orden
Correa	Vicente	

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker Pro Tempore, today, I missed rollcall vote No. 526 and No. 527 on the floor of the House of Representatives. I was in Philadelphia to be with my wife for a surgical procedure. Had I been present, I would have voted "Present" on rollcall No. 526 and "Hakeem Jeffries" on rollcall No. 527.

□ 1350

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The tellers agree in their tallies that the total number of votes cast is 429, of which the Honorable MIKE JOHNSON of the State of Louisiana has received 220 votes and the Honorable HAKEEM JEFFRIES of the State of New York has received 209 votes.

Therefore, the Honorable MIKE JOHNSON of the State of Louisiana, having received a majority of the votes cast, is duly elected Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 118th Congress.

The Chair appoints the following committee to escort the Speaker-elect to the chair:

The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE)

The gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. EMMER)

The gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK)

The gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HUDSON)

The gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER)

The gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MCCLAIN)

The gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY)

The gentleman from Florida (Mr. DONALDS)

The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. HERN)

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BERGMAN)

The gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS)

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON)

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. FALLON)

The gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO)

The gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CAMMACK)

The gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES)

The gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK)

The gentleman from California (Mr. AGUILAR)

The gentleman from California (Mr. LIEU)

The gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DELBENE)

JEFFRIES—209

Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nickel
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Peltola
Perez
Peters
Petterson
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
Manning
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN)

The gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE)

The gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. ESCOBAR)

The gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. UNDERWOOD)

The gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ)

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE)

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. JACOBS)

The gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. CROCKETT)

And the Members of the Louisiana delegation:

Mr. GRAVES

Mr. HIGGINS

Ms. LETLOW

Mr. CARTER

The committee will retire from the Chamber to escort the Speaker-elect to the chair.

The Sergeant at Arms announced the Speaker-elect of the House of Representatives of the 118th Congress, who was escorted to the chair by the Committee of Escort.

□ 1400

Mr. JEFFRIES. Speaker MIKE JOHNSON, Speaker Emerita NANCY PELOSI, Whip CLARK, Chairman AGUILAR, all of my colleagues, and government on both sides of the aisle, it is an honor and a privilege to once again stand before you as House Democratic leader.

From the very beginning of this Congress, House Democrats have made clear that we will find bipartisan common ground with our Republican colleagues whenever and wherever possible for the good of the American people, and House Democrats have repeatedly done just that.

It was House Democrats who provided a majority of the votes necessary to avoid a catastrophic default on our debt that would have crashed the U.S. economy and triggered a job-killing recession.

It was House Democrats who provided a majority of the votes necessary to avoid a government shutdown that would have hurt everyday Americans.

It was House Democrats who provided a majority of the votes necessary to secure \$16 billion in disaster assistance for Americans whose lives have been devastated by extreme weather events.

From the very beginning of this Congress, House Democrats have been governing for the people. We continue to look forward to finding bipartisan common ground whenever and wherever possible.

House Democrats will continue to partner with President Biden and Senate Democrats to put people over politics.

House Democrats will continue to fight for lower costs, better-paying jobs, safer communities, and to build an economy from the middle out and the bottom up and not the top down.

House Democrats will continue to push back against extremism in this Chamber and throughout the country.

House Democrats will continue to protect Social Security, protect Medicare, protect Medicaid, protect our children, protect our climate, protect low-income families, protect working families, protect the middle class, protect organized labor, protect the LGBTQ community, protect our veterans, protect older Americans, protect the Affordable Care Act, protect the right to vote, protect the peaceful transfer of power, protect our democracy, and protect a woman's freedom to make her own reproductive healthcare decisions.

These are blue lines in the sand, and we will work hard to make sure that they are never crossed.

We must also continue to stand by President Biden as he works to bring American hostages and Israeli hostages and international hostages held by Hamas back home.

□ 1415

We must also stand by our friends on the international stage. We have no better friend in the Middle East than the State of Israel. Israel has a right to exist as a Jewish and democratic State. The special relationship between the United States and Israel is unbreakable. Our commitment to Israel's security is ironclad. Israel has a right to defend itself under the international rules of war against the brutal terror unleashed on its citizens by Hamas.

Our ironclad commitment to Israel's security and the effort to defeat Hamas is not inconsistent with the goal of achieving a lasting and just peace between Israel and the Palestinian people. In many ways, it is a necessary ingredient because Hamas is not good for Israel. Hamas is not good for America. Hamas is not good for the free world. Hamas is not good for the democratic aspirations of the Palestinian people.

We must also support Ukraine in its courageous effort to defeat Russian aggression. There are only two paths in front of us: We can either stand up for Ukraine or bow down to Vladimir Putin. That is not a difficult choice.

We must stand up for America's national security. We must stand up for democracy. We must stand up for freedom. We must stand up for truth. We must stand up for the Ukrainian people until victory is won.

It is my expectation that in the next week or so the Senate will send over for consideration a bipartisan national security funding package for Israel, Ukraine, and our other allies throughout the free world that also includes humanitarian assistance for Palestinian civilians and others who may be in harm's way.

The House of Representatives should take up these national security and humanitarian relief packages immediately in totality and without delay. The time for gamesmanship is over.

The time for brinksmanship is over. The time for partisanship is over. It is time to get back to doing the business of the American people.

Let me conclude with an observation about the state of our democracy. Joe Biden won the 2020 Presidential election. He is doing a great job under difficult circumstances, and no amount of election denialism will ever change that reality. Not now, not ever.

Throughout the years, Presidents, from Ronald Reagan to Barack Obama and Dwight Eisenhower to Lyndon Baines Johnson, have spoken to this Chamber and urged us to put aside partisan politics for the good of the American people.

President Lincoln spoke to this Congress on December 1, 1862, in the middle of the Civil War, and noted that we in this institution had the power and bore the responsibility to save the Union. The stakes were high. As articulated by President Lincoln, we could either nobly save or meanly lose America as we know it; the last best hope on Earth.

This is a turbulent time in the American journey, and we have but one charge to keep during this moment of great fragility. Our Union must be sustained. Our Union must be strengthened. Our Union must succeed.

There are many throughout this country who are understandably alarmed at the turbulence of the moment, at the chaos, the dysfunction, and the extremism that has been unleashed in this Chamber from the very beginning of this Congress, but this too shall pass.

Our country has often confronted adversity. The good news is we always find a way to make it to the other side. We faced adversity in the 1860s in the middle of the Civil War when the country was literally tearing itself apart. We faced adversity in October of 1929 when the stock market collapsed, plunging us into the Great Depression. We faced adversity in December of 1941 when a foreign power unexpectedly struck, plunging us into a world war with an evil empire of Nazi Germany.

We faced adversity in the Deep South in the 1950s and 1960s when the country was struggling to reconcile the inherent contradictions between Jim Crow segregation and the glorious promises of the Constitution.

We faced adversity on September 11, 2001, when the towers and the Pentagon were unexpectedly struck, killing thousands of lives in an instant.

We faced adversity right here in the House of Representatives when, on January 6, 2021, a violent mob of insurrectionists, incited by some in this Chamber, overran the House floor as part of an effort to halt the peaceful transfer of power.

Every time we faced adversity, the good news here in America is that we always overcome. That is the power of American exceptionalism. That is why America is the land of the free and the home of the brave. That is why I remain optimistic about the future of

this country. That is why America is the last best hope on Earth.

God bless you. God bless the House of Representatives. God bless the United States of America.

It is now my solemn honor and responsibility to hand over the people's gavel here in the United States House of Representatives to a family man, a hardworking man, a Baptist man, a southern man, a son of a firefighter's household, the gentleman from the great State of Louisiana and the 56th Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Honorable MIKE JOHNSON.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Thank you all. First, a few words of gratitude. I want to thank Leader JEFFRIES. I do look forward to working with you on behalf of the American people. I know we see things from very different points of view, but I know in your heart you love and care about this country and you want to do what is right. We are going to find common ground there.

I want to express my great thanks to our Speaker Emeritus, KEVIN MCCARTHY. KEVIN has dedicated over two decades of his life to selfless public service; 16 of those years in this House. You would be hard-pressed to find anybody who loves this institution more or who has contributed more to it. He is the reason we are in this majority today. His impact can never be overstated. I want to thank him for his leadership, his friendship, and the selfless sacrifice that he and Judy have made for so many years. You helped build it, KEVIN, and we owe you a great debt of gratitude.

I want to thank the dedicated and overworked staff of this beleaguered House. They accept praise so stoically. Ms. Susan Cole, our House Reading Clerk—yes, all the clerks and all the staff, they are terribly overworked. This has been a grueling process, but they have served an integral role in keeping our Republic. We thank them for that service. I know we all do.

I want to thank my dedicated wife of almost 25 years, Kelly. She is not here. We couldn't get a flight in time. This happened sort of suddenly. We are going to celebrate soon. She spent the last couple of weeks on her knees in prayer to the Lord, and she is a little worn out. We all are.

I want to thank our children: Michael, Hannah, Abby, Jack, and Will. All of our children sacrifice. All of them do, and we know that. There are not a lot of perks to being a Member of Congress' kid. I want to thank all of your families as well for what they endure and what they have had to endure for the last few weeks. We have been here awhile.

I want to thank my faithful mother, Jeanne Johnson, who bore me at the age of 17; my brothers, Chris and Josh; my sister, Laura; all their families and all of our extended family. In Louisiana, family is a big deal, and we have a bunch of them.

I especially want to thank all the extraordinary people of the great State of Louisiana. We have never had a Speaker of the House hail from our State, and they have been lifting us up. I thank the people of Louisiana for the opportunity to serve you in Congress, and I am humbled by your continuous support. We will make you proud.

To my colleagues, I want to thank you all for the trust you have instilled in me to lead us in this historic and unprecedented moment that we are in. The challenge before us is great, but the time for action is now, and I will not let you down.

I want to say to the American people on behalf of all of us here: We hear you. We know the challenges you are facing. We know that there is a lot going on in our country, domestically and abroad, and we are ready to get to work again to solve those problems, and we will.

Our mission here is to serve you well, to restore the people's faith in this House, in this great and essential institution.

My dad, it was mentioned my dad was a firefighter. He was an assistant chief of the fire department in my hometown of Shreveport, Louisiana, a little town in northwest Louisiana.

On September 17, 1984, when I was 12 years old, he was critically burned and permanently disabled in the line of duty. All I ever wanted to be when I grew up was the chief of the fire department in Shreveport. After the explosion on that fateful day, he nearly died and it was a long road back. It changed all of our life trajectories. I am the oldest of four kids.

□ 1430

My dad lived with pain all the rest of his life, for decades more. I lost my dad to cancer 3 days before I got elected to Congress. He wanted to be there at my election night so badly. I am the first college graduate in my family. This was a big deal to him.

Several weeks after that, in early 2017, it was my freshman term, and it fell to me to be in the rostrum one night to serve here as Speaker pro tempore. I thought that was a big deal until I figured out that is what you do for freshmen late at night.

I think, if my memory serves, Ms. JACKSON LEE was winding down one of her long, eloquent speeches—not that I was not enraptured by her speech. I looked up at the top of the Chamber there and I saw the face of Moses staring down. I just felt in that moment the weight of this place, the history that is revered here, and the future that we are called to forge, and I really was just kind of almost overwhelmed with emotion.

It occurred to me in that moment that it had been several weeks, and I had not had an opportunity yet to grieve my dad's passing. I just had a sense that somehow he knew. I had tears come to my eyes, and I was standing here, and I am wiping them away, and then it suddenly occurs to

me the late-night C-SPAN viewers are going to think something is very wrong with the new, young Congressman from Louisiana. It wasn't Sheila's speech, I am sorry.

I just knew in that moment that my dad, my father, would be proud of me, and I felt that he was. I think all of our parents are proud of what we are called to do here.

I think all the American people at one time had great pride in this institution, but right now, that is in jeopardy. We have a challenge before us right now to rebuild and restore that trust.

This is a beautiful country. It is the beauty of America that allows a firefighter's kid like me to come here and serve in this sacred Chamber, where great men and women have served before all of us and strived together to build and then preserve what Lincoln did refer to as the last, best hope of man on Earth.

We stand at a very dangerous time. I am stating the obvious. We all know that. The world is in turmoil, but a strong America is good for the entire world.

We are the beacon of freedom, and we must preserve this grand experiment in self-governance. It still is. We are only 247 years into this grand experiment. We don't know how long it will last, but we do know the Founders told us to take good care of it.

I want to tell all my colleagues here what I told the Republicans in that room last night: I don't believe there are any coincidences in a matter like this. I believe that Scripture, the Bible, is very clear, that God is the one that raises up those in authority. He raised up each of you, all of us. I believe that God has ordained and allowed each one of us to be brought here for this specific moment and this time. This is my belief.

I believe that each one of us has a huge responsibility today to use the gifts that God has given us to serve the extraordinary people of this great country—and they deserve it—and to ensure that our Republic remains standing as the great beacon of light and hope and freedom in a world that desperately needs it.

It was in 1962 that our national motto, In God We Trust, was adorned above this rostrum. If you look at the little guide that they give tourists and constituents who come and visit the House, if you turn in there to about page 14 in the middle of that guide, it tells you the history of this. It says very simply: These words were placed here above us. This motto was placed here as a rebuke of the Cold War-era philosophy of the Soviet Union. That philosophy was Marxism and Communism, which begins with the premise that there is no God.

This is a critical distinction that is also articulated in our Nation's birth certificate. We know the language well, the famous second paragraph that we used to have children memorize in

school, and they don't do that so often anymore, but they should.

G.K. Chesterton was a famous British philosopher and statesman. He said one time: "America is the only nation in the world founded upon a creed." He said it is listed with almost "theological lucidity in the Declaration of Independence."

What is our creed? "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal," not born equal, created equal, and they are endowed with the same inalienable rights—life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness. That is the creed that has animated our Nation since its founding, that has made us the great Nation that we are.

We are in a time of extraordinary crisis right now. The world needs us to be strong. They need us to remember our creed and our admonition.

Turmoil and violence have rocked the Middle East and Eastern Europe. We all know it. Tensions continue to build in the Indo-Pacific. The country demands strong leadership of this body, and we must not waver.

Our Nation's greatest ally in the Middle East is under attack. The first bill that I am going to bring to this floor in just a little while will be in support of our dear friend Israel, and we are overdue in getting that done.

We are going to show not only Israel but the entire world that the barbarism of Hamas that we have all seen play out on our television screens is wretched and wrong, and we are going to stand for the good in that conflict.

We have a catastrophe at our southern border. The Senate and the White House can no longer ignore the problem. From Texas to New York, wave after wave of illegal migrants are stressing our communities to their breaking points.

We know that our streets are being flooded with fentanyl, and in all of our communities, children and even adults are dying from it.

The status quo is unacceptable. Inaction is unacceptable, and we must come together and address the broken border. We have to do it.

The skyrocketing cost of living is unsustainable, and Americans should not have to worry about how they are going to feed their family every week because they can't afford their groceries anymore. Everybody in this room should think about this.

Here are the stats: Prices have increased over 17 percent in the last 2 years; credit card interest rates are at the highest level in nearly three decades; and mortgage rates are now at a peak we haven't seen since 2001. We have to bring relief to the American people by reining in Federal spending and bringing down inflation.

The greatest threat to our national security is our Nation's debt. While we have been sitting in this room, the debt has crossed to almost \$33.6 trillion. In the time that it is going to take me to deliver this speech, it will go up another \$20 million in debt. It is

unsustainable. We have to get the country back on track.

We know this is not going to be an easy task, and tough decisions will have to be made, but the consequences if we don't act now are unbearable.

We have a duty to the American people to explain this to them so they understand it well. We are going to establish a bipartisan debt commission to begin working on this crisis immediately.

We all know that we also live in a time of bitter partisanship. It was noted, and it has been on display here today. When our people are losing their faith in government, when they are losing sight of the principles that made us the greatest Nation in the history of the world, I think we have to be mindful of that. We are going to fight. We are going to fight vigorously over our core principles because they are at odds a lot of the time now in this modern era. We have to sacrifice sometimes our preferences because that is what is necessary in a legislative body, but we will defend our core principles to the end.

In his farewell address, President Reagan explained the secret of his rapport with people, and I like to paraphrase his explanation all the time. He said: You know, they call me the great communicator, but I really wasn't that. I was just communicating great things, and they are the same great things that have guided our Nation since its founding.

What are those great things? I call them the seven core principles of American conservatism, but let me concede to you all, I think it is really quintessentially the core principles of our Nation. I boil them down to individual freedom, limited government, the rule of law, peace through strength, fiscal responsibility, free markets, and human dignity. Those are the foundations that made us the extraordinary Nation that we are.

You and I today are the stewards of those principles, the things that have made us the freest, most powerful, most successful Nation in the history of the world, the things that have made us truly exceptional.

In this time of great crisis, it is our duty to work together, as previous generations of great leaders have, to face these great challenges and solve these great problems.

I will conclude with this: The job of the Speaker of the House is to serve the whole body, and I will, but I have made a commitment to my colleagues here that this Speaker's office is going to be known for decentralizing the power here. My office is going to be known for Members being more involved and having more influence in our processes, in all the major decisions that are made here for predictable processes and regular order. We owe that to the people.

I make this commitment to you, to my colleagues here and on the other side of the aisle, as well: My office is

going to be known for trust and transparency and accountability, for good stewardship of the people's treasure, for the honesty and integrity that is incumbent upon all of us here in the people's House.

Our system of government is not a perfect system. It has got a lot of challenges, but it is still the best one in the world, and we have an opportunity to preserve it.

The last thing I am going to say is a message to the rest of the world. They have been watching this drama play out for a few weeks. We have learned a lot of lessons, but do you know what? Through adversity, it makes you stronger. We want our allies around the world to know that this body of lawmakers is reporting again to our duty stations. Let the enemies of freedom around the world hear us loud and clear: The people's House is back in business.

We will do our duty here; we will serve the people well; we will govern well; and we will make everyone proud of this institution again. We are going to fight every day to make sure that is true.

I look forward to the days ahead. I genuinely believe in my heart that the best days of America are still ahead of us. God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

I am now ready to take the oath of office.

I ask the Dean of the House of Representatives, the Honorable HAL ROGERS of Kentucky, to administer the oath of office.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. When our Founding Fathers chose a bold, new, and innovative self-rule government, it was met with deep skepticism by the world's monarchs. They said self-rule is only a dream. Our Founders said they are right; it is the American Dream.

Now it is our dream. We are in charge. The speakership of the United States House of Representatives is the crucial outpost for the well-being of the people's government, the keeper, if you will, of the dream.

Sir, if you wish to assume this awesome responsibility, please raise your right hand.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky then administered the oath of office to Mr. JOHN-SON of Louisiana, as follows:

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

(Applause, the Members rising.)

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Congratulations, Mr. Speaker.

□ 1445

**RESOLUTION TO INFORM THE SENATE OF THE ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER**

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

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 810

*Resolved*, That a message be sent to the Senate to inform that body that Mike Johnson, a Representative from the State of Louisiana, has been elected Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO INFORM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ELECTION OF THE SPEAKER**

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

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 811

*Resolved*, That the Clerk be instructed to inform the President of the United States that the House of Representatives has elected Mike Johnson, a Representative from the State of Louisiana, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER**

The SPEAKER. The Chair would take this occasion to note that the Speaker's announced policies with respect to particular aspects of the legislative process placed in the RECORD on January 9, 2023, will continue in effect for the remainder of the 118th Congress.

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER**

The SPEAKER. The Chair announces that the Speaker has delivered to the Clerk a letter dated October 25th, 2023, listing Members in the order in which each shall act as Speaker pro tempore under clause 8(b)(3) of rule I.

**RECALL DESIGNEE**

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
*Washington, DC, October 25, 2023.*

Hon. KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,  
*Clerk of the House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CLERK: I hereby designate Representative Steve Scalise to exercise any authority regarding assembly, reassembly, convening, or reconvening of the House pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution 1, clause 12 of rule I, and any concurrent resolutions of the current Congress as may contemplate my designation of Members to exercise similar authority.

In the event of the death or inability of that designee, the alternate Members of the House listed in the letter bearing this date that I have placed with the Clerk are designated, in turn, for the same purposes.

Sincerely,

MIKE JOHNSON,  
*Speaker.*

**APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS DURING THE 118TH CONGRESS**

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
*Washington, DC, October 25, 2023.*

Hon. KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,  
*Clerk of the House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CLERK: I hereby appoint the Honorable Patrick McHenry, the Honorable Adrian Smith, the Honorable Andy Harris, the Honorable Guy Reschenthaler, the Honorable Rob Wittman, the Honorable Ben Cline, the Honorable Richard Hudson, and the Honorable John Joyce to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through the remainder of the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress.

Sincerely,

MIKE JOHNSON,  
*Speaker.*

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the appointments are approved.

There was no objection.

**RECESS**

The SPEAKER. 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 44 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1531

**AFTER RECESS**

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 3 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER**

The SPEAKER. 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.

**STANDING WITH ISRAEL AS IT DEFENDS ITSELF AGAINST THE BARBARIC WAR LAUNCHED BY HAMAS AND OTHER TERRORISTS**

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 771) standing with Israel as it defends itself against the barbaric war launched by Hamas and other terrorists.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 771

Whereas on October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorists launched a massive, unprovoked war on Israel by air, land, and sea, including firing thousands of rockets;

Whereas this heinous assault took place just after the 50th anniversary of the start of the multi-front 1973 Yom Kippur War against Israel;

Whereas Hamas terrorists crossed the land border and began slaughtering Israelis and abducting hostages in towns in southern Israel, including children and the elderly;

Whereas since October 7, 2023, Hamas launched over 4,500 rockets into southern and central Israel;

Whereas since October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorists have killed over 900 Israelis and injured more than 2,600 others;

Whereas at least 11 United States citizens in Israel are among those killed by Hamas since October 7, 2023;

Whereas since October 7, 2023, Hamas is directly responsible for the deaths of hundreds of Palestinians;

Whereas the expansion of this war to other fronts by Hezbollah, Iran, or others would create an even more devastating regional catastrophe;

Whereas Hamas is a United States-designated Foreign Terrorist Organization;

Whereas Iran has long provided support to Hamas and other terrorist groups and proxies, and prior United States Government unclassified assessments indicated that, "Iran has historically provided up to \$100 million annually in combined support to Palestinian terrorist groups, including Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command";

Whereas Hamas used rudimentary, civilian equipment, such as bulldozers, paragliders, and rubber boats in its assault on Israel, demonstrating the importance of fully enforcing tight controls on what materials go into the Gaza Strip, including through thorough vetting of assistance;

Whereas under the 2016 U.S.-Israel Memorandum of Understanding, the United States pledged to provide Israel \$3.3 billion per year in Foreign Military Financing Program assistance and \$500 million per year in missile defense for 10 years, which Congress has appropriated annually;

Whereas section 1273 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 authorized not less than \$3.3 billion in Foreign Military Financing Program assistance for Israel for each of the fiscal years 2021 through 2028, in accordance with the 2016 U.S.-Israel Memorandum of Understanding;

Whereas Congress has responded with additional appropriations beyond the terms of the 2016 U.S.-Israel Memorandum of Understanding as needed, including in March 2022 when Congress appropriated an additional \$1 billion for Iron Dome defense system after the May 2021 conflict in which Hamas launched more than 4,400 rockets at Israel; and

Whereas Israel is a major non-NATO ally and Major Strategic Partner of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) stands with Israel as it defends itself against the barbaric war launched by Hamas and other terrorists;

(2) reaffirms Israel's right to self-defense;

(3) condemns Hamas' brutal war against Israel;

(4) calls on all countries to unequivocally condemn Hamas' brutal war against Israel;

(5) calls on Hamas to immediately cease these violent attacks and safely release all living hostages and return the bodies of deceased hostages;

(6) mourns the over 900 Israelis and 11 Americans killed and over 2,600 others wounded in Hamas' unprovoked attack on Israel;

(7) reaffirms the United States' commitment to Israel's security, including through security assistance in accordance with the 2016 U.S.-Israel Memorandum of Understanding;

(8) urges full enforcement of the Taylor Force Act (title X of division S of Public Law 115-141; 132 Stat. 1143) and other restrictions in United States law to prevent United States foreign assistance from benefiting terrorists, directly or indirectly;

(9) condemns Iran's support for terrorist groups and proxies, including Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad;

(10) urges full enforcement of United States sanctions against Iran to prevent Iran's funding of terrorist groups, including Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad; and

(11) stands ready to assist Israel with emergency resupply and other security, diplomatic, and intelligence support.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to extend debate for each side by 10 minutes, and I also ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, October 7, Israelis awoke to rockets raining down on them from Gaza, and gunmen broke down their doors and invaded their homes.

Hamas terrorists killed babies and toddlers. They killed elderly grandmothers and grandfathers. They killed moms and dads. They killed teenage kids in their homes. No one was spared from their brutality.

Following World War II, my father's war, I never believed the world would bear witness to the slaughter of the Jewish people as we have seen at the bloody hands of Hamas. October 7 was the deadliest day for the Jewish people since the Holocaust.

Additionally, Hamas is holding 220 hostages, including Americans. This is a flyer with a picture of a mother and son taken hostage by Hamas, #bringthemhomenow.

They are using them as human shields and threatening to execute them. They must all be released unconditionally now.

This is one of the darkest moments in the history of the State of Israel.

I was in one of the kibbutzim right on the border of Gaza last year, meeting with members of the community. I saw their daycare center. That very same kibbutz was overrun by 70 Hamas terrorists. Many of the residents I met were slaughtered.

Most viciously, the babies and the children I visited in the daycare center were slaughtered, shot to death, beheaded, and burned alive.

When the press says it didn't happen, they are just wrong. It did because I have seen the pictures of the burned babies and the decapitated children and the blood that you see here in the babies' cribs.

For God's sake, what is going on in this world today?

In one of the most horrific stories to emerge, a pregnant woman had her baby cut out in front of her very eyes as they murdered her baby before her and before they shot her in the head.

Simply put, Mr. Speaker, they are monsters.

At a music festival to celebrate peace, chaos, gunfire, and explosions ripped through the air, piercing hundreds of bodies with bullets and shrapnel. While the attendees attempted to flee the area, gunmen surrounded them from every direction. In total, 260 attendees assembled in peace to enjoy music were massacred.

Among others, atrocities we have heard reported include children with their hands bound, shot in the back of the head execution style; women who were raped and slaughtered, one of whom was dragged through the streets of Gaza; families, including babies and young children, burned alive in their homes in front of their parents; the beheading of Israeli soldiers; and parents gunned down as they shielded their children before the onslaught of gunfire.

This is sheer terror. It is evil. It cannot stand in this world.

We are witnessing in real time Hamas carrying out their covenant that outlines their goal of eradicating Israel through jihad. In fact, their covenant states: "Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it, just as it obliterated others before it."

They specifically discuss jihad, noting: "The day that enemies usurp part of Muslim land, jihad becomes the individual duty of every Muslim. In face of the Jews' usurpation . . . , it is compulsory that the banner of jihad be raised."

Mr. Speaker, it was indeed raised on October 7.

To be completely clear, despite repeated efforts by Israel to secure peace, the "Hamas Covenant" states: Peace "initiatives, and so-called peaceful solutions and international conferences, are in contradiction to the principles of the Islamic Resistance Movement. . . . There is no solution for the Palestinian problem except by jihad."

This declaration calling on the annihilation of the Jewish state must be confronted with zero equivocation.

That is why I worked with my good friend, Ranking Member MEEKS, to introduce this bipartisan resolution.

It condemns in the strongest possible terms the atrocities of Hamas and reiterates Israel's right to defend herself, along with America's unwavering support for the State of Israel.

All roads lead back to Iran. Their fingerprints are all over this attack. They have consistently funded Hamas and other Palestinian groups to the tune of \$100 million per year.

This resolution condemns Hamas and Iran for its support of terrorist groups such as Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic jihad while also calling for all sanctions on Iran to be fully enforced.

I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution. It will send a clear message across the world that terrorists and their sponsors will be held to account for their atrocities, their crimes against humanity, their crimes of genocide.

On December 7, 1941, in response to the bombing of Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt said it was "a date which will live in infamy." So, too, will October 7, 2023, live in infamy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this extraordinarily important resolution written with my friend and colleague, Chairman MCCAUL.

Mr. Speaker, 18 days ago, the State of Israel suffered the greatest mass murder perpetrated against the Jewish people since the Holocaust, when Hamas terrorists invaded Israel by land, sea, and air.

Behaving just like ISIS, Hamas terrorists murdered and beheaded soldiers and civilians alike. Babies were shot and burned in their cribs and reduced to smoldering piles of ash—babies.

Children were murdered. Teenagers were murdered. Men and women were murdered. Elderly people, including Holocaust survivors, were murdered.

Hamas has also taken 200 of those who survived into Gaza as hostages, including unaccompanied children, Holocaust survivors, and many American citizens.

Mr. Speaker, Hamas' attack was truly unprecedented. When you consider the size of Israel's population, proportionately it would be like 30,000 people dying in New York on 9/11. Just let that sink in a little.

We must all acknowledge that Hamas is a cutthroat terrorist organization that exists solely to destroy Israel. Hamas' terrorism does not help the Palestinians. In this moment, it is critical for Israel to know that the United States of America stands firmly by its side in this battle against Hamas.

Mr. Speaker, what I am about to say next is also very important. There are innocent Palestinians in both Gaza and the West Bank who seek normal and free lives and want nothing to do with Hamas or other terrorist organizations.



We cannot lose sight of this. We must keep them—many of whom are also children—and their safety and well-being in mind. In the immediate term, we must find a way to ensure the safety of those innocents who are in Gaza's war zone, and I support the Biden administration's efforts toward that goal.

The United Nations estimates that thousands of Palestinians have been killed since the terrorist attacks on October 7. We don't know for certain how many of those killed were civilians, but here is what we do know: We know that Hamas terrorists used Palestinians as human shields. We know that every single one of them would be alive today if Hamas had not launched its terrorist attack.

We must be aware and do all that we can to stop this war from expanding beyond its current scope. The administration and our allies are working around the clock to send messages and warnings to Iran and Hezbollah to stay out. President Biden underscored this message during his recent travel to Israel.

Do not test America's will. This Congress will have Israel's back as it degrades and eliminates Hamas' terrorist infrastructure. We know that it won't take a day. It will be difficult.

□ 1545

For too long, too many have been willing to contribute to the delegitimization of the State of Israel.

It is deeply concerning that even global leaders are already whitewashing one of the worst terrorist attacks in history while Hamas and its allies blanket cyberspace with misinformation about this war.

Just yesterday, Turkish President Erdogan said: "Hamas is not a terrorist organization, it is a group of mujahideen defending their lands."

This from the mouth of a NATO ally who has his own concerns about terrorists as an existential threat to his country.

President Erdogan's rhetoric is dead wrong. It is rank with hypocrisy, and its timing is extraordinarily dangerous.

The resolution before us is a bright spot of bipartisanship today during a very difficult time in American politics.

Mr. Speaker, 425 Members of this House of Representatives have cosponsored this resolution. There is no question in my mind that it will pass overwhelmingly, Democrats and Republicans alike. Most importantly, the American people believe in the Jewish state and believe in its survival.

In the days, weeks, and months ahead, I know the United States will continue to stand steadfastly with Israel to assure its defense and its long-term security.

We will also, as President Biden has outlined, remain committed to ensuring that civilians in Gaza have access to safe areas and continue to have access to food, water, medical care, and other assistance without diversions by Hamas.

We must also stay keenly focused on working to get United States citizens and their immediate family members to exit Gaza safely.

I conclude, Mr. Speaker, by raising an issue that the United States and Israel must address: What does a successful ground operation in Gaza look like, and how do we achieve the goal of leaving Gaza to a responsible Palestinian Government if Israel's effort to remove Hamas is successful?

One thing is for certain—the path to peace will require more Arab States to recognize that Israel has the right to exist and that we hold firm and will make sure that we could thereby have a two-State solution.

If you say Israel does not have the right to exist, you are saying that you do not want peace. I urge our Arab friends to join the Abraham Accords and acknowledge Israel's right to exist because that is the pathway to peace in the Middle East.

To the people of Israel, I hope you learn of the passage of this resolution today and know that the United States Congress and the American people have your back.

We mourn beside you and are working to provide the resources your government needs to defend you. We have deployed powerful military resources to the region to demonstrate just that support.

We are working all of our diplomatic channels to assure your success, and we are in this together. We will not waver. We will not quit. We will stand with our ally Israel.

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

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished chairman and the ranking member for this extraordinarily important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, our great friend and ally Israel, with significant assistance from the United States, continues to respond to the cowardly Hamas invasion that includes Hamas' psychotic terrorist butchering of innocent civilians, rape, hostage-taking, the beheading of babies, and daily indiscriminate missile attacks that are reminiscent of Nazi buzz bombs and V-2 rockets.

Israel Prime Minister Netanyahu has said in the past that he would never allow a second Holocaust, nor should we.

Anti-Semitism is at the root of Hamas' violence against Israel and every Jewish man, woman, and child. Israel's right to defend itself from this brutal invasion is absolute.

Hamas' 1988 charter explicitly demands the absolute destruction of the State of Israel and proclaims: "Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it. . . ."

Article 7 of the Hamas charter demands the slaughter of all Jews and says:

The Jews will hide behind rocks and trees, and the rocks and trees will cry out, there is a Jew hiding behind me, come and kill him.

Article 13 explicitly rejects initiatives for peace and reconciliation and states, "Initiatives, and so-called peaceful solutions and international conferences, are in contradiction to the principles of the Islamic Resistance Movement."

In its 2017 charter, Hamas reiterated its goal of wiping Israel off the face of the Earth and said: "There is no alternative to a fully sovereign Palestinian State on the entire national Palestinian soil, with Jerusalem as its capital."

Like the Nazis before them, Hamas and its chief terrorism sponsor, Iran, are committing genocide against the Jews.

The United States—and all people committed to human rights and the rule of law—must stand with Israel. That means our support and prayers and the weapons systems to defeat Hamas.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING), a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, 18 days ago, more than 1,000 Hamas terrorists invaded our Democratic ally Israel, and in the most gruesome, savage, and unimaginably barbaric manner attacked 22 Israeli towns, going house to house slaughtering families, raping girls, beheading babies, setting fire to homes where children were hiding in safe rooms, burning them alive, and taking more than 200 people of 40 different nationalities hostage, including taking infants and the elderly hostage.

They massacred more than 260 young people attending an outdoor peace concert. They perpetrated the worst attack on the Jewish people since the Holocaust, slaughtering more than 1,400 people, including 39 Americans.

In committing these horrific crimes against humanity, they have brought disaster to the very people they govern—the Palestinian people.

They hide their fighters among civilians. They place rocket launchers and weapons in schools, in hospitals, in mosques, and in residential buildings, compounding their acts of evil.

I was so proud that President Biden immediately expressed the full support of the United States for the State of Israel.

He traveled to Israel in a time of war to embrace the Israeli people, to show with his presence that the Jewish state has not only a right but a duty to defend itself against Hamas, a terrorist group that has in its charter as its foundational purpose to murder Jews and destroy the State of Israel.

Make no mistake: When they shout, "from the river to the sea," they are calling for the total destruction of the

State of Israel and ridding the Middle East of all Jews.

Well, let me say: not on our watch. The United States will stand side by side with our Democratic ally Israel. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting in support of this resolution.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER), the vice chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 771.

Today, the House has an opportunity to demonstrate moral clarity and moral courage. These past few weeks have exposed a level of anti-Semitism in this Nation that is frightening.

Whether it is schoolchildren chanting for the genocide of Israelis by calling for removal “from the river to the sea” or radicalized college students projecting anti-Semitic slogans on the side of school property, it is clear young Americans are being indoctrinated against Israel. These actions must be condemned.

Hamas is a terror organization that slaughtered innocent women and children. Hamas is a terror organization that manipulated Western media into doing their bidding by spreading lies about attacks Israel did not commit. Hamas is a terror organization that steals foreign aid, using it to construct rockets and attack Israel.

These are not my opinions, Mr. Speaker, they are facts. Yet too many refuse to call Hamas out for what it is: evil incarnate, focused solely on the destruction of the Jewish people.

Mr. Speaker, the United States Government must be united in support of Israel and against Hamas and anti-Semitism.

There should be no equivocation from the White House when asked whether the rise of anti-Semitism is wrong. There should be no equivocation from a Member of Congress about whether to stand with Israel or with terrorist groups like Hamas.

Today, this body is speaking loudly to the international community that Israel must have the resources to defend itself from genocidal terrorists.

With one voice, let us support H. Res. 771 and stand with Israel. If, Mr. Speaker, you cannot bring yourself to support this resolution today, I would encourage any such Member to do the right thing and resign from this body.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the former majority leader of this distinguished body.

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

For millennia, the Jews of the world have been subject all over the world to prejudice, hate, and violence.

Mr. Speaker, I have visited the Kfar Aza kibbutz over four times in the last 25 years. It was a place of community. On October 7, Hamas turned it into a place of slaughter.

This brutal terrorist organization will pursue its genocidal, anti-Semitic

mission to fight and kill Jews. That is their purpose.

The Jewish State of Israel will cease to exist if their objectives are achieved. Hamas will not yield, and neither can we.

As the resolution makes clear, we will stand by our ally Israel; have their back, Mr. Chairman.

Dozens of American civilians have been killed, wounded, and held captive in this war. We have also seen the scourge of anti-Semitism here in America.

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

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, we must follow this resolution with action. We must all vote for this resolution and speak with one voice; action that shows the world that America will defend its allies in Israel, in Ukraine, and around the world.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON), the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to support this bipartisan resolution, which has been offered by our chairman MIKE McCAUL and our ranking member GREG MEEKS.

I was born with an appreciation for the people of Jewish faith. My birthplace of Charleston, South Carolina, at the time of the American Revolution had the largest Jewish population in the New World who had come here to escape oppression and to achieve freedom, which they achieved in America.

I am grateful today to be the chairman of the Subcommittee on Middle East, North Africa, and Central Africa and co-chairman of the Israel Caucus.

Just 7 weeks ago today, I met with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who is so courageous and is serving there in Jerusalem.

I pledged then my support of Israel to defend itself from a nuclear Iran, which also includes, of course, support of Israel from the barbaric invasion of Hamas, the puppets of Iran who have conducted murder, killing hundreds of persons, 1,200 at least, and even possibly more than that, indeed, are puppets of Iran to kill people in Israel.

Sadly, we are in a conflict we did not choose with dictators with rule of gun invading democracies with rule of law.

On October 7, which is the Israeli equivalent of 9/11 and Pearl Harbor, I was grateful to be attending the NATO Parliamentary Assembly in Copenhagen, Denmark, where with Finland and Sweden, Western civilization has never been more united to defend Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan.

America's resolve for Israel I saw firsthand on May 14, 2018, leading a House delegation to fulfill President Donald Trump's opening of the U.S.

Embassy in Jerusalem with the extraordinary Ambassador David Friedman.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues of both parties to support the resolution.

□ 1600

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN), a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank HAKEEM JEFFRIES for his speech in favor of the importance of this resolution.

The scenes from Gaza are horrendous and some cry out for a cease-fire. Hamas cannot follow a cease-fire. They exist and it is in their charter to kill every Jew in the Middle East. If they agreed to a cease-fire, they would fall apart. They had a cease-fire on October 6, which is why they killed 1,400 civilians on October 7.

We can get a cease-fire when Hamas agrees to disarm and release the hostages. The loud voices demanding a cease-fire should be shouting at Hamas demanding those two actions.

We hear quotes from the Gaza Ministry of Health. The Gaza Ministry of Health counts in their death counts the terrorists who are killed and mixes them with the civilians. The Gaza Ministry of Health is under the control of Hamas.

Hamas brutally murders Palestinians who dare to dissent. It forces innocent Palestinians to act as human shields, and it steals aid meant for civilians. Thirty percent of the time when it shoots a rocket in an effort to kill an Israeli civilian, the rocket never leaves Gaza and it falls down to Earth where it may kill Palestinians, including those who died at that hospital in Gaza.

Israel is characterized as somehow a European colony. Keep in mind, the majority of Israeli Jews are there from Arab States and Iran from which they have been expelled or persecuted. This is a Middle Eastern country of Middle Eastern descent from people who, 2,000 years ago, lived there but also lived there right until the Arab States expelled them or persecuted them.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to a time when we can have a two-state solution, that begins with the destruction of Hamas.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM), the chair of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Indo-Pacific.

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution to demonstrate that this House stands united with Israel as it defends itself against the barbaric war launched by Hamas and other terrorists.

On October 7, we watched in horror as hundreds of terrorists poured across the Israel-Gaza border and massacred, kidnapped, and raped Israelis. It is abhorrent. This is at the hands of Hamas

and Hezbollah terrorist groups backed and funded by the Iran regime. They want to wipe Israel off the map. Thousands of rockets have fallen on Israel and continue falling as we speak. This has been the worst attack on Jews since the Holocaust.

I visited Israel last year, and I felt the constant threat of attack that the people of Israel face. It reminded me of my time growing up in South Korea as a young girl after the Korean war, and I felt that constant threat coming from North Korea. This is really personal to me. Hamas now holds around 200 hostages from Israel, the U.S., and other countries around the world.

Israel has a right to defend itself against terrorist aggression, bring its hostages home, and its right to exist.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman MCCAUL and Ranking Member MEEKS for leading this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER), a strong member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman MCCAUL and Ranking Member MEEKS for leading on this resolution.

Hamas is a terrorist organization that is backed by Iran, driven by hate, and committed to genocide. Since its founding, Hamas has been dedicated to the destruction of Israel and the murder of Jews.

All who cherish life, value democracy, and seek justice must resolutely condemn Hamas, condemn its heinous attack on October 7, and condemn its war with Israel.

Israel has the right and the responsibility to defend itself against Hamas, to protect its citizens, to secure its borders, and to rescue its hostages no matter how long it takes.

Peace will only come after Hamas releases the hostages, ceases launching rockets at Israeli neighborhoods from Palestinian neighborhoods, schools, and hospitals, and Hamas no longer governs Gaza or threatens Israel. Until then, Palestinians and Israelis cannot know peace.

Three points: Hamas is a murderous organization and its aspirations are no different than al-Qaida or ISIS. Twenty-two years ago, the United States went to war halfway across the world. Today, Hamas is not halfway across the world, but is entrenched on Israel's border.

Point number two: Israel must be able to defend itself and protect its citizens.

Point number three: The United States, the United States Congress, and the American people stand with Israel. Our relationship is unbreakable. Our commitment to Israel's security to a Jewish democratic State is ironclad.

Israel has no better friend than the United States and the United States has no better friend than Israel.

To those who cheer Hamas, who turn a blind eye to murder, rape, torture,

and kidnapping, you cast your lot with the barbarians and share in their shame.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA).

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, many in this body continue to say that no words can describe the horror that the Israeli people are facing. That is not true. There are words to describe it and they have to be said. Some of those words are simply the facts, the real information that we are not seeing. One of them is that we are constantly hearing from pro-Palestinian groups that in fact you have a right to resist occupation.

I have been in this body since 2001. I was in Israel under Ariel Sharon when he withdrew every single settler and every soldier from Gaza. Gaza has not been under occupation, just the opposite. When they didn't like the control they had after an election, Hamas seized, by violence, the control of Gaza, killing their fellow Palestinians. Since that time, they have been a war-making machine that has in fact been financed by Iran, equipped by Iran, and today it is Iran that owes an apology to the world, and the Palestinian people need to discount forever their association.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA), another strong member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS), and the chair for putting together this very strong resolution, H.R. 771.

The United States unequivocally stands with the State of Israel and its people.

The world is watching our actions today and tomorrow and by our actions will determine the future of democracies around the world; therefore, we must be unified and bipartisan.

Terrorism is never ever justified. Israel has the right to exist and defend itself against Hamas. Hamas is a terrorist group whose only purpose is to destroy the State of Israel and its people.

Therefore, Congress and the President must together pass a strong bipartisan package to support our ally Israel. We must send a strong message to Iran, Syria, and Hezbollah not to escalate the situation. In the President's word: "Don't." Don't think about it.

America defends its allies, Israel, Ukraine, and other freedom-loving democracies around the world. We stand by our word.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), the majority leader.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman MCCAUL and Ranking Member MEEKS for coming together on this

critical, important piece of legislation, the first piece of legislation under Speaker MIKE JOHNSON, to stand with our friend Israel as they are under attack from Hamas and other terrorist organizations.

Let's not forget what has happened because there are reports that Iran and other terrorist organizations worked with Hamas for not only months, but possibly over a year, planning these vicious attacks that now result in war and death of so many people—not just Israelis, Americans, hostages, so many injured, and thousands more.

This is horrific. This is an opportunity for people all around the world to stand with Israel's right to defend themselves. As we look at the casualties, the devastation, and the barbaric nature of the attacks coming from Hamas and Gaza, we must recognize that the funding that goes to these terrorist organizations can be stopped with stronger action from this Congress.

I know we are going to be coming together again to address some of those issues. We need to stand up against Iran's ability to sell oil on the world markets because they use those billions of dollars in funds to also augment and fund terrorism to groups like Hamas. Everybody knows it happens, it has been going on for years and years and it must stop. We must stand up against it.

We must also freeze the \$6 billion that still hasn't been transferred but that was negotiated as part of a settlement that even Iran has admitted can be used for whatever purpose they want, including funding terrorism. We can't stand by and let that happen either.

As we are taking strong action to stand with Israel, our friend in the Middle East, we must also stand up to the anti-Semitism that we see here in our country that pops its ugly head during ugly times like this.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud my colleagues. There are 425 co-sponsors on this piece of legislation that shows that even in a divided Congress we can come together when it is time to support our strongest ally in the region when they are under attack. We strongly stand with Israel.

Mr. Speaker, let's pass this legislation overwhelmingly.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), the former chair of the House Appropriations Committee and the current Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Committee.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am devastated by Hamas' brutal attacks on innocent civilians in Israel, which include taking children, women, and elderly people hostage. I strongly stand by our ally Israel and unequivocally support its right to defend itself.

This vicious assault was enabled by Iran, which has publicly praised the attacks. Now more than ever, it is vital

that the United States does not walk away from its global commitment to defend democracy.

This war is against Hamas; it is not the Palestinian people. Palestinians have also lost communities and loved ones because of Hamas' atrocities. Israel has to end Hamas' role in Gaza, while we work together to minimize harm to civilian populations. Hamas' presence is an assault on humanity, and I want to work with the unity governmental in Israel to create the conditions for peace again.

As ranking member of the House Appropriations Committee, I am intent on ensuring that we do everything that we can to provide the humanitarian and military assistance that is necessary for Israel to recover from this devastation and continue to defend itself.

□ 1615

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT), a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, let's be honest. If Hamas puts down its guns, peace will happen. If Israel does that, they will be slaughtered.

In these brutal attacks by Hamas terrorists, they have killed over 1,400 Israelis and taken over 200 hostages, including American citizens. I thought it was very telling when I saw a Jewish father on the news celebrating the fact that his daughter had died in the initial attack because he was afraid that she had been abducted and all these horrible, horrible things these dirtbags would have done to her.

We have had a few weeks of discontent here in this body, but today, I think we all stand united with Israel as a body. Israel and the Jewish people have long been targets. Hamas must understand their time is over, and they are about to meet their fate and their maker.

We stand in solidarity with the people of Israel in their fight against these worthless thugs—Hamas, Hezbollah, and any other Iranian-backed terrorist group. Our enemies must know that we are committed to our allies and that our enemies will die.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT), the former chairman of the Agriculture Committee, the current ranking member.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the very first thing I want to say is this: Take note, those of you who are around the world watching this House of Representatives in action, that the very first bill that we are putting out is a bill to send a powerful message that we not only stand with Israel, but we will fight with Israel.

There is absolutely no way, as God is our maker, that we are going to stand by and see Israel destroyed. Make no mistake about it. It is as clear as a bell. In the Holy Scriptures brought down by the mighty hand of God Al-

mighty: Stand with my people, the people of Israel.

Mr. Speaker, I was called upon as a member of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly to go to Iran to write the paper on Iran. I met the people of Iran, and I want the people of Iran to listen: Go to your mullahs. Go to your leadership. They are the ones that control Hamas, Hezbollah.

Then, I call upon our friends in Saudi Arabia. The answer to this is in your hands.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. JACKSON), a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. JACKSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there has never been a more important moment in the relationship between the United States and Israel. I call upon this body to take all necessary actions to unequivocally stand with Israel as it fights for its very existence in this unprovoked war launched by Iranian-backed Hamas terrorists.

I have and always will do everything in my power to stand with Israel. I, like the rest of the civilized world, have been disgusted with the unspeakable and barbaric atrocities imposed on innocent Israeli women and children by these animals that call themselves Hamas.

We must enact policies to provide Israel with anything and everything it needs to defend itself, to immediately end all illegal aid payments to the Palestinian terrorists, and to hold Iran accountable. As long as I have a vote in Congress, I will always cast my vote in support of the Jewish state.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from the great State of California (Ms. PELOSI), the Honorable Speaker Emerita.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution to support one of our closest allies in the world and partners, Israel, as she defends herself against terrorist attacks.

I thank Chairman McCAUL for his leadership in bringing this to the floor. I also thank Chairman McCAUL as well as Ranking Member MEEKS for their leadership and working together, crafting this resounding statement of support, and doing so in a unifying, bipartisan way.

Mr. Speaker, on October 7, we watched in horror as Hamas terrorists unleashed a brutal assault on Israel's families and slaughtered so many. We have gone into some detail about the brutality of it all. It is brutality outside the circle of civilized human behavior. The attacks were horrible.

With this resolution, the United States Congress resoundingly declares our support for Israel, not with revenge but with justice, that justice will be done.

While doing so, we continue to remain concerned about the humanitarian situation in Gaza, with civilians caught in the middle of the war. I echo Secretary Blinken's call for a humanitarian pause so that innocent lives can be saved.

Mr. Speaker, 80 years ago, on the floor of this House, my father, Thomas D'Alesandro, as a Member of Congress from Maryland, called upon the Roosevelt administration to support the establishment of the State of Israel in what was known as Palestine at the time. He was early in calling for that, so it is in my DNA to protect that State of Israel.

Hamas is dedicated to the destruction of the State of Israel. Hamas has been declared a terrorist organization by the United States. Hamas must be destroyed, but in destroying them, we must protect the children in Gaza. They use them as shields. We want to protect them.

This resolution, with overwhelming bipartisan support on the floor of the House, is so necessary. I urge a unanimous vote and thank the chairman and ranking member for their leadership.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR), a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this important resolution affirming Israel's right to self-defense against this savage war perpetrated by Hamas and other Iranian-backed terrorists.

While it was Hamas terrorists who invaded peaceful communities across Israel, decapitating babies, burning elderly women alive, kidnapping innocent civilians, including Holocaust survivors, it was Iran that was working behind the scenes to fund these acts of terror.

I support this resolution because it calls out the mullahs in Tehran for funding Hamas and enabling this attack to occur.

How did this happen? In short, it happened because the Biden administration's foreign policy allowed it to happen. Our government designated Iran as a state sponsor of terror, yet the Biden administration pursued a policy of weakness and appeasement toward Tehran.

Since the Biden administration took office, Iran has generated approximately \$80 billion in revenue from oil sales, and that is because this administration rolled back the Trump administration's successful maximum pressure campaign.

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

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. BARR. In 2021, the administration lifted oil sanctions on Iran. The sanctions relief was so helpful to the regime that the deputy chief of the Central Bank of Iran said that Iran's foreign currency reserves were growing due to the growth of oil and other exports.

For months, Secretary Blinken, National Security Advisor Sullivan, and other officials have chased another JCPOA to release billions of dollars in sanction assets. Now we see the administration effectively incentivize Hamas

to take American hostages by facilitating the transfer of \$6 billion from South Korea to Iranian banks in Qatar, a deal that this administration claims it has frozen for now but Qatar and Iran say is available to them today. Support this resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York has 7 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Texas has 10 minutes remaining.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and the State of Israel and to speak out against the horrific murder of 1,400 Israeli civilians and the kidnapping of hundreds more.

The unspeakable, genocidal violence inflicted on Israelis and the Jewish people by Hamas terrorists goes beyond condemnation. It demands action.

As part of a bipartisan and bicameral delegation, I was in the region in pursuit of peace when Hamas launched their cowardly attack on civilian communities. Three days later, I met with Israeli's unified leadership and pledged continued U.S. support for the defense of the Jewish state.

President Biden has led our Nation in mourning the dead, praying for the kidnapped, and mobilizing to support Israel in eradicating Iranian-backed death cults like Hamas, Hezbollah, and Islamic jihad, which are dedicated to the elimination of the Jewish people.

Israel has never had a stronger ally and the Jewish community has never had a stronger advocate or stronger voice in the Oval Office.

The unconscionable apathy of many nations and many in our own Nation is a sobering reminder of the fact that Israel remains surrounded by hostility and danger.

As a proud Jewish American and Zionist, let me be clear: Israel has a right to defend itself, and Hamas must be destroyed.

As an advocate for peace, normalization, and a two-state solution, it must be stated that Hamas is the primary obstacle to all three.

We should not tolerate Americans who rationalize massacres and lionize monsters while spouting off anti-Semitic tropes and accusations.

I will not equivocate because there is no equivalence between Israel's righteous efforts to protect its civilians and democracy from terror and Hamas using innocent Palestinians as a human shield, broadcasting carnage, burning families alive, and raping teenage girls to death. "Am Yisrael chai"; "the people of Israel live."

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL), a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman and the ranking member for their work on this bipartisan, strong resolution.

Iran and Russia are locked in a poisonous partnership committed to terror—terror in Ukraine, terror in Syria. Iran, as the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism, is further committed to the destruction of our ally Israel. On October 7, Iran's puppet, Hamas, commenced its most recent sick, savage slaughter of innocents.

America was the first nation to recognize Israel in 1948. Over the decades, we have stood at her side when she has been attacked by force over her borders. We have stood by her side at anti-Semitic rhetoric in the halls of the United Nations. Together, we have been at the peace table seeking solutions.

Today, united we stand on this House floor in prayer for the safe return of all the hostages taken by Hamas. I urge adoption on a strong bipartisan basis of this resolution in support of our ally Israel.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. THANEDAR).

Mr. THANEDAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 771.

I firmly stand with Israel in the face of terrorism from Hamas.

When I visited Israel in August, I saw how they were surrounded by threats. Now, those threats have come true in the most violent and terrible possible way.

Let me be clear, our goal is the eradication of terrorists and terrorism from the face of this Earth.

We call on and expect the Israeli army to try to minimize civilian casualties. We should make every reasonable effort to protect innocent Palestinians, but there can be no cease-fire until Hamas releases all hostages, stops its rocket attacks, and surrenders the leaders of the terrorist attack.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. KEAN), the chair of the Subcommittee on Europe.

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, for yielding me time.

On the morning of Saturday, October 7, Hamas launched the most brutal and expansive surprise attack on Israel since the Yom Kippur War 50 years ago.

□ 1630

The world stood in shock as reports and images began to surface of civilians murdered, young children beheaded, and Holocaust survivors being dragged into Gaza as hostages. Like many of my colleagues in this Chamber, I spent the past weeks engaging with the Jewish community leaders in my district, reassuring them of their communities' safety and speaking with constituents who had to flee back to the United States.

I stand here in support of this overwhelming bipartisan resolution, which has almost every single Member of the House of Representatives as a cosponsor.

As the House of Representatives, we support Israel's right to self-defense and survival. We stand against Hamas, against its terror, and against its masters in Tehran. We stand with Israel in its fight for survival and against anti-Semitism in all of its forms.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LOIS FRANKEL).

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, my grandfather, Abe, fled the Holocaust as 6 million Jews were shot and tortured and gassed and starved. We often say, "never again." Yet on October 7 it happened again, and make no mistake: The brutal, barbaric attacks by Hamas was not about freeing innocent people; it was about destroying Israel and killing Jews.

Today, I am proud to stand with all those who condemn Hamas, support Israel's right to defend itself, and reaffirm the United States' commitment to Israel's security.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAWLER), a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, women, children, babies slaughtered. The worst massacre of Jews since the Holocaust. Israel has a right to exist, a right to defend itself. We have Members in this body that do not believe that. We have Members in this body that cannot muster the courage or the strength to condemn the slaughtering of babies but have the audacity to repeat a vile and disgusting lie that Israel bombed a hospital.

They are not worthy of serving in this body, and the fact that we have people that didn't even sign on to this resolution tells you everything you need to know. If you cannot stand with Israel, our greatest ally in the Middle East, a beacon of democracy and hope and freedom, you do not belong in this body. Those Members should resign in disgrace.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York has 4 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Texas has 7 minutes remaining.

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

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. KUSTOFF).

Mr. KUSTOFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in favor of this critical resolution to condemn Hamas' brutal attack on Israel and reiterate our Nation's support, our strong support, for our greatest ally in the Middle East—Israel.

We all know that Hamas' heinous and unprovoked attack on innocent Israelis is barbaric. It is our responsibility as Members of Congress to stand united with Israel.

Let me be clear: Israel has a fundamental right to defend herself and her people during this war.

I am honored to be chairman of the bipartisan House-Knesset Parliamentary Friendship Group. From both

sides of the aisle, our members' support for the only democracy in the Middle East is absolutely ironclad.

This resolution demonstrates our unwavering commitment to Israel and our relationship. It is important for our Nation and the rest of the world to hear this strong support and commitment from the United States' House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman MCCAUL and Ranking Member MEEKS for their leadership.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this resolution, which expresses unwavering support for Israel.

This past August, I traveled to Israel. I find it absolutely heart-wrenching as I think of the very place that I visited just days later was attacked by Hamas at the Kfar Aza kibbutz where 58 people in the community were massacred and 17 kidnapped. It is just awful to think of babies being killed, people being slaughtered and gunned down in cold blood. At least 33 Americans have lost their lives. Others are missing.

Let's be clear: A nation must respond, and, yes, we must respond. Let us continue to extend our unwavering support to Israel and ensure that the people of Israel have everything necessary to defend themselves and dismantle these egregious Hamas fighters.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MORAN), a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, as a Christian, freedom-loving Texan and sitting member of the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee, the events in Israel these past weeks are of utmost concern, but beyond that, they should concern every American and, frankly, every member of humanity regardless of religion, ethnicity, race, gender, or political affiliation.

What we have seen in these past weeks is pure hate and pure evil. Hamas is a well-known, Iranian-backed terrorist organization whose official charter calls for the obliteration of Israel and the Jewish people.

Let's consider that for a moment. These last few weeks have been proof of their commitment to this goal.

How should we respond in the United States? The U.S. should act strategically with strength and steadiness so that those enemies of the U.S. and Israel are overwhelmed and ultimately defeated in their entirety. We must stand firmly with Israel with whatever they need.

Now is not the time for timidity. It is the time for strength and unity with Israel. Such action will help deter evil in the future, preserve life, and promote liberty.

Now is the time for us to be all in. We need to offer strength and steadiness in this time. Let us begin by standing with Israel.

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

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE).

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of America's greatest ally in the Middle East—Israel, its people, and its right to defend itself against the horrifying Hamas terrorist attacks that have taken the lives of so many innocent individuals, including 33 Americans.

Since that deadly attack, I have been working to assist Tennesseans and their families and friends in Israel in their attempts to come home. I have also joined members of the Tennessee delegation in a letter to President Biden urging him to support Israel by any means possible, including by providing any weapons and munitions necessary and punishing all involved in aiding the Hamas terrorists.

Lastly, I was proud to be an original cosponsor of this resolution we are here voting on today, which reaffirms our commitment to Israel and condemns Hamas' brutal terrorist attacks.

Mr. Speaker, we must do everything we can to protect and defend our friend Israel.

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

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER).

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, it is great to be back at work, doing the important work of the House.

Mr. Speaker, the United States stands united in the face of the horrific, barbaric attacks on our greatest ally in the Middle East—Israel.

The October 7 attack, nearly 50 years to the day after the Yom Kippur War, was horrific. More than 1,500-plus people murdered, hundreds more taken hostage, including American citizens. The brutality is unlike anything we have seen in modern times. With women and children being raped and babies beheaded, this cannot be the norm.

Israel has every right to protect themselves, to defend themselves and their sovereignty. Our country must support Israel's efforts to protect its citizens and uphold its sovereignty without question.

With misinformation and the horrible pro-Hamas demonstrations across the world, the U.S. Congress must reaffirm our unwavering support for Israel. Together, we must work toward a lasting peace that ensures the security and prosperity of our Jewish friends and Israel.

Let us stand shoulder to shoulder in this pursuit, unwavering in our commitment to justice, freedom, and the enduring bonds that bind our nations together. We stand with Israel today and forever.

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

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. FULCHER).

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Israel and H. Res. 771.

Israel is our most important partner in fighting terrorism. In fact, they are the first line of defense for the U.S. when it comes to terrorism because the sources of that terrorism are the same for both of us.

Israel is a fabulous intelligence partner. I liken them to a giant antenna in the Middle East that serves and provides information to America.

As the only true democracy in the Middle East, Israel is a beacon for the American ideals of freedom, personal liberty, and market economy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to stand together and support Israel and H. Res. 771.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, let me start off by thanking my friend and colleague, the Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. MCCAUL, for his friendship and for working collectively together to make sure that the world knows that there is no daylight between us when it comes to us standing with our friend and our ally the State of Israel, and I appreciate you.

When we first started this, after this horrendous attack on October 7, we had a conversation. We said, let's make sure that we put out a statement collectively, us giving our opinions as chair and ranking member of this committee. Then immediately thereafter, we went to work on a resolution so that the world would know where the United States' House of Representatives stood.

We thought we would get it done earlier, but we knew that the first bill, the first resolution that would come to the floor after the House resumed its business, would be this bill because this bill is so significantly important to state that we have the back of our friend and ally, and we want to make sure that Hamas does not exist.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the privilege and the opportunity to visit Israel several times. I have been in some of those tunnels. I have talked to the people, and when I have talked to the people of Israel, all they say is that they want to live in peace. When I talk to the Palestinian people in Gaza or in the West Bank, they say they want peace, but the Hamas terrorist organization when you look at their mandate, they say they want the destruction of Israel.

You cannot have peace. You can't even negotiate peace if one side says you should not exist. How can you say that you want a better relationship if you are saying that Israel should not exist?

□ 1645

You can't forget the horrific terrorist ISIS-like atrocities that were committed on October 7. You cannot be silent. You can't sit back and make believe that it didn't happen because it did.

Mr. Speaker, I say, as we end this debate, thank you to the American people for standing with our friend and ally, the State of Israel.

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

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, Mr. MEEKS, as well.

Mr. Speaker, that is how the Foreign Affairs Committee operates. The fact that this is the most bipartisan resolution in modern history with 425 cosponsors, over 97 percent of this body, speaks volumes. It sends a strong message to the people of Israel that the United States Congress and the American people stand firmly behind you.

The Hamas Covenant states, "Ranks will close, fighters joining other fighters, and masses everywhere in the Islamic world will come forward in response to the call of duty, loudly proclaiming: 'Hail to Jihad.' This cry will reach the heavens and will go on being resounded until liberation is achieved, the invaders vanquished, and Allah's victory comes about."

In response to this, we will strengthen our resolve to stand with our ally Israel. This resolution sends a clear and unequivocal message that the United States House of Representatives and the American people condemn the barbarity of the genocide and war crimes perpetrated by Hamas. We want to make it clear that Israel has the right to defend herself to prevent an event like this from ever happening again.

We assure you that the United States will be shoulder to shoulder with Israel supporting her right to self-defense.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to make it clear: I have condemned Hamas for their heinous attacks on civilians and call for an immediate release of the Israeli hostages. I continue to call for the safety of all civilians in the Middle East.

Unfortunately, today's resolution H. Res. 771 is horribly one-sided. By failing to acknowledge the growing loss of Palestinian lives or that all Palestinians are not Hamas, this resolution creates further division and spurs harmful rhetoric.

We must defend our Jewish brothers and sisters from Antisemitism. Muslims must also be defended from Islamophobia, and not have their patriotism questioned because they believe in justice for Palestinians.

As a senior Member of the Intelligence Committee and through my work on the Counterterrorism, Counterintelligence, and Counterproliferation Subcommittee—and having spent many years working in law enforcement—I am concerned that these kinds of one-sided resolutions have become and will continue to be recruitment tools for extremists.

This is why I am co-leading H. Res. 786, the Ceasefire Now Resolution, which I believe is the best way to prevent further tragic loss of life to Palestinian civilians and simultaneously ensure the safe return of hostages. Only then can we begin to move towards a long-term, two-state solution that includes both Palestinians and Israelis living in peace and liberation, side by side.

This resolution rightly mourns the nearly 1,400 Israelis and Americans killed and wounded. But it completely ignores the mount-

ing deaths of innocent Palestinian civilians in Gaza since October 7th, which has reached an estimated 5,761—including over 2,360 children killed and over 870 children missing under the rubble of destroyed buildings. Provided below, for the RECORD, are updated assessments about the destruction and deaths that civilians have suffered.

Pain and grief know no boundaries. The United States fails in our duties as an international leader if we do not wholeheartedly condemn all violations of international law, whether it is committed by Hamas or the Israeli government.

The United States urgently needs a new approach to this decades-long conflict. The roots of these problems existed long before October 7th. The Israeli government's 16-year blockade on Gaza has been identified by major human rights organizations as collective punishment and a war crime—and it has resulted in poor health, social, educational, physical, and political infrastructure throughout Palestine.

Although I will vote "no" on this resolution, I urge every colleague who will vote today for H. Res. 771, to join me in bringing H. Res. 786 to the floor for a Ceasefire Now.

UNRWA Situation Report #14 on the situation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank (including East Jerusalem)

All information valid as of 24 October 2023 at 18:00 (local time)—Day 17 of hostilities

#### 1. KEY POINTS

More than 613,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) are sheltering in 150 UNRWA facilities across the Gaza strip.

In the last 24 hours, another three UNRWA staff members have been killed, bringing the total to 38 staff killed since 7 October. Two have been injured, one of whom is in a critical condition.

One school in Rafah, sheltering 4,600 IDPs, sustained severe collateral damage due to a close proximity strike. One IDP was killed and 44 more were injured, including nine children.

Fuel is urgently needed to continue the UNRWA lifesaving humanitarian operations. If fuel is not received into Gaza, UNRWA will be forced to significantly reduce and in some cases bring its humanitarian operations across the Gaza Strip to a halt. The coming 24 hours are very critical.

#### 2. OVERALL SITUATION

##### THE GAZA STRIP

According to the Ministry of Health in Gaza, 5,791 people have been killed since 7 October, including 2,360 children, 1,292 women, 295 elderly, and 16,298 were injured. This is in addition to the 1,550 reported missing, presumably under the rubble of destroyed buildings, including 870 children.

Overall, nearly 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals have been killed in Israel, according to the Israel authorities, the vast majority on 7 October (OCHA).

In the West Bank, 95 people have been killed and nearly 1,900 injured since 7 October.

Overcrowding conditions in UNRWA shelters remain a serious concern, as the current facilities can no longer provide dignified living conditions. Some shelters are currently hosting 10 to 12 times more people than their designed capacity.

#### 3. HUMANITARIAN ACCESS & PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS

##### THE GAZA STRIP

Since 7 October, 38 UNRWA colleagues were killed and 20 have been injured, with one in critical condition.

At least 42 UNRWA installations have been impacted since 7 October.

#### 4. UNRWA RESPONSE

##### THE GAZA STRIP

UNRWA Shelters:

The average number of IDPs per shelter has reached 2.7 times capacity, with some shelters reaching 12 times intended occupancy. In the Middle Area, one school is hosting up to 13,300 IDPs, while another facility in Khan Younis is hosting 21,000 persons.

UNRWA continues to distribute assistance in shelters; however current conditions severely constrain access to essential services and represent a health and protection risk for IDPs.

Health:

The eight UNRWA health centres that remain operational in the South (out of 22) recorded 4,200 visits on 24 October for refugees and non-refugees. In addition to essential primary healthcare, post-natal and high-risk pregnancy care services resumed on 24 October with 40 displaced women receiving this service. Healthcare support for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) patients continued.

Healthcare services were maintained within the UNRWA shelters, with the support of 93 mobile medical units and medical teams, serving around 10,000 cases at shelters.

According to initial health assessments from the mobile medical teams there are over 37,500 persons with NCDs, over 4,660 pregnant women and around 390 post-natal cases requiring medical attention among the IDPs. In addition, medical teams are increasingly identifying cases of acute respiratory and diarrhea among children under five years old.

UNRWA's stocks of medicines are critically decreasing with availability for a few more days only.

UNRWA primary health centres are running out of fuel, threatening the provision of essential healthcare services.

Psychosocial Support:

UNRWA has counsellors and social workers in the shelters, who provide psychological first aid and other specialized protection services. Since the beginning of the crisis, UNRWA social workers provided 8,900 people with psychosocial support and social work services. These include cases that are referred for medication and other specialized mental health and psychosocial support interventions.

Protection/Crisis Intervention Unit (CIU):

UNRWA conducted a Rapid Gender Analysis (RGA) to identify the different impacts of the war on women, men, girls and boys and better understand their different needs and coping strategies. The RGA highlighted the following:

There is a shortage of feminine hygiene supplies and very few toilets. This results in increased challenges for females to maintain menstrual hygiene.

Overcrowding and limited privacy increase familial tensions (which can increase the risk of GBV) and broader tensions between males.

There are critical gaps in access to health services that particularly affect women and adolescent girls, including access to comprehensive emergency obstetric care, newborn care and sexual and reproductive health services.

Water and Sanitation Services (WASH):

Some solid waste collection from the camps and from emergency shelters and transfer to landfills continues in Middle, Khan Younis and Rafah areas with difficulties due to the scarcity of fuel and staff.

Water wells in Jabalia, Khan Younis and Rafah are functional with about 11,000 m<sup>3</sup> being pumped from nine water wells.

Despite the limited availability of fuel, desalination plants continue to operate in the shelters for the provision of potable water. Water trucking operations in shelters in Rafah and Khan Younis also continue; however, the potable water provided is not enough to meet all needs.

Maintenance and rehabilitation work at shelters continue on a daily basis. This includes essential repairs and upgrading of shelters to accommodate additional IDPs when possible, as well as the installation of mobile showers and toilet units.

This resolution, while mourning the devastating loss of Israeli civilian life, fails to even acknowledge the killing and targeting of Palestinian civilians by the Israeli military. It uses incendiary language that encourages the suffocating military siege of the Gaza Strip and that escalates violence and war.

Furthermore, by stating Congressional support for possible shipment of further US weapons to the Israeli military, this resolution will significantly worsen and exacerbate violence against Palestinian and Israeli civilians alike.

Since this resolution was introduced, the Israeli government and military have continued to carry out shocking and horrifying violence, including clear and documented war crimes against Palestinians in Gaza. It does not even so much as acknowledge the overwhelming loss of life of Palestinians.

The Israeli military has already targeted Palestinian residential buildings, in some cases wiping out entire generations of the same Palestinian family, killed over 2,000 children, attacked first responders, demolished mosques, and bombed schools. The Meeks McCaul resolution fails to name or address any of these war crimes, or to even acknowledge that Palestinian civilians have been killed by the Israeli military.

Several days ago, after this resolution was introduced, the Israeli Air Force announced that it had dropped 6,000 bombs on Gaza in six days. Experts have said that this means Israel has dropped, in less than a week, the same amount of bombs that the U.S. dropped in a year of war in Afghanistan—and in a much smaller and more densely populated area. Those of us who want to build a future toward peace must wake up and speak out against this.

Israeli officials themselves have stated clearly that they are carrying out collective punishment of Palestinians in Gaza and use dehumanizing rhetoric that fuels the violence. Israeli Minister of Defense Yoav Gallant said: “I have ordered a complete siege on Gaza. No electricity, no food, no water, no fuel. Everything is closed. We are fighting human animals, and we act accordingly.” As members of Congress, it is our moral obligation not to support or echo these calls.

Last Friday, after this resolution was introduced, the Israeli military called for all civilians of Gaza City—1.1 million people—to relocate south within 24 hours, as it amassed tanks for an expected ground invasion. The UN responded that evacuating everyone was impossible, with power supplies cut and food and water running short after Israel placed Gaza under total siege, and said this would have “devastating humanitarian consequences.” The scale of atrocities is enormous.

Doctors Without Borders staff say that painkillers and anesthesia for operations have run out in Gaza, and sick patients are screaming in pain while they also face the looming threat of bombardment. They have called on Israel to “show humanity”—and we in Congress must do the same.

More quotes from Israeli government officials reflecting dehumanizing and violent rhetoric, and intentions to carry out collec-

tive punishment against Palestinians in Gaza:

“I have ordered a complete siege on Gaza. No electricity, no food, no water, no fuel. Everything is closed. We are fighting human animals, and we act accordingly.” Israeli Minister of Defense, Yoav Gallant

“This is a war between the children of light and the children of darkness . . . It will be a deadly war.” Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant

“Humanitarian aid to Gaza? No electrical switch will be turned on, no water hydrant will be opened and no fuel truck will enter until the Israeli abductees are returned home.” Israeli Minister of Energy Israel Katz

“Gaza will eventually turn into a city of tents. There will be no buildings.” Israeli security official

“I say to the residents of Gaza: leave now because we will operate forcefully everywhere.” Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu. Palestinian civilians are literally unable to flee or leave, because they are trapped under a 16-year Israeli military siege.

“Right now, one goal: Nakba! A Nakba that will overshadow the Nakba of 48.” Israeli Member of the Knesset Ariel Kallner, referring to 1948 when hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were forcibly displaced from their homes and land.

“It’s time to be cruel.” Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich

“We need to deliver a blow that has not been seen for 50 years and take down Gaza.” Israeli Member of the Knesset Haim Katz

“ Hamas has opened the gates of hell into the Gaza strip.” Head of the Israeli Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories

Specifics notes on the resolution:

“Whereas on October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorists launched a massive, unprovoked war on Israel by air, land, and sea, including firing thousands of rockets;”

This whereas clause decontextualizes this violence, which did not begin on Saturday. Between January and September 2023, Israel killed 227 Palestinians, according to the UN. Israeli settlers have rampaged throughout Palestinian communities, torching houses and killing people. Entire Palestinian communities have been driven from their homes by Israeli settler violence. Israel has repeatedly attacked the more than 2 million Palestinians living under its more than 16-year siege of Gaza, killing thousands of Palestinian civilians, including hundreds of Palestinian children. Palestinians have endured more than 75 years of brutal Israeli rule, during which time tens of thousands of Palestinians have been killed. They have suffered from the systematic violation of their human rights by Israel since 1948 and have been denied their freedom and self-determination.

Whereas since October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorists have killed over 700 Israelis and injured more than 2,500 others;

The failure of this whereas clause to mention the fact that Israel has killed more than 6,546 Palestinians since October 7, including over 2,000 children, is deeply problematic. All human life is precious and sacred. This deliberate erasure of Palestinians killed by Israel is deeply dehumanizing.

Whereas since October 7, 2023, Hamas is directly responsible for the deaths of hundreds of Palestinians;

This whereas clause blames Palestinians for their own deaths. War crimes go not justify more war crimes. Israel has decided to attack Palestinians in the Gaza Strip by targeting residential buildings, hospitals, ambulances, schools, and mosques in one of the most densely populated places on earth, knowing full well the grievous toll that such

attacks will inflict on Palestinian civilians. Israel, especially as the occupying power of the Gaza Strip under international law, is responsible for any violations of human rights and international law it commits, just as Hamas is responsible for any violations that it commits.

Whereas Hamas used rudimentary, civilian equipment such as bulldozers, paragliders, and rubber boats in its assault on Israel, demonstrating the importance of fully enforcing tight controls on what materials go into the Gaza Strip, including through thorough vetting of assistance;

This whereas clause advocates for the tightening of Israel’s more than 15 year illegal siege against 2 million Palestinian civilians trapped in the Gaza Strip. Imposing collective punishment against civilians by denying them access to food, clean water, electricity, fuel, healthcare and medicine, etc.—all prominent components of Israel’s illegal siege on Gaza—is a grave war crime.

Stands with Israel as it defends itself against the barbaric war launched by Hamas and other terrorists;

Congress should stand with all victims of violence, not express selective concern for the lives of some but not others. This resolved clause dehumanizes the Palestinian people.

Mourns the over 700 Israelis killed and over 2,000 others wounded in Hamas’ unprovoked attack on Israel;

The failure to even mention Palestinian deaths in this resolved clause is deeply problematic. Congress should mourn the loss of all civilians killed, including the more than 6,546 Palestinians since October 7, including over 2,000 children. All human life is precious and sacred. This deliberate erasure of Palestinians killed by Israel is deeply dehumanizing.

Stands ready to assist Israel with emergency resupply and other security, diplomatic, and intelligence support.

Congress should be taking steps to save lives and end the violence, not exacerbate the violence by sending additional weapons to Israel. Israel is already committing apparent war crimes by targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure in Gaza. Providing Israel with more weapons deepens U.S. complicity in Israeli violence against Palestinian civilians and reinforces the existing, untenable status quo of Israeli oppression of Palestinians.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it is hard to describe the anguish I feel in the aftermath of the horrific attack on Israel by Hamas. It continues the record I’ve seen from Hamas for as long as I’ve been in Congress. Under Yasser Arafat, Hamas torpedoed a peace agreement that was almost adopted with President Clinton. The pain was magnified because we were so close to an agreement for lasting peace. Even though optimism for the two-state solution has faded, I still believe it is the best chance for long-term peace and security. Ultimately, there is no military solution to this conflict.

I’ve traveled to Israel several times over the last 25 years and am heartsick that the optimism I first encountered there appears to have melted away. During my first trip to Israel in 1999, I met at a police command center in Ramallah led by both an Israeli officer and a Palestinian officer who were working cooperatively towards keeping the peace. Now we are on the edge of a humanitarian catastrophe made even worse with the widening scope of this war.

I am deeply concerned for the safety and security of the two million civilians in Gaza,



half of whom are children. Israel cutting off water, electricity, medicine, fuel, and humanitarian aid has already created horrific consequences. These actions are not recipes for lasting peace in the region.

It was important for President Biden to acknowledge the mistakes that America made in our military response to 9/11 in Iraq and Afghanistan. We lost our perspective. We overreacted and the world is still paying the price.

I hope the Israeli government pays attention to the President's words of caution—to follow international law and responsibilities for the rules of war. They must work to avoid civilian casualties.

As someone who has worked for years trying to solve the water and sanitation crisis in Gaza, I know full well the consequences they face.

As Congress provides funding to deal with this crisis, I hope we can redouble our effort for humanitarian assistance, using our leverage to urge restraint, and move as quickly as possible to help the Palestinian people. I hope there is a humanitarian pause with a corridor for civilian safety so that it can allow a reset for food, water and medicine, and fuel to help them survive.

I pray that everyone will work together to avoid having this humanitarian crisis spill out in the region and engulfing more people and accomplishing nothing.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise, cognizant of the urgency of the situation in the Middle East and the spirit in which this resolution has been put forth.

As we conscientiously denounce the horrific crimes against humanity committed by Hamas, let us remember our ultimate goal of peace, the need for diplomacy, as well as our commitment to a two-state solution. I regret that the vision of peace between Israel and Palestine by way of a two-state solution is not referenced in the resolution. I sincerely believe that this non-inclusion risks conveying an incomplete representation of our nation's longstanding position on this pressing matter at a critical time in our history. The situation in Israel and Palestine is highly sensitive, and our response should denounce the violation of human rights, while supporting Israeli and Palestinian victims. Omitting such judicious principled concepts from our resolution could inadvertently give the erroneous impression that we have abandoned the Palestinians as well as the two-state solution to peace. I called these issues to the attention of the Foreign Affairs Committee in a letter delivered to the committee on October 12, 2023.

To this end and because I had no hand in drafting the resolution, I propose that we amend the resolution under consideration to include the following: "Whereas the U.S. House of Representatives desires lasting peace between Israel and Palestine.", "Whereas the two-state solution has and continues to be the best path to lasting peace.", "Whereas we mourn the deaths and suffering of babies as well as innocent Palestinian and Israeli people of all ages.", "Whereas our support for humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian babies and innocent civilian Palestinian people is a necessity.", and "Resolved that the House of Representatives desires a two-state solution that leads to peace between Israel and Palestine."

The resolution without these principle points will lead me, as a matter of conscience, to not

vote "yea." I realize that on this vote I may stand alone. However, on votes of conscience I believe it is better to stand alone than not stand at all.

As we witness the calls for war, let us remember our moral imperative to stand for peace at the genesis of war. Doing so will make clear our unwavering commitment to not only Israel's defense but also to the ultimate vision of peace that we all wish to see materialize in the region.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in the immediate aftermath of the horrific October 7, 2023, attacks on Israel by Hamas militants, I co-sponsored H. Res. 771 in solidarity with the people of Israel. The resolution was intended to send an immediate message of bipartisan support. Unfortunately, Republican dysfunction (inability to elect a speaker of the House) prevented the resolution from moving to the floor for nearly three weeks.

In the interim, as the conflict deepened, my Republican colleagues refused to update the text of the resolution to reference the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and the civilian casualties in both Israel and Gaza. While I support many of the goals of this resolution, Congress must recognize that the suffering from this war is not one-sided.

As I will vote present on this resolution, I hope that Congress can put partisanship aside, helping Israel and pushing Hamas to work toward an immediate ceasefire—or, at minimum, a temporary cessation of hostilities to protect civilians, transport humanitarian aid, and secure the safe return of all hostages.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 771, the bipartisan resolution condemning the heinous October 7 terrorist attacks by Hamas that have resulted in the senseless deaths of Israelis, Palestinians, and more than 30 American citizens. Hundreds remain missing and many are held hostage—including women, children, and even infants.

Savage attacks killing innocent civilians are never justified, and the Hamas attacks of October 7 were perpetrated against Israeli communities for the goal of annihilation. These crimes cross a red line and must be unequivocally condemned as they are clear violations of international human rights law.

Israel has a right to defend its citizens from this Hamas terrorism. But Israel's response must be proportional and consider the innocent Palestinian lives at stake in Gaza. In the past two weeks, we have seen an escalating wave of violence across the region. It is clear that a broader conflict must be prevented. That is why I have publicly called on President Biden to work with all involved parties on negotiating an immediate regional ceasefire to avoid the loss of more innocent lives. A one-sided ceasefire is not sustainable and will fail. It must include Israel, Hamas, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad, and other parties, with the support of the international community.

The international community must also continue working together to facilitate critical humanitarian aid to Gaza—the population of which is nearly half children—so Palestinians have access to food, water, medicine, and fuel.

I also recognize that this violence is not just a far-away matter; it is hitting close to home. Many families here in the United States and overseas are living in unimaginable fear while mourning those they have lost. I am hearing from many Jewish constituents and community

leaders who are in pain and who have loved ones among the injured, killed, or missing. I commend the U.S. State Department for their work bringing Americans home from Israel, but more work needs to be done—there are American citizens in Gaza who seek to come home and have been prevented from doing so.

I am deeply saddened and outraged about the brutal murder of an innocent six-year-old boy in Illinois, because he happened to be Palestinian-American. The violent, hate-filled targeting of Wadea Al-Fayoume or anyone else based on ethnicity or religious affiliation is unconscionable and should be condemned by everyone. Hate has no place in America, and Antisemitism and Islamophobia must not be tolerated.

It is my hope for the future that every Israeli child and every Palestinian child to be tucked into bed at night by their parents without fear of bombings and perpetual violence. All people deserve safety and security, and the only sustainable path forward is one where international human rights and international law are at the forefront and democratic ideals are upheld.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 771.

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. MCCAUL. Mr. 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 412, nays 10, answered "present" 6, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 528]

YEAS—412

Adams	Buck	Craig
Aderholt	Bucshon	Crane
Aguilar	Budzinski	Crawford
Alford	Burchett	Crenshaw
Allen	Burgess	Crockett
Allred	Burlison	Crow
Amodei	Calvert	Cuellar
Armstrong	Cammack	Curtis
Arrington	Caraveo	D'Esposito
Auchincloss	Carbajal	Daids (KS)
Babin	Cárdenas	Davidson
Bacon	Carey	Davis (IL)
Baird	Carl	Davis (NC)
Balderson	Carter (GA)	De La Cruz
Balint	Carter (LA)	Dean (PA)
Banks	Carter (TX)	DeGette
Barr	Cartwright	DeLauro
Barragán	Case	DelBene
Bean (FL)	Casten	Deluzio
Beatty	Castor (FL)	DeSaulnier
Bentz	Chavez-DeRemer	DesJarlais
Bera	Cherflus-	Diaz-Balart
Bergman	McCormick	Dingell
Beyer	Chu	Doggett
Bice	Ciscomani	Donalds
Biggs	Clark (NY)	Duarte
Bilirakis	Clarke (NY)	Duncan
Bishop (GA)	Cleaver	Dunn (FL)
Bishop (NC)	Cline	Edwards
Blumenauer	Cloud	Elizy
Blunt Rochester	Clyburn	Emmer
Boebert	Clyde	Escobar
Bonamici	Cohen	Eshoo
Bost	Cole	Espallat
Boyle (PA)	Collins	Estes
Brecheen	Comer	Evans
Brown	Connolly	Ezell
Brownley	Costa	Fallon
Buchanan	Courtney	Feenstra

Ferguson  
Finstad  
Fischbach  
Fitzgerald  
Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Fletcher  
Flood  
Foster  
Foushee  
Foxy  
Frankel, Lois  
Franklin, Scott  
Frost  
Fry  
Fulcher  
Gaetz  
Gallagher  
Gallego  
Garamendi  
Garbarino  
Garcia (TX)  
Garcia, Mike  
Garcia, Robert  
Gimenez  
Golden (ME)  
Goldman (NY)  
Gomez  
Gonzales, Tony  
Good (VA)  
Gooden (TX)  
Gosar  
Gotthelmer  
Granger  
Graves (LA)  
Graves (MO)  
Green (TN)  
Greene (GA)  
Griffith  
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  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson (LA)  
Johnson (OH)  
Johnson (SD)  
Jordan  
Joyce (OH)  
Joyce (PA)  
Kamllager-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)  
Leger Fernandez  
Letlow  
Levin  
Lieu  
Lofgren  
Loudermilk  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Luna  
Luttrell  
Lynch  
Mace  
Magaziner  
Malliotakis  
Mann  
Manning  
Mast  
Matsui  
McBath  
McCarthy  
McCaul  
McClellan  
McClintock  
McCollum  
McCormick  
McGarvey  
McGovern  
McHenry  
Meeke  
Menendez  
Meng  
Meuser  
Mfume  
Miller (IL)  
Miller (OH)  
Miller (WV)  
Miller-Meeke  
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)  
Oberholte  
Ogles  
Owens  
Pallone  
Palmer  
Panetta  
Pappas  
Pascrell  
Pelosi  
Peltola  
Pence  
Perez  
Perry  
Peters  
Pettersen  
Pfluger  
Phillips  
Pingree  
Pocan  
Porter  
Posey  
Quigley  
Raskin  
Reschenthaler  
Rodgers (WA)  
Rogers (AL)

Rogers (KY)  
Rose  
Rosendale  
Ross  
Rouzer  
Roy  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Rutherford  
Ryan  
Salazar  
Salinas  
Sánchez  
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  
Tokuda  
Tonko  
Torres (CA)  
Torres (NY)  
Trahan  
Trone  
Turner  
Underwood  
Valadao  
Van Drew  
Van Duyen  
Vargas  
Vasquez  
Veasey  
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—10

Bowman  
Bush  
Carson  
Green, Al (TX)

Lee (PA)  
Massie  
Ocasio-Cortez  
Omar

Ramirez  
Tlaib

## ANSWERED "PRESENT"—6

Casar  
Castro (TX)

García (IL)  
Jayapal

Pressley  
Velázquez

## NOT VOTING—5

Correa  
Gonzalez,  
Vicente

Lesko  
Payne  
Van Orden

□ 1722

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

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall no. 528.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast my vote for rollcall 528—had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 771.

## RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KUSTOFF) laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Armed Services:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, October 25, 2023.

Hon. KEVIN MCCUMBER,  
*Acting Clerk of the House of Representatives,*  
U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. MCCUMBER: As a result of my election today as Speaker, this letter is to inform you that I resign as a member of the Committee on Armed Services.

Sincerely,

MIKE JOHNSON,  
*Speaker of the House.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

## RESIGNATIONS AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY AND SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE WEAPONIZATION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignations as a member of the Committee on Judiciary and the Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, October 25, 2023.

Hon. KEVIN MCCUMBER,  
*Acting Clerk, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. MCCUMBER: As a result of my election today as Speaker, this letter is to inform you that I resign as a member of the Committee on the Judiciary. I also resign as a member of the House Judiciary Select Sub-

committee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government.

Sincerely,

MIKE JOHNSON,  
*Speaker of the House.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignations are accepted.

There was no objection.

## COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR OF PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chair of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE,  
Washington, DC, October 25, 2023.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,  
*Speaker of the House,*  
*House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence has been served with a subpoena for documents issued by the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL R. TURNER,  
*Chairman, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.*

## COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, October 25, 2023.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,  
*Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on October 4, 2023, at 5:47 p.m.

That the Senate passed S. 2231.

That the Senate agreed to Relative to death of the Honorable Duncan McLaughlin Faircloth, former United States Senator from the State of North Carolina S. Res. 393.

That the Senate agreed to Relative to death of the Honorable James L. Buckley, former United States Senator from the State of New York S. Res. 394.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,  
*Acting Clerk.*

## COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, October 25, 2023.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,  
*The Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on October 16, 2023, at 3:10 p.m.

That the Senate agreed to Relative to death of the Honorable Dianne Feinstein, United States Senator from the State of California S. Res. 400.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,  
*Acting Clerk.*

COMMUNICATION FROM THE  
CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, October 25, 2023.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,  
*Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on October 18, 2023, at 2:55 p.m.

That the Senate agreed to S.J. Res. 32.

That the Senate agreed to Relative to death of the Honorable Richard Clarence Clark, former United States Senator from the State of Iowa S. Res. 406.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,  
*Acting Clerk.*

COMMUNICATION FROM THE  
CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, October 25, 2023.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,  
*The Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on October 23, 2023, at 12:38 p.m.

That the Senate passed S. 2854.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 366.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,  
*Acting Clerk.*

□ 1730

COMMUNICATION FROM THE  
CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following commu-

nication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, October 25, 2023.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,  
*The Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on October 17, 2023, at 3:44 p.m., said to contain a message from the President regarding the Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to Significant Narcotics Traffickers Centered in Colombia.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,  
*Acting Clerk of the House.*

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL  
EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO  
SIGNIFICANT NARCOTICS TRAF-  
FICKERS CENTERED IN COLOM-  
BIA—MESSAGE FROM THE  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED  
STATES (H. DOC. NO. 118-70)

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

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995, is to continue in effect beyond October 21, 2023.

The circumstances that led to the declaration of a national emergency on October 21, 1995, have not been resolved. The actions of significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States and to cause an extreme level of violence, corruption, and harm in the United States and abroad. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12978 with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, October 17, 2023.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE  
CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, October 25, 2023.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,  
*The Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on October 24, 2023, at 3:55 p.m., said to contain a message from the President regarding the Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,  
*Acting Clerk of the House.*

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL  
EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO  
THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF  
THE CONGO—MESSAGE FROM  
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED  
STATES (H. DOC. NO. 118-71)

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

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo declared in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006, as amended by Executive Order 13671 of July 8, 2014, is to continue in effect beyond October 27, 2023.

The situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which has been marked by widespread violence and atrocities that continue to threaten regional stability, continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13413, as amended by Executive Order 13671, with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, October 24, 2023.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4394, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 756 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4394.

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

□ 1736

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4394) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, with Mr. FLOOD in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN) and the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

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

Mr. Chairman, it is my distinct honor to bring the fiscal year 2024 Energy and Water bill before you today. Before I go into the details, I recognize the hard work of Chairwoman GRANGER and Ranking Member DELAURO on this bill and the entire appropriations process.

I also specifically thank my ranking member, Ms. KAPTUR, for being a tremendous partner throughout this year's process.

At a total of \$56.958 billion, the Energy and Water bill advances our national security, our energy security, and our economic competitiveness in a fiscally responsible manner.

The bill includes \$24 billion for the National Nuclear Security Administration. Within that, the bill fully funds all major weapons programs and infrastructure modernization activities, including the W93 warhead, the nuclear sea-launched cruise missile, the B83-1

sustainment efforts, and the restart of plutonium pit production capability. NNSA funding also supports naval reactors and defense nuclear non-proliferation.

Remaining a leader in nuclear energy technologies will ensure reliable energy here at home and will help allies across the globe.

The bill sustains the Department of Energy's nuclear energy base program and also redirects previously appropriated funds to higher priorities, specifically:

\$2.4 billion to develop a domestic capability for producing low-enriched uranium, including high-assay low-enriched uranium that will be necessary for upcoming advanced reactors; and

\$1.2 billion to support the ongoing advanced small modular reactor demonstration project.

To reduce our reliance on foreign sources of critical minerals, the bill provides more than \$200 million for the full spectrum of production technologies.

The Army Corps of Engineers is funded at \$9.57 billion, including full funding of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund activities and ongoing Inland Waterways Trust Fund construction projects. These investments will help ensure goods can be moved safely to and from global markets.

Funding for the Bureau of Reclamation totals \$1.8 billion and prioritizes projects that increase water supply and support drought resiliency.

The bill continues strong funding for the Department of Energy Office of Science, including fusion energy science, to enhance America's role as the global leader of scientific discovery and to lay the foundation for future scientific breakthroughs.

In closing, I thank the staff on both sides of the aisle for their hard work throughout this process. On the majority staff, Angie, Perry, Nora, Richie, Scott, and Janet. In my personal office, Ian and Daniel. On the minority staff, Scott, Jocelyn, and Adam.

This is a strong bill, and I urge Members to support it. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Chair, I appreciate Chair FLEISCHMANN very, very much for his serious attention to our complex bill and his cordiality and very constructive attitude throughout.

I begin by thanking our diligent staff for all their hard work on this bill. On the minority staff, I thank Scott McKee, Jocelyn Hunn, and Adam Wilson. On the majority staff, I thank Angie Giancarlo, Perry Yates, Nora Khalil, Richie O'Connell, Scott Prutting, and Janet Harrington. On my personal staff, I thank Margaret McInnis and Mayely Boyce.

As we work on this Energy and Water bill, I place in the RECORD how deeply saddened I am by the passing of our dear colleague in the other body, Senator Dianne Feinstein, who dedicated

the best years of her life to our country.

As Energy and Water appropriators, Dianne and all of us worked closely over many years to protect the waters of the United States and to build a brighter, cleaner energy future and to assure America's nuclear capabilities are secure.

Her acute mastery of the energy, water, and security needs of our Nation had no comparison, and her dignified, noble public service is truly a great loss to our Nation.

There is not time during our bill's consideration today to fully express my thoughts, but I am so deeply saddened for California's loss, for our Nation's loss, and for all who grieve the loss of the longest-serving woman in Senate history.

All I or any of us can do is laud Senator Dianne Feinstein's productive career of exemplary effective public service. Rest in peace, my dear friend.

We consider this important measure at a moment in which the United States economy is growing at record rates, producing historic levels of job growth due to the laws enacted by the last Congress.

With historic job growth, revenues are now coming into the private sector and the Federal Government at much higher levels than before because post-pandemic, millions more people are working. Companies are earning money.

The American people again are doing what America does best: being productive and leaving our Nation to the future in better condition than we found it.

Indeed, this gross domestic product/debt chart clearly illustrates as a result of robust economic growth, our Nation has bent the debt curve as a percentage of GDP for the first time in modern history.

Here we go. It is going down. That is where we want it to go, yes. We are beginning to pay down our Nation's accumulated debt, largely amassed from the costs of past wars, the old debts that were not paid for by those that conducted them at the time.

□ 1745

Then we had the pandemic and, sadly, over several decades, the tax cuts that were enacted allowed the wealthiest and most productive powerful corporations in our country not to carry their fair share of the tax load. I think it is important that everyone share in our Nation's responsibilities.

In this context, I must offer that I am unable to concur with my able colleague, Chairman FLEISCHMANN, on this particular appropriation bill. I prefer a more realistic energy and water allocation that meets the critical energy and water needs of our Nation, not just for today but for the energy independence and the water security for America in perpetuity. We are not out of the woods on this, we have got a lot of work to do.

Energy and water security are national security—think about it. Yet, the nondefense spending in this bill is \$6.4 billion lower—25 percent lower—than last year's effective level. That is a radical, irresponsible reduction. It repeals over \$5 billion for critical energy programs from the Inflation Reduction Act that would have helped American families save money on their monthly energy bills while simultaneously creating thousands of jobs, good-paying jobs, in new energy technologies.

For energy and water needs, it is not an overstatement to say people in our Nation live or die by decisions being made here in Congress.

Since World War II, America has paid a terrible price for its unconscious slide into foreign dependency on imported energy. While we have made strides toward energy independence after a half century of effort, starting in the late 1970s, we still haven't scored at the home plate of U.S. energy independence in perpetuity.

Recently, I read an article that said our country is going to import petroleum after 2040. Well, guess what? I am not voting for that. Our position must be to keep American energy and our people secure here at home. That is one of the major purposes of this bill.

Hasn't our Nation learned repeatedly the hard way that when gasoline prices top \$4 a gallon, our economy is thrown into deep recession. It is pretty clear. It should be obvious why U.S. energy independence is so vital. No foreign power should ever again make America vulnerable.

Energy security is national security. We must ensure energy security within our own borders. We cannot depend on foreign sources in the event of energy disruptions that are natural or malignantly concocted to do us harm.

Energy impacts every person's well-being. It allows our Nation to be free, and free of foreign malign influence. How well we know our Nation's fate can be impacted by events outside our borders.

News outlets are correctly reporting that Russia's unprovoked war on Ukraine is being waged on more than one front, surely including energy. Russia is known for manipulation of global oil and gas prices through reserves they control. In fact, global oil prices surged to nearly \$100 per barrel in September after Saudi Arabia and Russia continued their curtailment of oil supplies.

The sharp escalation in geopolitical risk in the Middle East from the brutal Hamas terror attack in Israel has oil markets on edge. Check it out. Let us not forget that the Middle East accounts for more than one-third of the world's seaborne oil trade. Again, energy resources are intricately bound to the fate of liberty halfway around our world. Let us make our home front impenetrable.

Energy also allows our private sector and its workforce the ability to flourish in a modern economy with millions

and millions upon millions of living wage jobs in energy production and conservation, across all sectors: natural gas, ethanol and biodiesel, nuclear, fossil fuels, thermal heat recovery, renewables, advancing sectors of hydrogen and fusion energy, and advanced nuclear platforms.

Meanwhile, imaginative energy conservation and other developing technologies are being created by America's amazing inventors in new building materials, solar and electrified windows, biofuels, geothermal and thermal heat recovery, wind and wave energy, to name but a few. America will never ever lose through power of invention because we are a free people.

Let me turn to our water responsibilities. New, major engineering challenges lie before America. Ask the citizens along the drought-stricken Mississippi and the Louisiana corridor as saltwater creeps north, or the flood victims in New York City.

Across our Nation, cities are having to manage water and wastewater loads for which they were not engineered. In rural America, farmers are losing crops because of increasing rainfall, an inability to manage water in their fields, and drainage systems that were built for another era. Frankly, a century or a century and a half ago. Well, times are changing.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation are needed now more than ever to handle regional approaches to new and changing water flows, whether it is down the Mississippi, along our coasts, in the Great Lakes, or the dry, irrigated West.

There is an old expression: "Don't try to fool Mother Nature." I would say: Don't ignore Mother Nature. This is one such moment in American history. I must express the Energy and Water Appropriations bill before us is completely inadequate. It does not meet our country's needs in this new era of climate change.

If I need offer more proof, Americans and America are paying billions more in disaster relief. This country paid over \$150 billion last year in disaster damage, significantly higher than the \$60 billion average from the last 30 years. How about that—doubling and a half. Well, that is a big warning sign that one simply can't ignore.

We ought to be investing that money upfront to avoid those disasters by properly funding this bill. We must robustly meet the needs of the future, not flounder in the past.

In other areas of the bill, I continue to be troubled by the unsustainable spending in the Department of Energy's weapons programs. We know we have to keep a tight lid on them because they have a tendency to overspend when we don't watch.

Further, I am concerned how this bill cuts nuclear nonproliferation programs that reduce nuclear risks and counter the global challenge of nuclear proliferation.

Finally, the bill includes numerous controversial poison pill policy riders

that sadly show extremist Republicans are not interested in bills that can gain bipartisan support and become law.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill. America can and must do better on the new age frontiers of energy and water.

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON), my friend.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Chairman, the Energy and Water Appropriations bill is critical for national security, energy security, and creating jobs.

I congratulate Chairman CHUCK FLEISCHMANN for his extraordinary success in developing this legislation, which is so crucial to achieve peace through strength. I respect but disagree with Ranking Member MARCY KAPTUR.

On passing H.R. 1, the Lower Energy Costs Act, earlier this year, House Republicans have shown dedication to lead in a way that will secure America's energy independence. I am grateful for the strong actions taken to lower costs for families through deregulation. Biden's disastrous war on fossil fuels has helped war criminal Putin to finance his mass murder in Ukraine.

Increasing domestic energy production is the best way to combat the dangerous dependency on Chinese-made or -supplied electric vehicle batteries and solar panels that further enrich the Chinese Communist Party.

The green energy spending has been diverted into unsustainable boondoggles wasting taxpayers' money.

I appreciate that this legislation supports critical missions at the Savannah River Site, which I am grateful to represent. As the only Member of Congress who ever worked at the Savannah River Site, I know firsthand of its importance and dedicated personnel.

In South Carolina, nuclear energy has provided over 60 percent of the energy matrix, and I am grateful to Governor Henry McMaster, a champion for small modular reactors.

Mr. Chair, I urge passage of the bill.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I yield 6 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), the ranking member of the full Committee on Appropriations.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, last year, the Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill lowered energy costs for families, created good-paying jobs by growing and supporting a robust clean energy sector and rebuilding water infrastructure, promoted American energy independence, strengthened our national security, and ensured American energy outcompeted China. Sadly, this is not what this year's bill does.

The majority has put forth a bill that cuts domestic energy investments by a staggering 25.4 percent or \$6.4 billion

lower than last year—with the consequences of increasing energy costs for American families at a time when families are living paycheck and struggling with the high cost of living.

This bill undermines growth and modernization of our energy infrastructure, weakens our national security, and it would yield leadership of the world's energy future to our greatest adversaries.

As much as my Republican colleagues may refuse overwhelming evidence, deny scientific consensus, and ignore the catastrophic natural disasters becoming more severe and more common in their districts and across the country, we have no choice but to transform our energy sector to reflect our climate reality.

The only path that addresses climate change, reduces our dependence on fossil fuels, and curbs our reliance on foreign energy is to diversify how we produce and store energy: wind, solar, hydroelectric, hydrogen, and geothermal.

When it comes to addressing climate and driving a robust energy sector, our answer to the question of “how” must be “everything under the sun.” The Department of Energy’s clean energy programs drive down energy costs, making it cheaper to expand domestic energy sources.

For energy efficiency and renewable energy, the majority proposes cutting the Department of Energy’s budget by \$1.5 billion or 42 percent from the 2023 level. This office researches and develops manufacturing, building, energy management, and weatherization technologies that are critical to our Nation’s growth and resilience. That is nearly half a billion dollars that will not be invested in our economic, energy, and climate future.

Furthermore, Republicans would cut \$4.5 billion from the High-Efficiency Electric Home Rebate Program. That program helps 250,000 low- and moderate-income households save upwards of \$1 billion on their energy bills annually, which creates 50,000 new jobs. There is a \$1 billion cut from the Assistance for Latest and Zero Building Energy Code Adoption, and \$200 million from the State-based Home Energy Efficiency Contractor Training Grants. It means that if American families want to reduce their home energy consumption and lower their monthly bills, my Republican colleagues say “no.”

We must be innovative, creative, and aggressive in fighting for a clean energy future to make America resilient in the face of climate change, which is why it is irresponsible to cut \$15 billion from the Department of Energy’s Innovative Technology Loan Guarantee Program. That program supports critical projects that, for example, remove air pollutants that can cause asthma and cancer from the atmosphere.

After watching the skies turn orange over parts of the East Coast and Midwest this summer, I would hope that

we could agree that air pollution is a bad thing. Perhaps the majority feels differently. Sustainability, at its core, is a demand that we responsibly steward the planet and its natural resources to future generations. The majority fails this demand.

If the proposed abandonment of America’s energy future and of our ability to build a robust and diversified energy industry were not enough reason to vote against this bill, then the offensive political riders on race, gender, and sexuality should be.

The majority continues to break the deal that the Speaker struck with the President earlier this year to avert a default. Democrats and Republicans from the House and Senate need to begin the process of negotiating and finding common ground to pass bipartisan appropriations bills immediately.

□ 1800

Pursuing these partisan bills all but guarantees we will need another continuing resolution in 3 weeks. Continuing resolutions may keep the government open, but they are no way to govern. There is no excuse to be considering bills written to appease a minority of this Chamber, who we know will not vote to fund the government.

For all of these reasons, I cannot support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to vote against it.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON), the chair of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Chair, having been a former chairman of this committee, and either ranking member or chairman for the last 9 years, I guess, when I left, people asked me repeatedly, “What kind of chairman will Mr. FLEISCHMANN be of this committee?” whether it was people from the Idaho National Laboratory, PNNL, or other places.

I told them I thought he would be a great chairman, and this is why: He cares about the Department of Energy’s lab complex, not just Oak Ridge, which he represents, but all the labs throughout the complex. He has been to a lot of them, visited them, and found out what they do. He cares about nuclear energy, which is important to me and important to him also, and many other aspects within the Department of Energy.

I thought he would be a great chairman, and he has done a masterful job of putting this bill together.

This bill contains many things that are vitally important to the future of this country, whether it is nuclear power or fusion energy, as we have talked about, or the next-generation reactors that are going to be developed; whether it is high-speed computing—Oak Ridge is probably the leader in high-speed computing, and all other agencies kind of depend on the Department of Energy’s high-speed computing to do work for them; whether it is cy-

bersecurity, and a lot of that is done at the Idaho National Laboratory and at other laboratories; whether it is renewable energy and the facility in Colorado. All of those things are important.

What a lot of people forget about this bill is that about a third of it—36, 38 percent, something like that—is the defense part of this bill, NNSA, whether it is the nonproliferation that was mentioned by the ranking member, whether it is the defense cleanup portion of it, whether it is the weapons modernization program, or whether it is the part that I kind of like, which is the naval reactors program.

When they started the naval reactors program at the Idaho National Laboratory, when they fueled the first submarine with nuclear energy, it lasted about 18 months, and then they had to refuel it. Because of the work they have done out there, we now fuel ships for the life of the ship. That is an amazing process that they have done, and it is because of the work that is done by the NNSA.

However, that is just on the energy side of this bill. We could talk about that for a long time. The other important part of this bill is the water part of it. It is energy and water.

The Army Corps of Engineers is funded through this bill, and they do the dredging for our ports and waterways throughout this country. Whether it is the Corps or the Bureau of Reclamation, I will tell you, every Member of Congress, I believe, has an Army Corps of Engineers project within their district. Therefore, this bill is important to them.

I think the chairman has done a masterful job of putting this bill together.

I enjoy listening to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, and they are good friends. We have worked together in a cordial way for many years, both Chairwoman DELAURO and Ranking Member KAPTUR, who used to be chair of this committee, also. It goes back and forth.

I enjoy their conversation on where we haven’t spent enough money on this bill, and they have talked about how we can spend more money in certain areas to address certain things and that kind of stuff. The one thing they didn’t mention, when they were talking about the fact that we need more money in these bills, is the \$33 trillion deficit we have.

I will guarantee you, it is easier to write bills when you are just expanding spending and have more money than you know what to do with to throw at all the different bills, which is the way it has been for the last couple of years. If they didn’t have enough money, they took things out and made it emergency spending. We are having to deal with that.

It is more difficult to write a bill where you have to actually reduce spending. I think everyone in our Conference on this side of the aisle realizes that we have to reduce spending if we are ever going to address the \$33 trillion debt. It is just a small part of it,

but it is an important part of it. That is what we are trying to do in a responsible manner. That is what Chairman FLEISCHMANN has done in a responsible manner.

I find it kind of curious that as I have heard the ranking member of the full committee and the subcommittee talk, they have said that we have to spend more money because families are struggling, and then they say this is the best economy we have had in years and years. Which one is it? I don't understand. Is it both? Interesting. When can we address the debt and deficit in this bill? It is a challenge that we face.

Again, I congratulate the chairman of the subcommittee for his work on this, and I also would be remiss if I didn't say something about the staff. They have done a fantastic job. They work incredible hours to get these bills ready for the floor, and they have done a good job on this one, too.

Mr. Chair, I congratulate them and thank them for their work.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I look forward to responding to my dear friend, former Chair SIMPSON. However, first, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), the ranking member of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, who does such a phenomenal job.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I stand here as a proud member of the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies for many years. I unfortunately rise in opposition to this harmful bill.

Let's start with the two most obvious problems. It raises energy costs for families, and it has zero chance of becoming law.

It was drafted with one goal: to appease MAGA extremists.

The new Speaker of the House just spoke of reaching across the aisle for all Americans, yet one of the Republicans' first major acts is to jam through a bill that raises their energy costs and undermines our security, all just to keep their rightwing base happy.

How do we know? Instead of fortifying our power infrastructure and confronting the climate crisis, it fixates on blocking the Army Corps of Engineers from renaming items that celebrate the Confederacy. You just cannot make up this stuff. That rockets to the top of the priority list for House Republicans.

As we recover from the hottest summer on record, it cuts a critical clean energy program by half a billion dollars, choking off vital energy efficiency avenues to battle climate change. House Republicans have drafted a bill that is entirely removed from the realities that our families and the entire planet face right now.

I recently had an affordable housing roundtable with Broward County in my home State of Florida, and they all talked about being rent burdened by

climbing housing costs. Yet, this bill takes away funding to help American homeowners keep their homes safe and energy efficient to cut their power bill.

Instead of investing in a stronger America, it cedes supremacy to a Chinese Communist Party that throws its full weight into infrastructure and clean energy investments.

If Republicans want to craft a bill that helps American families, start by abiding by the bipartisan budget agreement that was signed into law by President Biden just a few months ago.

In the rare instance where this bill actually honors that agreement, it fully funds a \$425 million budget request for Everglades restoration, which I am thankful for, and it allows us to keep moving the EAA Reservoir project forward.

Beyond that, though, this bill has dramatic funding gaps that jeopardize America's energy stability and independence. It raises costs for families, hurts job creation, fails to tackle the climate crisis, and rolls over to Chinese and Russian competitors.

Mr. Chair, for all of these obvious reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I wish to offer a few thoughts here regarding what our esteemed colleague, Mr. SIMPSON, said about the Federal balance sheet.

If you think of your own checkbook, when you work and earn money, you have an entry that is positive. You have a payroll check or earn interest on something. Then, if you have to pay a bill, you put a minus sign and subtract it, and you see what is left.

What is interesting about the arguments from the folks on the other side of the aisle is, they only talk about what is subtracted. They don't talk about what is being added. Both revenues and expenditures are a part of the Federal budget.

It is interesting to me. I have served in Congress for a while now, and the other side never talks about revenues. They only talk about expenditures. The interesting thing about revenues is when an economy is booming, you are bringing more revenue into the Federal Government. The Federal debt, as a percent of our economic prowess right now, is decreasing because we are growing the economy. What we are spending in this bill causes more economic growth. That is a good thing.

What the other side is not talking about is that there are a lot of free riders in our country, and they are not paying their fair share of revenues into the Treasury. We have to talk about that side of the budget, too. There are a lot of people who are what I call free riders. We are paying for them. Some of the richest people in this country and some of the biggest corporations aren't paying their fair share of the load. You have to look at both sides of the ledger.

I wanted to put that on the floor today in order to adopt the proper poli-

cies. It will be a most interesting discussion as we move forward with the new debt commission that has been formed. It will be interesting if they bring both pages in the ledger, both the revenues and the expenditures.

As our chart shows, the Federal debt, as a percent of GDP, is going down for the first time in modern history. We better not do anything that stops that because it is one of the answers, as well as getting those who are free riders to pay their fair share.

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MURPHY), my friend and also my colleague on the congressional baseball team.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Chair, I recognize the MVP of the baseball team very much for his heroic athletic ability during the climactic game that we had.

I rise today in support of H.R. 4394, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, which funds the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' civil works projects and the Department of Energy to enhance our energy security and bolster our economic competitiveness in FY24.

Under President Biden, Americans have been forced to pay record prices at the pump, and our Strategic Petroleum Reserve has been decimated. We have become further reliant on China for critical minerals, crushed by overregulation, and watched the woke agenda destroy America's energy independence.

This legislation rolls back America's last policies; robustly funds construction, operation, and maintenance of our Nation's ports and inland waterways; and provides \$34.8 million for dredging in North Carolina's Third District alone.

This bill includes \$6.3 million for dredging the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway—we call it the ICW—which is vital to the commercial and recreational fishing industry in my district, and \$18 million for dredging the Morehead City port, where our Marine expeditionary units deploy from Navy amphibious ships and play a vital role in our national security. God forbid we have to use them soon.

Also included is funding for other important inlets that our fishing industry and ferries rely on, such as Manteo Bay, New River Inlet, Rollinson Channel, New Topsail Inlet and connecting channels, as well as Silver Lake Harbor.

Lastly, it includes \$5.2 million for the channel from Back Sound to Lookout Bight, which connects the ferry system to Cape Lookout. It has not been dredged in over 30 years, and it is common for vessels to run aground that must be pulled off the shoal with a very expensive movement by the U.S. Coast Guard.

I am very grateful for the work of Energy and Water Development, and

Related Agencies Subcommittee Chairman FLEISCHMANN, aka the MVP of the baseball team, for putting forward a bill that recognizes the unique challenges and needs of our coastal communities across the country.

Mr. Chair, I support this year's energy and water development appropriations bill and urge my colleagues to do the same.

□ 1815

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

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA), my very good friend and fellow member of the Italian caucus.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Chair, I appreciate the time from my great colleague from Tennessee who works a lot on the important energy field, and it is great to work with him.

Mr. Chair, I do rise today in support of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act. This funding bill cuts billions of needless spending from the Democrats' budget-busting spending bills of the last Congress and continues prioritizing funding toward our Nation's water infrastructure so desperately needed, especially in my home State of California.

Stored water means water for people and for agriculture. It means hydroelectricity can be generated, which is green power. It means flood control. It means recreation, yes, even environmental water, which is already getting the lion's share of the water we have in my home State.

Additionally, I am pleased to see H.R. 215, the WATER for California Act is included in this legislation, which my colleague Representative VALADAO and I worked on with the entire Republican delegation from California.

The WATER for California Act restores the basic principle of fairness for water users in California by requiring the Bureau of Reclamation to follow the terms of their water contracts and use the best available science to operate the Central Valley project.

This would also eliminate the environmental blockade against using water storage funds to move forward with the enlargement of Shasta Dam in my district, an opportunity to store 630,000 new acre-feet at an existing structure. That should be easy.

Lastly, this measure prohibits the administration from completely changing all the rules, regulations, and procedures of the California water system on a whim simply to satisfy the radical environmentalists, much to the detriment of our farms and agriculture, and forcing urban water users to have to ration water to the tune of 42 gallons of water per day.

Imagine, you have got a wading pool for your kids or your pets or whatever. It might take 3 days of your water ration to fill a wading pool under what

they have coming down the pike on rationing water and limiting.

We have so much water flowing out to the Pacific through the Delta that is being wasted. We have water right now being let out of the dams in order to meet their conservation level for flood control later, that should be put someplace that can be helpful such as the San Luis Reservoir.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill and get some common sense back into our water supply.

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

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, Congress needs to write bills that meet our country's needs, and I reiterate my disappointment that the energy and water bill before us today does not adhere to the agreed to levels in the bipartisan Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023.

The American people are counting on us to work together, not draft partisan bills that will never become law.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4394—Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024. This bill needs to be revised to be truly bipartisan to serve the American people and Houston.

As with all the additional appropriation bills that have been up for consideration on the House Floor, I strongly oppose the passage of this bill for a myriad of reasons—including the following listed below.

The majority has put forth a bill that increases energy costs for American families, undermines the growth and modernization of our energy infrastructure, weakens our national security, and would yield the world's energy future to foes abroad.

With massive cuts that renege on the debt limit agreement that was just signed into law, the 2024 Energy and Water bill raises costs for families and weakens energy security and our ability to out-compete China.

The bill invests \$55.2 billion, a decrease of \$3.9 billion or 6.5 percent below 2023.

Further, the bill's domestic allocation is effectively 21.5 percent, \$5.4 billion, below 2023 while its defense allocation is 3.5 percent, \$1.1 billion, above 2023, creating a further disparity between domestic and defense programs.

This harmful legislation would have the following damaging impact on America:

Increases energy costs by cutting the Department of Energy's clean energy programs that lower American families' energy bills;

Jeopardizes energy security by enabling Russia to continue weaponizing energy to destabilize global markets;

Hurts U.S. competitiveness by allowing competitors like China to monopolize markets for new energy technology; and

Fails to confront the climate crisis and create better-paying, clean energy jobs.

The bill cuts the Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy account by \$466 million or 14 percent below 2023 (\$1.8 billion or 38 percent below the

President's budget request). This office is critical to developing manufacturing, building efficiency, clean energy like hydrogen and solar, and weatherization technologies that are critical to our Nation's growth and resilience.

The bill includes dangerous cuts that House Democrats have been sounding the alarm about for months.

With this bill, House Republicans irresponsibly:

Call for \$5.7 billion in untenable repeals from the Department of Energy's Inflation Reduction Act programs, including:

\$4.5 billion from the High-Efficiency Electric Home Rebate Program;

\$1 billion from the Assistance for Latest and Zero Building Energy Code Adoption; and

\$200 million from the State-Based Home Energy Efficiency Contractor Training Grants.

Repurpose critical Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) resources including:

\$3.6 billion from the Department of Energy's IIJA Civil Nuclear Credit Program that help preserve the existing U.S. reactor fleet and save thousands of high-paying jobs across the country; and

\$84 million from the Corps of Engineers' IIJA programs.

Revoke \$15 billion in loan authority from the Department of Energy's Innovative Technology Loan Guarantee Program—an increasingly successful program that promotes climate-friendly innovation and American manufacturing.

Sadly, this bill exemplifies Republican misguided values: increasing costs for hard-working families, decreasing job opportunities, failing to confront the climate crisis, and allowing Russia and China to outcompete us.

In an attempt to provide some reasonable action in this unreasonable legislation, I offered an amendment for consideration by the Rules Committee that would help our Nation's government take seriously our ever-changing climate and the crises that ensue creating national and international instability at unprecedented levels and degree.

The Jackson Lee Amendment (Rules Committee No. 121) to H.R. 4394—Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024, if adopted would have added the following language to this bill:

It is the sense of Congress that energy and water are emerging as paramount and critical issues, posing challenges not only to the United States' national security and economy but to the stability of the global community; and

As each nation grapples with climate change, which is evidenced by climatic events taking place in this nation and others over the last decade, where precipitation in all of its forms and extreme drought have triggered calamities that clearly inform decision makers that nations must be purposeful in preparing to meet these challenges to protect life and human advancement in all of its forms.

Temperatures are rising, snow and rainfall patterns are shifting, and more extreme climate events—like heavy rainstorms and record high temperatures—are becoming more common.

The planet's oceans and glaciers have also experienced changes—oceans are warming and becoming more acidic, ice caps are melting, and sea level is rising.

As these and other changes become more pronounced in the coming decades, they will



likely present challenges to our society and our environment, our country and our world.

This summer saw the hottest days in Earth's modern history as a climate-change fueled surge of heat shattered temperature records across the globe.

According to scientists at NASA's Goddard Institute of Space Studies (GISS) in New York, the summer of 2023 was Earth's hottest since global records began in 1880.

The months of June, July, and August combined were 0.41 degrees Fahrenheit (0.23 degrees Celsius) warmer than any other summer in NASA's record, and 2.1 degrees F (1.2 C) warmer than the average summer between 1951 and 1980. August alone was 2.2 F (1.2 C) warmer than the average.

This new record comes as exceptional heat swept across much of the world, exacerbating deadly wildfires in Canada and Hawaii, and searing heat waves in South America, Japan, Europe, and the U.S., while likely contributing to severe rainfall in Italy, Greece, and Central Europe.

As backed up by NASA and global scientists and witnessed by everyone across the world, the Summer of 2023's record-setting temperatures are not just a set of numbers—they result in dire real-world consequences.

From sweltering temperatures in Arizona and across the country, to wildfires across Canada, extreme flooding in Europe, Asia, and Africa, as well as catastrophic earthquakes striking across the Middle East, extreme weather is threatening lives and livelihoods around the globe.

As we entered into the fall, September started with a typhoon that ripped through Hong Kong, uprooting trees and flooding the city.

It was the first of a slew of extreme weather events that hit ten countries and territories in just 12 days—the most catastrophic being the floods in Libya, which have killed more than 11,000 people according to the UN and left many thousands missing.

Scientists warn that these types of extreme weather events, affecting countries all over the world, may become increasingly common as the climate crisis accelerates, putting pressure on governments to prepare.

These real impacts of climate change are a threat to our planet and future generations that we must continue to confront and tackle head on.

The scientific evidence is overwhelming, and we will no doubt continue to see more climate records and more intense and frequent extreme weather events impacting society and ecosystems, until we come to acknowledge and accept the devastating impact of climate change and actively stop the harms that are contributing to the deadly and damaging climate crises of our time and inevitably forthcoming in our future.

Texans and the constituents in my home district of Houston are no strangers to the adverse impacts and dangers of climate change.

When Hurricane Harvey hit Houston in 2017, dumping over 50 inches of rain on Houston, it caused more than \$125 billion in economic damage as my constituents' homes, workplaces, schools, and businesses flooded.

Yet, research has shown that climate change made Harvey's torrential rainfall much worse, roughly 15 percent to 38 percent greater rainfall than it would have been in a world that was not warming.

This difference is far from insignificant—up to 50 percent of the properties that flooded in

Harris County might have escaped that fate in a world without climate change.

Houstonians are not the only ones to have faced harm from climate change fueled national disasters.

Since 1980, the US has sustained 341 weather and climate disasters, coasting over \$2.4 trillion in all.

However, for Houstonians, Texans, and all of our constituents, the worst of the threat is far from over.

The US coastline is projected to rise 10 to 12 inches in the next 30 years, threatening the coastal states and vastly increasing the risk of flooding for those on either coast.

Average global temperatures will continue to rise, prompting a crop loss of 10 percent in the next 5 to 25 years, melting glaciers, and further driving the rise of sea levels.

It is estimated that climate change could cost from 30 to over 100 billion dollars per year, along with significant potential for economic and federal revenue losses.

The OMB has predicted that climate change could reduce the national GDP by as much as 10 percent by the end of the century, costing a \$2 trillion loss in the federal budget.

Further, some of the most severe harms from climate change will fall disproportionately on socially vulnerable populations, including racial and ethnic minority communities.

Additionally, the GAO has highlighted that climate change further poses threats to national security, as rising sea levels and catastrophic storms threaten both military and civilian infrastructure and can even affect migration patterns.

There is no Planet B. We must address the existential threat of climate change now.

We are seeing the consequences of climate change at home and abroad.

However, Republicans continue to deny the scientific consensus of climate change.

Now more than ever before, we need to strengthen our energy security and diversify our energy sources, so we are not dependent on global adversaries—while also tackling the devastating global and economic policies impacting our climate.

And yet today, House Republicans are putting forth a bill that threatens to raise energy costs for more than 250,000 U.S. households and halt the creation of more than 50,000 new jobs, while failing to acknowledge and address energy policies that are decimating our global climates.

I call upon my fellow colleagues across the aisle to stand up against these harmful and dangerous policies offered in this appropriations bill.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote in opposition to H.R. 4394, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Act of 2024.

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

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule. The amendment printed in part A of House Report 118-242, shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 4394

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

#### TITLE I

#### CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

#### CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL

The following appropriations shall be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Army and the supervision of the Chief of Engineers for authorized civil functions of the Department of the Army pertaining to river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related efforts.

#### INVESTIGATIONS

For expenses necessary where authorized by law for the collection and study of basic information pertaining to river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related needs; for surveys and detailed studies, and plans and specifications of proposed river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, and aquatic ecosystem restoration projects, and related efforts prior to construction; for restudy of authorized projects; and for miscellaneous investigations, and, when authorized by law, surveys and detailed studies, and plans and specifications of projects prior to construction, \$136,087,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall not deviate from the work plan, once the plan has been submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

#### CONSTRUCTION

For expenses necessary for the construction of river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related projects authorized by law; for conducting detailed studies, and plans and specifications, of such projects (including those involving participation by States, local governments, or private groups) authorized or made eligible for selection by law (but such detailed studies, and plans and specifications, shall not constitute a commitment of the Government to construction); \$2,889,942,000, to remain available until expended; of which \$74,152,000, to be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, shall be to cover the Federal share of construction costs for facilities under the Dredged Material Disposal Facilities program; and of which such sums as are necessary to cover 35 percent of the costs of construction, replacement, rehabilitation, and expansion of inland waterways projects shall be derived from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund, except as otherwise specifically provided for in law: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall not deviate from the work plan, once the plan has been submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

#### MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES

For expenses necessary for flood damage reduction projects and related efforts in the Mississippi River alluvial valley below Cape Girardeau, Missouri, as authorized by law, \$364,349,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$5,457,000, to be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, shall be to cover the Federal share of eligible operation and maintenance costs for inland harbors: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall not deviate from the work plan, once the plan has been submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

#### OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

For expenses necessary for the operation, maintenance, and care of existing river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related projects authorized by law; providing security for infrastructure owned or operated by

the Corps, including administrative buildings and laboratories; maintaining harbor channels provided by a State, municipality, or other public agency that serve essential navigation needs of general commerce, where authorized by law; surveying and charting northern and northwestern lakes and connecting waters; clearing and straightening channels; and removing obstructions to navigation, \$5,496,622,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$2,691,391,000, to be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, shall be to cover the Federal share of eligible operations and maintenance costs for coastal harbors and channels, and for inland harbors; of which such sums as become available from the special account for the Corps of Engineers established by the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 shall be derived from that account for resource protection, research, interpretation, and maintenance activities related to resource protection in the areas at which outdoor recreation is available; of which such sums as become available from fees collected under section 217 of Public Law 104-303 shall be used to cover the cost of operation and maintenance of the dredged material disposal facilities for which such fees have been collected; and of which \$58,000,000, to be derived from the general fund of the Treasury, shall be to carry out subsection (c) of section 2106 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2238c) and shall be designated as being for such purpose pursuant to paragraph (2) of section 14003 of division B of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116-136): *Provided*, That 1 percent of the total amount of funds provided for each of the programs, projects, or activities funded under this heading shall not be allocated to a field operating activity prior to the beginning of the fourth quarter of the fiscal year and shall be available for use by the Chief of Engineers to fund such emergency activities as the Chief of Engineers determines to be necessary and appropriate, and that the Chief of Engineers shall allocate during the fourth quarter any remaining funds which have not been used for emergency activities proportionally in accordance with the amounts provided for the programs, projects, or activities: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall not deviate from the work plan, once the plan has been submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

#### REGULATORY PROGRAM

For expenses necessary for administration of laws pertaining to regulation of navigable waters and wetlands, \$218,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

#### FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM

For expenses necessary to clean up contamination from sites in the United States resulting from work performed as part of the Nation's early atomic energy program, \$200,000,000, to remain available until expended.

#### FLOOD CONTROL AND COASTAL EMERGENCIES

For expenses necessary to prepare for flood, hurricane, and other natural disasters and support emergency operations, repairs, and other activities in response to such disasters as authorized by law, \$40,000,000, to remain available until expended.

#### EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the supervision and general administration of the civil works program in the headquarters of the Corps of Engineers and the offices of the Division Engineers; and for costs of management and operation of the Humphreys Engineer Center Support Activity, the Institute

for Water Resources, the United States Army Engineer Research and Development Center, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers Finance Center allocable to the civil works program, \$215,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, of which not to exceed \$5,000 may be used for official reception and representation purposes and only during the current fiscal year: *Provided*, That no part of any other appropriation provided in this title shall be available to fund the civil works activities of the Office of the Chief of Engineers or the civil works executive direction and management activities of the division offices: *Provided further*, That any Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies appropriation may be used to fund the supervision and general administration of emergency operations, repairs, and other activities in response to any flood, hurricane, or other natural disaster.

#### OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY FOR CIVIL WORKS

For the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works as authorized by 10 U.S.C. 3016(b)(3), \$5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That not more than 25 percent of such amount may be obligated or expended until the Assistant Secretary submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the report required under section 101(d) of this Act and a work plan that allocates at least 95 percent of the additional funding provided under each heading in the report accompanying this Act to specific programs, projects, or activities.

#### WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AND INNOVATION PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For administrative expenses to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs authorized by the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014, \$5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS—CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 101. (a) None of the funds provided in title I of this Act, or provided by previous appropriations Acts to the agencies or entities funded in title I of this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2024, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that:

- (1) creates or initiates a new program, project, or activity;
- (2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;
- (3) increases funds or personnel for any program, project, or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted by this Act, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress;
- (4) proposes to use funds directed for a specific activity for a different purpose, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress;
- (5) augments or reduces existing programs, projects, or activities in excess of the amounts contained in paragraphs (6) through (10), unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress;
- (6) INVESTIGATIONS.—For a base level over \$100,000, reprogramming of 25 percent of the base amount up to a limit of \$150,000 per project, study or activity is allowed: *Provided*, That for a base level less than \$100,000, the reprogramming limit is \$25,000: *Provided further*, That up to \$25,000 may be reprogrammed into any continuing study or activity that did not receive an appropriation for existing obligations and concomitant administrative expenses;

(7) CONSTRUCTION.—For a base level over \$2,000,000, reprogramming of 15 percent of the base amount up to a limit of \$3,000,000 per project, study or activity is allowed: *Provided*, That for a base level less than \$2,000,000, the reprogramming limit is \$300,000: *Provided further*, That up to \$3,000,000 may be reprogrammed for settled contractor claims, changed conditions, or real estate deficiency judgments: *Provided further*, That up to \$300,000 may be reprogrammed into any continuing study or activity that did not receive an appropriation for existing obligations and concomitant administrative expenses;

(8) OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.—Unlimited reprogramming authority is granted for the Corps to be able to respond to emergencies: *Provided*, That the Chief of Engineers shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of these emergency actions as soon thereafter as practicable: *Provided further*, That for a base level over \$1,000,000, reprogramming of 15 percent of the base amount up to a limit of \$5,000,000 per project, study, or activity is allowed: *Provided further*, That for a base level less than \$1,000,000, the reprogramming limit is \$150,000: *Provided further*, That \$150,000 may be reprogrammed into any continuing study or activity that did not receive an appropriation;

(9) MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES.—The reprogramming guidelines in paragraphs (6), (7), and (8) shall apply to the Investigations, Construction, and Operation and Maintenance portions of the Mississippi River and Tributaries Account, respectively; and

(10) FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM.—Reprogramming of up to 15 percent of the base of the receiving project is permitted.

(b) DE MINIMIS REPROGRAMMINGS.—In no case should a reprogramming for less than \$50,000 be submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

(c) CONTINUING AUTHORITIES PROGRAM.—Subsection (a)(1) shall not apply to any project or activity funded under the continuing authorities program.

(d) Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress to establish the baseline for application of reprogramming and transfer authorities for the current fiscal year which shall include:

- (1) A table for each appropriation with a separate column to display the President's budget request, adjustments made by Congress, adjustments due to enacted rescissions, if applicable, and the fiscal year enacted level;
- (2) A delineation in the table for each appropriation both by object class and program, project and activity as detailed in the budget appendix for the respective appropriations; and
- (3) An identification of items of special congressional interest.

SEC. 102. The Secretary shall allocate funds made available in this Act solely in accordance with the provisions of this Act and in the report accompanying this Act.

SEC. 103. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to award or modify any contract that commits funds beyond the amounts appropriated for that program, project, or activity that remain unobligated, except that such amounts may include any funds that have been made available through reprogramming pursuant to section 101.

SEC. 104. The Secretary of the Army may transfer to the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service may accept and expend, up to \$8,200,000 of funds provided in this title under the heading "Operation and

Maintenance” to mitigate for fisheries lost due to Corps of Engineers projects.

SEC. 105. None of the funds in this Act shall be used for an open lake placement alternative for dredged material, after evaluating the least costly, environmentally acceptable manner for the disposal or management of dredged material originating from Lake Erie or tributaries thereto, unless it is approved under a State water quality certification pursuant to section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1341): *Provided*, That until an open lake placement alternative for dredged material is approved under a State water quality certification, the Corps of Engineers shall continue upland placement of such dredged material consistent with the requirements of section 101 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2211).

SEC. 106. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out any water supply reallocation study under the Wolf Creek Dam, Lake Cumberland, Kentucky, project authorized under the Act of July 24, 1946 (60 Stat. 636, ch. 595).

SEC. 107. None of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act may be used to reorganize or to transfer the Civil Works functions or authority of the Corps of Engineers or the Secretary of the Army to another department or agency.

SEC. 108. Additional funding provided in this Act shall be allocated only to projects determined to be eligible by the Chief of Engineers.

SEC. 109. The rule submitted by the Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers, Department of Defense, and the Environmental Protection Agency relating to “Revised Definition of ‘Waters of the United States’ ” (88 Fed. Reg. 3004 (January 18, 2023)) shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 110. As of the date of enactment of this Act and each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary of the Army shall not promulgate or enforce any regulation that prohibits an individual from possessing a firearm, including an assembled or functional firearm, at a water resources development project covered under section 327.0 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act) if:

(1) the individual is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing a firearm; and

(2) the possession of the firearm is in compliance with the law of the State in which the water resources development project is located.

SEC. 111. None of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act in any fiscal year may be used to alter the eligibility requirements for assistance under section 5 of the Act of August 18, 1941 (33 U.S.C. 701n) in effect on November 14, 2022, without express authorization by Congress.

SEC. 112. Notwithstanding any other requirement, unobligated balances from amounts made available under the heading “Corps of Engineers—Civil—Construction” in division J of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58) for which spend plan allocations have not been announced as of the date of enactment of this Act may be made available for projects, regardless of project purpose, that have previously received funds under the heading “Corps of Engineers—Civil—Construction” in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–123) and for which non-Federal interests have entered into binding agreements with the Secretary as of the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided*, That projects receiving Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58) funding pursuant to this section shall be subject only to the terms and conditions of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–123): *Provided*

*further*, That amounts repurposed pursuant to this section that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or a concurrent resolution on the budget are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

## TITLE II

### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

#### CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT

##### CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT COMPLETION ACCOUNT

For carrying out activities authorized by the Central Utah Project Completion Act, \$23,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$4,650,000 shall be deposited into the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Account for use by the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission: *Provided*, That of the amount provided under this heading, \$1,750,000 shall be available until September 30, 2025, for expenses necessary in carrying out related responsibilities of the Secretary of the Interior: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2024, of the amount made available to the Commission under this Act or any other Act, the Commission may use an amount not to exceed \$1,990,000 for administrative expenses.

#### BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

The following appropriations shall be expended to execute authorized functions of the Bureau of Reclamation:

##### WATER AND RELATED RESOURCES

###### (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For management, development, and restoration of water and related natural resources and for related activities, including the operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation of reclamation and other facilities, participation in fulfilling related Federal responsibilities to Native Americans, and related grants to, and cooperative and other agreements with, State and local governments, federally recognized Indian Tribes, and others, \$1,693,366,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$1,051,000 shall be available for transfer to the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund and \$7,584,000 shall be available for transfer to the Lower Colorado River Basin Development Fund; of which such amounts as may be necessary may be advanced to the Colorado River Dam Fund: *Provided*, That \$500,000 shall be available for transfer into the Aging Infrastructure Account established by section 9603(d)(1) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, as amended (43 U.S.C. 510b(d)(1)): *Provided further*, That such transfers, except for the transfer authorized by the preceding proviso, may be increased or decreased within the overall appropriation under this heading: *Provided further*, That of the total appropriated, the amount for program activities that can be financed by the Reclamation Fund, the Water Storage Enhancement Receipts account established by section 4011(e) of Public Law 114–322, or the Bureau of Reclamation special fee account established by 16 U.S.C. 6806 shall be derived from that Fund or account: *Provided further*, That funds contributed under 43 U.S.C. 395 are available until expended for the purposes for which the funds were contributed: *Provided further*, That funds advanced under 43 U.S.C. 397a shall be credited to this account and are available until expended for the same purposes as the sums appropriated under this heading: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$5,500,000 shall be deposited in the San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund established by section 110 of title I of division B of appendix

D of Public Law 106–554: *Provided further*, That of the amounts provided herein, funds may be used for high-priority projects which shall be carried out by the Youth Conservation Corps, as authorized by 16 U.S.C. 1706: *Provided further*, That within available funds, \$250,000 shall be for grants and financial assistance for educational activities: *Provided further*, That in accordance with section 4007 of Public Law 114–322 and as recommended by the Secretary in letters dated February 13, 2019, June 22, 2020, and December 3, 2020, funding provided for such purpose in this and prior fiscal years shall be made available to the Shasta Dam and Reservoir Enlargement Project.

##### CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT RESTORATION FUND

For carrying out the programs, projects, plans, habitat restoration, improvement, and acquisition provisions of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, such sums as may be collected in fiscal year 2024 in the Central Valley Project Restoration Fund pursuant to sections 3407(d), 3404(c)(3), and 3405(f) of Public Law 102–575, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Bureau of Reclamation is directed to assess and collect the full amount of the additional mitigation and restoration payments authorized by section 3407(d) of Public Law 102–575: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be used for the acquisition or leasing of water for in-stream purposes if the water is already committed to in-stream purposes by a court adopted decree or order.

##### CALIFORNIA BAY-DELTA RESTORATION

###### (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For carrying out activities authorized by the Water Supply, Reliability, and Environmental Improvement Act, consistent with plans to be approved by the Secretary of the Interior, \$33,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which such amounts as may be necessary to carry out such activities may be transferred to appropriate accounts of other participating Federal agencies to carry out authorized purposes: *Provided*, That funds appropriated herein may be used for the Federal share of the costs of Calfed Program management: *Provided further*, That Calfed implementation shall be carried out in a balanced manner with clear performance measures demonstrating concurrent progress in achieving the goals and objectives of the Program.

#### POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

For expenses necessary for policy, administration, and related functions in the Office of the Commissioner, the Denver office, and offices in the six regions of the Bureau of Reclamation, to remain available until September 30, 2025, \$65,079,000, to be derived from the Reclamation Fund and be nonreimbursable as provided in 43 U.S.C. 377, of which not to exceed \$5,000 may be used for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided*, That no part of any other appropriation in this Act shall be available for activities or functions budgeted as policy and administration expenses.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

Appropriations for the Bureau of Reclamation shall be available for purchase and replacement of not to exceed 30 motor vehicles, which are for replacement only.

### GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

SEC. 201. (a) None of the funds provided in title II of this Act for Water and Related Resources, or provided by previous or subsequent appropriations Acts to the agencies or entities funded in title II of this Act for Water and Related Resources that remain

available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2024, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that—

(1) initiates or creates a new program, project, or activity;

(2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;

(3) increases funds for any program, project, or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted by this Act, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress;

(4) restarts or resumes any program, project or activity for which funds are not provided in this Act, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress;

(5) transfers funds in excess of the following limits, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress:

(A) 15 percent for any program, project or activity for which \$2,000,000 or more is available at the beginning of the fiscal year; or

(B) \$400,000 for any program, project or activity for which less than \$2,000,000 is available at the beginning of the fiscal year;

(6) transfers more than \$500,000 from either the Facilities Operation, Maintenance, and Rehabilitation category or the Resources Management and Development category to any program, project, or activity in the other category, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress; or

(7) transfers, where necessary to discharge legal obligations of the Bureau of Reclamation, more than \$5,000,000 to provide adequate funds for settled contractor claims, increased contractor earnings due to accelerated rates of operations, and real estate deficiency judgments, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

(b) Subsection (a)(5) shall not apply to any transfer of funds within the Facilities Operation, Maintenance, and Rehabilitation category.

(c) For purposes of this section, the term “transfer” means any movement of funds into or out of a program, project, or activity.

(d) Except as provided in subsections (a) and (b), the amounts made available in this title under the heading “Bureau of Reclamation—Water and Related Resources” shall be expended for the programs, projects, and activities specified in the “House Recommended” columns in the “Water and Related Resources” table included under the heading “Title II—Department of the Interior” in the report accompanying this Act.

(e) The Bureau of Reclamation shall submit reports on a quarterly basis to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress detailing all the funds reprogrammed between programs, projects, activities, or categories of funding. The first quarterly report shall be submitted not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 202. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to determine the final point of discharge for the interceptor drain for the San Luis Unit until development by the Secretary of the Interior and the State of California of a plan, which shall conform to the water quality standards of the State of California as approved by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, to minimize any detrimental effect of the San Luis drainage waters.

(b) The costs of the Kesterson Reservoir Cleanup Program and the costs of the San Joaquin Valley Drainage Program shall be classified by the Secretary of the Interior as

reimbursable or nonreimbursable and collected until fully repaid pursuant to the “Cleanup Program—Alternative Repayment Plan” and the “SJVDP—Alternative Repayment Plan” described in the report entitled “Repayment Report, Kesterson Reservoir Cleanup Program and San Joaquin Valley Drainage Program, February 1995”, prepared by the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation. Any future obligations of funds by the United States relating to, or providing for, drainage service or drainage studies for the San Luis Unit shall be fully reimbursable by San Luis Unit beneficiaries of such service or studies pursuant to Federal reclamation law.

#### TITLE III DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY ENERGY PROGRAMS

##### ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for energy efficiency and renewable energy activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$2,994,000,000 (reduced by \$1,000,000,000), to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$223,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2025, for program direction.

##### CYBERSECURITY, ENERGY SECURITY, AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for energy sector cybersecurity, energy security, and emergency response activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$200,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$25,143,000 shall be available until September 30, 2025, for program direction.

##### ELECTRICITY

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for electricity activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$315,600,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$23,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2025, for program direction.

##### NUCLEAR ENERGY

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for nuclear energy activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$1,783,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$85,500,000 shall be available until September 30, 2025, for program direction: *Provided further*, That for the purpose of section 954(a)(6) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, as amended, the only amount available shall be from the amount

specified as including that purpose in the “House Recommended” column in the “Department of Energy” table included under the heading “Title III—Department of Energy” in the report accompanying this Act.

##### FOSSIL ENERGY AND CARBON MANAGEMENT

For Department of Energy expenses necessary in carrying out fossil energy and carbon management research and development activities, under the authority of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition of interest, including defeasible and equitable interests in any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition or expansion, and for conducting inquiries, technological investigations and research concerning the extraction, processing, use, and disposal of mineral substances without objectionable social and environmental costs (30 U.S.C. 3, 1602, and 1603), \$857,904,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount \$70,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2025, for program direction.

##### NAVAL PETROLEUM AND OIL SHALE RESERVES

For Department of Energy expenses necessary to carry out naval petroleum and oil shale reserve activities, \$13,010,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, unobligated funds remaining from prior years shall be available for all naval petroleum and oil shale reserve activities.

##### STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for Strategic Petroleum Reserve facility development and operations and program management activities pursuant to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.), \$280,969,000, to remain available until expended.

##### NORTHEAST HOME HEATING OIL RESERVE

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve storage, operation, and management activities pursuant to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.), \$7,150,000, to remain available until expended.

##### ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

For Department of Energy expenses necessary in carrying out the activities of the Energy Information Administration, \$135,000,000, to remain available until expended.

##### NON-DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other expenses necessary for non-defense environmental cleanup activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$341,700,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That in addition, fees collected pursuant to subsection (b)(1) of section 6939f of title 42, United States Code, and deposited under this heading in fiscal year 2024 pursuant to section 309 of title III of division C of Public Law 116-94 are appropriated, to remain available until expended, for mercury storage costs.

##### URANIUM ENRICHMENT DECONTAMINATION AND DECOMMISSIONING FUND

For Department of Energy expenses necessary in carrying out uranium enrichment facility decontamination and decommissioning, remedial actions, and other activities of title II of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, and title X, subtitle A, of the Energy

Policy Act of 1992, \$865,208,000, to be derived from the Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund, to remain available until expended, of which \$10,000,000 shall be available in accordance with title X, subtitle A, of the Energy Policy Act of 1992.

#### SCIENCE

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for science activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, and purchase of not more than 35 passenger motor vehicles, \$8,100,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$211,211,000 shall be available until September 30, 2025, for program direction.

#### NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for nuclear waste disposal activities to carry out the purposes of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, Public Law 97-425, as amended, \$12,040,000, to remain available until expended, which shall be derived from the Nuclear Waste Fund.

#### TECHNOLOGY TRANSITIONS

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for carrying out the activities of technology transitions, \$22,098,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$13,183,000 shall be available until September 30, 2025, for program direction.

#### CLEAN ENERGY DEMONSTRATIONS

For Department of Energy expenses necessary to carry out program direction of the Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations, \$35,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

#### ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY—ENERGY

For Department of Energy expenses necessary in carrying out the activities authorized by section 5012 of the America COMPETES Act (Public Law 110-69), \$470,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$37,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2025, for program direction.

#### TITLE 17 INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM

Such sums as are derived from amounts received from borrowers pursuant to section 1702(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 under this heading in prior Acts, shall be collected in accordance with section 502(7) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided*, That for necessary administrative expenses of the Title 17 Innovative Technology Loan Guarantee Program, as authorized, \$70,000,000 is appropriated, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided further*, That up to \$70,000,000 of fees collected in fiscal year 2024 pursuant to section 1702(h) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 shall be credited as offsetting collections under this heading and used for necessary administrative expenses in this appropriation and shall remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided further*, That to the extent that fees collected in fiscal year 2024 exceed \$70,000,000, those excess amounts shall be credited as offsetting collections under this heading and available in future fiscal years only to the extent provided in advance in appropriations Acts: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced (1) as such fees are received during fiscal year 2024 (estimated at \$70,000,000) and (2) to the extent that any remaining general

fund appropriations can be derived from fees collected in previous fiscal years that are not otherwise appropriated, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2024 appropriation from the general fund estimated at \$0: *Provided further*, That the Department of Energy shall not subordinate any loan obligation to other financing in violation of section 1702 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 or subordinate any Guaranteed Obligation to any loan or other debt obligations in violation of section 609.10 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations.

#### ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY VEHICLES MANUFACTURING LOAN PROGRAM

For Department of Energy administrative expenses necessary in carrying out the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program, \$13,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

#### TRIBAL ENERGY LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM

For Department of Energy administrative expenses necessary in carrying out the Tribal Energy Loan Guarantee Program, \$6,300,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

#### INDIAN ENERGY POLICY AND PROGRAMS

For necessary expenses for Indian Energy activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), \$75,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated under this heading, \$14,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2025, for program direction.

#### DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

For salaries and expenses of the Department of Energy necessary for departmental administration in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), \$383,578,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, including the hire of passenger motor vehicles and official reception and representation expenses not to exceed \$30,000, plus such additional amounts as necessary to cover increases in the estimated amount of cost of work for others notwithstanding the provisions of the Anti-Deficiency Act (31 U.S.C. 1511 et seq.): *Provided*, That such increases in cost of work are offset by revenue increases of the same or greater amount: *Provided further*, That moneys received by the Department for miscellaneous revenues estimated to total \$100,578,000 in fiscal year 2024 may be retained and used for operating expenses within this account, as authorized by section 201 of Public Law 95-238, notwithstanding the provisions of 31 U.S.C. 3302: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2024 appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than \$283,000,000.

#### OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

For expenses necessary for the Office of the Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, \$92,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

#### ATOMIC ENERGY DEFENSE ACTIVITIES

##### NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

##### WEAPONS ACTIVITIES

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other incidental expenses necessary for atomic energy defense weapons activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$19,114,167,000, to remain

available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$118,056,000 shall be available until September 30, 2025, for program direction.

#### DEFENSE NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other incidental expenses necessary for defense nuclear nonproliferation activities, in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$2,380,037,000, to remain available until expended.

#### NAVAL REACTORS

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for naval reactors activities to carry out the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition (by purchase, condemnation, construction, or otherwise) of real property, plant, and capital equipment, facilities, and facility expansion, \$1,946,049,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$99,747,000 shall be transferred to "Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Nuclear Energy", for the Advanced Test Reactor: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$61,540,000 shall be available until September 30, 2025, for program direction.

#### FEDERAL SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for Federal Salaries and Expenses in the National Nuclear Security Administration, \$518,994,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, including official reception and representation expenses not to exceed \$17,000.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER DEFENSE ACTIVITIES

##### DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other expenses necessary for atomic energy defense environmental cleanup activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$7,073,556,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$326,893,000 shall be available until September 30, 2025, for program direction.

##### OTHER DEFENSE ACTIVITIES

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other expenses, necessary for atomic energy defense, other defense activities, and classified activities, in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$1,075,197,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$381,460,000 shall be available until September 30, 2025, for program direction.

#### POWER MARKETING ADMINISTRATIONS

##### BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION FUND

Expenditures from the Bonneville Power Administration Fund, established pursuant to Public Law 93-454, are approved for official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed \$5,000: *Provided*, That during fiscal year 2024, no new direct loan obligations may be made.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, SOUTHEASTERN  
POWER ADMINISTRATION

For expenses necessary for operation and maintenance of power transmission facilities and for marketing electric power and energy, including transmission wheeling and ancillary services, pursuant to section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), as applied to the southeastern power area, \$8,449,000, including official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed \$1,500, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302 and section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944, up to \$8,449,000 collected by the Southeastern Power Administration from the sale of power and related services shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the Southeastern Power Administration: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2024 appropriation estimated at not more than \$0: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to \$71,850,000 collected by the Southeastern Power Administration pursuant to the Flood Control Act of 1944 to recover purchase power and wheeling expenses shall be credited to this account as offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of making purchase power and wheeling expenditures: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they are incurred (excluding purchase power and wheeling expenses).

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE,  
SOUTHWESTERN POWER ADMINISTRATION

For expenses necessary for operation and maintenance of power transmission facilities and for marketing electric power and energy, for construction and acquisition of transmission lines, substations and appurtenant facilities, and for administrative expenses, including official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed \$1,500 in carrying out section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), as applied to the Southwestern Power Administration, \$52,326,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302 and section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), up to \$40,886,000 collected by the Southwestern Power Administration from the sale of power and related services shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended, for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the Southwestern Power Administration: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2024 appropriation estimated at not more than \$11,440,000: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to \$80,000,000 collected by the Southwestern Power Administration pursuant to the Flood Control Act of 1944 to recover purchase power and wheeling expenses shall be credited to this account as offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of making purchase power and wheeling expenditures: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they are incurred (excluding purchase power and wheeling expenses).

CONSTRUCTION, REHABILITATION, OPERATION  
AND MAINTENANCE, WESTERN AREA POWER  
ADMINISTRATION

For carrying out the functions authorized by title III, section 302(a)(1)(E) of the Act of August 4, 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7152), and other related activities including conservation and renewable resources programs as authorized, \$313,289,000, including official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed \$1,500, to remain available until expended, of which \$313,289,000 shall be derived from the Department of the Interior Reclamation Fund: *Provided*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), and section 1 of the Interior Department Appropriation Act, 1939 (43 U.S.C. 392a), up to \$213,417,000 collected by the Western Area Power Administration from the sale of power and related services shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended, for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the Western Area Power Administration: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2024 appropriation estimated at not more than \$99,872,000, of which \$99,872,000 is derived from the Reclamation Fund: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to \$475,000,000 collected by the Western Area Power Administration pursuant to the Flood Control Act of 1944 and the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 to recover purchase power and wheeling expenses shall be credited to this account as offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of making purchase power and wheeling expenditures: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they are incurred (excluding purchase power and wheeling expenses).

FALCON AND AMISTAD OPERATING AND  
MAINTENANCE FUND

For operation, maintenance, and emergency costs for the hydroelectric facilities at the Falcon and Amistad Dams, \$3,425,000, to remain available until expended, and to be derived from the Falcon and Amistad Operating and Maintenance Fund of the Western Area Power Administration, as provided in section 2 of the Act of June 18, 1954 (68 Stat. 255): *Provided*, That notwithstanding the provisions of that Act and of 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to \$3,197,000 collected by the Western Area Power Administration from the sale of power and related services from the Falcon and Amistad Dams shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the hydroelectric facilities of these Dams and associated Western Area Power Administration activities: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2024 appropriation estimated at not more than \$228,000: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they are incurred: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2024, the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration may accept up to \$1,872,000 in funds contributed by United States power customers of the Falcon and Amistad Dams for deposit into the Falcon and Amistad Operating and Maintenance Fund, and such funds shall be available for the purpose for which contributed in like manner as if said sums had been specifically

appropriated for such purpose: *Provided further*, That any such funds shall be available without further appropriation and without fiscal year limitation for use by the Commissioner of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission for the sole purpose of operating, maintaining, repairing, rehabilitating, replacing, or upgrading the hydroelectric facilities at these Dams in accordance with agreements reached between the Administrator, Commissioner, and the power customers.

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to carry out the provisions of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, official reception and representation expenses not to exceed \$3,000, and the hire of passenger motor vehicles, \$520,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, not to exceed \$520,000,000 of revenues from fees and annual charges, and other services and collections in fiscal year 2024 shall be retained and used for expenses necessary in this account, and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced as revenues are received during fiscal year 2024 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2024 appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than \$0.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT  
OF ENERGY(INCLUDING RESCISSIONS AND TRANSFERS OF  
FUNDS)

SEC. 301. (a) No appropriation, funds, or authority made available by this title for the Department of Energy shall be used to initiate or resume any program, project, or activity or to prepare or initiate Requests For Proposals or similar arrangements (including Requests for Quotations, Requests for Information, and Funding Opportunity Announcements) for a program, project, or activity if the program, project, or activity has not been funded by Congress.

(b)(1) Unless the Secretary of Energy notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 3 full business days in advance, none of the funds made available in this title may be used to—

(A) make a grant allocation or discretionary grant award totaling \$1,000,000 or more;

(B) make a discretionary contract award or Other Transaction Agreement totaling \$1,000,000 or more, including a contract covered by the Federal Acquisition Regulation;

(C) issue a letter of intent to make an allocation, award, or Agreement in excess of the limits in subparagraph (A) or (B); or

(D) announce publicly the intention to make an allocation, award, or Agreement in excess of the limits in subparagraph (A) or (B).

(2) The Secretary of Energy shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 15 days of the conclusion of each quarter a report detailing each grant allocation or discretionary grant award totaling less than \$1,000,000 provided during the previous quarter.

(3) The notification required by paragraph (1) and the report required by paragraph (2) shall include the recipient of the award, the amount of the award, the fiscal year for which the funds for the award were appropriated, the account and program, project, or activity from which the funds are being drawn, the title of the award, and a brief description of the activity for which the award is made.

(c) The Department of Energy may not, with respect to any program, project, or activity that uses budget authority made available in this title under the heading “Department of Energy—Energy Programs”, enter into a multiyear contract, award a multiyear grant, or enter into a multiyear cooperative agreement unless—

(1) the contract, grant, or cooperative agreement is funded for the full period of performance as anticipated at the time of award; or

(2) the contract, grant, or cooperative agreement includes a clause conditioning the Federal Government’s obligation on the availability of future year budget authority and the Secretary notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 3 days in advance.

(d) Except as provided in subsections (e), (f), and (g), the amounts made available by this title shall be expended as authorized by law for the programs, projects, and activities specified in the “House Recommended” column in the “Department of Energy” table included under the heading “Title III—Department of Energy” in the report accompanying this Act.

(e) The amounts made available by this title may be reprogrammed for any program, project, or activity, and the Department shall notify, and obtain the prior approval of, the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days prior to the use of any proposed reprogramming that would cause any program, project, or activity funding level to increase or decrease by more than \$5,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, during the time period covered by this Act.

(f) None of the funds provided in this title shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that—

(1) creates, initiates, or eliminates a program, project, or activity;

(2) increases funds or personnel for any program, project, or activity for which funds are denied or restricted by this Act; or

(3) reduces funds that are directed to be used for a specific program, project, or activity by this Act.

(g)(1) The Secretary of Energy may waive any requirement or restriction in this section that applies to the use of funds made available for the Department of Energy if compliance with such requirement or restriction would pose a substantial risk to human health, the environment, welfare, or national security.

(2) The Secretary of Energy shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of any waiver under paragraph (1) as soon as practicable, but not later than 3 days after the date of the activity to which a requirement or restriction would otherwise have applied. Such notice shall include an explanation of the substantial risk under paragraph (1) that permitted such waiver.

(h) The unexpended balances of prior appropriations provided for activities in this Act may be available to the same appropriation accounts for such activities established pursuant to this title. Available balances may be merged with funds in the applicable established accounts and thereafter may be accounted for as one fund for the same time period as originally enacted.

SEC. 302. Funds appropriated by this or any other Act, or made available by the transfer of funds in this Act, for intelligence activities are deemed to be specifically authorized by the Congress for purposes of section 504 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3094) during fiscal year 2024 until the enactment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for fiscal year 2024.

SEC. 303. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used for the construction of facilities classified as high-hazard nuclear facilities under 10 CFR Part 830 unless independent oversight is conducted by the Office of Enterprise Assessments to ensure the project is in compliance with nuclear safety requirements.

SEC. 304. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to approve critical decision-2 or critical decision-3 under Department of Energy Order 413.3B, or any successive departmental guidance, for construction projects where the total project cost exceeds \$100,000,000, until a separate independent cost estimate has been developed for the project for that critical decision.

SEC. 305. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to support a grant allocation award, discretionary grant award, or cooperative agreement that exceeds \$100,000,000 in Federal funding unless the project is carried out through internal independent project management procedures.

SEC. 306. No funds shall be transferred directly from “Department of Energy—Power Marketing Administration—Colorado River Basins Power Marketing Fund, Western Area Power Administration” to the general fund of the Treasury in the current fiscal year.

SEC. 307. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to finalize, implement, administer, or enforce an energy efficiency standard that increases efficiency standards on distribution transformers, including the proposed rule entitled “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Distribution Transformers” published by the Department of Energy in the Federal Register on January 11, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 1722) or any substantially similar rule.

SEC. 308. Notwithstanding section 301(c) of this Act, none of the funds made available under the heading “Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Science” may be used for a multiyear contract, grant, cooperative agreement, or Other Transaction Agreement of \$5,000,000 or less unless the contract, grant, cooperative agreement, or Other Transaction Agreement is funded for the full period of performance as anticipated at the time of award.

SEC. 309. (a) Of the unobligated balances of amounts made available to the Department of Energy under each heading in title III of division J of Public Law 117–58, an amount equal to the amount transferred from each such heading as of the date of enactment of this Act pursuant to section 303 of Public Law 117–58 shall be transferred on October 1, 2023, to the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Energy to oversee the funds made available to the Department of Energy in Public Law 117–58: *Provided*, That any amounts so transferred that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or a concurrent resolution on the budget are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(b) Beginning on October 1, 2023, of the amounts made available to the Department of Energy under each of sections 50121, 50141, 50142, 50143, 50144, 50145, 50151, 50152, 50153, and 50161 of Public Law 117–169, two-tenths of one percent of such amounts shall be transferred to the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Energy to oversee the funds made available to the Department of Energy in Public Law 117–169: *Provided*, That amounts so transferred shall be derived from the unobligated balances of amounts under each such section.

(c) Section 303 of Public Law 117–58 is amended by—

(1) striking “One-tenth” and inserting “(a) Except as provided in subsection (b), one-tenth”; and

(2) adding at the end the following new provision:

“(b) Beginning on October 1, 2023, of the amounts made available to the Department of Energy under each heading in this title in this Act, two-tenths of one percent of such amounts in each of fiscal years 2024 through 2026 shall be transferred to the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Energy to oversee the funds made available to the Department of Energy in this title in this Act: *Provided*, That any amounts so transferred that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or a concurrent resolution on the budget are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.”

SEC. 310. (a) Notwithstanding sections 161 and 167 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6241, 6247), the Secretary of Energy shall draw down and sell one million barrels of refined petroleum product from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve during fiscal year 2024.

(b) All proceeds from such sale shall be deposited into the general fund of the Treasury during fiscal year 2024.

(c) Upon the completion of such sale, the Secretary shall carry out the closure of the Northeast Gasoline Supply Reserve.

(d)(1) The Secretary of Energy may not establish any new regional petroleum product reserve unless funding for the proposed regional petroleum product reserve is explicitly requested in advance in an annual budget submission and approved by the Congress in an appropriations Act.

(2) The budget request or notification shall include—

(A) the justification for the new reserve;

(B) a cost estimate for the establishment, operation, and maintenance of the reserve, including funding sources;

(C) a detailed plan for operation of the reserve, including the conditions upon which the products may be released;

(D) the location of the reserve; and

(E) the estimate of the total inventory of the reserve.

SEC. 311. Of the authority made available in Public Law 117–328 for the Title 17 Innovative Technology Loan Guarantee Program for commitments to guarantee loans for eligible projects under title XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, a total principal of \$15,000,000,000 is hereby permanently rescinded.

SEC. 312. (a) Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available in section 50131 of Public Law 117–169, \$1,000,000,000 are hereby permanently rescinded.

(b) Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available in section 50122 of Public Law 117–169, \$4,500,000,000 are hereby permanently rescinded.

(c) Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available in section 50123 of Public Law 117–169, \$200,000,000 are hereby permanently rescinded.

SEC. 313. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be expended to support the Department of Energy Justice40 initiative as defined by or required by Executive Order 14008.

SEC. 314. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to draw down and sell petroleum products from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (1) to any entity that is under the ownership, control, or influence of the Chinese Communist Party; or (2) except on condition that such petroleum products

will not be exported to the People's Republic of China.

SEC. 315. The funds made available to the Department of Energy in this Act shall be applied in a manner consistent with subtitle D of title VI of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (enacted as division B of the CHIPS Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-167; 42 U.S.C. 19231 et seq.)).

SEC. 316. (a) Of the unobligated amounts available under the heading "Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Nuclear Energy" in division J of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58) for fiscal years 2024, 2025, and 2026, the following are available, in addition to amounts otherwise made available for these purposes:

(1) (A) \$2,400,000,000 for Advanced Nuclear Fuel Availability, of which \$800,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be available in each of fiscal years 2024, 2025, 2026.

(B) Funds available under subparagraph (A) shall only be available if a law is enacted after May 1, 2023, that specifically authorizes a program for the Secretary of Energy to support the availability of low-enriched uranium, including high-assay low-enriched uranium, for civilian domestic research, development, demonstration, and commercial use.

(2) \$1,197,000,000 to carry out the ongoing demonstration project under the Advanced Small Modular Reactor RD&D program, of which \$399,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be available in each of fiscal years 2024, 2025, and 2026.

(b) Amounts repurposed pursuant to this paragraph that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or a concurrent resolution on the budget are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 317. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to finalize, implement, administer, or enforce the proposed rule titled "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Conventional Cooking Products; Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and announcement of public meeting" (88 Fed. Reg. 6818; published February 1, 2023) with respect to energy conservation standards for gas kitchen ranges and ovens, or any substantially similar rule, including any rule that would directly or indirectly limit consumer access to gas kitchen ranges or ovens.

#### TITLE IV

##### INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

###### APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION

For expenses necessary to carry out the programs authorized by the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965, as amended, and for expenses necessary for the Federal Co-Chairman and the Alternate on the Appalachian Regional Commission, for payment of the Federal share of the administrative expenses of the Commission, including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, and hire of passenger motor vehicles, \$200,000,000, to remain available until expended.

###### DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board in carrying out activities authorized by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended by Public Law 100-456, section 1441, \$45,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, of which not to exceed \$1,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

###### DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Delta Regional Authority and to carry out its activities, as authorized by the Delta Regional Authority Act of 2000, notwithstanding sections 382F(d), 382M, and 382N of said Act, \$31,100,000, to remain available until expended.

###### DENALI COMMISSION

For expenses necessary for the Denali Commission including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment as necessary and other expenses, \$17,000,000, to remain available until expended, notwithstanding the limitations contained in section 306(g) of the Denali Commission Act of 1998: *Provided*, That funds shall be available for construction projects for which the Denali Commission is the sole or primary funding source in an amount not to exceed 80 percent of total project cost for distressed communities, as defined by section 307 of the Denali Commission Act of 1998 (division C, title III, Public Law 105-277), as amended by section 701 of appendix D, title VII, Public Law 106-113 (113 Stat. 1501A-280), and an amount not to exceed 50 percent for non-distressed communities: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law regarding payment of a non-Federal share in connection with a grant-in-aid program, amounts under this heading shall be available for the payment of such a non-Federal share for any project for which the Denali Commission is not the sole or primary funding source, provided that such project is consistent with the purposes of the Commission.

###### NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION

For expenses necessary for the Northern Border Regional Commission in carrying out activities authorized by subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, \$40,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such amounts shall be available for administrative expenses, notwithstanding section 15751(b) of title 40, United States Code.

###### SOUTHEAST CRESCENT REGIONAL COMMISSION

For expenses necessary for the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission in carrying out activities authorized by subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, \$20,000,000, to remain available until expended.

###### SOUTHWEST BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION

For expenses necessary for the Southwest Border Regional Commission in carrying out activities authorized by subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, \$5,000,000, to remain available until expended.

###### GREAT LAKES AUTHORITY

For expenses necessary for the Great Lakes Authority in carrying out activities authorized by subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, \$5,000,000, to remain available until expended.

###### NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Commission in carrying out the purposes of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 and the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, \$960,560,450, including official representation expenses not to exceed \$30,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated herein, not more than \$10,350,720 may be made available for salaries, travel, and other support costs for the Office of the Commission, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided further*, That revenues from licensing fees, inspection services, and other services and collections estimated at \$807,727,130 in fiscal year 2024 shall be retained and used for necessary salaries and

expenses in this account, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced by the amount of revenues received during fiscal year 2024 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2024 appropriation estimated at not more than \$152,833,320.

###### OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For expenses necessary for the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, \$18,648,340, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That revenues from licensing fees, inspection services, and other services and collections estimated at \$15,481,566 in fiscal year 2024 shall be retained and be available until September 30, 2025, for necessary salaries and expenses in this account, notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced by the amount of revenues received during fiscal year 2024 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2024 appropriation estimated at not more than \$3,166,774: *Provided further*, That of the amounts appropriated under this heading, \$1,534,900 shall be for Inspector General services for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

###### NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, as authorized by Public Law 100-203, section 5051, \$4,064,000, to be derived from the Nuclear Waste Fund, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

###### GENERAL PROVISIONS—INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

SEC. 401. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall comply with the July 5, 2011, version of Chapter VI of its Internal Commission Procedures when responding to Congressional requests for information, consistent with Department of Justice guidance for all Federal agencies.

SEC. 402. (a) The amounts made available by this title for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission may be reprogrammed for any program, project, or activity, and the Commission shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days prior to the use of any proposed reprogramming that would cause any program funding level to increase or decrease by more than \$500,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, during the time period covered by this Act.

(b)(1) The Nuclear Regulatory Commission may waive the notification requirement in subsection (a) if compliance with such requirement would pose a substantial risk to human health, the environment, welfare, or national security.

(2) The Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of any waiver under paragraph (1) as soon as practicable, but not later than 3 days after the date of the activity to which a requirement or restriction would otherwise have applied. Such notice shall include an explanation of the substantial risk under paragraph (1) that permitted such waiver and shall provide a detailed report to the Committees of such waiver and changes to funding levels to programs, projects, or activities.

(c) Except as provided in subsections (a), (b), and (d), the amounts made available by this title for "Nuclear Regulatory Commission—Salaries and Expenses" shall be expended as directed in the report accompanying this Act.

(d) None of the funds provided for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a



reprogramming of funds that increases funds or personnel for any program, project, or activity for which funds are denied or restricted by this Act.

(e) The Commission shall provide a monthly report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, which includes the following for each program, project, or activity, including any prior year appropriations—

- (1) total budget authority;
- (2) total unobligated balances; and
- (3) total unliquidated obligations.

#### TITLE V—WATER FOR CALIFORNIA

##### SEC. 501. DEFINITIONS.

In Subtitle A through Subtitle D, the following definitions apply:

(1) CVP.—The term “CVP” means the Central Valley Project.

(2) CVP CONTRACTOR.—The term “CVP contractor” means any public water agency, water user organization, or person that has entered into a contract with the United States for water service from the CVP, whether in the form of a water service contract, repayment contract, water rights settlement contract, exchange contract, or refuge contract.

(3) FWS BIOLOGICAL OPINION.—The term “FWS Biological Opinion” means the United States Fish and Wildlife Service “Biological Opinion for the Reinitiation of Consultation on the Coordinated Operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project” (Service File No. 08FBTD00–2019–F–0164) signed on October 21, 2019.

(4) NOAA BIOLOGICAL OPINION.—The term “NOAA Biological Opinion” means the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries “Biological Opinion on the Long-term Operation of the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project” (Consultation Tracking Number: WCRO–2016–00069) signed on October 21, 2019.

(5) PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE.—The term “Preferred Alternative” means the Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative), as described in the Final Environmental Impact Statement on the Reinitiation of Consultation on the Coordinated Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project, issued by the Bureau of Reclamation, and dated December 2019.

(6) SWP.—The term “SWP” means the California State Water Project.

(7) SWP CONTRACTOR.—The term “SWP contractor” means a public agency that has entered into a long-term water supply contract with the California Department of Water Resources for water service from the SWP.

##### SEC. 502. TREATMENT OF FUNDS.

Amounts repurposed pursuant to this title that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or a concurrent resolution on the budget are designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

##### Subtitle A—CVP and SWP Operations

##### SEC. 511. OPERATION OF THE CVP AND SWP.

(a) CONGRESSIONAL DIRECTION REGARDING CVP AND SWP OPERATIONS.—The CVP and the SWP shall be operated, and reporting shall be done, in accordance with the Preferred Alternative and FWS Biological Opinion and NOAA Biological Opinion.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—Operation of the CVP and SWP shall proceed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, except:

(1) to the extent changes to operations are undertaken pursuant to one or more agreements, which are voluntarily entered into, approved, and implemented by CVP contractors, for operations of the CVP, and SWP

contractors, for operations of the SWP, with all applicable Federal departments and the State of California, including any agency or board of the State of California; or

(2) to the extent changes in operations of the CVP, SWP, or both can be made while improving the supply of water available to CVP contractors, SWP contractors, or both.

(c) COSTS.—No cost, including water supply, financial, mitigation-related, or otherwise, associated with the implementation of any agreement under subsection (b)(1) or the implementation of any reoperation under subsection (b)(2) shall be imposed by any Federal department or agency or the State of California, including any agency or board of the State of California, directly or indirectly on any CVP contractor, SWP contractor, or any other person or entity, unless such costs are incurred on a voluntary basis.

(d) NO REDIRECTED ADVERSE IMPACTS.—The Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Commerce shall not carry out any specific action authorized under the applicable provisions of this subtitle that would directly or through State agency action indirectly result in the involuntary reduction of water supply to an individual, district, or agency that has in effect a contract for water with the SWP or the CVP, including settlement, exchange, and refuge contracts, and Friant Division contracts.

(e) ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT.—Notwithstanding subsection (b), implementation of subsection (a) shall not conflict with the FWS Biological Opinion and the NOAA Biological Opinion.

(f) NATIVE SPECIES PROTECTION.—The State of California shall not impose any bag, catch, or size restriction or limit on the take or harvest of striped bass or any species of black bass, including largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, and spotted bass, that occupy the Sacramento-San Joaquin Rivers Delta or its tributaries.

##### SEC. 512. OPERATIONS AND REVIEWS.

In carrying out section 511(a), the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce shall implement their statutory authorities in a manner that improves water supply reliability and enables the CVP and SWP to provide the maximum quantity of water supplies practicable to CVP agricultural, municipal, and industrial contractors, water service or repayment contractors, water rights settlement contractors, exchange contractors, refuge contractors, and SWP contractors, in accordance with the Preferred Alternative, NOAA Biological Opinion, and FWS Biological Opinion.

##### SEC. 513. APPLICATION OF STATE LAWS.

(a) REDUCED WATER SUPPLY.—If, as a result of the application of applicable State law or regulation, the State of California (including any agency or board of the State of California) alters operation of the SWP in a manner that directly or indirectly results in reduced water supply to the SWP as compared with the water supply available under the Preferred Alternative, and as a result, CVP yield is greater than it otherwise would have been under the Preferred Alternative, then that additional yield shall be made available to the SWP for delivery to SWP Contractors to offset that reduced water supply. If it is necessary to reduce water supplies for any authorized uses of the CVP or CVP Contractors to make available to the SWP that additional yield, such reductions shall be applied proportionately to those authorized uses or CVP contractors that benefit from that increased yield.

(b) NO RESTRICTION OF CERTAIN WATER RIGHTS.—The State of California (including any agency or board of the State of California) shall not restrict the exercise of any water right obtained pursuant to State law, including but not limited to a pre-1914 appro-

priative right or riparian right in order to offset any impact resulting from the implementation of this subtitle on any species affected by operations of the CVP or the SWP.

(c) NO INVOLUNTARY WATER REDUCTION.—The State of California (including any agency or board of the State of California), the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Commerce shall not take any action related to operation of the CVP or SWP that would directly or indirectly result in the involuntary reduction of water supply to any CVP agricultural, municipal and industrial contractor, water service or repayment contractor, water rights settlement contractor, exchange contractor, refuge contractor or any SWP contractor, as compared to the water supply available under the Preferred Alternative; and nothing in this section is intended to modify, amend, or affect any of the rights and obligations of the parties to such contracts.

##### SEC. 514. RECONSULTATION OF NOAA BIOLOGICAL OPINION AND FWS BIOLOGICAL OPINION.

###### (a) REQUIREMENT FOR RECONSULTATION.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—Unless action is taken pursuant to section 101(b), neither the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, nor the Secretary of Commerce, or their designees shall commence, complete, or request reinitiation of consultation on the coordinated long-term operation of the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project that will result in changes to or the replacement of the documents listed in paragraph (2) unless—

(A) more than 75 percent of California has experienced 4 consecutive years of D3 or D4 level drought, as defined by the U.S. Drought Monitor;

(B) the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation identifies one specific factor or combination of factors under section 402.16 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations; and

(C) not fewer than 120 days before officially commencing or requesting reinitiation, the Secretary of the Interior notifies the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, in writing, of—

(i) the intent to commence or request reinitiation under this section; and

(ii) the detailed justification for the identification of the specific factor or combination of factors under section 402.16 of title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, that was identified to satisfy the requirement in subparagraph (B).

(2) DOCUMENTS.—The documents referred to in paragraph (1) are the following:

(A) The FWS Biological Opinion.

(B) The NOAA Biological Opinion.

(C) The Record of Decision for the Reinitiation of Consultation on the Coordinated Long-Term Modified Operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project, signed on February 18, 2020.

(b) APPLICABLE PROCEDURES AND REVIEW.—For the purposes of this Act, before reinitiating consultation on the Long-Term Operation of the CVP and SWP, a request by the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of the Commerce, or any other Federal employee, to reinitiate consultation shall be made in writing and considered a rule under section 551 of title 5, United States Code, and subject to the requirements of sections 801 through 808 of that title.

(c) COOPERATION.—In implementing this section, the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce shall comply with requirements included in section 4004 of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (Public Law 114–322).

(d) EXCLUSION.—Notwithstanding subsection (b), in implementing this section,

section 801(b)(2) of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply.

**SEC. 515. SUNSET.**

Sections 511 through 514 shall have no force or effect on and after the date that is 7 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 516. CONSULTATION ON COORDINATED OPERATIONS.**

The Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (Public Law 114-322) is amended—

(1) in section 4004(a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), strike “public water agency that contracts” and insert “contractor”;

(B) in paragraph (1), by inserting “or proposed action” after “biological assessment.”;

(C) in paragraph (2), by inserting “or proposed action” after “biological assessment.”;

(D) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (6) as paragraphs (4) through (7), respectively;

(E) after paragraph (2), by inserting the following new paragraph:

“(3) receive a copy of the draft proposed action and have the opportunity to review that document and provide comment to the action agency, which comments shall be afforded due consideration during development.”; and

(F) in paragraph (7), as redesignated by subparagraph (C) of this paragraph—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “action agency proposes a proposed action or” before “the consulting agency”;

(ii) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “proposed action or” before “alternative will”;

(iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “alternative actions” and insert “actions or alternatives”;

(2) in section 4013, by deleting “section 4004, which shall expire 10 years after the date of its enactment;” and inserting “section 4004, which shall expire on December 16, 2033.”;

**Subtitle B—Allocations for Sacramento Valley Contractors**

**SEC. 521. DEFINITIONS.**

In this subtitle, the following definitions apply:

(1) The term “existing CVP agricultural water service or repayment contractor within the Sacramento River Watershed” means any water service or repayment contractor within the Shasta, Trinity, or Sacramento River division of the CVP that has in effect a water service or repayment contract on the date of enactment of this title that provides water for irrigation.

(2) The terms “Above Normal”, “Below Normal”, “Dry”, and “Wet”, with respect to a year, have the meanings given those terms in the Sacramento Valley Water Year Type (40-30-30) Index.

**SEC. 522. ALLOCATIONS OF WATER.**

Subject to section 523, the Secretary of the Interior shall make every reasonable effort in the operation of the CVP to allocate water provided for irrigation purposes to each existing CVP agricultural water service contractor within the Sacramento River Watershed in accordance with the following:

(1) Not less than 100 percent of the contract quantity of the existing CVP agricultural water service contractor within the Sacramento River Watershed in a Wet year.

(2) Not less than 100 percent of the contract quantity of the existing CVP agricultural water service contractor within the Sacramento River Watershed in an Above Normal year.

(3) Not less than 100 percent of the contract quantity of the existing CVP agricultural water service contractor within the Sac-

ramento River Watershed in a Below Normal year that is preceded by an Above Normal or Wet year.

(4) Not less than 50 percent of the contract quantity of the existing CVP agricultural water service contractor within the Sacramento River Watershed in a Dry year that is preceded by a Below Normal, Above Normal, or Wet year.

(5) In any other year not identified in paragraphs (1) through (4), not less than twice the allocation percentage to south-of-Delta CVP agricultural water service contractors, up to 100 percent.

**SEC. 523. PROTECTION OF REFUGE, MUNICIPAL AND INDUSTRIAL, AND OTHER CONTRACTORS.**

Nothing in section 522 shall—

(1) adversely affect any protections for the environment, including the obligation of the Secretary of the Interior to make water available to managed wetlands pursuant to section 3406(d) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (title XXXIV of Public Law 102-575; 106 Stat. 4722);

(2) adversely affect any obligation of the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Commerce under the FWS Biological Opinion or the NOAA Biological Opinion;

(3) modify any provision of a water service contract that addresses municipal or industrial water shortage policies of the Secretary of the Interior;

(4) affect or limit the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to adopt or modify municipal and industrial water shortage policies;

(5) constrain, govern, or affect, directly or indirectly, the operations of the American River division of the CVP or any deliveries from that division or a unit or facility of that division; or

(6) affect any allocation to a CVP municipal or industrial water service contractor by increasing or decreasing allocations to the contractor, as compared to the allocation the contractor would have received absent section 522.

**SEC. 524. OTHER CONTRACTORS.**

Nothing in section 522 shall—

(1) affect the priority of any individual or entity with a Sacramento River settlement contract over water service or repayment contractors;

(2) affect the United States ability to deliver water to the San Joaquin River exchange contractors from the Sacramento River and the Delta via the Delta-Mendota Canal or modify or amend the rights and obligations under the Purchase Contract between Miller and Lux and the United States and the Second Amended Exchange Contract between the United States, Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation and Central California Irrigation District, San Luis Canal Company, Firebaugh Canal Water District and Columbia Canal Company;

(3) affect the allocation of water to Friant division contractors of the CVP;

(4) result in the involuntary reduction in contract water allocations to individuals or entities with contracts to receive water from the Friant division;

(5) result in the involuntary reduction in water allocations to refuge contractors; or

(6) authorize any actions inconsistent with State water rights law.

**Subtitle C—Infrastructure**

**SEC. 531. SHASTA RESERVOIR ENLARGEMENT PROJECT.**

Section 40902(a)(2) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “this Act, except for any project for which—” and inserting “this Act; or”;

(B) by striking clauses (i) and (ii); and

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking “(except that projects described in clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (B) shall not be eligible)”.

**SEC. 532. WATER SUPPLY PLAN; PROJECTS.**

(a) PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation shall develop a water deficit report, which shall identify—

(1) projected water supply shortages in the State of California for irrigation water service, municipal and industrial water service, water supply for wildlife refuges supplied by the CVP or the SWP; and

(2) infrastructure projects or actions which, if taken, would—

(A) significantly reduce or eliminate the projected water supply shortage; or

(B) fulfill water allocations consistent with agricultural, municipal and industrial contractors, water service or repayment contractors, water rights settlement contractors, exchange contractors, and SWP contractors with water delivery contractors on the CVP and SWP.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation shall provide a report described in subsection (a) to the House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Appropriations, the House Committee on Natural Resources, the Senate Committee on Energy, and the Senate Committee on Natural Resources upon its completion.

**SEC. 533. CONSERVATION FISH HATCHERIES.**

Section 4010(b)(5) of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (Public Law 114-322) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(D) SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate semi-annual reports that detail activities carried out under this paragraph.”.

**SEC. 534. STORAGE; DURATION.**

(a) STORAGE.—Section 4007 of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (Public Law 114-322) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “or any public agency organized pursuant to State law” and inserting “any public agency organized pursuant to State law, or any stakeholder”;

(2) in subsection (i), by striking “January 1, 2021” and inserting “January 1, 2028”.

(b) DURATION.—Section 4013 of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (Public Law 114-322) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “and”;

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

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) section 4007, which (except as provided in paragraph (3)), shall expire on December 31, 2028; and”.

**SEC. 535. SHASTA DAM ENLARGEMENT**

No provision of State law shall preclude or otherwise prevent any public water agency, including a public agency of the State, that contracts for the delivery of CVP water from assisting or cooperating with, whether by loan, grant, license, or otherwise, the planning and construction of any project undertaken by the Bureau of Reclamation to enlarge Shasta Dam.

**Subtitle D—CVPIA Actions**

**SEC. 541. CVPIA RESTORATION ACTIONS.**

(a) REFUGE WATER SUPPLY PROGRAM.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall complete the refuge water supply program under section 3406(d) of the Central

Valley Project Improvement Act (title XXXIV of Public Law 102-575; 106 Stat. 4722) and shall, within that 2-year period, give priority to completing the refuge water supply program when making funding decisions from the Central Valley Project Restoration Fund established under section 3407 of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (106 Stat. 4726), the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-25), the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (Public Law 88-578), and other sources of funding.

(b) RESTORATION ACTIONS DEEMED COMPLETE.—Upon completion of the refuge water supply program pursuant to subsection (a), or September 30, 2025, whichever occurs first, the Secretary of the Interior shall deem complete the fish, wildlife, and habitat mitigation and restoration actions mandated under section 3406 of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (title XXXIV of Public Law 102-575; 106 Stat. 4714).

Subtitle E—Water Supply Permitting  
Coordination Act

SEC. 551. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) BUREAU.—The term “Bureau” means the Bureau of Reclamation.

(2) COOPERATING AGENCIES.—The term “cooperating agency” means a Federal agency with jurisdiction over a review, analysis, opinion, statement, permit, license, or other approval or decision required for a qualifying project under applicable Federal laws and regulations, or a State agency subject to section 503(c).

(3) QUALIFYING PROJECTS.—The term “qualifying projects” means new surface water storage projects in the States covered under the Act of June 17, 1902 (32 Stat. 388, chapter 1093), and Acts supplemental to and amendatory of that Act (43 U.S.C. 371 et seq.) constructed on lands administered by the Department of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture, exclusive of any easement, right-of-way, lease, or any private holding, if the project applicant or sponsor elects to participate in the process authorized by this title. Such term shall also include State-led projects (as defined in section 4007(a)(2) of the WIIN Act) for new surface water storage projects in the States covered under the Act of June 17, 1902 (32 Stat. 388, chapter 1093), and Acts supplemental to and amendatory of that Act (43 U.S.C. 371 et seq.) constructed on lands administered by the Department of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture, exclusive of any easement, right-of-way, lease, or any private holding, unless the project applicant elects not to participate in the process authorized by this title.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 552. ESTABLISHMENT OF LEAD AGENCY AND COOPERATING AGENCIES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF LEAD AGENCY.—The Bureau is established as the lead agency for purposes of coordinating all reviews, analyses, opinions, statements, permits, licenses, or other approvals or decisions required under Federal law to construct qualifying projects.

(b) IDENTIFICATION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF COOPERATING AGENCIES.—The Commissioner of the Bureau shall—

(1) identify, as early as practicable upon receipt of an application for a qualifying project, any Federal agency that may have jurisdiction over a review, analysis, opinion, statement, permit, license, approval, or decision required for a qualifying project under applicable Federal laws and regulations; and

(2) notify any such agency, within a reasonable timeframe, that the agency has been designated as a cooperating agency in regards to the qualifying project unless that

agency responds to the Bureau in writing, within a timeframe set forth by the Bureau, notifying the Bureau that the agency—

(A) has no jurisdiction or authority with respect to the qualifying project;

(B) has no expertise or information relevant to the qualifying project or any review, analysis, opinion, statement, permit, license, or other approval or decision associated therewith; or

(C) does not intend to submit comments on the qualifying project or conduct any review of such a project or make any decision with respect to such project in a manner other than in cooperation with the Bureau.

(c) STATE AUTHORITY.—A State in which a qualifying project is being considered may choose, consistent with State law—

(1) to participate as a cooperating agency; and

(2) to make subject to the processes of this subtitle all State agencies that—

(A) have jurisdiction over the qualifying project;

(B) are required to conduct or issue a review, analysis, or opinion for the qualifying project; or

(C) are required to make a determination on issuing a permit, license, or approval for the qualifying project.

SEC. 553. BUREAU RESPONSIBILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The principal responsibilities of the Bureau under this subtitle are—

(1) to serve as the point of contact for applicants, State agencies, Indian Tribes, and others regarding proposed qualifying projects;

(2) to coordinate preparation of unified environmental documentation that will serve as the basis for all Federal decisions necessary to authorize the use of Federal lands for qualifying projects; and

(3) to coordinate all Federal agency reviews necessary for project development and construction of qualifying projects.

(b) COORDINATION PROCESS.—The Bureau shall have the following coordination responsibilities:

(1) PREAPPLICATION COORDINATION.—Notify cooperating agencies of proposed qualifying projects not later than 30 days after receipt of a proposal and facilitate a preapplication meeting for prospective applicants, relevant Federal and State agencies, and Indian Tribes—

(A) to explain applicable processes, data requirements, and applicant submissions necessary to complete the required Federal agency reviews within the timeframe established; and

(B) to establish the schedule for the qualifying project.

(2) CONSULTATION WITH COOPERATING AGENCIES.—Consult with the cooperating agencies throughout the Federal agency review process, identify and obtain relevant data in a timely manner, and set necessary deadlines for cooperating agencies.

(3) SCHEDULE.—Work with the qualifying project applicant and cooperating agencies to establish a project schedule. In establishing the schedule, the Bureau shall consider, among other factors—

(A) the responsibilities of cooperating agencies under applicable laws and regulations;

(B) the resources available to the cooperating agencies and the non-Federal qualifying project sponsor, as applicable;

(C) the overall size and complexity of the qualifying project;

(D) the overall schedule for and cost of the qualifying project; and

(E) the sensitivity of the natural and historic resources that may be affected by the qualifying project.

(4) ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE.—Prepare a unified environmental review document for

each qualifying project application, incorporating a single environmental record on which all cooperating agencies with authority to issue approvals for a given qualifying project shall base project approval decisions. Help ensure that cooperating agencies make necessary decisions, within their respective authorities, regarding Federal approvals in accordance with the following timelines:

(A) Not later than 1 year after acceptance of a completed project application when an environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact is determined to be the appropriate level of review under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(B) Not later than 1 year and 30 days after the close of the public comment period for a draft environmental impact statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), when an environmental impact statement is required under the same.

(5) CONSOLIDATED ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD.—Maintain a consolidated administrative record of the information assembled and used by the cooperating agencies as the basis for agency decisions.

(6) PROJECT DATA RECORDS.—To the extent practicable and consistent with Federal law, ensure that all project data is submitted and maintained in generally accessible electronic format, compile, and where authorized under existing law, make available such project data to cooperating agencies, the qualifying project applicant, and to the public.

(7) PROJECT MANAGER.—Appoint a project manager for each qualifying project. The project manager shall have authority to oversee the project and to facilitate the issuance of the relevant final authorizing documents, and shall be responsible for ensuring fulfillment of all Bureau responsibilities set forth in this section and all cooperating agency responsibilities under section 554.

SEC. 554. COOPERATING AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.

(a) ADHERENCE TO BUREAU SCHEDULE.—

(1) TIMEFRAMES.—On notification of an application for a qualifying project, the head of each cooperating agency shall submit to the Bureau a timeframe under which the cooperating agency reasonably will be able to complete the authorizing responsibilities of the cooperating agency.

(2) SCHEDULE.—

(A) USE OF TIMEFRAMES.—The Bureau shall use the timeframes submitted under this subsection to establish the project schedule under section 504.

(B) ADHERENCE.—Each cooperating agency shall adhere to the project schedule established by the Bureau under subparagraph (A).

(b) ENVIRONMENTAL RECORD.—The head of each cooperating agency shall submit to the Bureau all environmental review material produced or compiled in the course of carrying out activities required under Federal law, consistent with the project schedule established by the Bureau under subsection (a)(2).

(c) DATA SUBMISSION.—To the extent practicable and consistent with Federal law, the head of each cooperating agency shall submit all relevant project data to the Bureau in a generally accessible electronic format, subject to the project schedule established by the Bureau under subsection (a)(2).

SEC. 555. FUNDING TO PROCESS PERMITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, after public notice in accordance with subchapter II of chapter 5, and chapter 7, of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Administrative Procedure Act”), may accept and expend funds, to the extent provided in advance in appropriations Acts, contributed

by a non-Federal public entity to expedite the evaluation of a permit of that entity related to a qualifying project.

(b) EFFECT ON PERMITTING.—

(1) EVALUATION OF PERMITS.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall ensure that the evaluation of permits carried out using funds accepted under this section shall—

(A) be reviewed by the Regional Director of the Bureau of the region in which the qualifying project or activity is located (or a designee); and

(B) use the same procedures for decisions that would otherwise be required for the evaluation of permits for similar projects or activities not carried out using funds authorized under this section.

(2) IMPARTIAL DECISION MAKING.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall ensure that the use of the funds accepted under this section for a qualifying project shall not—

(A) substantively or procedurally impact impartial decision making with respect to the issuance of permits; or

(B) diminish, modify, or otherwise affect the statutory or regulatory authorities of the cooperating agency.

(c) LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.—None of the funds accepted under this section shall be used to carry out a review of the evaluation of permits required under subsection (b)(1)(A).

(d) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary shall ensure that all final permit decisions carried out using funds authorized under this section are made available to the public, including on the internet.

#### TITLE VI

#### GENERAL PROVISIONS

##### (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 601. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used in any way, directly or indirectly, to influence congressional action on any legislation or appropriation matters pending before Congress, other than to communicate to Members of Congress as described in 18 U.S.C. 1913.

SEC. 602. (a) None of the funds made available in title III of this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government, except pursuant to a transfer made by or transfer authority provided in this Act or any other appropriations Act for any fiscal year, transfer authority referenced in the report accompanying this Act, or any authority whereby a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government may provide goods or services to another department, agency, or instrumentality.

(b) None of the funds made available for any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government may be transferred to accounts funded in title III of this Act, except pursuant to a transfer made by or transfer authority provided in this Act or any other appropriations Act for any fiscal year, transfer authority referenced in the report accompanying this Act, or any authority whereby a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government may provide goods or services to another department, agency, or instrumentality.

(c) The head of any relevant department or agency funded in this Act utilizing any transfer authority shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a semiannual report detailing the transfer authorities, except for any authority whereby a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government may provide goods or services to another department, agency, or instrumentality, used in the previous 6 months and in the year-to-

date. This report shall include the amounts transferred and the purposes for which they were transferred, and shall not replace or modify existing notification requirements for each authority.

SEC. 603. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, Tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

SEC. 604. (a) No federal monies shall be expended in furtherance of any agreement among private entities for consolidated interim storage of spent nuclear fuel that is not specifically authorized under federal law until such time that host state and local governments and any affected Indian tribes have formalized their consent.

(b) Provided that the prohibition provided for in this section shall not apply to facilities presently storing commercial spent nuclear fuel, pursuant to an NRC license, as of the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) For purposes of this section, “spent nuclear fuel” shall have the same meaning as provided in section 2 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982.

SEC. 605. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out any program, project, or activity that promotes or advances Critical Race Theory or any concept associated with Critical Race Theory.

SEC. 606. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be made available to implement, administer, apply, enforce, or carry out the Equity Action Plan of the Department of Energy, or Executive Order 13985 of January 20, 2021 (86 Fed. Reg. 7009, relating to advancing racial equity and support for underserved communities through the Federal Government), Executive Order 14035 of June 25, 2021 (86 Fed. Reg. 34593, relating to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in the Federal workforce), or Executive Order 14091 of February 16, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 10825, relating to further advancing racial equity and support for underserved communities through the Federal Government).

SEC. 607. (a) In general.—Notwithstanding section 7 of title 1, United States Code, section 1738C of title 28, United States Code, or any other provision of law, none of the funds provided by this Act, or previous appropriations Acts, shall be used in whole or in part to take any discriminatory action against a person, wholly or partially, on the basis that such person speaks, or acts, in accordance with a sincerely held religious belief, or moral conviction, that marriage is, or should be recognized as, a union of one man and one woman.

(b) Discriminatory action defined.—As used in subsection (a), a discriminatory action means any action taken by the Federal Government to—

(1) alter in any way the Federal tax treatment of, or cause any tax, penalty, or payment to be assessed against, or deny, delay, or revoke an exemption from taxation under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 of, any person referred to in subsection (a);

(2) disallow a deduction for Federal tax purposes of any charitable contribution made to or by such person;

(3) withhold, reduce the amount or funding for, exclude, terminate, or otherwise make unavailable or deny, any Federal grant, contract, subcontract, cooperative agreement, guarantee, loan, scholarship, license, certification, accreditation, employment, or other

similar position or status from or to such person;

(4) withhold, reduce, exclude, terminate, or otherwise make unavailable or deny, any entitlement or benefit under a Federal benefit program, including admission to, equal treatment in, or eligibility for a degree from an educational program, from or to such person; or

(5) withhold, reduce, exclude, terminate, or otherwise make unavailable or deny access or an entitlement to Federal property, facilities, educational institutions, speech fora (including traditional, limited, and non-public fora), or charitable fundraising campaigns from or to such person.

(c) Accreditation; Licensure; Certification.—The Federal Government shall consider accredited, licensed, or certified for purposes of Federal law any person that would be accredited, licensed, or certified, respectively, for such purposes but for a determination against such person wholly or partially on the basis that the person speaks, or acts, in accordance with a sincerely held religious belief or moral conviction described in subsection (a).

SEC. 608. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to finalize, implement, administer, apply, or enforce the proposed rule entitled “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Residential Clothes Washers” published by the Department of Energy in the Federal Register on March 3, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 13520), or any substantively similar rule.

SEC. 609. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, apply, enforce, or carry out any diversity, equity, and inclusion office, program, or training.

SEC. 610. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement or enforce section 370 of Public Law 116-283 with respect to civil works projects.

SEC. 611. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Energy to award any grant, contract, subcontract, award, loan, program, support, or other activity, to any entity who enters into, or maintains, partnerships or licensing agreements with any entity of concern, as defined in section 10114 of title I of division B of Public Law 117-167.

##### STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES PROHIBITION

SEC. 612. (a) INNOVATE IN AMERICA.—None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of Energy to award a contract, subcontract, grant, or loan to an entity that—

(1) is owned or controlled by, is a subsidiary of, or is otherwise related legally or financially to a corporation based in a country that—

(A) is identified as a nonmarket economy country (as defined in section 771(18) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1677(18))) as of the date of enactment of this Act;

(B) was identified by the United States Trade Representative in the most recent report required by section 182 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2242) as a priority foreign country under subsection (a)(2) of that section; and

(C) is subject to monitoring by the Trade Representative under section 306 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2416); or

(2) is listed pursuant to section 9(b)(3) of the Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-145).

(b) EXCEPTION.—For purposes of subsection (a), the Secretary of Energy may issue a waiver, to be made publicly available, to an entity in which the legal or financial connection to a corporation is a minority relationship or investment.

(c) INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.—This section shall be applied in a manner consistent

with the obligations of the United States under applicable international agreements.

SPENDING REDUCTION ACCOUNT

SEC. 613. \$0.

This Act may be cited as the “Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024”.

The Acting CHAIR. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived.

No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part B of House Report 118–242, amendments en bloc described in section 3 of House Resolution 756, and pro forma amendments described in section 4 of that resolution.

Each further amendment printed in part B of the report shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided by section 4 of House Resolution 756, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or her designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of amendments printed in part B of the report not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their designees, shall not be subject to amendment, except as provided by section 4 of House Resolution 756, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

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

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC OFFERED BY MR. FLEISCHMANN OF TENNESSEE

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, pursuant to House Resolution 756, I offer amendments en bloc.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc consisting of amendment Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 17, 18, 21, 23, and 33 printed in part B of House Report 118–242, offered by Mr. FLEISCHMANN of Tennessee:

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. LAWLER OF NEW YORK

Page 3, line 1, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO OF NEW YORK

Page 3, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$10,000,000) (reduced by \$10,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. GRAVES OF LOUISIANA

Page 3, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,746,000,000) (reduced by \$1,746,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO OF NEW YORK

Page 3, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$10,000,000) (reduced by \$10,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. PHILLIPS OF MINNESOTA

Page 5, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$3,000,000) (reduced by \$3,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. MOYLAN OF GUAM

Page 7, line 3, insert “typhoon,” before “and other”.

Page 8, line 3, insert “typhoon,” after “hurricane.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. LAWLER OF NEW YORK

Page 7, line 5, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MR. MOYLAN OF GUAM

Page 7, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,500,000)”.

Page 7, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,500,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MS. BOEBERT OF COLORADO

Page 18, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 18, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 34, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MS. BOEBERT OF COLORADO

Page 18, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$4,000,000)”.

Page 34, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$4,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 17 OFFERED BY MR. FALLON OF TEXAS

Page 26, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000) (reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 18 OFFERED BY MR. WALBERG OF MICHIGAN

Page 26, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$7,000,000) (increased by \$7,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 21 OFFERED BY MRS. PELTOLA OF ALASKA

On page 32, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,000,000) (increased by \$3,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 23 OFFERED BY MR. JACKSON OF TEXAS

Page 35, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$3,000,000)”.

Page 37, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 33 OFFERED BY MR. LAWLER OF NEW YORK

Page 61, line 6, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 756, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN) and the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, this bipartisan en bloc amendment was developed in coordination with the minority. It contains noncontroversial amendments addressing important issues at the agency’s funded in this

bill that have been agreed to by both sides. I support its adoption, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of this amendment. I know it took a lot of effort on the part of the chair, and we appreciate your cooperation. The en bloc contains noncontroversial amendments from Members of both parties, and I have no objections. I urge support of the amendment.

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman of Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES).

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Chair, I thank Chairman FLEISCHMANN and Ranking Member KAPTUR for their cooperation here.

Mr. Chair, dating back to the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, there was funding that provided important advancement of projects known as the Comite project, which is north of my hometown of Baton Rouge, as well as the West Shore project in the River Parishes.

Mr. Chairman, these projects date back, in the case of Comite, date back all the way to the early 1980s, one of these awful Army Corps of Engineer projects that has been stalled for so long. We had a record flood in 2016, by some measure a 1,000-year flood that would have been tempered or mitigated if this project had been constructed, and thankfully in BBA 2018, the project was fully funded. The folks were excited and believed that we were going to be moving forward on this project.

Similarly, Mr. Chairman, the West Shore project actually started before I was born, literally, 1970, 1971. That project had been stalled and had not advanced at all until we were able to get the authorization passed through Congress in 2016 and we were able to get the project what we believed was also fully funded in BBA 2018.

Mr. Chairman, what we found today is that these project costs have skyrocketed. In the case of the West Shore project, it is approximately \$1.3 billion short now and in the case of the Comite project, it is about \$447 million short. What this amendment does, this is an increase/decrease amendment of approximately \$1.75 billion and it is designed to complete these projects.

Mr. Chairman, it is kind of like being a little bit pregnant. The project just doesn’t work. It is either completed and it is functional, or it is not. We have got to finish these projects. We have to ensure the resiliency of these communities. I know that my two colleagues here being the chair and the ranking member of this committee, the subcommittee, with the Corps of Engineers knows the importance of investment in resiliency or mitigation efforts and certainly know the importance that they share.

I thank them again for accepting our amendment and look forward to continuing to work with you.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part B of House Report 118-242.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 3, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$715,000)".

Page 101, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$715,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 756, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, this amendment eliminates the funding for the Delaware River Basin Commission, the funding that is from the Federal Government.

Unfortunately, this bill provides nearly three quarters of a million dollars to the Delaware River Basin Commission, meaning that since 1998, the Federal Government has provided funding of some sort to this commission full of unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats that have unilaterally, in this case, instituted a hydraulic fracturing ban for a portion of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, literally stripping away the property and mineral rights from Pennsylvanians in direct contravention of the will of the legislature.

These people aren't elected by anybody. They are not accountable to anybody. Most people have no idea who the people on this commission even are.

The result is a prohibition on the development of critical shale plays in eastern Pennsylvania that can bring desperately needed natural gas to the market and the unconstitutional taking of mineral rights of the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Americans are having unelected bureaucrats take their rights away.

It is an attack on Pennsylvania energy and American energy. At a time when residential natural gas prices are near record highs, it creates significant inflation, cost-of-living increases for our constituents, and empowers our enemies abroad.

Now, instead of taking action to stop this unconstitutional seizure of State authority, as my other amendment that was not made in order would have done, or better yet, dissolving the compact altogether, this bill, as it currently exists, rewards the radical commissioners with money from the very taxpayers the Delaware River Basin Commission is attacking.

Providing funds to such an out-of-control, radical commission is a step in the wrong direction that incentivizes others like it to follow.

This amendment that I am offering would rescind this money and move it to the spending reduction account, ensuring that we do not further incentivize this commission to attack American energy and the rights of Pennsylvania while trying to pay off some of our \$33 trillion of debt.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to do the right thing and send a message to these unelected bureaucrats by supporting this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment, which would strip Federal funding for the Delaware River Basin Commission. This amendment would remove \$715,000, funding that I secured through the community project funding process.

This amount is mere pennies within the entire Federal budget and provides an outsized return on investment for the millions of Americans who rely on the Delaware River Basin for clean water and recreational use.

□ 1830

The basin provides drinking water to over 14.2 million people and contributes approximately \$22 billion in annual economic activity.

The Delaware River Basin provides immense value to the region, and the Federal Government's small but critical role in managing the region's water resources is vital to maintaining the Commission's work.

This amendment is an assault on the communities that rely on the resources and the economy of the basin, and it is an attack on those who have fought to secure this necessary funding for the next fiscal year; therefore, I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, my colleague says that it costs mere pennies. These mere pennies add up to mere dollars. These mere dollars add up to thousands, eventually millions and eventually billions, which is where we are right now.

It talks about return on investments. It talks about it but it doesn't say what the return on investment is, because there isn't any return on investment.

It provides immense value, it is claimed. Yet, the value cannot be described. It cannot be quantified. No one knows what the value is.

Will the Delaware River Basin go away if the Commission were not there? Are you saying without the Commission there would be no safe drinking water?

The actions that this commission has taken are unfounded, unjustified, and are happening nowhere else. Yet, there is clean drinking water across the rest of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania without this commission banning public and private activity.

My colleague says it is necessary funding. Necessary for what? What are we getting for this? Somebody is getting something, but the people of Pennsylvania, they are getting the shaft.

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

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Chair, needless to say, I disagree with the premise of my wonderful colleague across the aisle.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), ranking member of the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment.

Let's be clear. This amendment reduces funding for the Army Corps of Engineers' investigations account by \$715,000, with the amendment description's stated intent of eliminating funding for the Delaware River Basin Commission.

I will note that the actual bill language of the amendment only reduces funding for the account. It does not in any way eliminate funding for the Delaware River Basin Commission.

However, I vigorously oppose the stated intent behind this amendment, especially since the Delaware River Basin, which flows into the Delaware Bay and then into the Atlantic Ocean, covers over 13,000 square miles in four States.

As established by law through the Delaware River Basin Compact that went into effect in 1961, the Commission consists of the Army Corps of Engineers and the four basin State Governors. Those States include Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York.

The Corps of Engineers in these States work as equal partners for planning, development, and regulatory actions for the river basin. Frankly, all across the country we are facing issues that deal with very large watersheds and basins that in the past centuries and decades didn't face what we face today with water flows.

While the Commission's work could be further discussed, my strongest reason for opposition to this amendment is that the underlying bill provides \$715,000 to the Delaware River Basin Commission as community project funding on behalf of two Members of this body. The community project funding process allows Members of Congress to request funding for their community to meet urgent needs that they identify. There is a rigorous process for vetting and inclusion of community project funding, including strict transparency and accountability rules. I am shocked that one Member would target another Member's community

project funding through an amendment on the floor.

Mr. Chair, I strongly urge my colleagues to vote against this amendment.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, I would say I dispute the claim that they work in collaboration.

The Delaware River Basin Commission itself, in contravention of the Pennsylvania legislature, has banned the practice all over northern Pennsylvania. Hydraulic fracturing; banned it in contravention of the will and the wishes of the elected members of the Pennsylvania legislature.

I would say this as well: The Corps of Engineers can do this work whether there is a commission or not, or whether this money is here or not. The Corps of Engineers has wide latitude to do that work all across the country. They don't need our involvement.

Finally, the individual States involved in this compact, that is why they got into the compact. They charge people in the individual States all kinds of permit fees and regulatory fees to pay for this Commission. Yet, somehow the Commission can't survive without more money from the Federal Government. It is ridiculous, it is duplicative, it is costly, it is unaffordable, it is unnecessary, and it needs to end.

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

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Chairman, I simply say as we finalize this discussion, that there are 14.2 million people who are being affected, who will be affected, and who think this is important.

There is a \$22 billion economic activity that will be impacted. Needless to say, I have chosen this as a project that I support because in the time that I have had the opportunity to serve the 12th Congressional District in the State of New Jersey, this is an issue that I find very important. I do hope that my colleagues will oppose this amendment.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

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

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 12 OFFERED BY MR. NEGUSE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 12 printed in part B of House Report 118-242.

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 18, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$1,000,000)".

Page 34, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 756, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer my amendment which would allocate additional funding to the Bureau of Reclamation for the Colorado River Compliance Account and to support the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basin Endangered Fish Recovery Programs.

Mr. Chair, first, I would express my gratitude to the ranking member, who has served with such distinction in this body representing northwestern Ohio, Toledo and Sandusky, and doing her part to build a better future for the people of Ohio and the people of our country. In particular, her service as ranking member of this august subcommittee and always trying to find a way to bridge the divide and to build a bipartisan path forward.

It is unfortunate that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have regrettably chosen not to do that with this particular bill.

However, with respect to this amendment, the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basin Recovery Programs provide us with an opportunity to chart a bipartisan path forward. They are a model of successful partnership and collaboration across agencies, States, with both Federal and non-Federal partners in my State of Colorado, in addition to Utah, Wyoming, and New Mexico.

I have been leading legislation over the past several years to reauthorize these programs, including bipartisan legislation in the previous Congress, which was signed into law and legislation this year that would extend the programs for an additional 7 years.

The programs work to recover and protect four species of endangered and threatened fish, while providing Endangered Species Act compliance for over 2,500 water projects.

The Colorado River Compliance Account provides critical Federal support for these programs, and my amendment would simply increase the Bureau of Reclamation's funding to direct additional Federal resources to these programs.

I hope it is an amendment that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle can support. It is common sense.

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, the Upper Colorado River and San Juan

River Endangered Species Program enjoys bipartisan support in the region, providing for a collaborative approach to species management, avoiding a heavy-handed ESA listing.

This program enables robust power production at Glen Canyon Dam, and I support the gentleman's amendment.

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

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman of the subcommittee for his support and his words with respect to this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), the distinguished ranking member of the Energy and Water Development Subcommittee.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I thank Congressman NEGUSE for yielding and compliment him on the hardworking representation of the people of Colorado.

There could not be a more complex water system than the one that his community is a part of, and most of America has no idea about the plumbing of the West, so I really compliment him.

I know that funding provided in this bill will help advance or complete projects to protect the Humpback Chub, Bonytail, Colorado Pikeminnow, and Razorback Sucker that are feeling the impacts of drought while allowing water development projects to proceed.

We know many reports, including one from the United Nations just a couple years ago, talked about the extinction of natural species across our country and world. We must combat these efforts to prevent biodiversity loss, particularly in areas like the Colorado River, which was diverted for the first time in American history recently. That is a showstopper by anyone's measure.

We need to provide the resources necessary to continue this collaborative work in the Upper Colorado and San Juan Basins.

I thank my colleague for his leadership on this. I also thank the chair of the subcommittee for his great effort to try to accommodate as many members as possible.

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE).

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

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

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 13 OFFERED BY MR. NEGUSE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 13 printed in part B of House Report 118-242.

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 18, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$500,000)”.

Page 34, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$500,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 756, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Chairman, I would assure the chairman of the subcommittee that I won't be asking for a recorded vote on this amendment, but it is a similar amendment to the amendment just offered.

Essentially, this amendment directs the allocation of funding from a different account, again, to support this incredibly important program for all the reasons that had been stated by, of course, the ranking member of the subcommittee as well as the chairman previously.

The headwaters of the Colorado River are in my district. As the ranking member so eloquently stated, we face a complex set of challenges in the West as it relates to the Colorado River, which I continue to work to address in my State of Colorado and, of course, working with our colleagues in the Upper Basin and Lower Basin States.

This program, the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basin Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program, I think is a great and salient example of a way in which we can chart unique solutions to really pressing challenges; in this case, of course, the potential for endangered species in our community and in our water basins.

All that being said, Mr. Chairman, without belaboring the point, I would simply say it is a program worth investing in and it is why I am pursuing this particular amendment, and I hope my colleagues can support it.

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I rise to claim time in opposition, although I do not oppose the amendment.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, similar to my colleague's previous amendment, this program enjoys broad bipartisan support and enables robust hydropower production that provides electricity to benefit the entire region.

Mr. Chair, I support the gentleman's amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the subcommittee chairman, again, for his indulgence and support on this particular amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE).

The amendment was agreed to.

□ 1845

AMENDMENT NO. 14 OFFERED BY MR. WESTERMAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 14 printed in part B of House Report 118-242.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 21, line 6, after the dollar amount insert “(decreased by \$5,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 756, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

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

Mr. Chair, I commend Chairman FLEISCHMANN for the hard work in the Appropriations Committee and this particular subcommittee and the good product that they put out.

I do have a slight adjustment I would like to make to it, even though the subcommittee was very generous in working with the Natural Resources Committee and other committees in getting the base text.

I rise in support of Westerman amendment No. 14. It is an amendment that I would describe as an intentionally punitive amendment, but with a just cause: to protect the integrity of the legislative branch and, more specifically, the House of Representatives.

My amendment reduces funding for the Bureau of Reclamation's policy and administration account to fiscal year 2022 levels. At the Bureau of Reclamation, the policy and administration account finances the agency's centralized management and administrative functions that are not chargeable directly to a specific project or program. This includes the Office of the Commissioner, the administration's political leadership of the agency.

You may be asking why the chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources is here asking for an administrative funding cut to an agency under our jurisdiction. One of Congress' most vital responsibilities is oversight of the executive branch, making sure they are accountable to the American people. Congressional hearings are an important tool that we use to engage directly with administration officials and to conduct oversight on policy objectives, openly debate legislation, and spotlight waste, fraud, and abuse occurring in agencies.

These officials have an obligation to be responsive to Congress, engage in the oversight process, and be accountable to the American people. However, this administration, like many others from the past, on both sides of the aisle, chose to blatantly disregard this responsibility when they specifically

refused to participate in a congressional hearing earlier this year.

There, we considered H.R. 215, Congressman VALADAO's WATER for California Act. This legislation addresses the operation of the Central Valley Project, which is a Federal water project owned and operated by the Bureau of Reclamation. This legislation is critical not only to the Central Valley but to our entire country's food supply. The legislation was important enough that it was included in the base text of this bill.

However, even with ample notification with an invitation sent 2 weeks prior to the hearing, the Bureau of Reclamation failed to appear at the hearing. The Bureau of Reclamation employs roughly 5,000 employees, so they clearly have the ability to send a representative. While written testimony was submitted the day before the hearing, this was a poor substitute for engaging with the committee members.

Non-Federal witnesses who appeared at the hearing repeatedly mentioned the Bureau of Reclamation, which daylighted the missed opportunities for dialogue between the agency and the people they serve.

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, first of all, I have great respect for the gentleman who offers this amendment, but I do find myself in the position of opposing it.

In step with the myriad amendments offered by Republicans to reduce leadership salaries, this amendment seeks to reduce funding for the Bureau of Reclamation's policy and administration account by \$5 million, ostensibly to fund it at the fiscal year 2022 enacted level. However, in fiscal year 2022, \$64.4 million was appropriated for policy and administration, so this amendment reduces this funding by \$4.321 million below the fiscal year 2022 enacted level.

The Bureau of Reclamation brings water to 31 million people and is the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the United States, producing enough electricity to serve 3.5 million homes. This account funds day-to-day Bureau of Reclamation management, administrative, and policy functions that are necessary to ensure effective and efficient implementation of all Bureau of Reclamation programs from which 31 million people receive water and 3.5 million homes receive electricity. That is a big job.

This account also funds the Office of the Commissioner and regional offices. This leadership is critical for ensuring that one in five Western farmers has irrigation water for 10 million acres of farmland that produce 60 percent of our Nation's vegetables and 25 percent of its fruits and nuts.



According to the United States Census Bureau, my colleague comes from a district of approximately 751,000 people, of which approximately 1.5 percent are in occupations related to farming, fishing, and forestry. I don't think the gentleman's amendment benefits his district.

With the West reeling from the historic megadrought, the worst in 1,200 years, where we have just had to divert the Colorado River for the first time in American history, why would any of my colleagues want to hamstring the Bureau of Reclamation's management and the direction and guidance necessary to achieve Reclamation-wide program and mission accomplishment? This is a moment in American history when we need to help them.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to reject this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Chair, I will again point out that this funding is for the administrative part of the Bureau of Reclamation. It has nothing to do with functions that are chargeable directly to a specific project or program.

The Bureau of Reclamation does oversee many important programs. We want to see those programs function properly, and we also want accountability from the executive branch. The executive branch's clear pattern of disregard for congressional oversight indicates an entitled leadership that lacks accountability to the American taxpayer.

It is not my goal to have to come to the floor and cut the budget of an agency because they refuse to respond to Congress, but what tools do we have when they will not even come to a hearing that is directly related to the work that they do and when they just act like congressional oversight is an annoyance to them and is nothing serious?

My amendment will send a clear message to the executive branch that blatant disregard for congressional oversight is unacceptable.

Mr. Chair, I hope this is a bipartisan sentiment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN).

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

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

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arkansas will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MR. GRIFFITH

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 15 printed in part B of House Report 118-242.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 25, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,100,000,000)".

Page 28, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$600,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 756, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GRIFFITH) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Chair, my amendment is just plain common sense. It addresses the importance of all types of research and development funding at the Department of Energy, specifically the energy research conducted at the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management at the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

I believe we need a plan that is closer to parity between renewable energy and fossil fuels and research on ways to reduce the environmental and climate impact of the use of fossil fuels.

In the underlying bill, \$2.994 billion is appropriated for energy efficiency and renewable energy, while only \$857.9 million is appropriated for fossil energy and carbon mitigation. I am advocating with this amendment that we should be closer to parity between the amount of money appropriated for fossil energy and carbon mitigation research and DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. My amendment increases the fossil energy and carbon mitigation account by \$600 million, along with a reduction of \$1.1 billion from the renewables account.

This year alone, we have seen that these concepts that we are going to get rid of fossil fuels are just not realistic, Mr. Chairman. We saw a plant open up, or at least the plans for it, a Panasonic plant in Kansas, that was going to do electric vehicle batteries. The problem was, in order to get the plant, they needed more electricity. The electric utility in Kansas, Evergy, decided that one of the coal-fired power plants that they thought they were going to do away with, close down, they needed to keep it open because they couldn't build electric vehicle batteries without the fossil fuel, coal-powered plant.

This is not the only place that we see that. In India, there are about 300 million people who don't have electricity, a little bit less than the population of the United States. They don't have a steady source of electricity. If you are a leader in India, Mr. Chairman, I would submit, and you have coal, which they do, you are probably going to build some coal-fired power plants because their people deserve and want the same kind of electricity that we have in our country, at least for now, so they are going to build coal-fired power plants.

China has been building coal-fired power plants left and right. Some of the numbers indicate that the energy production of those plants is equal to

about two new plants every week last year. They are also funding more coal-fired power plants in sub-Saharan Africa.

Here is what we have. While we want to clean up the environment, the world is going to continue to use fossil fuels, particularly coal, not just in the United States. People say we can be completely pure, but that is myopic. We can't be because when we look at the air supply in the world, according to a NASA study a few years back, it takes about 10 days for air to travel from the middle of the Gobi Desert in China to the eastern shore of Virginia.

When all of these other places are using fossil fuels, isn't it smart on our part, if we want a clean environment, Mr. Chairman, that we find better ways to use that coal-fired power, that we find better ways to use gas power? We are going to continue to use it whether we think we are or not, and the rest of the world is going to continue to use it.

With the money we spend here, we can export that research and get some of the money back maybe, but more importantly, we can clean up the air for the entire world instead of thinking that we are living in some kind of bubble in the United States and that if we get rid of coal-fired power plants and fossil fuel plants, everything is going to be hunky-dory.

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

□ 1900

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I rise to oppose the amendment.

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I share some of my colleagues' concerns about the excess spending at EERE, particularly in light of the billions in increased spending provided in past appropriations bills, the Inflation Reduction Act, and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

EERE still has billions in unobligated funds, and that is exactly why this bill, the bill that we have before the House, includes a large reduction to this account.

However, in my view, respectfully, my colleague's amendment would go too far to practically eliminate the EERE account. This would impact the important work performed by the national labs and universities to implement the research and development goals of EERE. These goals include advancing energy efficiency solutions for the manufacturing of cement, steel, and iron; creating and improving battery technologies; and developing critical mineral alternatives.

While I am a supporter of EERE, I also recognize fossil fuels are going to be an important resource for many years to come. However, I don't believe these two accounts need to be at odds with each other.

I personally favor an all-of-the-above approach to meet the Nation's future

energy needs. That approach includes strategic reductions to EERE that prioritize research activities like the goals I mentioned earlier.

My distinguished colleague's amendment, in my view, upends that strategy and goes too far, respectfully. For these reasons, I must oppose the amendment and urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Chairman, I say to my distinguished colleague and my friend that we disagree, and here is why. We have to get to a point where we are at parity. Every time we look at it, the money for renewables is huge, and the money for fossil fuel research, where we can make things better for the whole world, is minuscule in comparison. I am trying to level it out, and I would hope that that would be the long-term goal of our appropriators, to level it out. That is why I brought this amendment.

I, too, am for all of the above. That is why I didn't zero out the account. However, I think we have to pay attention to what is happening in the world and not be myopic when it comes to recognizing that if we are going to continue to use fossil fuels, we ought to do it cleaner and do it better. We ought to put more money into U.S. research on fossil fuels, everything from using fossil fuels to come up with rare earth to making it cleaner when we burn it for electricity to build electric vehicle battery plants.

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time. I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

I hear what he is saying, but I think that we have to work harder together to embrace the future and not just depend on the past.

I agree with him on fossil fuels and rare earths. We visited the fossil fuel energy center in southwest Pennsylvania. I was fascinated by some of the work going on there. I think we need to fund it, and we are.

This amendment reduces funding for the Department of Energy's energy efficiency and renewable energy account by \$1.2 billion, and I don't think that that places America in the position I want her to be in, which is number one in the world.

Now, that proposal is also on top of another \$466 million reduction in the underlying bill itself and the \$1 billion reduction incorporated by the manager's amendment.

This funding provides for clean, affordable, and secure energy and ensures American leadership in the transition to a global clean energy economy.

I will tell you, this past year in my region of the United States—and it came here to Washington, ultimately—

a very strange haze began floating down from Canada into the United States due to the forest fires up there and the changing nature of the environment. I have lived in the same place my whole life, and I never saw anything like that before. It ruined my rhododendron plant. All that gunk got all over it.

I was talking to a friend who came up from Florida, and he goes: Marcy, the winds took that all the way down to near the panhandle in Florida.

I said: Are you kidding me? It got down that far? The Earth's ecosystem is changing, and we have to catch up to Mother Nature.

The account being targeted funds the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, the Office of State and Community Energy Programs that supports important services like the Weatherization Assistance Program to save energy, the Office of Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains, and the Federal Energy Management Program itself.

Those programs focus on energy technology ranging from biofuels—the first biofueled F-16 flew out of the 180th Fighter Wing in my district. That was a great moment. That was almost 15 years ago.

Biofuels have now become such an important part of our economy, as well as hydrogen, solar, wind, and a whole broad range of energy technologies to make America energy independent in perpetuity—geothermal, what we are learning on that; advanced manufacturing; building efficiency and weatherization; and the list goes on.

Without these programs, we are jeopardizing U.S. leadership across a range of possibilities. The world is set to invest a record \$1.8 trillion in clean energy in 2023, and that is expected to climb to \$4.5 trillion by the year 2030. We want to be a leader. With \$4.5 trillion per year on the line, we have the choice to embrace American leadership and invention.

Let me just mention that if the Department of Energy's goals are achieved, the hydrogen industry will produce \$140 billion in revenue and over 700,000 jobs by 2030.

Mr. Chair, I strongly urge my colleagues to vote against this harmful amendment, but I am very happy to continue to work with the gentleman to find ways that we can reach accommodation.

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

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. MURPHY). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GRIFFITH).

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

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 16 OFFERED BY MR. ROY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 16 printed in part B of House Report 118-242.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 25, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced to \$0)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 756, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Chairman, the amendment that I have here fully defunds the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

The FY23 omnibus gave this office \$3.5 billion, and while the underlying bill and rule cut funding down to \$2 billion, we believe we ought to defund it entirely.

That is particularly true coming on the heels of the \$1.2 trillion, if you believe the media accounting and reports on the impact of the so-called Inflation Reduction Act. We believe this is additional spending that the American people do not need.

Let the market do what the market is going to do. If people want to go out and get electronic vehicles, and people want to go out and spend their money on something, good for them, great.

This office continues to be funded to continue to perpetuate this when the office's mission is "to equitably transition America to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions economy-wide by no later than 2050," which is a fool's errand.

We are undermining our own national security and undermining our own economy in the process, making us beholden to China and undermining our ability to actually have a serious policy in the Middle East, by the way. Right now, we don't even have sanctions in place. We are allowing Iran to make billions of dollars, upward of \$30 billion to \$60 billion, depending on what reports you look at, on exporting oil to China. We have totally blown it with Saudi Arabia, which has created the environment that we are now dealing with in the Middle East, all while this administration, by the way, dumped the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, all of this while pursuing this foolish energy policy, which is undermining our own national security and economy.

Now, we are going to go ahead and say, sure, let's appropriate another, in this case, \$2 billion for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. We don't need to be doing this. Let the American people go sort this out.

We say that we are going to subsidize wind and solar because it is supposedly enhanced reliability. Tell that to the people of Texas. Texas has more wind than any other State in the country.

Thumbs up. That is great. Say that to all the people who are wondering whether they are going to have power because the grid in Texas is getting dangerously close to not having the ability to sustain. The only reason we are able to sustain it is because Texas is trying to push and hold up the coal and the gas-fired plants that actually provide reliable energy.

We are subsidizing the unreliable energy at the expense of the reliable energy. Instead of building nuclear power, instead of making sure a gas-fired plant is sitting there ready to roll—there is no investment in any of the projects going on into Texas' gas-fired plants. American, Texas gas that we should, by the way, be exporting around the world, including to Europe. Instead, we are undermining our very grid, our own reliable energy, and we are undermining our ability to compete in the world.

I suggest that this money would be better spent, especially when, I don't know, the last time I checked we had \$2 trillion in deficits.

What are we spending our money on? Seriously, how are we actually going to balance our budget and eliminate deficits when we keep spending money on projects like this?

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) for filing this amendment, but I respectfully oppose the same.

I do share some of my colleague's concerns about the excess spending at EERE. I would also like to emphasize that EERE received over \$16 billion from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and many of these dollars are still unobligated.

These reasons are exactly why the original bill reduced EERE by \$466 million below the fiscal year 2023 level and why I offered further reductions in this bill of \$1 billion.

In total, these reductions would bring EERE below the fiscal year 2016 level. However, my colleague's amendment goes too far in eliminating EERE.

I am a supporter of the EERE program and the work they do to advance research and development on renewable technologies, advanced manufacturing, and battery improvements. That includes essential work on critical minerals that will help lay the groundwork for technologies that will reduce our reliance on foreign supplies.

I think this is an issue that we all can support. I support strategic reduction to EERE, but I am not in favor of eliminating the account and walking away from its ongoing work.

For these reasons, I must respectfully oppose the amendment, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

□ 1915

Mr. ROY. Mr. Chair, while I thank my friend and colleague and I appreciate the fact that through his work and the work of Republicans, we did reduce it by \$1.5 billion, but there remains another \$2 billion of funding.

I say to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle: How are we going to ever balance the budget when we continue to fund things like this?

That is my question. Why don't we pay for this, then? Can we at least pay for this out of something? Why don't we pay for this out of the Inflation Reduction Act? Why don't we pay for it by eliminating some of the IRS agents that got expanded?

Tell me. Go to the American people and say, what would you like to give up to pay for that? That is what I would like to know. I would like to know for the American people: What would you give up in order to pay for \$2 billion of more of this kind of subsidy?

By the way, in the Inflation Reduction Act, 90 percent of the subsidies go to corporations making over a billion dollars.

Mr. Chair, 78 percent of electric vehicle tax credits are claimed by Americans making over \$100,000. Couples making up to \$300,000 are still eligible.

These subsidies could make wind and solar account for nearly 60 percent of U.S. electricity generation by 2050, which might sound fine in unicorn land, but for the people who need reliable energy on a cloudy, windless day, we might actually want to have gas or coal or nuclear.

By the way, all of this subsidizes the heck out of China. We are talking about making us not reliant on foreign energy sources.

Well, what about China? China is the one producing most of these solar panels and a lot of the battery elements. Why are we continuing to do that?

I suggest that that is a waste of taxpayer money, it is unpaid for, and we shouldn't continue to perpetuate it.

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), the ranking member.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding and rise in strong opposition to this amendment.

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

Ms. KAPTUR. The underlying bill already cuts the energy efficiency and renewable energy program by \$1.5 billion or 42 percent below last year.

Now, there are a lot of people that are complaining about that, and I would be the first one to say that our country should not cede any new markets or capitulate to global competitors in the field of energy.

I think that we have to keep our foot on the accelerator in many energy sectors. The gentleman is right. Texas has

been a leader in so many ways; certainly in wind energy, but not just that.

In terms of the solar industry and how do we pay down the debts that prior Congresses and administrations racked up? We grow our economy.

By growing our economy, more revenues come in, and they are. They are coming into the private sector. They are coming into the government.

A whole lot more people who aren't paying their fair share of taxes should be, and that would help. The way we balance budgets is not to kill economic growth.

One of the areas we grow in is energy. These are jobs that are good jobs, and they create wealth for the Nation.

We have to keep up our dominance in this country. For the solar industry, which is something I am terribly interested in, I represent the most important domestic manufacturer of solar in our country.

Overall, the whole industry across our Nation supports 333,000 jobs now. Mr. Chair, 20 years ago, they were in a very different position, and 40 years ago, they almost didn't exist.

America is now creating utility scale solar, and the invention of the American people is unstoppable. We can't give a signal that we are going to capitulate to anybody, but we have got to develop these new energy sectors.

The gentleman is right about the grid. The grid is worn out all over this country. Ask anybody in Ohio about that. It has been underinvested.

We will find a way by growing the economy, and some of the new bills we have passed for infrastructure have allowed us to modernize the grid.

Well, let's connect the dots. We can choose to give up American leadership in these technologies, or we can actually put our foot on the accelerator.

I really think that the gentleman's amendment, though he believes it is well intentioned, does move America backward, and I cannot support it, and therefore, I oppose it.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY).

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

Mr. ROY. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 19 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 19 printed in part B of House Report 118-242.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 31, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$35,000,000)”.

Page 101, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$35,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 756, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, this amendment strikes \$35 million in funding for the Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations.

For those unfamiliar with this office, according to its website, it accelerates the market adoption of clean energy technologies and fills a critical innovation gap on the path to 100 percent clean energy by 2035 and net zero emissions by 2050.

I am going to characterize it a different way. Since the real market, the private market won't do it, you are going to pay for it under force by your taxes so that you can have less reliable energy as soon as possible, and we can be less energy independent. That is what it does, courtesy of your Federal Government.

It funds projects like long-duration energy storage and distributed energy systems to support the electric grid for electric vehicles, which are also being subsidized by your Federal Government under force of penalty of you not paying your taxes. It is astounding.

The Democrats continue to push this technology when the drawbacks of this so-called clean energy technology are clear.

The actual grid is being powered by solar and wind energy sources that are inherently unreliable and don't work when the Sun is not shining and the wind is not blowing.

Battery technology storage is not there, and of course, all that stuff that I just talked about comes from China, and oh, by the way, built with slave labor, whether that is in Turkistan or whether that is in the Congo.

Your tax dollars are supporting it under penalty of law. Try not paying your taxes and see what happens then.

Vehicles powered by this grid are built largely using slave labor like I just talked about and our reliance on the Communist Party of China since they control all the necessary components in the mineral supply chains.

Not that we don't have them in America. They say they are rare earth minerals. Mr. Chairman, they are not rare.

We just can't mine them in America because the left doesn't allow that, so now we have got to buy them from China. That is another story.

Vehicles powered by this grid are built largely, like I said, using slave labor and the supply chains that go with them.

These vehicles have limited range. Their lithium batteries often catch fire. Those fires are more difficult to extinguish than traditional fires.

This office that I am talking about is also managing \$2.5 billion for carbon capture facilities and greenhouse gas monitoring technology.

Mr. Chair, if these technologies were so great, why isn't the market already adopting and innovating without taxpayer-funded handouts?

My friends on the other side of the aisle will tell you these are critical investments, and they are not going to happen if the Federal Government doesn't do them. If we don't take your tax dollars and spend it on this, it ain't going to happen.

My goodness. Thank goodness that this country didn't become the greatest country on the planet without the Federal Government subsidizing all this stuff.

I don't know how Thomas Edison would have made it. I don't know how Ford Motor Company would have made it without the Federal Government. Somehow they did it, Mr. Chair.

I appreciate that the chairman did not approve additional funds for these clean demonstration projects, but my amendment strikes all the funds for this office.

Mr. Chairman, I urge support of my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, I thank my good friend from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) for filing this, but I must respectfully oppose the amendment.

The Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations is primarily responsible for implementing and managing over \$21 billion provided by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

I am keenly aware of the scale of that sum of money and the importance of our oversight responsibility to ensure taxpayer funds are correctly administered.

That is exactly why the House bill includes no funding—and I repeat no funding—for the office to conduct new demonstrations and instead, only includes funding for program direction for staff to provide project management oversight.

My colleague's amendment would eliminate that function, preventing the office from ensuring that our taxpayer dollars are being used effectively and efficiently.

That would directly impact the success of important programs within the office's jurisdiction like the Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program.

The Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program enjoys strong bipartisan support. The program is essential to the deployment of advanced reactors, ensuring our Nation's energy security and regaining U.S. leadership in nuclear energy.

We can't abandon our oversight responsibilities and risk the success of

programs like these. For these reasons, I must respectfully oppose the amendment, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I certainly respect the good gentleman from Tennessee, and I thank him for the time.

I don't know. It seems like a lot of money still remaining for project management oversight. That doesn't seem to be billions of dollars' worth of spending to me; maybe millions, but not billions.

As far as advanced reactor research, I am proud to say that in the district that I represent, some of the fusion reactor research that is being done in France is being produced in the district I represent, which is awesome, but we don't need to be paying for it. France is paying for it, and we are providing some expertise and some material.

Oh, by the way, the good gentleman from Tennessee, much of the home of nuclear fission and nuclear energy is in the United States of America. God bless America. I think it is awesome. When have we built a nuclear reactor in the United States of America? I know the district that I represent just shut one down.

We are paying for all this research. Tell me where it is. What does it provide? What does it produce? It doesn't produce anything.

If it was building nuclear reactors, maybe I could see it, but it seems to me we are paying for it and putting the research on the shelf, or worse yet, giving it to France.

Mr. Chairman, I don't care what it costs. It ought to end. I urge adoption of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 20 OFFERED BY MR. NORMAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 20 printed in part B of House Report 118–242.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 32, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$470,000,000)”.

Page 32, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$37,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 756, the gentleman

from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Chair, what my amendment does is it eliminates funding to the tune of \$470 million for ARPA-E, Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy; \$470 million.

What this Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy is designed to fund are high-risk, high-reward projects in which the private sector would never invest in.

Since it is taxpayers' money, what this proposed amendment does is to cut funding because it doesn't do the job that the dollars that they expended it to.

The problem is that ARPA-E does not always seem to follow its own guidelines. The Federal Government has awarded several ARPA-E grants to companies and projects that are neither high risk nor something that private industry cannot support. In other words, they don't need the crutch.

These problems with ARPA-E were identified by the GAO, the Department of Energy Office of Inspector General, and the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Of the 44 small- and medium-sized companies that received an ARPA award, the GAO found that 18 had previously received private-sector investments for similar technology. It is a duplicate.

The GAO found that 12 of those 18 companies plan to use ARPA-E funding to either advance or accelerate prior funded projects.

I am in the real estate business. That is like paying me double to build you a house or a shopping center. How much sense does that make? It doesn't.

Mr. Chair, in your world, it pays double to do one surgery. How does that work out? It is taxpayers' money. It should never have been funded in the first place.

□ 1930

High-risk, high-reward programs are not necessary, especially when there is a bias to fund technologies that have already received funding to make the program appear on the surface successful. Congress should restructure the DOE to conduct the basic research that the private sector would never undertake and create a system that allows the private sector, using private funds, to tap into that research and commercialize it. Federal labs should allow basic research to reach the market organically.

Until that happens, we should defund ARPA-E, just as the Trump administration did. The market is the best place to determine the merit of an investment and whether it is a good or a bad investment. If a project cannot find private support, it is a good indicator of its prospects for success. Certainly, a lack of private investors alone does not justify using taxpayers' money to support a project.

Indeed, technologies that lose private financing as they move closer to commercialization are likely the worst bets for taxpayers' money, since professional investors have already determined them to be losers.

What you find out on grants such as this, if you really analyze the line items, it goes to overhead. What is overhead?

That is paying salaries of people with jobs that you can't have an outcome for. I have seen these. That is why a lot of the grants that are written are vague; they can use the money wherever. This isn't like it is a \$50,000 investment, it is \$470 million.

At the time when our growing national debt has surpassed \$33 trillion, we cannot continue to use taxpayers' dollars to fund this useless research.

I think the last figure I heard one of my colleagues mention, that we are paying \$20,400 per second in interest on the \$33 trillion. That is just the interest, not counting the principal.

As I mentioned, ARPA-E does not follow its guidelines. It is loosely interpreted. They can use the money wherever they want. My question is: Why ARPA-E funding and not private capital?

If it is that good of a project, let the private sector invest in it. You have sharp investors that know what they are doing, they could determine whether they want to risk their capital.

In short, this project should be defunded. It is at a time we can't afford it. I would urge the cut of this \$470 million project, for something that yields no benefit to the taxpayers, and I urge adoption.

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, I thank my dear friend and colleague from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) for filing this, but I must respectfully rise in strong opposition to the amendment.

My colleague's amendment would eliminate the Advanced Research Projects Agency, or ARPA-E. ARPA-E's mission is to fund projects that are not yet addressed in the private sector but can bring about transformational shifts in current energy technologies.

Nearly 75 percent of ARPA-E awards go to small businesses and academia. ARPA-E projects have led to over 1,000 patents being issued and have attracted more than \$11.5 billion in follow-on funding from the private sector.

These projects push the envelope on what is possible in the energy sector and will continue to play an important role in maintaining U.S. leadership to develop the next generation of energy technologies. I believe these are goals that all of us can support.

I, therefore, must respectfully oppose the amendment and urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman has the only time remaining.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I rise in opposition to this amendment. I am sure the gentleman offering it is well-intentioned.

I will say, in many of the energy technologies that I have observed, unlike the real estate industry, they always say real property, you can tangibly touch it, you can see that it is there, you can measure it. ARPA-E really focuses on that which is not yet measurable.

If you see the movie "Oppenheimer" and you look back at the history of our country and how we began to actually move into atomic energy, it was very experimental and very dangerous. The government got involved, and at that point in history we had to win a war. We learned a whole lot about nuclear energy at that point, but part of it was uncontrollable.

I was at an event yesterday with companies that are working on unbelievable technologies, which aren't quite solved yet, but where we can take metals like titanium and nickel and do things with them to carry current that we never were able to do before. They are working with research labs because it is so utterly complicated.

I would say to the gentleman, you know, sometimes private enterprise doesn't invest because the research has to occur through a longer period of time, and you need programs like ARPA-E who do the most amazing work. Our fracking technologies, our drilling technologies for natural gas, those came through not the private sector initially, they came through the Government of the United States because there wasn't any private sector company willing to invest.

I know in my own district, where we are known for the glass industry, some of the research that has been necessary to thinly layer different types of material in order to produce more efficient solar panels actually had to be assisted with government help because there were no angel investors in my part of the country. So the Department of Energy, through photovoltaic research, discovered inventors who were doing great things in America, and helped them to move their technology forward. Now we have the greatest domestic producer of solar in the middle part of the country—not California, not the East Coast, not the South, but in the Great Lakes region.

What I have seen out of ARPA-E is high-level basic research that most companies, frankly, aren't dedicated to. It is very different than the real estate industry, it is over a longer time horizon.

Mr. Chair, I strongly urge my colleagues to vote against this amendment.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN).

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

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from South Carolina will be postponed.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair understands that amendment No. 22 will not be offered.

The Chair understands that amendment No. 24 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 25 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 25 printed in part B of House Report 118-242.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 58, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert, “(reduced by \$35,000,000)”.

Page 101, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert, “(increased by \$35,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 756, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, this amendment cuts \$35 million from this bill for the Appalachian Regional Commission, lowering the funding level in this bill to \$165 million.

The IJA provided the Appalachian Regional Commission with an advanced appropriation of \$200 million a year—the entirety of its authorization level for fiscal year 2022 through 2026, meaning every dollar provided under this bill is more than the authorization level. We authorize things here and then we pay for them. It is authorized at a lower level, and we are paying much more.

In other words, under this amendment the ARC would receive \$365 million for the fiscal year rather than \$400 million provided by this underlying bill. Even with this minimal cut under this amendment, the program funding is still extremely bloated, and its effectiveness remains unclear, as do all the regional commissions.

Moreover, this Commission’s programs are duplicative of other Federal economic development programs and better addressed by State and local levels. In fact, the fiscal year 2018 budget justification identified that the Appalachian Regional Commission failed to show a strong link between grants and a positive impact on the communities they serve.

Worse, this year, the Commission’s inspector general identified the mas-

sive increase in the Commission’s funding over recent years as a threat to its variability to evaluate grant proposals, measure program performance, and conduct appropriate oversight.

When we were talking about the last one, we needed the money for oversight. This one, we have got so much money that they can’t oversee it. This is your Federal Government at work here. The spike in funding threatens to worsen an already tenuous link between funding and success.

We simply must bring the funding level for the ARC, the Appalachian Regional Commission, down to ensure that it has the capacity to ensure it meets its mission.

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose the amendment.

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I thank my distinguished friend from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) for filing the amendment.

My great State of Tennessee, which I represent the Third District of Tennessee, our State and other States greatly benefit from the Appalachian Regional Commission.

This amendment would eliminate the Appalachian Regional Commission which provides funding for hundreds of cost-shared projects, partnering with private industry to bring needed jobs to this depressed region.

The energy and water bill maintains funding for the ARC at the fiscal year 2023 level of \$200 million. These communities, and many of which I represent, cannot afford to lose millions of dollars in private investment this Commission leverages.

Mr. Chair, I respectfully urge a “no” vote on this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment and in support of the Appalachian Regional Commission.

Let me say that the Commission itself is a partnership between the Federal Government and 13 State governments, focusing on 423 counties across the Appalachian region.

Residents in part of Pennsylvania—evidently the gentleman’s area is not covered—are served by this Commission. Since 1965, the Appalachian region has been struggling, and they have made progress. They have made significant progress.

The number of high-poverty counties in Appalachia has been cut by 60 percent since 1960. It is a long road. The regional poverty rate has been cut by more than half. God bless them.

However, the region still lags behind the Nation and continues to encounter

challenges such as the severe substance abuse crisis, as well as a downturn in the coal economy. This is the part of America that we have to lift up.

I have been very impressed with the work they are doing in terms of restoration of the natural environment and expanded tourism. They are working together collaboratively.

Mr. Chairman, I strongly urge my colleagues to vote against this amendment. Let’s help the American people who need it.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, it just so happens that I had a hearing about a week ago on the Appalachian Regional Commission and all the other commissions. It is interesting that this has been around since the 1960s. There was a map of the Appalachian region, of which the home that I reside in looks on the south mountain of the Appalachian mountain range. I live right in the center of this thing.

What was interesting to me of the map that I looked at provided by the Commission since the 1960s, showed counties that had reached attainment. Well, none of them had reached attainment. It has been around since the 1960s. All the ones that hadn’t reached attainment in the 1960s still haven’t reached attainment in 2023. We are spending all this money, and we are not getting anything for it. Well, we are getting some things for it. You might be able to get a theater in your community, reconstructed with the help of the Federal Government, or a trail, which is awesome. These are great programs, and I am not here to argue that they are not.

What I am arguing is two things. It is not the job of the Federal Government, number one. These are things done by local communities and States.

□ 1945

Two, this is above the authorization. This commission was authorized funding. I don’t dispute that. However, we are spending money above the authorization, and I do dispute that because we are \$30-some trillion in debt with nothing in sight except more debt.

People say that we can’t cut anything, that there is nowhere to cut. Well, we authorized this. This body authorized this at a lower level, and then we appropriated at a higher level.

When you don’t have any more money, when you are borrowing money to pay your bills, it seems to me that it would be easy to say that we will just pull back a little here, just a little, and we will go to what is authorized, which is still a lot, hundreds of millions of dollars. I guess that is going to be a problem here, though.

This has no Federal nexus whatsoever. I will tell you, there are nice people working here. They want to do great things for their community. However, this is a boondoggle. This is spending money where other money can be spent and is being spent. This is a duplication of services.

Sooner or later, this town is going to have to realize the taxpayer doesn't have any more money to be bled out of their pockets to spend on things that are spent elsewhere for the same projects, local, State, et cetera.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 26 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 26 printed in part B of House Report 118-242.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 59, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert, "(reduced by \$6,100,000)".

Page 101, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert, "(increased by \$6,100,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 756, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, this amendment cuts the funding to the Delta Regional Authority by \$6.1 million, back to the FY19 level.

In FY17, the Obama administration sought to cut funding for the Delta Regional Authority by \$3 million. The FY18, FY19, FY20, and FY21 budgets all sought to eliminate funding for the Delta Regional Authority, identifying it as duplicative of other Federal economic development programs.

Mr. Chair, just like I said before on the last one, it is the same thing here. I just had a hearing on it. These folks sat in front of me and made the same arguments.

The FY21 budget pointed out that the Delta Regional Authority, like others, is set aside for special geographic designations rather than applied across the country based on objective criteria indicating local areas and levels of distress that, again, don't seem to ever be addressed even though we spend millions of dollars.

We are \$33 trillion in the hole. I don't know if you looked at the economics and the financials of just the last couple of months, how much more we have gone into debt in just the last couple of months. Something has to shock the conscience of this Congress because it is shocking the conscience of the

American people who can't afford groceries, gasoline, car payments, or credit card payments. Heaven forbid you have to buy a new car. Heaven forbid you try to buy a new home.

We simply can't continue to allow for the rapid growth of parochial commissions that duplicate, literally just duplicate, other Federal programs undeterred. Regardless of the duplication of the Federal programs, most of the stuff looks like it is local programs or State programs—again, worthy things. The question is, is there a Federal nexus here? There is not in many cases. There is poor oversight, and we don't have the money to do it.

Finally, this is not a partisan issue. Democratic Presidents and Republican Presidents have all called for either the abolishment or the reduction of these commissions. Both have done it. It is not a partisan issue. It is a fiscal issue. It is a responsibility issue.

These things need to be dealt with. State and locals should do it if that is what they are. We don't have the money at the Federal level anymore for that.

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I rise to oppose the amendment.

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, once again, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for filing this amendment, but I must strongly oppose it.

This bill provides \$31.1 million for the Delta Regional Authority. This small investment targets hundreds of depressed communities in the Mississippi River Delta region. These communities cannot afford to lose the millions of dollars in private investments this commission leverages.

Mr. Chair, I respectfully urge a "no" vote on this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Louisiana (Ms. LETLOW). I congratulate the great State of Louisiana on the election of our Speaker. They also have our great majority leader, as well.

Ms. LETLOW has been just a wonderful member of the Appropriations Committee, and it has been great to have her on the committee representing Louisiana.

Ms. LETLOW. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to amendment No. 26, which would slash funding for the Delta Regional Authority by \$6.1 million.

This Federal-State partnership is a critical lifeline to my district and State by providing dedicated funding to address vital infrastructure, workforce, and healthcare needs for rural towns. These towns have little to no tax base to be able to raise the funds themselves to replace expensive and aging infrastructure systems.

Rural communities do not have the financial resources to hire grant writers to help them through a complex Federal grant process, and because of this, these towns miss out on national grant competitions.

DRA's funding supports a pilot program that would help these communities identify opportunities, provide assistance to write the applications, and help with implementation.

While cutting \$6.1 million may not seem like a lot, I have seen firsthand what a simple \$200,000 can do to help grow a rural town.

Finally, the DRA has had minimal increases over the last 5 years. A cut in funding this deep would be a step in the wrong direction.

On behalf of rural towns across the delta region, I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, in closing, certainly, I congratulate the gentlewoman and her great State for the success of all the House of Representatives today and their contribution.

On this occasion, though, I must disagree. As I said, I just had a hearing with the Delta Regional Authority present, and she is right, it targets hundreds of communities, as do all of these commissions. They target hundreds of communities.

One of the things that was fascinating to me was I asked for the metrics by which anything is measured. What measure of success does anyone have? Is there some standard? Is there some way to know whether all of these millions of dollars that are being spent actually get us anywhere, actually fix anything, actually do anything other than: We made sure the grants all got out, and we helped with the grant writing. We fixed up the sidewalk. We fixed up the theater. We provided some healthcare.

Those are all awesome things that are all being provided by someone else, by the way.

What was the metric by which they measured their success? Close your eyes. What do you see? That is what I got back. Nothing. There is no measure of success here.

Mr. Chair, this is well intended. It is well meaning. However, it is unaffordable and unnecessary.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 27 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 27 printed in part B of House Report 118-242.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 59, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 101, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 756, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, this amendment reduces funding for the Denali Commission by \$2 million to the FY19 level.

The Denali Commission’s mission for providing job training and other economic development services in rural Alaska can be better served by the 29 other Federal programs in which it duplicates the very same efforts.

The Obama administration sought to eliminate funding for the commission in FY12 because it was duplicative back then and did not select projects based on competition or merit. Say it ain’t so, but it is so.

In 2013, the inspector general for the Denali Commission called for the elimination of the program. Some people say: PERRY, you are just mean. You just don’t understand. You just don’t want to help poor people or rural people.

I came from a house with no running water, no electricity, and no plumbing. We had an outhouse out back. There was no insulation. There was no heat in it. The roads weren’t paved. Somehow, I made it to Congress. It wasn’t the Federal Government’s job to fix my mom’s house or get me to work.

In 2013, the inspector general for the commission called for the elimination of the program, like I said, stating that he recommended that Congress put its money elsewhere. I am happy to take his recommendation.

The Trump administration, likewise, sought to eliminate the commission in FY18, FY19, FY20, and FY21. It seems imprudent to continually fund yet another parochial commission in the face of two administrations—one Democratic, one Republican—and the inspector general’s recommendation that we cease funding.

At a bare minimum, we should pass this amendment to keep the Denali Commission’s funding flat at its pre-COVID-19 level and not allow for its continued growth. I am not asking to eliminate it. I am saying, oh my goodness, two administrations said it ought to be eliminated. The inspector general said it should be gone. I am not even taking their advice on that. I am just saying, let’s save a little money here

because we have this debt we can’t afford.

Mr. Chairman, I have been to places where the country could no longer afford the debt that it had. You walk through shells of buildings just abandoned, walked away from by the workers who were there, that were once funded by their government. I have watched that in this town, right across the river at St. Elizabeth’s, where they just shut the doors, couldn’t afford it anymore, and walked away.

It is a tragic sight, but if we are going to keep going, it is not going to be just this place that does it. It is going to be all across the country. If we are going to be able to afford the things that we want, we are going to have to make some difficult choices.

We are taking in \$5 trillion this year. We are spending \$7.2 trillion. I am not a mathematician, but somehow that is not adding up to me.

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I rise to oppose the amendment.

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, once again, my distinguished friend and colleague from Pennsylvania has been consistent in his opposition to these regional commissions, and I do appreciate the gentleman’s positions on this. However, I respectfully disagree.

The amendment would reduce funding for the Denali Commission, which is funded at \$17 million in this bill, the same as fiscal 2023. The regional commission helps distressed communities across Alaska with basic infrastructure, like water and sewage systems and power generation.

Mr. Chair, I respectfully urge a “no” vote on this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, I will close quickly here. I sure appreciate the good gentleman from Tennessee. He has a lot to work with, and he has a lot of competing interests here. It is not easy. We certainly can appreciate that.

I want to point out that this is a regional commission, a regional commission like the other ones, like the Appalachian Regional Commission, like the Delta Regional Authority. Only this one exists in only one place, in Alaska. It is a wonderful place. Alaska is a great place, part of the United States of America, but tax dollars from across the country, including Pennsylvania, Tennessee, or Ohio, shouldn’t go to pay for local projects that can be handled by State and local governments, especially when you are borrowing money to do it. We are out of money. We are out.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gen-

tleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 28 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 28 printed in part B of House Report 118-242.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, as the designee of Mr. NORMAN, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 59, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$17,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 756, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, apparently, I was the reasonable one in the room because this amendment offered by Mr. NORMAN would eliminate funding for the Denali Commission, and I can support that as well.

The Denali Commission is one of seven regional commissions that help direct Federal funds to State and local projects. However, unlike other commissions, the Denali Commission serves only one State—Alaska.

This has led some, including the Office of the Inspector General for the Denali Commission, to question the need for the commission since the Federal funds handled by the commission could easily be distributed to the State of Alaska and other local entities without going through the step of yet one more bureaucracy.

After all, State and local governments are more knowledgeable and better equipped than the Federal Government to address the needs of local communities. I think we all would recognize that.

Both the Government Accountability Office and Congressional Budget Office have raised concerns about the need for the Denali Commission, as have I.

Eliminating funding for the Denali Commission was also suggested, as you know, by the Obama administration and the Trump administration. At a time when our growing national debt has surpassed \$33 trillion, we cannot continue to use taxpayer dollars to fund wasteful, unnecessary, and duplicative programs. With the Denali Commission’s own OIG, Office of Inspector General, highlighting how wasteful the agency is, why don’t we just listen and eliminate this unnecessary Federal agency.

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



Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, again, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for bringing this motion on behalf of my distinguished friend from South Carolina.

Like the previous amendment, although this one is a bit more draconian, I respectfully rise in opposition to it for the reasons I alluded to earlier, and I urge a “no” vote.

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I thank the kind gentleman from Tennessee for averring or implying that I am the reasonable one in the debate here, and I would, on behalf of the gentleman from South Carolina, urge adoption.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 29 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 29 printed in part B of House Report 118-242.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 60, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$20,000,000)”.

Page 101, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$20,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 756, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I rise to offer this amendment to reduce funding for the Northern Border Regional Commission, or the NBRC, to fiscal year 2019 levels.

Like other regional commissions, the NBRC provides economic development assistance to projects in various States, in this case, Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont.

These commissions simply serve as a slush fund, though, for parochial and regional projects with little to no national nexus as described in the other ones.

Let’s take a look at some of the funded programs taken from the 2022 annual report, which is the latest report

available: 304,000 to purchase the sound system for an auditorium in New Hampshire; over 350,000 to expand rail yard capacity in upstate New York; and another \$350,000 for a sailing center on Lake Champlain.

I am sure they are awesome projects. I am sure their communities love them. I just don’t understand why people in Ohio, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Texas, California, Georgia—you name it—are paying for this, especially when they can’t afford the bills they already have as evidenced by a \$33 trillion debt and a \$2.2 trillion deficit this year.

Furthermore, the Biden administration’s aim to inject their misguided diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility, and climate-related goals into these projects are not only unaffordable, they are just completely unnecessary.

Instead of pandering to special interest groups, we must pare back these wasteful programs that only serve as a boondoggle for a limited slice of America. This amendment does not zero out the commission’s funding; it simply reduces the funding to pre-COVID, pre-Biden spending levels, which everybody on this side of the aisle voted against last December.

If you were against them last December, we are getting pretty close to this December, but I don’t think a whole lot has changed. If you were against them then, you should be against them now.

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, this bill provides \$40 million for the Northern Border Regional Commission, the same as last year.

This commission seeks to create jobs in distressed communities of the four-State northern region.

While the impact to overall spending in this bill would be small, the impact felt by these communities would be large.

Mr. Chair, I respectfully urge a “no” vote on this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I agree with my good friend from Tennessee. I agree with the gentlewoman, my friend from Ohio. It does seek to create jobs. That is awesome.

It is not the role of the Federal Government, number one. Number two, it is unaffordable. Number three, we have no way to measure the success.

Do you know how I know? Because I asked the folks that run these things. I asked them. What metric do you use to measure the success by which you use this money and what do we get out of it?

I received blank stares, unfortunately.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gen-

tleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 30 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 30 printed in part B of House Report 118-242.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 60, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$19,750,000)”.

Page 101, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$19,750,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 756, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I rise to offer this amendment to reduce funding for the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission, the SCRC, to fiscal year 2019.

I don’t want to leave anybody out here. I listened to them all. Yet again, this commission serves as a duplicative slush fund for parochial interests for projects in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia.

Literally, by the way, in counties bordering Washington, D.C. We are talking about distressed counties, right? Some of the richest counties in the country right here are included in this regional commission.

From FY 2010 to FY 2020, the SCRC received \$250,000 annually, all without having an appointed Federal co-chair. Did anybody get that?

Nobody was in charge but to get money. It is awesome. I guess that only happens in the Federal Government.

Now, after a co-chair was appointed in December 2021—unfortunately, whether you like it or not, just conveniently related to an influential politician in this body—that number is now a whopping \$20 million in this bill.

Now, I am sure there is no coincidence. I just want to rely on everybody’s integrity here, but there is absolutely no reason for the dramatic increase in funding, especially when these projects fund both projects with no national nexus like electric vehicle charging stations.

If you want to have them in your community, God bless you. That is awesome. Go pay for them. It is not the Federal Government’s job to pay for that any more than it is the Federal Government’s job to pay for your local gas station.

How about stormwater management? It is an important issue. I come from Pennsylvania, we have got a lot of stormwater. I am not asking the Federal Government to deal with it. We should deal with that at home, as well as green infrastructure, according to the SCRC's 2023 through 2027 strategic plan.

Our constituents do not have money for these projects that have no impact on their lives and, in many cases, drive up inflationary spending.

Oh, sure, they have an impact where you live if you live in one of these places, but if you don't, you get to pay anyhow. This is why we have State governments. This is why we have local governments.

The Federal Government is supposed to be there, obviously, but it is not the job of the Federal Government. Again, I ask my colleagues to consider reducing, not ending, the funding for this regional commission.

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, once again, I thank my distinguished colleague and friend from Pennsylvania for being consistent and very thorough in all of his investigations, and I do really appreciate this.

This has been insightful, but once again, I must respectfully rise to oppose the amendment. The energy and water bill includes flat funding for the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission.

The amendment would reduce this amount by 99 percent, leaving only \$250,000, not even enough to cover all administrative costs. This commission seeks to create jobs in some of the most poverty stricken areas of our Nation, and funding should not be decimated.

Mr. Chair, I respectfully urge a "no" vote on this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I, again, say this commission includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. I have been to every one of them. Many of the residents of Pennsylvania are moving to those States because they are doing pretty well.

We lose population compared to these States every 10 years, which is why we lose a seat in Congress every 10 years. We are spending money in Pennsylvania on these States. We are not spending in Pennsylvania; we are spending in these States, so our residents then move to these States for all the great things.

When I asked the regional commissioner how much money has been spent in the counties surrounding Washington, D.C.—because, as you recall, Virginia is included—how much money is spent on the counties right around

Washington, D.C., some of the most wealthy counties in the country? I couldn't get the answer to that either. I don't know if they don't have the answer or they don't want to give me the answer, but that is unacceptable. That is unacceptable. The counties around Washington, D.C., can afford the amenities they have and they don't have to ask all these other States to pay for them.

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

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The Acting CHAIR (Mr. MORAN). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 31 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 31 printed in part B of House Report 118–242.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 60, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$2,500,000)".

Page 101, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,500,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 756, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, I don't want to leave anybody out. We are getting to the end here. This amendment would be to have the funding for the Southwest Border Regional Commission.

Now, this Commission, which only had its first chairman confirmed in 2022 and only was funded starting in fiscal year 2021, funds projects in the southern border regions of Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas.

Incidentally, the first chairman was previously the Director of Economic Development and Special Initiatives for Senator MARTIN HEINRICH, who continues a theme of politically connected chairman of these regional commissions, just to let you know.

I know that folks on both sides of the aisle care about the border. I believe that. However, the answer to solving border problems is to actually enforce our Nation's immigration laws, not to give \$5 million to a commission that has not published a strategic plan and does not even appear to have a website.

I would think they could afford to have a website with \$5 million.

The Commission received \$250,000 in FY21 but is now being funded at \$5 million in this bill for FY24 for literally no results.

Now \$250,000 is a lot of money where I come from, and \$5 million is even more. I can see inflation; I could see the cost of living going up. The people that I represent, their grocery costs are 20 percent up; fuel costs, electricity costs, everything they pay for is up, but not \$250,000 to \$5 million. That is a little bit more of a jump than everybody is used to.

Again, this amendment simply strikes this figure in half to a still exorbitant \$2.5 million.

Mr. Chair, I urge support of this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I rise to oppose this amendment.

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, my friend and colleague from Pennsylvania once again has been consistent in his opposition to these regional commissions.

This amendment seeks to cut funding for the Southwest Border Regional Commission in half. This Commission seeks to create jobs in some of the most poverty-stricken areas of our Nation. This bill provides \$5 million equal to fiscal year 2023. This amount ensures this Commission can continue its work and cutting it in half would virtually do nothing compared to the overall spending in the bill.

Mr. Chair, I respectfully urge a "no" vote on this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. CISCOMANI), my dear friend and also a fellow member of the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in respectful opposition to this amendment by my good friend from Pennsylvania.

The Southwest Border Regional Commission encompasses all five of the counties that I represent in Arizona's Sixth Congressional District, in addition to 88 other counties in Arizona, Texas, New Mexico, and California.

While I appreciate the sentiment of this amendment to rein in Federal funding that I think we can all agree on, cutting funding from the Commission is not the way to do so. Of the approximately 35 million people the Commission serves, nearly 5 million live in poverty.

Additionally, of all the regional commissions, the Southwest Border Regional Commission has the largest population, about 2.4 million people living in the most severely economically distressed counties.

These are communities that are dealing with drought, economic downfall, and overstretched resources as we see record-high levels of illegal immigration along the southwest border. Many of the people live in designated health professional shortage areas and lack access to clean water and also other necessities.

The Southwest Border Regional Commission finally received its first Federal co-chair just last December. That means that it was just recently allowed to begin convening and to begin activities. It would be a shame to reduce funding that is so desperately needed to promote economic development in our counties along the southwest border.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on this amendment.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, I certainly appreciate my good friend from Arizona. We are sure happy to have him here, as well as the gentleman from Tennessee, and the work that they have done in collaboration with my friends across the aisle. None of this is easy, but only in Washington can you go from \$250,000 to \$2.5 million and still call it a cut because you didn't go to \$5 million, which is what we are talking about.

I am not saying \$250,000 is too much, but I am saying \$5 million is too much, and saying we should spend \$2.5 million, which quite honestly for me is too much, but I get it.

To the gentleman from Arizona's point, he is absolutely right, their States are being ravaged and destroyed by the Federal Government's refusal and obstinance to follow the law and allowing people to flow across the border illegally into their communities and destroy their communities.

This cannot be afforded. It can't be afforded by them and it can't be afforded by anybody else. The solution is not to spend more money there, to provide more services and encourage more people to come in illegally while this administration refuses to enforce the law.

I think the gentleman would probably agree with at least that sentiment at some point. I understand he is trying to do right by his citizens, and he should. The best way to do right by his citizens, and he has no control of this, neither does anybody in this body at this moment, is to actually enforce the law. The President can do that and clear up this whole disagreement on this side of the aisle and on that side of the aisle, but that is not going to happen any time soon.

You know what else is not going to happen any time soon, Mr. Chairman? We are not going to quit putting our country in debt and bankrupting it. We are taking in \$5 trillion in revenue this year but we are going to spend \$7.2.

While my good friend says this will have no impact on the overall cost of the bill, where I come from, \$250,000 is

a lot of money, \$2.5 million is a huge amount of money, and \$5 million is an obscene amount of money that most people don't have. While it might have a little impact in this town, it has a huge impact in my town.

Mr. Chairman, I urge adoption of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 32 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 32 printed in part B of House Report 118-242.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 60, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,500,000)”.

Page 101, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,500,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 756, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, I don't want to leave anybody out here on the abuse and the waste, and I know I am going to sound like a broken record so I will try and keep it short.

First, the Great Lakes Authority has only been authorized since 2022. It still does not have a Federal co-chair, it has no website, it has no programs funded. Yet strangely, it is still receiving Federal dollars to the tune of \$5 million for projects supposedly in the watershed regions of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. Yes, I said Pennsylvania, and I am from Pennsylvania, but when you can't afford things and you are wasting money, I don't care where you are from, you have to say something about it.

Mr. Chair, we have seen how the other commissions have gone. President Trump urged the elimination of three of them, and President Obama recommended cuts and elimination for the Denali Commission. With that level of bipartisan criticism of the existing commissions, I don't see why we need to dig ourselves even deeper with yet another one. I mean, there is not a lot we agree on in this town, but apparently there is some agreement on this. We ought to try and forge ahead with that agreement.

I know people in this building will scoff at the difference between \$2.5 million and \$5 million, but like I said, where I come from, \$2.5 million or \$5 million is a lot of money. It might not be to the President who buys beach homes with cash and all that stuff, but where I come from, that is a lot of money. That \$2.5 million should not be going toward a commission that cannot even begin operations without a Senate-confirmed Federal co-chair. It shouldn't be going for that. There is nobody there to administer it.

Furthermore, all of us here know it is not going to stop at \$5 million. This is just the beginning, Mr. Chairman. This Commission, like the rest, will balloon up to tens of millions of dollars if Congress, using the power of its purse, does not put its foot down. This won't be the only commission. I have been through them all tonight. Every other State and region is going to say, well, shoot, they have one. They have one over there. They have one down there. Why don't we have one? It is going to go.

Again, I would just remind everybody that we are just a little bit in debt—just a little bit—\$2.2 trillion this year, \$33 trillion overall.

Mr. Chair, somebody has to say no. Somebody has to say no.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, once again, I thank my distinguished friend from Pennsylvania and colleague for his very thoughtful work on this entire project. He has covered all of these regions.

Mr. Chair, this amendment seeks to cut funding for the Great Lakes Authority in half, and I strongly oppose it. This is a newly authorized regional commission intended to create jobs in communities that need it most.

As we crafted this bill, Mr. Chairman, we actually listened to Members and got Members' requests. This Commission received a tremendous amount of bipartisan support for it. It is newly created, and that is one of the reasons that it has not had its funding. It has never had funding because it is brand-new.

Mr. Chair, in that regard, especially in terms of the strong bipartisan support for this bill and for this Commission, I urge a “no” vote on this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, I understand and recognize the good, intended efforts, the heartfelt efforts of the committee members and on both sides of the aisle, certainly the Members representing the States involved. I understand and I recognize that, and I think they mean to do well.

There is nobody there to administer this. There is nobody present, but we are going to give them the money anyhow. We don't have any money to give, Mr. Chairman. We are borrowing money to give to a program with nobody there to administer it on projects that we haven't even seen yet. I don't know about you, but that seems like, to borrow an old phrase, putting the cart before the horse, or something like that.

People are going to say, well, we have to have the money so we can set it up. Okay, fair enough. The problem is we don't have the money.

Again, I don't mean to be a broken record here—I know I sound like one—we don't have any money, number one.

Number two, these are State and local projects. If you are showing me one that crosses State lines, and building a highway between Pennsylvania and Ohio or something like that, then we have a conversation going.

Now, there are already agencies and administrations to do that—we talked about that before—multiple agencies doing the same things, not just a couple, a couple dozen, but if that is not enough for you, just go with the fact that your constituents, your bosses, my bosses, can't afford this.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

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AMENDMENT NO. 34 OFFERED BY MRS. CAMMACK

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 34 printed in part B of House Report 118-242.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be made available to finalize any rule or regulation that meets the definition of section 804(2)(A) of title 5, United States Code.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 756, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CAMMACK) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment,

which would restrict funds at the Department of Energy and related agencies from being used to finalize any rule or regulation that has an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more.

Under this administration, the regulatory environment, or regime, as I like to call it, has never been worse. For too long, the ever-increasing regulatory costs have harmed consumers and businesses across the country. Since President Biden took office, the regulatory landscape has deteriorated by numerous new rules and regulations that impact all aspects of our economy and, quite frankly, consumers' bottom line. These are the regulations that have added hundreds of billions of dollars more in new regulatory costs that are ultimately passed down to our consumers, who are our constituents.

Recently, we have seen new, outlandish regulatory proposals from agencies, including the Department of Energy's new regulations that were implemented under the guise of efficiency standards. In reality, these efforts are part of the administration's efforts to use every opportunity to implement the Green New Deal. Just look at the efficiency standards that take aim at banning gas stoves and furnaces. These regulations are absurd, unnecessary, and make these appliances unattainable or simply unaffordable, particularly in this economy, or Biden economics, as we have been told this is.

My amendment would rein in the actions of the Department of Energy and related agencies covered by this bill and restore accountability. Congress, not the executive branch, is the sole legislative body in this country. It is time that we restore the accountability and transparency to our constituents by reasserting our Article I authority. Congress makes the law, not the White House.

This amendment would limit the overreach of these agencies and prevent costly regulations from going into effect that ultimately impact our constituents negatively. It is time that we stand up for our constituents and rein in this overgrown, bureaucratic government.

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, this amendment is one more controversial poison pill policy rider that sadly shows extremist Republicans are not interested in bills that can gain bipartisan support and become law.

Now, let's have a little math. In 2012, before the Bush tax cuts, the Congressional Budget Office showed revenues exceeding primary spending for the next 65 years and that debt as a percentage of GDP, our gross domestic product, everything that we make in a year, would decline indefinitely. How about that. That was 2012.

Since then, tax cut extensions and the Trump tax cuts have added \$10 trillion to the debt to date, and their cost will increase enough over time to account for the entire long-term growth in debt ratio. The Trump tax cuts are costing us \$2 trillion per year. Just look at it. It is unbelievable. Remember, those benefits are disproportionately enjoyed by the most wealthy.

If we truly want to protect the American taxpayer, we should be marking up bills at levels agreed to between the President, Speaker MCCARTHY, and signed into law in the Fiscal Responsibility Act rather than bringing the government to the verge of a shutdown and now marking up bills that don't just break the deal but obliterate it by cutting critical domestic investments.

I can't wait for the Debt Commission to actually get the facts out there for the American people, because I have been listening to this all evening. It is very much off the mark. Let's get serious about passing bills that can gain bipartisan support and become law.

Mr. Chair, I strongly urge my colleagues to vote against this harmful amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Chair, I am confused. My colleague across the aisle said that this is a controversial poison pill. Just this year, this exact same language was passed off of this floor in this Chamber not just with Republican support, but Democrat support. This is not a partisan issue.

Reasserting the will of the people, empowering the people that hired us to do this job, that is not a controversial issue, nor is it a poison pill. None of our constituents sent us to Washington to cede power to an unelected nameless, faceless bureaucrat somewhere in a basement in Washington.

I disagree tremendously that this piece of legislation, this amendment specifically, would be a poison pill to the very thing that we are trying to accomplish here, one of our critical appropriation bills.

I would also say that today, because of the Biden administration's overreach and aggressive regulatory environment, we now spend more than \$2 trillion a year in our economy on compliance and additional costs.

Families are paying more than \$14,860 a year in additional regulatory costs and burdens on them. I don't know many families, certainly not in my district, that can afford an additional \$14,860 a year in additional costs.

I agree with my colleague, however. It is time to get serious. When I say serious, it means reasserting our authority as Representatives of the people. This amendment does just that.

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

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

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 35 OFFERED BY MR. FALLON

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 35 printed in part B of House Report 118-242.

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce the final rule of the Department of Energy entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Furnaces" signed on September 28, 2023 (Docket ID: EERE-2014-BT-STD-0031; RIN 1904-AD20).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 756, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FALLON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment that prohibits funding for the Department of Energy's new rule on gas furnaces. It is a regulation that would drastically impact consumers in a negative way, unfortunately.

Under this rule, manufacturers would only be allowed to sell furnaces that convert at least 95 percent of fuel into heat, within 6 years. The Department of Energy is forcing consumers to choose between an electric heat pump or expensive home renovations.

Once again, unelected bureaucrats are gaslighting—yes, pun intended—Congress and the American people about what they can do under the law. Under the guise of improving energy efficiency, as prescribed by the Environmental Policy and Conservation Act, or EPCA, this administration has attacked every single affordable appliance on the market. This gas furnace rule is just the latest salvo. We have been having hearings in the Oversight Committee about just this kind of thing: Are we going to have gas stoves, things like that.

EPCA states that any standard must result in significant energy conservation and be "technologically feasible" and "economically justifiable."

We have the authority to question the extent of these proposed standards to determine whether they can be construed as both technologically feasible and economically justifiable.

Like many of the home appliances standards rammed through by this administration, this rule falls short of these criteria. The National Propane Gas Association estimates that this rule would impact at least 40 percent of gas-furnaced homes and would remove up to 60 percent of current residential furnaces off the market. Additionally, the Department of Energy estimates affected homes will have to pay \$2,300 for renovations plus thousands of additional dollars for actual furnaces.

Propane customers in Texas have already faced a 37 percent increase over

the last 3 years, and this administration, quite frankly, should focus on lowering costs and not increasing them.

Agency actions that remove consumer choice operate on the assumption that the Federal Government knows what is best for its citizens, even more so than the citizens themselves. That is why I have always been a big, limited-government person. I trust you, Mr. Chair, more so than I would trust the Federal Government to know what kind of stove or gas furnace you want to heat your home. News flash: You know and the bureaucrats don't.

If we want to have something that severe, it should be legislated. There are 435 of us here for a reason. When we come here, if we want to change the law or create laws, there is a process for that. It shouldn't be unelected, nameless, faceless bureaucrats with that kind of power.

This amendment is a check on arrogant bureaucrats who think that they know best for you, Mr. Chair, many of our constituents, and everyday Americans across the country.

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, the Department of Energy is charged with implementing congressionally directed energy efficiency standards. When the gentleman blithely says he doesn't like unelected bureaucrats, the people who work in these departments are trained and actually help consumers.

Frankly, I think it is helpful for consumers to know, when they are going to buy a blouse, let's say, whether it is cotton or rayon. It is sort of nice to have the label on there. If you are driving a car, it is nice to know how many miles per gallon the car is going to get. You sort of get a sense of if you are going to buy this one or another one. With refrigerators, I think it is really great that you see how much energy it uses so you can buy a more efficient refrigerator, so you have your electricity bill go down.

I don't know why the gentleman is objecting to helping the American consumer make better choices. In accordance with the statutes that we have passed, the Department of Energy has published regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations—in other words, it is not by some whim—for more than 60 categories of appliance and equipment types. That helps consumers make good choices.

The Department of Energy drafts the energy efficiency regulations with the full participation of equipment manufacturers and the public at large. The process includes thorough consideration of all comments and concerns.

In following the law, the Department of Energy has issued proposed or final

standards for 24 product categories so far this year. Again, these actions are by congressional direction. They just don't pick them out of the air. Actually, it is a process of law. These actions result in direct energy savings while also improving the reliability and performance across household appliances and commercial and industrial equipment.

There is a quote from DANIEL WEBSTER in this House that tells us in our time and our generation, may we perform something worthy to be remembered. That is a really good quote to think about.

I think it is safe to assume that virtually all Americans, let alone all of the people in this room, have benefited from some of these types of efficiency standards over the course of their lifetimes.

The benefits are real. As a result of the Department of Energy's efficiency actions, cost savings for American families and businesses are projected to reach nearly \$2 trillion by 2030. The Department of Energy estimates that this specific rule would slash household utility costs by \$1.5 billion annually, which is something the American people want to do, and save consumers \$24.8 billion on their energy bills over 30 years. That is a big deal.

Further, if Congress does not like these standards, that should be addressed by new laws through the Energy and Commerce Committee, not by funding prohibitions. I would suggest to the gentleman, he might want to go before that committee.

Stopping the Department of Energy from finalizing, implementing, or enforcing energy efficiency standards will only create uncertainty for manufacturers and consumers.

□ 2045

With respect to the energy efficiency standards for consumer furnaces, if my Republican colleagues are concerned about the rule's potential to increase costs for homeowners, then I would suggest that they should not be seeking in this bill to rescind the Inflation Reduction Act funding for home energy efficiency rebates, which will help many hardworking Americans afford energy efficient heating units that will actually save them money on their utility bills in the long term.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to reject this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Chair, may I inquire how much time I have remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Chair, I will not be able to say everything I want to, but I do want to thank my colleague for correcting me. It is not unelected bureaucrats. They are trained unelected bureaucrats. I wanted to thank her for that.

The Department of Energy relies upon modeling techniques within the technical support document, or TSD,

that overstate the calculated climate benefits of reduced emissions in order to justify more stringent energy efficiency standards. They did the same thing, the same rule, with the gas stoves.

The gentlewoman said it is not on some whim, Mr. Chairman. In the rule-making, the Department of Energy uses random assignment modeling—that sounds like close to a whim to me—to guess consumer decisions and ignores economic considerations consumers use to make decisions.

The rule states that EPCA is not fuel neutral. This isn't the case.

I have a lot more to say, Mr. Chairman, but we are on a 5-minute limit time, and it is late at night.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FALLON).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise. The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FALLON) having assumed the chair, Mr. MORAN, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4394) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

#### HOURLY MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 49 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, October 26, 2023, at 10 a.m.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

*[Submitted October 11, 2023]*

EC-2113. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Toxic Substances Control Act Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements for Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2020-0549; FRL-7902-02-OCSPP] (RIN:

2070-AK67) received October 4, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2114. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Ledprona Double-Stranded RNA; Exemption From the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2021-0269; FRL-10944-01-OCSPP] received October 4, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2115. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's issuance of regulatory guide—Weather-Related Administrative Controls at Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installations [Regulatory Guide 3.77, Revision 0] received October 4, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2116. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Air Plan Approval; MO; Control of Emissions From Volatile Organic Liquid Storage [EPA-R07-OAR-2023-0403; FRL-11259-02-R7] received October 4, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

*[Submitted October 12, 2023]*

EC-2117. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that the national emergency declared with respect to the situation in and in relation to Syria in Executive Order 13894 of October 14, 2019, is to continue in effect beyond October 14, 2023, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 202(d); (90 Stat. 1257) (H. Doc. No. 118-68); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2118. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-217, "Law Enforcement Vehicular Pursuit Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2023", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2119. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 23-041 Certification of Proposed Issuance of an Export License Pursuant to Sec 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2120. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 23-042 Certification of Proposed Issuance of an Export License Pursuant to Sec 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2121. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 23-051 Certification of Proposed Issuance of an Export License Pursuant to Sec 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2122. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 23-040 Certification of Proposed Issuance of an Export License Pursuant to Sec 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2123. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison, Office of Regulations, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's direct final rule—Conformity With the Infla-

tion Reduction Act for Renewable Energy on the Outer Continental Shelf [Docket No: BOEM-2023-0035] (RIN: 1010-AE20) received October 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-2124. A letter from the Program Analyst, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's Major final rule—Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities [CG Docket No. 03-123]; Structure and Practices of the Video Relay Services [CG Docket No. 10-51] received October 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2125. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Part 73 of the Commission's Rules to Update Television and Class A Television Broadcast Station Rules, and Rules Applicable to All Broadcast Stations [MB Docket No. 22-227] received October 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2126. A letter from the Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final temporary rule—Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary: Establishment of Temporary Special Use Area for Coral Nursery [Docket No.: 230829-0205] (RIN: 0648-BM58) received October 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

*[Submitted October 13, 2023]*

EC-2127. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to specified harmful foreign activities of the Government of the Russian Federation that was declared in Executive Order 14024 of April 15, 2021, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2128. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Somalia that was declared in Executive Order 13536 on April 12, 2010, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2129. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to significant malicious cyber-enabled activities that was declared in Executive Order 13694 of April 1, 2015, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2130. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2131. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the threat from securities investments that finance certain companies of the People's Republic of China that was declared in Executive Order 13959 of November 12, 2020, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2132. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2133. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Ukraine that was declared in Executive Order 13660 of March 6, 2014, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2134. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to South Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13664 of April 3, 2014, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2135. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Interior, transmitting the last in a series of three proposals necessary to prepare the 2024-2029 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program, pursuant to 43 U.S.C. 1344(c)(3); Aug. 7, 1953, ch. 345, Sec. 18 (as amended by Public Law 95-372, Sec. 208); (92 Stat. 649); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-2136. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-222, "Medical Cannabis Clarification and Non-Resident Patient Access Temporary Amendment Act of 2023", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2137. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-226, "Walter Reed Development Assistance Temporary Amendment Act of 2023", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2138. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-223, "Office of Unified Communications Transparency and Accuracy Temporary Amendment Act 2023", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2139. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-224, "School Student Vaccination Temporary Amendment Act of 2023", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2140. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-228, "Short-Term Disability Insurance Benefit Protection Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2023", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2141. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-241, "Public Health Emergency Credit Alert Temporary Amendment Act of 2023", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2142. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-242, "Advisory Neighborhood Commissions Remote Operations Temporary Amendment Act of 2023", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2143. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-243, "Department of For-Hire Vehicles Delivery Vehicle Traffic Enforcement Expansion Temporary Amendment Act of 2023", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2144. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-244, "Family Re-Housing Stabilization Program Protection Temporary Amendment Act of 2023", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2145. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-245, "Sexual Harassment Investigation Review Temporary Act of 2023", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2146. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-246, "Middle School Career Exploration Pilot Temporary Amendment Act of 2023", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2147. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-252, "Foreclosure Moratorium and Homeowner Assistance Fund Coordination Temporary Amendment Act", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2148. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-253, "Migrant Services and Supports Extension Temporary Amendment Act of 2023", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2149. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-227, "Vulnerable Youth Guardianship Protection Temporary Amendment Act of 2023", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2150. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-248, "Fairness in Renting Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2023", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2151. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-247, "Banning Associations from Banning Youth Amendment Act of 2023", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2152. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-249, "Electric Bicycle Incentive Program Amendment Act of 2023", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2153. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-250, "Opening of Streets and Designation of Opened Streets in Square S-5868, S.O. 22-01486, Act of 2023", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2154. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-251, "Commission on the Arts and Humanities Acting Executive Director Amendment Act of 2023", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2155. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-229, "Prioritizing Public Safety Temporary Amendment Act of 2023", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2156. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation, and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's Major final rule—Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Dedicated Purpose Pool Pump Motors [EERE-2017-BT-STD-0048] (RIN: 1904-AF27) received October 11, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2157. A letter from the Regulations and Policy Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Requirements for Additional Traceability Records for Certain Foods; Technical Amendment [Docket No.: FDA-2014-N-0053] (RIN: 0910-AI44) received October 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2158. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel/Rules Administrator, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule—Office of the Attorney General; Home Confinement Under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act [BOP Docket No.: 1179; AG Order No.: 5641-2023] (RIN: 1120-AB79) received October 11, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2159. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Determination Under Section 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to Provide Military Assistance to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2160. A letter from the Biologist, Ecological Services Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revision of a Nonessential Experimental Population of Black-Footed Ferrets (*Mustela nigripes*) in the Southwest [Docket No.: FWS-R2-ES-2020-0123; FXES1113020000-223-FF02ENEH00] (RIN: 1018-BD61) October 11, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-2161. A letter from the Deputy Director, Human Resources Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting two notifications of a nomination, action on nomination and discontinuation of service in acting role, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2162. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Extension of the Prohibition Against Certain Flights in the Pyongyang Flight Information Region (FIR) (ZKKP) [Docket No.: FAA-2018-0838; Amdt. No.: 91-352B] (RIN: 2120-AL90) received October 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2163. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment of Class E Airspace; Quincy, IL [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1389; Airspace Docket No.: 23-AGL-19] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received October 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2164. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; Ralph M. Calhoun Memorial Airport, Tanana, AK [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1471; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AAL-63] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received October 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2165. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; Alliance Municipal Airport, Alliance, NE [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0583; Airspace Docket No.: 22-ACE-20] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received October 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2166. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Saab AB, Support and Services (Formerly Known as Saab AB, Saab Aeronautics) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1215; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00196-T; Amendment 39-22528; AD 2023-17-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2167. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1208; Project Identifier AD-2023-00325-E; Amendment 39-22545; AD 2023-18-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2168. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1052; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00260-T; Amendment 39-22532; AD 2023-17-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2169. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1051; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01565-T; Amendment 39-22529; AD 2023-17-03] (RIN:

2120-AA64) received October 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2170. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; ATR-GIE Avions de Transport Régional Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1206; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00068-T; Amendment 39-22527; AD 2023-17-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2171. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0663; Project Identifier AD-2023-00020-E; Amendment 39-22534; AD 2023-17-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2172. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Viking Air Limited (Type Certificated Previously Held by Bombardier Inc. and de Havilland, Inc.) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2020-1076; Project Identifier MCAI-2020-01201-A; Amendment 39-22544; AD 2023-18-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2173. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Vulcanair S.p.A. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1218; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01025-A; Amendment 39-22536; AD 2023-17-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2174. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce Deutschland Ltd. & Co. KG Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1212; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-00423-E; Amendment 39-22538; AD 2023-17-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2175. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Continental Aerospace Technologies, Inc. Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1159; Project Identifier AD-2022-00692-E; Amendment 39-22530; AD 2023-17-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2176. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31506; Amdt. No.: 4078] received October 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2177. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31505; Amdt. No.: 4077] received October 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2178. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—IFR Altitudes; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31507; Amdt. No.: 574] received October 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2179. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1221; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00070-T; Amendment 39-22543; AD 2023-18-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

*[Submitted October 16, 2023]*

EC-2180. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting changes that occurred from April 19, 2023 through September 19, 2023, and additional report on departure of ambassadors, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2181. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's notification of its 2023 compensation program adjustments, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1833b(a); Public Law 101-73, Sec. 1206(a); (103 Stat. 523); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-2182. A letter from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the 2022 Annual Report on the Farm Credit System, pursuant to section 5.17 (a)(3) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971, as amended by (Public Law 92-181); to the Committee on Agriculture.

*[Submitted October 18, 2023]*

EC-2183. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-255, "Floodplain Review Authority Temporary Amendment Act of 2023", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2184. A letter from the Regulatory Policy Analyst, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Advisory Committee; Board of Tea Experts; Termination and Technical Amendment to the Citation for the Federal Advisory Committee Act [Docket No.: FDA-2023-N-3497] received October 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2185. A letter from the Administrative Assistant, Ecological Services, Fish and Wildlife Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reclassification of the Relict Darter From Endangered to Threatened With a Section 4(d) Rule [Docket No.: FWS-R4-ES-2021-0093; FF09E22000 FXES1113090FEDR 234] (RIN: 1018-BF56) received October 16, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.



[Submitted October 25, 2023]

EC-2186. A letter from the Chief Administrative Officer, U.S. House of Representatives, transmitting the quarterly report of receipts and expenditures of appropriations and other funds for the period July 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023 (H. Doc. No. 118-69), was taken from the Speaker's table, referred to the Committee on House Administration and ordered to be printed.

#### 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:

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 3369. A bill to direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to conduct a study and hold public meetings with respect to artificial intelligence systems, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-244). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 3309. A bill to amend the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 to establish a uniform fee schedule applicable to the processing of forms for the consideration of applications for the placement of communications facilities on certain buildings and other property owned by the Federal Government, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-245, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 3838. A bill to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize Federal support of States in their work to save and sustain the health of mothers during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period, to eliminate disparities in maternal health outcomes for pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated deaths, to identify solutions to improve health care quality and health outcomes for mothers, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-246). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 3821. A bill to reauthorize the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act of 2018 (Rept. 118-247). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 3343. A bill to require the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to submit to Congress a plan for the Assistant Secretary to track the acceptance, processing, and disposal of certain Form 299s, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-248). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 4510. A bill to reauthorize the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, to update the mission and functions of the agency, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-249). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. JORDAN: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 1105. A bill to amend the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 to reauthorize the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-250). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. BOST: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. H.R. 3581. A bill to amend title 38,

United States Code, to modify the family caregiver program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to include services related to mental health and neurological disorders, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-251). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. FOXX: Committee on Education and the Workforce. H.R. 4259. A bill to amend the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to require notification with respect to individualized education program teams, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-252). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. FOXX: Committee on Education and the Workforce. House Joint Resolution 88. Resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to "Improving Income Driven Repayment for the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program and the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program" (Rept. 118-253). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. FOXX: Committee on Education and the Workforce. H.R. 4957. A bill to apply the requirements of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998 to a vacancy in the office of the Secretary of Labor, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-254). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. FOXX: Committee on Education and the Workforce. H.R. 5349. A bill to develop and disseminate a civic education curriculum and oral history resources regarding certain political ideologies, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-255). 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:

[Submitted October 6, 2023]

By Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky:

H.R. 5893. A bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations, 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 Mr. ADERHOLT:

H.R. 5894. A bill making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

[Submitted October 19, 2023]

By Mr. OWENS (for himself, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. BANKS, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. BURLISON, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEEMER, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. COMER, Mr. CURTIS, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. DUNCAN, Ms. FOXX, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. FRY, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mrs. HOUCHIN, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. LETLOW, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mrs. MIL-

LER of Illinois, Mr. MILLS, Mr. MOLINARO, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. ROSE, Mr. SMUCKER, Mrs. STEEL, Ms. STEFANK, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. WILLIAMS of New York, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. YAKYM, Mr. STEIL, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Mr. JAMES):

H. Res. 798. A resolution condemning the support of Hamas, Hezbollah, and other terrorist organizations at institutions of higher education, which may lead to the creation of a hostile environment for Jewish students, faculty, and staff; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

[Submitted October 25, 2023]

By Ms. BOEBERT (for herself, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. OGLES, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, and Mr. LAMALFA):

H.R. 6040. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds for gender transition in minors; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Mr. BACON, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, and Mr. MCGARVEY):

H.R. 6041. A bill to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 6042. A bill to require the Secretary of Labor to award grants for promoting industry or sector partnerships to encourage industry growth and competitiveness and to improve worker training, retention, and advancement as part of an infrastructure investment; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 6043. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to raise public awareness for skilled trade programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Mr. FERGUSON, Ms. STEVENS, and Mr. GUTHRIE):

H.R. 6044. A bill to promote registered apprenticeships and other work-based learning programs for small and medium-sized businesses within in-demand industry sectors, through the establishment and support of industry or sector partnerships; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CARAVEO (for herself and Mr. KEAN of New Jersey):

H.R. 6045. A bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study and submit a report on the efficacy of Federal drug surveillance systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CLYDE (for himself, Mr. OGLES, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. PERRY, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. FALLON, and Mr. HARRIS):

H.R. 6046. A bill to designate Ansarallah as a foreign terrorist organization and impose certain sanctions on Ansarallah, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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 Ms. CRAIG:

H.R. 6047. A bill to require the Postal Service to implement recommendations from the Inspector General of the United States Postal Service for improving identification and notification of undelivered and partially delivered routes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. DESAULNIER (for himself and Ms. LEE of California):

H.R. 6048. A bill to establish a Commission for Review and Correction of Historical Injustices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GROTHMAN (for himself, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. NORTON, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. TRONE, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. TIFFANY, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. BOST, Mr. COSTA, Ms. TITUS, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. NADLER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. CARSON, Mr. KILMER, Ms. BROWNLEY, and Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas):

H.R. 6049. A bill to award payments to employees of Air America who provided support to the United States from 1950 to 1976, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select).

By Mr. HERN (for himself, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. KUSTOFF, and Mr. ESTES):

H.R. 6050. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit kindergarten through grade 12 educational expenses to be paid from a 529 account; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HILL (for himself and Mr. VARGAS):

H.R. 6051. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to report on financial institutions' involvement with officials of the Iranian Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, 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 Mrs. HOUCHIN (for herself, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. BURLISON, and Mr. MRVAN):

H.R. 6052. A bill to amend the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to improve provisions relating to dyslexia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. CHU, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. GRJALVA, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. MENG, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. PORTER, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms.

TOKUDA, Mr. TRONE, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. CARSON, Mr. LIEU, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Ms. HOYLE of Oregon):

H.R. 6053. A bill to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to reduce the production and use of certain single-use plastic products and packaging, to improve the responsibility of producers in the design, collection, reuse, recycling, and disposal of consumer products and packaging, to prevent pollution from consumer products and packaging from entering into animal and human food chains and waterways, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Foreign Affairs, and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE (for herself, Mr. LIEU, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. TITUS, Ms. OMAR, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. COHEN, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. NORTON, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. POCAN, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. TRONE, and Ms. JAYAPAL):

H.R. 6054. A bill to ensure that the United States diplomatic workforce at all levels reflects the diverse composition of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. LAWLER (for himself, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. BALDERSON, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, and Mr. D'ESPOSITO):

H.R. 6055. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide penalties for communicating threats that target schools; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. LEE of Nevada (for herself, Mr. BACON, and Mr. MOYLAN):

H.R. 6056. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on at-home child care programs of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. MCCLAIN (for herself, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. NORMAN, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. YAKYM, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. TIMMONS):

H.R. 6057. A bill to limit the United States from rejoining the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. MENG (for herself and Ms. SALAZAR):

H.R. 6058. A bill to reauthorize the Interagency Committee on Women's Business Enterprise, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 6059. A bill to permit a State to impose a sales tax on qualifying purchases at any gift shop on Federal property, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. OGLES (for himself, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Ms. BOEBERT, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama):

H.R. 6060. A bill to prohibit any United States assistance from being made available

for programs, projects, or activities located in Palestinian-controlled areas of Judea and Samaria or Gaza, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. RADEWAGEN:

H.R. 6061. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to waive certain naturalization requirements for United States nationals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. RADEWAGEN:

H.R. 6062. A bill to restore the ability of the people of American Samoa to approve amendments to the territorial constitution based on majority rule in a democratic act of self-determination, as authorized pursuant to an Act of Congress delegating administration of Federal territorial law in the territory to the President, and to the Secretary of the Interior under Executive Order 10264, dated June 29, 1951, under which the Constitution of American Samoa was approved and may be amended without requirement for further congressional action, subject to the authority of Congress under the Territorial Clause in article IV, section 3, clause 2 of the United States Constitution; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. CASAR, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. DELLAURO, Mr. DELUZZO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OMAR, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PORTER, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SOTO, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLAI, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. TRONE, Mr. VARGAS, and Ms. VELAZQUEZ):

H.R. 6063. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Social Security Act to provide that an individual engaged in a labor dispute may receive unemployment benefits; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SIMPSON (for himself and Mr. FULCHER):

H.R. 6064. A bill to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to provide for the denial of certain applications for solar or wind energy development projects right-of-way applications; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SMUCKER (for himself, Ms. SEWELL, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska):

H.R. 6065. A bill to establish the American Worker Retirement Plan, improve the financial security of working Americans by facilitating the accumulation of wealth, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. TENNEY (for herself and Mr. BACON):

H.R. 6066. A bill to prohibit funding to international organizations that provide resources or other support to foreign terrorist organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SCALISE:

H. Res. 810. A resolution to inform the Senate of the election of the Speaker; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCALISE:

H. Res. 811. A resolution authorizing the Clerk to inform the President of the election of the Speaker; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. MCCLAIN (for herself, Mr. BERGMAN, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. COLLINS, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. FRY, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Ms. MACE, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. MILLS, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. SANTOS, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SELF, Mr. SESSIONS, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. WALTZ, and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H. Res. 812. A resolution censuring Representative Jamaal Bowman; to the Committee on Ethics, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. LYNCH):

H. Res. 813. A resolution supporting the designation of October 23, 2023, as "AADDC Deficiency Awareness Day"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WESTERMAN (for himself, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. BUCHSHON, Mrs. HOUCHIN, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. HILL, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. WOMACK, and Mr. CRAWFORD):

H. Res. 814. A resolution expressing support for the recognition of October 2023 as "National Dyslexia Awareness Month"; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

## 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. BOEBERT (for herself, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. OGLES, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, and Mr. LAMALFA):

H.R. 6040. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds for gender transition in minors; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Mr. BACON, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, and Mr. MCGARVEY):

H.R. 6041. A bill to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 6042. A bill to require the Secretary of Labor to award grants for promoting industry or sector partnerships to encourage industry growth and competitiveness and to improve worker training, retention, and advancement as part of an infrastructure investment; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 6043. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to raise

public awareness for skilled trade programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Mr. FERGUSON, Ms. STEVENS, and Mr. GUTHRIE):

H.R. 6044. A bill to promote registered apprenticeships and other work-based learning programs for small and medium-sized businesses within in-demand industry sectors, through the establishment and support of industry or sector partnerships; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CARAVEO (for herself and Mr. KEAN of New Jersey):

H.R. 6045. A bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study and submit a report on the efficacy of Federal drug surveillance systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CLYDE (for himself, Mr. OGLES, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. PERRY, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. FALLON, and Mr. HARRIS):

H.R. 6046. A bill to designate Ansarallah as a foreign terrorist organization and impose certain sanctions on Ansarallah, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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 Ms. CRAIG:

H.R. 6047. A bill to require the Postal Service to implement recommendations from the Inspector General of the United States Postal Service for improving identification and notification of undelivered and partially delivered routes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. DESAULNIER (for himself and Ms. LEE of California):

H.R. 6048. A bill to establish a Commission for Review and Correction of Historical Injustices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GROTHMAN (for himself, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. NORTON, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. TRONE, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. TIFFANY, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. BOST, Mr. COSTA, Ms. TITUS, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. NADLER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. CARSON, Mr. KILMER, Ms. BROWNLEY, and Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas):

H.R. 6049. A bill to award payments to employees of Air America who provided support to the United States from 1950 to 1976, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select).

By Mr. HERN (for himself, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. KUSTOFF, and Mr. ESTES):

H.R. 6050. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit kindergarten

through grade 12 educational expenses to be paid from a 529 account; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HILL (for himself and Mr. VARGAS):

H.R. 6051. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to report on financial institutions' involvement with officials of the Iranian Government, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, 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 Mrs. HOUCHIN (for herself, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. BUCHSHON, Mr. BURLISON, and Mr. MRVAN):

H.R. 6052. A bill to amend the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to improve provisions relating to dyslexia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. CHU, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. MENG, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. PORTER, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. TRONE, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. CARSON, Mr. LIEU, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Ms. HOYLE of Oregon):

H.R. 6053. A bill to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to reduce the production and use of certain single-use plastic products and packaging, to improve the responsibility of producers in the design, collection, reuse, recycling, and disposal of consumer products and packaging, to prevent pollution from consumer products and packaging from entering into animal and human food chains and waterways, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Foreign Affairs, and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE (for herself, Mr. LIEU, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. TITUS, Ms. OMAR, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. COHEN, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. NORTON, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. POCAN, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. TRONE, and Ms. JAYAPAL):

H.R. 6054. A bill to ensure that the United States diplomatic workforce at all levels reflects the diverse composition of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. LAWLER (for himself, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. BALDERSON, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, and Mr. D'ESPOSITO):

H.R. 6055. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide penalties for communicating threats that target schools; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. LEE of Nevada (for herself, Mr. BACON, and Mr. MOYLAN):

H.R. 6056. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives a report on at-home child care programs of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. MCCLAIN (for herself, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. NORMAN, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. YAKYM, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. TIMMONS):

H.R. 6057. A bill to limit the United States from rejoining the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. MENG (for herself and Ms. SALAZAR):

H.R. 6058. A bill to reauthorize the Interagency Committee on Women's Business Enterprise, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 6059. A bill to permit a State to impose a sales tax on qualifying purchases at any gift shop on Federal property, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. OGLES (for himself, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Ms. BOEBERT, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama):

H.R. 6060. A bill to prohibit any United States assistance from being made available for programs, projects, or activities located in Palestinian-controlled areas of Judea and Samaria or Gaza, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. RADEWAGEN:

H.R. 6061. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to waive certain naturalization requirements for United States nationals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. RADEWAGEN:

H.R. 6062. A bill to restore the ability of the people of American Samoa to approve amendments to the territorial constitution based on majority rule in a democratic act of self-determination, as authorized pursuant to an Act of Congress delegating administration of Federal territorial law in the territory to the President, and to the Secretary of the Interior under Executive Order 10264, dated June 29, 1951, under which the Constitution of American Samoa was approved and may be amended without requirement for further congressional action, subject to the authority of Congress under the Territorial Clause in article IV, section 3, clause 2 of the United States Constitution; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. CASAR, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DELUZZIO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OMAR, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PORTER, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SOTO, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. TRONE, Mr. VARGAS, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ):

H.R. 6063. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Social Security Act to provide that an individual engaged in a labor dispute may receive unemployment

benefits; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SIMPSON (for himself and Mr. FULCHER):

H.R. 6064. A bill to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to provide for the denial of certain applications for solar or wind energy development projects right-of-way applications; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SMUCKER (for himself, Ms. SEWELL, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska):

H.R. 6065. A bill to establish the American Worker Retirement Plan, improve the financial security of working Americans by facilitating the accumulation of wealth, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. TENNEY (for herself and Mr. BACON):

H.R. 6066. A bill to prohibit funding to international organizations that provide resources or other support to foreign terrorist organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. SCALISE:

H. Res. 810. A resolution to inform the Senate of the election of the Speaker; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCALISE:

H. Res. 811. A resolution authorizing the Clerk to inform the President of the election of the Speaker; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. MCCLAIN (for herself, Mr. BERGMAN, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. COLLINS, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. FRY, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Ms. MACE, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. MILLS, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. SANTOS, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SELF, Mr. SESSIONS, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. WALTZ, and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H. Res. 812. A resolution censuring Representative Jamaal Bowman; to the Committee on Ethics, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. LYNCH):

H. Res. 813. A resolution supporting the designation of October 23, 2023, as "AADC Deficiency Awareness Day"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WESTERMAN (for himself, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. BUCSHON, Mrs. HOCHIN, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. HILL, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. WOMACK, and Mr. CRAWFORD):

H. Res. 814. A resolution expressing support for the recognition of October 2023 as "National Dyslexia Awareness Month"; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

## MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

[Submitted October 12, 2023]

ML-81. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of the State of Montana, relative to Senate Joint Resolution 5, urging the United States Congress to support full funding of public safety and law enforcement agencies, programs, services, and activities within Montana's reservations; referred jointly to the Committees on the Judiciary and Natural Resources.

ML-82. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Montana, relative to Senate Joint Resolution 6, recognizing the trauma inflicted by the United States Government for more than a century in forcibly removing American Indian children from their families and sending them to boarding schools and expressing a desire that a nation day of remembrance be designated for the American Indian children who died while attending a United States Indian boarding school and recognizing, honoring, and supporting the survivors of Indian boarding schools, their families, and communities; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

ML-83. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Montana, relative to House Resolution 8, urging prompt congressional and presidential approval of the Keystone XL pipeline; referred jointly to the Committees on the Transportation and Infrastructure, Natural Resources and Energy and Commerce.

ML-84. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Montana, relative to House Resolution 9, urging the Congress to fully fund the expansion of the Community Health Aide Program and to establish a national certification board in order to enable certification of providers who are urgently needed in tribal communities; referred jointly to the Committees on Natural Resources and Energy and Commerce.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. BOEBERT:

H.R. 6040.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill prohibits the use of Federal funds for gender transition research for minors.

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 6041.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Homelessness

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 6042.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:  
Workforce development  
By Ms. BONAMICI:  
H.R. 6043.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
Workforce development  
By Ms. BONAMICI:  
H.R. 6044.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
Workforce development  
By Ms. CARAVEO:  
H.R. 6045.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Constitutional Authority—Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. I, Sec. 8, Clause 18)  
THE 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 Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study and submit a report on the efficacy of Federal drug surveillance systems.  
By Mr. CLYDE:  
H.R. 6046.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Clause 1, 3, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, and 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution, which grant Congress powers related to national defense, foreign commerce, military forces, war declaration, maritime operations, militia, and laws necessary and proper to effectuate those powers.  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
The single subject of this legislation is to impose sanctions on the Houthi rebels in Yemen by designating them as a foreign terrorist organization.  
By Ms. CRAIG:  
H.R. 6047.  
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:  
USPS Service Standard Transparency  
By Mr. DESAULNIER:  
H.R. 6048.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
To establish a Commission for review and correction of historical injustices.  
By Mr. GROTHMAN:  
H.R. 6049.  
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 award payments to employees of Air America who provided support to the United States from 1950 to 1976  
By Mr. HERN:  
H.R. 6050.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
To encourage saving for education  
By Mr. HILL:  
H.R. 6051.  
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 require the Secretary of the Treasury to report on financial institutions' involvement with officials of the Iranian Government, and for other purposes.  
By Mrs. HOUCHIN:  
H.R. 6052.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
To amend the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to improve provisions relating to dyslexia, and for other purposes.  
By Mr. HUFFMAN:  
H.R. 6053.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
Plastic Pollution and Remediation  
By Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE:  
H.R. 6054.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
This bill is introduced pursuant to the powers granted to Congress under the General Welfare Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 1), the Commerce Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 3), and the Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 18). Further, this statement of constitutional authority is made for the sole purpose of compliance with clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and shall have no bearing on judicial review of the accompanying bill  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
This bill promotes diversity in the Foreign Service by modifies a mid-career entry program into the Foreign Service to be geared toward racial and ethnic minorities.  
By Mr. LAWLER:  
H.R. 6055.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8, Section 18 of the U.S. Constitution  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide penalties for communicating threats that target schools.  
By Ms. LEE of Nevada:  
H.R. 6056.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 provides Congress with the power to "lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises" in order to "provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States."  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
Armed Services  
By Mrs. McCLAIN:  
H.R. 6057.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
This legislation is solely for preventing the US from reestablishing the JCPOA without Iran allowing UN nuclear inspectors from inspecting and confirming that Iran is in 100% compliance with the JCPOA.  
By Ms. MENG:  
H.R. 6058.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I Section 8 of the United States Constitution  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
Supporting women in business.  
By Ms. NORTON:  
H.R. 6059.  
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:  
This bill would authorize state and local governments to levy a sales tax on purchases made in a gift shop located on federal property  
By Mr. OGLES:  
H.R. 6060.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section VIII of the United States Constitution  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
To prohibit any US assistance from being made available for Palestinian-controlled areas of Judea and Samaria and Gaza  
By Mrs. RADEWAGEN:  
H.R. 6061.  
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:  
Eases requirements for US Nationals from American Samoa to naturalize as US Citizens.  
By Mrs. RADEWAGEN:  
H.R. 6062.  
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:  
Removes restrictions on amendments to or modifications of the constitution of American Samoa.  
By Mr. SCHIFF:  
H.R. 6063.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I Section 8  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
Labor  
By Mr. SIMPSON:  
H.R. 6064.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
The Secretary shall deny the application if the Secretary has received from the Governor of the State in which proposed project is located notice that the State legislature has enacted legislation disapproving the proposed project.  
By Mr. SMUCKER:  
H.R. 6065.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Clause 3 of section 8 article 1 of the Constitution  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
To establish the American Worker Retirement Plan and tax credit to improve the financial security of working Americans by facilitating the accumulation of wealth.  
By Ms. TENNEY:  
H.R. 6066.  
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
Article I, Section 8  
The single subject of this legislation is:  
To terminate government funding of terror-supporting international organizations

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ADDITIONAL SPONSORS  
Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:  
H.R. 7: Mr. STRONG and Mr. JORDAN.  
H.R. 16: Ms. MCCOLLUM.  
H.R. 40: Mr. SMITH of Washington.  
H.R. 211: Mr. POSEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. VAN DREW.  
H.R. 235: Mr. IVEY.

- H.R. 396: Ms. JACKSON LEE.  
H.R. 468: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.  
H.R. 529: Mr. GUEST.  
H.R. 603: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.  
H.R. 618: Mr. BACON.  
H.R. 638: Mr. OGLES.  
H.R. 681: Mr. WALTZ.  
H.R. 700: Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. BUCSHON, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 705: Mr. MOONEY.  
H.R. 726: Mr. LOUDERMILK.  
H.R. 770: Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida and Ms. PEREZ.  
H.R. 830: Mr. CLEAVER.  
H.R. 882: Ms. PEREZ and Mr. MENENDEZ.  
H.R. 883: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.  
H.R. 906: Mr. MOYLAN and Mr. COHEN.  
H.R. 919: Mr. BURCHETT.  
H.R. 936: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 995: Mr. HUDSON.  
H.R. 1015: Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER and Mrs. RADEWAGEN.  
H.R. 1045: Mr. POCAN and Mr. GALLEGGO.  
H.R. 1100: Mr. ROSENDALE.  
H.R. 1191: Mr. LAMALFA.  
H.R. 1200: Mr. OBERNOLTE.  
H.R. 1247: Mr. MULLIN, Mrs. SYKES, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. WATERS, Ms. MCCLELLAN, and Ms. PLASKETT.  
H.R. 1380: Ms. LEE of Nevada.  
H.R. 1453: Mr. LOUDERMILK.  
H.R. 1477: Mr. NEGUSE and Mrs. HOUCHIN.  
H.R. 1521: Ms. LEE of Nevada.  
H.R. 1582: Mr. TRONE and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.  
H.R. 1610: Mr. ROSE and Mrs. HARSHBARGER.  
H.R. 1617: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.  
H.R. 1671: Mr. KILDEE.  
H.R. 1719: Mr. VEASEY and Mr. POCAN.  
H.R. 1777: Ms. PETERSEN.  
H.R. 1814: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.  
H.R. 2406: Mr. GROTHMAN.  
H.R. 2407: Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. LUTTRELL.  
H.R. 2412: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.  
H.R. 2426: Mr. VALADAO.  
H.R. 2474: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. MCCORMICK, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Mr. CORREA.  
H.R. 2510: Mr. MOYLAN and Mr. NEGUSE.  
H.R. 2534: Ms. MANNING.  
H.R. 2560: Mr. FRY and Mr. CLEAVER.  
H.R. 2663: Mr. PAYNE and Ms. MCCLELLAN.  
H.R. 2667: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.  
H.R. 2760: Mr. TONKO.  
H.R. 2871: Mr. HORSFORD and Mr. LYNCH.  
H.R. 2908: Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida and Mrs. LUNA.  
H.R. 2949: Mr. MENENDEZ.  
H.R. 2952: Mr. PETERS.  
H.R. 2957: Mr. MOYLAN.  
H.R. 2998: Ms. SHERRILL.  
H.R. 3031: Mr. HIMES, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.  
H.R. 3036: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.  
H.R. 3086: Mr. DOGGETT and Mr. CLEAVER.  
H.R. 3170: Ms. SPANBERGER.  
H.R. 3183: Mrs. BEATTY and Ms. WATERS.  
H.R. 3199: Mr. AMODEI.  
H.R. 3316: Mr. GARAMENDI.  
H.R. 3318: Mr. GARAMENDI.  
H.R. 3382: Mr. ALLRED.  
H.R. 3474: Mr. COHEN.  
H.R. 3611: Mr. LAMBORN.  
H.R. 3674: Mr. PAYNE.  
H.R. 3713: Mr. CLEAVER and Ms. SCHOLTEN.  
H.R. 3755: Mr. DELUZIO.  
H.R. 3777: Mr. MEEKS.  
H.R. 3792: Mr. MORELLE and Mr. LALOTA.  
H.R. 3811: Mr. NEHLS and Mr. DELUZIO.  
H.R. 3851: Mr. MORELLE.  
H.R. 3879: Ms. TOKUDA.  
H.R. 3922: Mr. DELUZIO.  
H.R. 3970: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.  
H.R. 4121: Mr. NEAL and Mr. TORRES of New York.  
H.R. 4144: Mrs. HOUCHIN.  
H.R. 4283: Mr. DESAULNIER.  
H.R. 4300: Mr. ISSA.  
H.R. 4330: Mr. DESAULNIER.  
H.R. 4438: Mr. BERA.  
H.R. 4475: Ms. TOKUDA.  
H.R. 4524: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.  
H.R. 4562: Mr. FALLON.  
H.R. 4569: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. CASAR, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Mr. GRIJALVA.  
H.R. 4579: Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK and Mr. MULLIN.  
H.R. 4615: Mr. BABIN.  
H.R. 4713: Mr. PAPPAS.  
H.R. 4721: Mr. VALADAO.  
H.R. 4773: Mr. KEATING.  
H.R. 4791: Ms. DE LA CRUZ.  
H.R. 4812: Mr. COHEN.  
H.R. 4856: Ms. CARAVEO.  
H.R. 4867: Mr. MORELLE.  
H.R. 4878: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.  
H.R. 4886: Ms. LOFGREN.  
H.R. 4950: Mr. KEATING.  
H.R. 4968: Mr. OBERNOLTE.  
H.R. 5013: Mr. SMUCKER.  
H.R. 5023: Ms. SCHOLTEN.  
H.R. 5030: Mrs. PELTOLA, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, and Mr. SCHIFF.  
H.R. 5044: Mr. BERGMAN.  
H.R. 5059: Mrs. RADEWAGEN.  
H.R. 5077: Mr. SCHIFF.  
H.R. 5097: Mr. MULLIN.  
H.R. 5113: Ms. SCHOLTEN.  
H.R. 5136: Mr. KIM of New Jersey.  
H.R. 5138: Mr. RUTHERFORD and Ms. BROWNLEY.  
H.R. 5163: Mr. KEATING.  
H.R. 5182: Mr. MOYLAN.  
H.R. 5244: Mr. NEWHOUSE.  
H.R. 5266: Mr. CRENSHAW and Mr. GALLEGGO.  
H.R. 5383: Mr. DELUZIO.  
H.R. 5399: Mr. FOSTER.  
H.R. 5432: Mr. COHEN.  
H.R. 5441: Ms. DELAURO.  
H.R. 5444: Mr. CARSON and Mr. LANGWORTHY.  
H.R. 5486: Ms. BALINT.  
H.R. 5501: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas.  
H.R. 5506: Mr. KEATING.  
H.R. 5526: Ms. PINGREE and Ms. PEREZ.  
H.R. 5530: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.  
H.R. 5535: Mr. ISSA and Mr. BARR.  
H.R. 5536: Mr. EZELL.  
H.R. 5610: Mr. MOULTON.  
H.R. 5620: Mrs. KIM of California and Mr. KILEY.  
H.R. 5623: Ms. BUDZINSKI.  
H.R. 5636: Mr. ROUZER.  
H.R. 5646: Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. SWALWELL.  
H.R. 5683: Mr. LIEU.  
H.R. 5686: Mr. LAWLER, Ms. TITUS, Ms. LEE of Nevada, and Ms. ADAMS.  
H.R. 5691: Mr. GUEST.  
H.R. 5693: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.  
H.R. 5696: Ms. STEVENS and Mr. LALOTA.  
H.R. 5699: Mr. LATURNER, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.  
H.R. 5710: Ms. PINGREE.  
H.R. 5717: Mr. WEBER of Texas.  
H.R. 5776: Ms. CLARKE of New York.  
H.R. 5804: Ms. CARAVEO.  
H.R. 5834: Mr. RASKIN.  
H.R. 5838: Mr. WEBER of Texas.  
H.R. 5857: Mr. ROSENDALE.  
H.R. 5920: Mr. KILMER and Mr. CLINE.  
H.R. 5928: Ms. PEREZ.  
H.R. 5929: Ms. STANSBURY.  
H.R. 5933: Mr. D'ESPOSITO and Mr. LAMALFA.  
H.R. 5934: Mr. KILMER and Ms. JACOBS.  
H.R. 5947: Mr. VAN DREW.  
H.R. 5959: Mr. WEBER of Texas.  
H.R. 5968: Mr. WENSTRUP and Mrs. HOUCHIN.  
H.R. 5979: Mr. WEBER of Texas.  
H.R. 5984: Mr. PAPPAS.  
H.R. 5985: Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. DUARTE, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. COSTA, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Ms. WATERS, and Mr. RUIZ.  
H.R. 5995: Mr. CUELLAR.  
H.R. 5996: Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, and Mr. BALDERSON.  
H.R. 6000: Mr. GALLEGGO.  
H.R. 6003: Mrs. HAYES, Mr. CARSON, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.  
H.R. 6011: Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. MEUSER, and Mr. DUNCAN.  
H.R. 6018: Mr. WEBER of Texas.  
H.R. 6031: Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, and Ms. PINGREE.  
H.J. Res. 66: Mr. BURGESS and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.  
H.J. Res. 76: Mr. LYNCH, Mr. COHEN, and Ms. JACOBS.  
H. Con. Res. 10: Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.  
H. Con. Res. 46: Mr. HUDSON.  
H. Con. Res. 69: Mr. GARAMENDI.  
H. Con. Res. 74: Mr. ROUZER.  
H. Res. 149: Mr. KHANNA.  
H. Res. 527: Mr. SCHIFF and Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK.  
H. Res. 535: Mr. MOULTON.  
H. Res. 627: Mr. ALLEN.  
H. Res. 678: Mr. ALLRED.  
H. Res. 700: Mr. ALLRED.  
H. Res. 734: Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. MCCORMICK, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. CRAIG, and Mr. CORREA.  
H. Res. 735: Mr. LIEU.  
H. Res. 770: Mr. D'ESPOSITO.  
H. Res. 772: Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.  
H. Res. 793: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.  
H. Res. 794: Mr. BUCSHON.  
H. Res. 795: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.  
H. Res. 798: Mr. NORMAN, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, and Ms. GREENE of Georgia.  
H. Res. 801: Mr. VALADAO.  
H. Res. 807: Mr. OWENS.



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 169

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No. 176

## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. 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.

Eternal God, we praise Your Holy Name. Even when we don't understand the unfolding of Your providence, we place our trust in You.

Show our lawmakers the path they should choose. Rescue them from the traps of their enemies, and remove their fears with Your might. Continue to renew their strength. Protect our legislators with Your might, reassure them with Your presence, and comfort them with Your goodness.

Lord of Heaven's army, we give our lives to You, for no one who depends on Your compassion will ultimately fail.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, October 25, 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

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 4366, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4366) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Schumer (for Murray/Collins) amendment No. 1092, in the nature of a substitute.

Murray amendment No. 1205 (to amendment No. 1092), to change the effective date.

Schumer motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations, with instructions, Schumer amendment No. 1230, to change the effective date.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, yesterday morning, Democrats and Republicans reached an important agreement to move forward on three bipartisan—underline bipartisan—appropriations bills: MILCON-VA, Agriculture, and Transportation-HUD.

We will begin voting on amendments as soon as this afternoon and keep going through the rest of the week and into the next. It is my hope that with bipartisan cooperation, we can wrap up our work on these bipartisan appropriations bills sometime next week.

And this will be the Senate working as it should, both parties cooperating, debating amendments, working through differences, without grinding the legislative process to a halt. Democrats promised our Republican colleagues that their voices would be heard, and we are making good on that promise. Forty amendments will be considered, many of them bipartisan, on issues ranging from telehealth funding for veterans, fixing infrastructure hit by natural disasters, to investments in rural America.

We worked closely with Republicans to put these appropriations bills together. If passed, the bills will make a huge difference for American farmers, for our infrastructure, for housing, and for our military bases and veterans.

Bipartisanship isn't easy. On the contrary, these days it is exceedingly difficult, but we are moving forward thanks to the good work of our appropriators, especially Chair MURRAY and Vice Chair COLLINS. They have set the tone from the start here in the Senate that bipartisanship should lead the way.

It was true in the Appropriations Committee; I hope it remains true here on the floor because we are going to need bipartisanship in all that we do

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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during this time of divided government.

Bipartisanship will be essential for passing these appropriations bills; bipartisanship will be essential for keeping the government open in less than a month; and bipartisanship will be essential for passing the President's national security request.

I would say to my colleagues in the House, my Republican colleagues, if you try to do things not in a bipartisan way, it is going to lead to cul-de-sacs, gridlocks, and other things that hurt the American people.

Both parties recognize we must support our allies in Israel against Hamas. Both parties recognize that we must support our friends in Ukraine against Putin. Both parties know that we must fight the scourge of fentanyl coming through the border, outcompete the Chinese Government, and support Taiwan.

So to my Republican colleagues, House and Senate, let's work together to ensure that passing the supplemental remains bipartisan because only things that win support from both sides will make it to the President's desk.

I thank my colleagues on both sides who have shown that bipartisanship is still the key to getting things done here in the Senate. And, now, because of that bipartisanship, the appropriations process is finally—finally—moving forward.

#### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Mr. President, on our AI Insight Forum, yesterday, the Senate held our second bipartisan AI Insight Forum. This one was focused on our North Star for AI, and that is innovation.

It was an amazing 3 hours. We learned so much about all the things we need to do on AI as well as things we still don't know. The biggest takeaway from our AI Insight Forums so far is that government has to be involved on AI, and that was the consensus among everybody yesterday, just as it was a few weeks ago. Democrats, Republicans, liberals, conservatives, and everyone in between knew that government had to be involved.

But after yesterday's conversation, I will add a few more things we agreed to. First, as you know, at the last forum, everyone agreed that the government had to be involved, but after today's forum, there was universal agreement that Congress had to be prepared, not just to be involved but to invest significant resources in AI innovation, both inside the government and outside, helping companies and universities and others because the government can do things in terms of dollar investments that others simply can't. The awesome power of the Federal Government and its ability to provide resources is way beyond the capability of any one company, university, et cetera.

One number mentioned yesterday was about \$32 billion in nondefense Federal spending, which is what the bi-

partisan National Security Commission on AI said we need in their 2021 report. It doesn't have to happen all at once, but it is important we prioritize these investments now and continue over time. Just about everybody in the room agreed that \$32 billion is really a floor not a ceiling, so we are going to need—if we want to stay No. 1 in AI, if we want to get our arms around it, if we want to make sure the good is maximized and the bad is minimized, we are going to need significant Federal dollars.

AI is another reason that we must fully appropriate the funds authorized in the CHIPS and Science Act, and that came up many times. There are many things that we authorized in the CHIPS and Science Act that haven't been appropriated. We have to do those things if we want to stay in the lead economically and in AI.

The second point that was made was that Congress doesn't have a lot of time to act because AI moved so fast and is growing in its complexity. We need to be proactive, not reactive. That is one reason we have made these AI Insight Forums a priority.

A third point that was made was our race against the Chinese Government. China is not waiting to invest in AI, just as they didn't wait on science and chips. With the CHIPS and Science bill, we met them—maybe even exceeded them—by putting in some real investments. We must do the same thing with AI or we will fall behind. And many of the speakers noted that if China gains the lead in AI, they will become the No. 1 economy in the world. They will set the values—authoritarian, not democratic values—and Americans will suffer.

So this investment in AI must be done; otherwise, we will fall behind China, something we don't want to do, and both parties agreed that is the case.

And particularly a point made by some of my Republican colleagues, we will fall behind on national security. If China gets ahead of us in AI and applies that to national security and we don't do what we are supposed to do, we will really have some problems. So that is point 3.

And point 4, just to reiterate, is that we need innovation. We need the government to help create innovation, both on the transformational side—creating new vistas, unlocking new cures, improving education, strengthening national security, protecting global food supply—but also, and this is harder, on sustainable innovation. That means to minimize the harms that come from AI like job loss, racial and gender bias, and economic displacement because if we don't have some guardrails, the whole thing, the whole AI enterprise, could go off the rails, and that would be of real detriment to this country and to our world.

The private sector does a good job on positive transformational innovation. They need some help. The government

needs to be involved, particularly in setting an ecosystem that works, in providing some of the resources to smaller companies so they are not dwarfed by the larger companies. But only the government can provide the guardrails for sustainable innovation.

It is not reasonable to expect all companies to act on their own and even less reasonable that they would act in concert, even if a few do. The challenge will be a balance between placing guardrails and preserving innovation.

It is a tough challenge, but, you know, as Theodore Roosevelt said, we are in the arena. And if not us, who? No one will do it.

So, again, yesterday was an exciting, illuminating, eye-opening conversation. Thank you to all the Senators who came yesterday from both sides of the aisle. And let's note, we are still just at the beginning. We will continue to hold bipartisan AI Insight Forums in the weeks and months to come and encourage the relevant committees to begin drawing up bipartisan legislation.

#### NEW YORK

Mr. President, on the Second Avenue subway, New York City is in the midst of an infrastructure renaissance, from the Gateway Tunnel to East Side Access to Penn Station Access. Today, I have even more great news for New York. I am proud to announce that the Second Avenue subway will receive \$3.4 billion in Federal funding to advance to phase 2 of its construction.

I have worked myself to the bone for years fighting for Federal funding for the Second Avenue subway, and I want to thank my colleague who has been along my side as we do this, and that is Congress Member ADRIANO ESPAILLAT, who represents the area in Congress, and he, too, has been a champion for funding.

Thanks to the investments we made in our bipartisan infrastructure law, Second Avenue subway has now received the largest capital investment grant in the history of the program, the CIG Program. So this is no longer abstract. Billions of dollars passed in Congress, but now it is across the country like here in New York and in East Harlem, in particular, it is becoming real—real in terms of jobs and real in terms of better transportation.

The Federal funding will mean tens of thousands of good-paying jobs in New York, and expanded services will benefit more than 300,000 riders on the Second Avenue subway every single day. That is more people than most cities have so it is important to do.

Most importantly, the subway will now expand into East Harlem, which has desperately needed better access to public transportation. When work on the Second Avenue subway is complete, people in East Harlem will have an easier time getting to work, going to the doctor's office, getting to school, and so much more. And it is not just an easier time. The studies show when there is transit, people get better and



more high-paying jobs because they can find these jobs and then get to them easily and don't say: Well, it is such a long commute, I can't go work there.

So thanks to President Biden, thanks to our Democratic and Republican bipartisan action in the Senate, which I was so proud to help lead, New York continues to reap the benefits of our agenda: stronger infrastructure, more manufacturing jobs, lower prescription drug costs, and more opportunity.

I thank the administration for awarding New York this game-changing Federal grant, and we will keep going to improve life for New Yorkers as we are doing for all Americans.

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.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, government funding is set to run out in 23 days. We have a responsibility to keep the lights on and to avoid the disastrous effects of a shutdown.

We also need to make serious headway toward the full-year funding process the Nation actually deserves. This week, thanks to a lot of hard work from Senator COLLINS, Senator MURRAY, and our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee, the Senate will finally take an important step in the right direction. As we continue to review the President's request for urgent supplemental appropriations—and make necessary changes—Senate Republicans stand ready to vote on a robust package of amendments to this full-year appropriations measure and pass it quickly out here on the floor.

#### ISRAEL

Mr. President, now on another matter, it has been 18 days since the brutal terrorist attacks of October 7, 18 days since savages confronted the world with the depths of human depravity, since one of the oldest forms of hatred in human history reared its ugly head, since radical Islamic terrorists reminded us they pose a persistent threat to the civilized world.

In our shock, the West vowed solidarity. We pledged not to look away from the horrors Israel was grieving. We reaffirmed Israel's right to defend itself, and we promised to stand with our ally as it fought back against pure evil.

But in the last 18 days, silence, amnesia, cowardice, and outright hate have begun to take their toll. All too quickly, the West's resolve has shown signs of weakness.

First, we saw the most elite corners of higher education rush to blame Israel for the deaths of its own children. We saw college administrators tie themselves in grotesque moral knots to avoid acknowledging reality, even in the face of alumni revolts.

Last night, for example, at George Washington University, here in the Nation's Capital, student activists projected anti-Semitic messages on the side of the campus building named for a pair of Jewish benefactors. They issued a call to "free Palestine from the river to the sea."

For anyone unfamiliar with Israel's geography, that is a call for the destruction of the Jewish State.

But, just a few blocks away, the Biden administration is in denial. After protestors in Time Square displayed the Nazi swastika and an Israeli student at Columbia University was beaten with a stick, the White House Press Secretary replied to a question about rising concerns of anti-Semitism that "we have not seen any credible threats." That is the White House Press Secretary. Even more absurd was how, in the very next breath, without even uttering the word "Jew," she pivoted abruptly to condemning Islamophobia.

Seriously, after thousands of Jews have been tortured and murdered, after hundreds have been taken hostage, after the sight of Jewish bodies paraded through Gaza was met with rejoicing from Arab capitals to London—after all of this—President Biden's Press Secretary reverted to the disgraceful "both sides" talking points.

Of course, as I have discussed before, the media organizations who engage with her deserve their own share of shame. Some in the press are already indulging the same tired language designed to sap the free world's sense of moral clarity. Headlines are already warning about the indiscernible "cycle of violence" and amplifying morally bankrupt calls for a cease-fire.

For anyone who needs a reminder, a cease-fire is what Israel thought it had with Hamas and with Palestinian Islamic Jihad earlier this summer. A cease-fire today is an amnesty for Hamas, a free path for terrorists from the same savage tribe as ISIS and al-Qaida.

So less than 3 weeks after the deadliest slaughter of Jews since the Holocaust, too many prominent corners of our society already need a reminder—a reminder—of the terrorist horrors that actually started the war.

Yesterday, I welcomed a group of important visitors to my office, among them were family members of Israelis being held hostage by Hamas. Two had survived the attacks and witnessed the terror firsthand. I would like to share with our colleagues two of their stories.

First was Netta, a 20-year-old student who lived in a kibbutz in southern Israel. Netta told me that he woke up on October 7 to the sound of sirens. He

talked about how he armed himself with a kitchen knife, barricaded himself in an interior room, and leaned against the door as terrorists ransacked his apartment. Netta told me about how he realized hours later, when his mother stopped replying to his texts, that his parents had been taken hostage by Hamas.

I also heard from a young woman named Maya who was at the music festival that morning with her friends. Maya described to me yesterday the sounds of rockets interrupting the party at sunrise. She described how she cried the first time she saw a victim lying in the road as she fled, not knowing if he was alive or dead. She recalled how she turned left on a road in search of safe haven while many of her friends—two of whom would be murdered—turned right. She told me how she called her father to say, "I love you, and I don't know if I will make it out," and how she waited hours in a kibbutz shelter, assuming that her "time was coming."

She remembers how news spread in message groups about which of her friends had made it out alive, and how friends witnessed bodies blown apart by grenades. Maya told me she is haunted by the images her friends shared of Hamas desecrating bodies and by how they seemed to enjoy it. She said she feels guilty for encouraging her friends to join her at the music festival that Saturday.

This is why Israel fights.

The attacks of October 7 confronted the world with the sort of horrors Jewish communities have no choice but to remember for generations. From European villages caught in pogroms to the horrors of Nazi Germany, to Israeli kibbutzim burned and bloodied by Hamas terrorists. For decades, the free world refrain has been: "Never forget. Never again."

God help us if we do not mean what we say.

There is no room for false moral equivalency. Let me repeat that: There is no room for false moral equivalency.

We must not forget who is responsible, and we must hold them accountable. Terror and self-defense are not the same thing. One side started the war, but the other side will finish it. And the United States must give Israel the time, space, and support to bring innocent people home and bring murderous terrorists to justice.

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.

Mr. COTTON. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GRENADA INVASION

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, today marks the 40th anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Grenada. This short and

largely overlooked conflict is one of the most successful military interventions in history. In just 4 days, President Ronald Reagan toppled an anti-American regime, rolled back communism in the hemisphere, and saved American lives. In the years that followed, we built a strong, genuine, and enduring partnership with the people of Grenada.

But this success was far from certain. It was only possible because of President Reagan's decisive and overwhelming military response to a crisis on the island. The seeds of this crisis were sown—like many others—during Jimmy Carter's disastrous Presidency. Under President Carter, communism began to metastasize in Latin America, and in the especially pivotal year of 1979, both Nicaragua and Grenada fell to communists.

As he returned from Managua, Fidel Castro boasted, "Now there are three of us." The Cuban dictator had big plans to add more captive nations to his anti-American axis in the hemisphere.

Grenada is a small island located in the southeast Caribbean and strategically vital to both Cuba and Soviet Russia during the Cold War. Barely 150 miles off the coast of Venezuela, the island could serve as an offshore arms depot for communist rebels in Latin America and other Caribbean nations. Russia could also use Grenada as a base to launch submarines into the Caribbean Basin.

Most concerning was Grenada's proximity to Africa, which made it the potential final link in a chain of communist air bases from Southern Russia to North Africa, to West Africa, to Grenada, and then finally to Cuba. Soviet bombers and heavy-cargo planes could fly between these lily pads of bases for refueling and largely beyond American detection.

This grave threat materialized when Grenada welcomed hundreds of Cubans to construct a massive airport with a 9,000-foot runway. What Ronald Reagan called a "suspiciously huge" runway was far larger than anything Grenada's commercial aviation required. It was, curiously enough, just big enough to support the largest Soviet bombers and cargo aircraft.

This airbase posed a two-way threat. Russia could use Grenada as a launching pad in the hemisphere to arm Cuba and other Latin American communists. Going the other way, Castro could export revolutionaries to the bloody war in Angola and elsewhere in Africa.

Tensions boiled over into crisis in October 1983 when an even more radical, bloodthirsty gang of communists toppled the ruling communists in Grenada. The new government killed the former Prime Minister and instituted a 24-hour shoot-on-sight curfew that threatened hundreds of American medical students on the island. The Reagan administration feared a replay of the Iranian hostage crisis, and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean

States pleaded with the administration to intervene and prevent communism from spreading further in the region.

Within days, Reagan had concluded that we had "no choice but to act strongly and decisively," as he put it, and he authorized an invasion. This wasn't an easy decision. We had only spotty intelligence on Grenada's forces and capabilities and the presence of Cuban or other communist forces, we had little time to execute the mission, and many in Washington still hesitated to use military force due to Vietnam syndrome. But Reagan was undaunted.

Then a disaster halfway around the world threatened to derail the operation. Just after Reagan authorized the invasion planning, a suicide bomber killed 241 marines in their Beirut barracks. Although heartbroken and enraged by the attack, Reagan didn't let the crisis in Lebanon crowd out the crisis in our backyard. He declared:

There are Americans there and they are in danger. We are going.

This is an important point. Contrary to liberal smears, Reagan did not authorize the Grenada invasion as cover for his withdrawal from Lebanon or to flex his muscles after the Beirut bombing. He authorized the invasion planning before the bombing happened in Beirut. The historical record on this is absolutely clear. Unlike Democratic Presidents, Reagan didn't act tough to conceal his true weakness; Reagan was tough on America's enemies and tough in defense of America's interests.

On October 25, barely a week after the coup, around 8,000 American troops embarked on Operation Urgent Fury. They had a clearly defined mission: save the endangered Americans, depose the communist regime, and reestablish order on the island. Our troops had some setbacks, but they adapted, overcame, and prevailed.

The incomplete intelligence and short timeframe for preparation hampered the operation yet vindicated Reagan's judgment. Military leaders anticipated only 200 Cuban construction workers on the island. In reality, 700 well-armed Cuban soldiers awaited American forces. Our troops also discovered huge weapons caches at the airbase, enough to arm the Cuban forces and thousands more communist rebels. Reagan had acted just in time.

The war ended after 4 lopsided days. Our troops took fewer than 150 casualties, while the communists suffered nearly 500 casualties, and more than 600 Cubans surrendered. Our citizens on the island were safe. Reagan hit hard, he hit fast, and America won.

Fidel Castro's dreams of hemispheric revolution soon turned to ash. Reagan destroyed communism in Grenada and besieged the communist regime in Nicaragua. A year after Reagan left office, Nicaragua ousted Daniel Ortega in a democratic election, made possible by American pressure.

The Grenada operation was the first successful military rollback of communism during the Cold War. We had

eliminated a deadly threat on our doorstep, and we had liberated a grateful people, who enjoy freedom and democracy to this day.

Reagan worked to stabilize the island and later traveled there in 1986. Tens of thousands of Grenadians lined the streets and welcomed Reagan as a liberator. Grenada's Prime Minister described Reagan as "our own national hero" and "our rescuer after God." Reagan passed banner after banner that read "God Bless America" and later wrote that "I probably never felt better during my presidency than I did that day."

What Reagan felt that day was the joy of American success, made possible by American strength and confidence. This success stands in stark contrast to other interventions, like the one we saw in Somalia 10 years later under Bill Clinton.

I spoke here 3 weeks ago to mark the 30th anniversary of the Battle of Mogadishu. While Reagan delivered a crushing and decisive blow against a regime that threatened American interests, Bill Clinton used insufficient forces for an ill-defined, expansive mission in a nation where our interests weren't at stake. He then cut and ran after the first sign of resistance, emboldening our enemies, including Osama bin Laden.

No two interventions were more different in rationale, execution, or result, and they offer important lessons for today.

The most profound is that weak interventions with vague and self-righteous missions usually fail. Strong military action with well-defined missions focused on America's interests usually succeed.

We must never confuse the U.S. Army for the Salvation Army. Our military is not a charitable organization, and it is not a tool of mankind. It is the most fundamental instrument of our national power and ours alone, and it should be used to pursue American interests and American interests alone. It is not the military's responsibility to right every wrong in the world or to be an avenging angel of liberal democracy.

One of America's great statesmen, John Quincy Adams, once wrote that America is "the well-wisher to the freedom and independence of all. She is the champion and vindicator only of her own." Indeed, he famously observed that America "goes not abroad, in search of monsters to destroy."

I have to observe, though, that Adams wrote that we do not "search" for monsters to destroy, but the architect of the Monroe Doctrine and chief defender of Andrew Jackson's conquest of Spanish Florida was no pacifist. When monsters rear their heads and challenge America, especially in her own hemisphere, America must indeed not hesitate to destroy those monsters. From Tripoli to Berlin, to Tokyo, to St. George's, we have done it before, and we must be prepared to do it again.

When we must go abroad to destroy monsters, we must use overwhelming force. If Washington is unwilling to use the force necessary to win, we ought not use force at all. It is unfair and cruel to both American troops pursuing the mission and to our friends in the nation where the mission is being conducted.

As we look for examples to follow in this new moment of international crisis and chaos, we should look to Reagan, not to Clinton. We need more Grenadas and no more Somalias.

On this 40th anniversary of the invasion of Grenada, I would also like to recognize and thank the veterans of that conflict, along with their families, for their invaluable service. They made our country proud and helped bring communism to its knees in this hemisphere. God bless them all, and God bless the United States of America.

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.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT *pro tempore*. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ISRAEL

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, early yesterday morning, I returned from a whirlwind trip to the Middle East as part of a bipartisan codel, or a congressional delegation, to Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt. The trip was a direct response to Hamas's savage attack on Israel. The codel, led by my friend Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM, brought together 10 Senators from both parties to show the United States' support for Israel and to demonstrate U.S. commitment to protecting our now-threatened national interests in the region.

Our message was united: The United States stands with Israel. Iran is on notice, and it must stand down; and we need to get hostages freed and Americans out of harm's way.

We are committed to seeing Hamas defeated so that a new chapter of prosperity for Israel and its Arab neighbors can begin, of which normalized relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia would be a keystone.

Our engagements on the ground included frank and candid discussions with heads of state, Prime Minister Netanyahu, and our U.S. Embassy teams on the ground. Our day in Tel Aviv began with meeting the families of hostages being held in Gaza, including Americans who shared their painful stories. As a parent and grandparent, it is heartbreaking to see and hear the grief of these family members.

Later that day, we met with Israeli defense officials for an update on the war. We were shown video evidence of the unnerving atrocities committed by Hamas terrorists—horrific images that I will not soon forget. Our meetings made clear the absolute imperative to see Hamas defeated.

Hamas's attacks have been likened to Israel's own September 11; but Prime Minister Netanyahu made a point that is especially chilling for Americans but that every critic of Israel must hear. He pointed out that, on 9/11, our enemy was thousands of miles away. In Israel, their enemy is only a kilometer away.

For more than 15 years, Israel has had to live every day with a terrorist organization on its border whose sole mission in life is to kill Jews and to wipe Israel off the face of the Earth; and during that time, Hamas has loomed as a persistent threat to Israel, attacking, kidnapping, and killing Israelis. But the barbarism and brutality that Hamas displayed in its October 7 attacks took its evil to new heights, and now Israel knows what it has to do: It has to wipe Hamas off the face of the Earth.

For the Israelis, this is existential. Israel's cause is just, and its resolve is firm, and it should have every peace-loving nation in the world on its side. Now, how Israel goes about that mission matters, and it needs to be done in a way that minimizes civilian casualties.

The Palestinians living in Gaza are also victims of Hamas's reign of terror. Hamas has made it clear that the only value it places on the lives of Palestinians is to use them as fodder to direct attention away from its atrocities and to try and turn public sentiment, especially in Western media and the Arab street, against Israel. Case in point: Hamas's disproven claim that Israel struck a hospital, which sparked protests and riots in a number of countries.

Israelis know that there are innocent Palestinians trapped in this fight and that civilian casualties and a humanitarian crisis could drive more Palestinians toward extremism. That is why Israel is taking measures to protect innocents in Gaza, although its efforts are being undermined by Hamas, which has discouraged Palestinians from complying with Israel's evacuation order.

The United States and other peace-loving nations in the region and beyond need to give Israel space to take the fight to and eradicate Hamas, because if Hamas and its reign of terror are allowed to continue, no nation in the region or beyond will be able to live in peace and security. It really is that simple.

And one final but important point: Hamas might claim to represent Palestinians, but its violent actions do nothing—nothing—to benefit the Palestinian people. The only people who benefit from this brutal bloodshed are the ayatollahs in Iran, whose goal is to bring chaos, violence, and death to all who don't share their extreme and militant religious ideology, which, I might add, includes wiping Israel off the face of the Earth.

Look no further than Hamas if you want to see Iran's influence, as 90 percent of their military budget comes

from Iran, or Hezbollah, the terrorist organization on Israel's northern border with Lebanon, which is also armed and financed by Iran. Then there are the Houthis in Yemen who, in the aftermath of October 7, fired missiles and drones headed for Israel—again, likely at the direction of Iran; the Shia militias, who are attacking American soldiers in Iraq and Syria; the killing by Russians of innocent civilians in Ukraine with drones supplied by Iran. Through its proxies, Iran is literally getting away with murder.

To the Iranian regime, we say: We are on to you.

In addition to working with regional partners to get American hostages and citizens out of Gaza, the Biden administration must clearly articulate to the Iranians that, if they do not stand down or if they green-light the escalation of this war, the United States and our allies will be forced to respond forcefully. The movement of U.S. firepower to the region should make that point very clear to Tehran.

The attacks on October 7 represent a kind of evil that the world hasn't seen in generations, and it must be confronted and contained. If it is not, we could see death and destruction on a scale akin to the horrors of the last century. History is watching.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant 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.

H.R. 4366

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I have been working incredibly hard alongside my colleagues to make sure we have an open, bipartisan appropriations process and to keep this process moving, which is why I am glad to say that in a moment, I will call up and ask for unanimous consent to adopt by voice vote the first series of amendments to the appropriations minibus.

These are amendments that will further strengthen a package of bipartisan appropriations bills—bills, I should mention, that passed our committee unanimously. We worked hard in committee to ensure this package reflects input from Members across the aisle and across the country.

While we may not agree on everything, the votes we are taking now are an opportunity for Members on both sides to provide additional input on this bipartisan package, debate those ideas, and put them up for a vote. This is an important step forward as we work to pass this package in the Senate, keep the appropriations process moving, and in the coming weeks, deliver absolutely essential supplemental funding as well. I am delighted that we are going.

I will turn it over to my vice chair who has been working alongside of me to get this moving.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, let me start by saying that I am so pleased that we are finally—finally—voting on amendments to the three-bill package that Senator MURRAY and I, as well as the terrific members of our Appropriations Committee, have worked very hard to bring before the Senate.

This has been the result of many weeks—far too many weeks—of negotiations and would not have happened without the leadership of Chair MURRAY.

I also want to thank Leader SCHUMER, Leader MCCONNELL, our Republican whip, JOHN THUNE, and the chairs and ranking members of the three subcommittees—Senators HEINRICH and HOEVEN, Senators MURRAY and BOOZMAN, Senators SCHATZ and Senator HYDE-SMITH—for their hard work. These are bills that really make a difference to the American people.

As our colleagues know, we are considering the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies bill; the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs bill; and also the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies bill.

So we finally are making progress, and I look forward to the robust—no one could say that this is not a robust amendment process.

Again, my thanks to Chair MURRAY. It has been a great pleasure to work with her.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

MOTION TO COMMIT AND AMENDMENT NO. 1205  
WITHDRAWN

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to commit H.R. 4366 and amendment No. 1205 be withdrawn.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NOS. 1250, 1185, 1216, 1221, 1283, 1117, 1120, 1175, 1264, 1202, 1270, 1116, 1113, 1351, 1134, 1220, 1277, 1140, 1131, 1203, 1133, 1139, 1255, 1352, AND 1115

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, as provided under the order of October 24, I call up the following amendments to Murray-Collins substitute amendment No. 1092 en bloc: Moran No. 1250, Daines No. 1185, Sullivan No. 1216, Sullivan No. 1221, Peters-Cornyn No. 1283, Rosen No. 1117, Schatz No. 1120, Booker-Tuberville No. 1175, Tillis-Welch No. 1264, Reed No. 1202, Britt No. 1270, Kelly-Tillis No. 1116, Hirono-Moran No. 1113, Warnock-Cornyn No. 1351, Smith-Ricketts No. 1134, Rosen-Crapo No. 1220, Cardin No. 1277, Padilla No. 1140, Shaheen No. 1131, Klobuchar-Moran No. 1203, Kelly No. 1133, Padilla No. 1139, Ossoff-Braun No. 1255, Merkley-Crapo No. 1352, and Stabenow No. 1115.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 1250

(Purpose: To prohibit the use of funds appropriated by division A to change rates for reimbursement for transportation via a special mode of transportation under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and to reduce certain amounts available to the Department of Veterans Affairs)

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS TO CHANGE RATE OF REIMBURSEMENT FOR TRANSPORTATION VIA SPECIAL MODE OF TRANSPORTATION.**

During the period beginning on October 1, 2023, and ending on September 30, 2024, no funds appropriated by this division may be obligated or expended to change rates for reimbursement for transportation of a veteran or other individual via a special mode of transportation under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from the rates in place as of January 1, 2023.

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . REDUCTION OF AMOUNTS FOR DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.**

The amounts otherwise made available by this division for the Departmental Administration—General Administration account of the Department of Veterans Affairs are hereby reduced by \$43,500,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 1185

(Purpose: To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress an earned value analysis of the Veterans Electronic Health Record system of the Department of Veterans Affairs)

On page 41, line 6, insert after the colon the following: “*Provided further*, That the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress a report containing an earned value analysis of the Veterans Electronic Health Record system, which shall include a graphic performance report, a schedule and cost performance indexes, an estimate at completion and budget at completion, and a variance analysis for cost and schedule.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 1216

(Purpose: To prioritize the use of funds for certain telehealth services and mental health programs for veterans)

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . PRIORITIZATION OF USE OF FUNDS FOR CERTAIN TELEHEALTH SERVICES AND MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS.**

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall prioritize the use of any amounts provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs under this division for telehealth services or mental health programs, including for suicide prevention outreach and treatment programs or the Veterans Crisis Line established under section 1720F(h) of title 38, United States Code, in States with the highest rate of suicide among members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

AMENDMENT NO. 1221

(Purpose: To prohibit the use of funds to procure seafood from China for use in school meals)

In section 747 of division B, insert “or seafood” after “poultry products”.

AMENDMENT NO. 1283

(Purpose: To provide funding for the emergency and transitional pet shelter and housing assistance grant program)

At the appropriate place in title VII of division B, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . (a)** There is appropriated \$3,000,000 for the emergency and transitional

pet shelter and housing assistance grant program established under section 12502(b) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (34 U.S.C. 20127).

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the total amount rescinded in section 745 is increased by \$3,000,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 1117

(Purpose: To make amounts available to the Veterans Health Administration to sustain and increase telehealth capacity and associated programmatic efforts)

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . TELEHEALTH CAPACITY OF VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.**

Of the amounts made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2024 by this Act or any other Act under the “Veterans Health Administration – Medical Services”, “Veterans Health Administration – Medical Community Care”, and “Veterans Health Administration – Medical Support and Compliance” accounts, \$5,180,336,000 shall be made available to sustain and increase telehealth capacity, including in rural and highly rural areas, and associated programmatic efforts.

AMENDMENT NO. 1120

(Purpose: To extend the period of availability for fiscal year 2021 national infrastructure investments)

At the appropriate place in title I of division C, insert the following:

**SEC. 110.** The remaining unobligated balances, as of September 30, 2024, from amounts made available for the “Department of Transportation—Office of the Secretary—National Infrastructure Investments” in division L of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260) are hereby permanently rescinded, and an amount of additional new budget authority equivalent to the amount rescinded is hereby appropriated on September 30, 2024, to remain available until September 30, 2027, and shall be available, without additional competition, for completing the funding of awards made pursuant to the fiscal year 2021 national infrastructure investments program, in addition to other funds as may be available for such purposes: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

AMENDMENT NO. 1175

(Purpose: To increase funding for rural decentralized water systems)

In the matter under the heading “RURAL WATER AND WASTE DISPOSAL PROGRAM ACCOUNT” under the heading “RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE” in title III, in the second undesignated paragraph, strike “, and of which not to exceed \$5,000,000 shall be available for the rural utilities program described in section 306E of such Act: *Provided*,” and insert “: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$20,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be available for the rural utilities program described in section 306E of such Act, of which not less than \$10,000,000 shall be used to provide subgrants to eligible individuals for the construction, refurbishing, and servicing of individually owned household decentralized wastewater systems: *Provided further*,”.

AMENDMENT NO. 1264

(Purpose: To require a review regarding veterans who engaged in toxic exposure risk activities while serving in Kosovo)

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. REVIEW OF VETERANS WHO ENGAGED IN TOXIC EXPOSURE RISK ACTIVITIES WHILE SERVING IN KOSOVO AND THE HEALTH EFFECTS OF SUCH TOXIC EXPOSURE RISK ACTIVITIES.**

(a) REVIEW REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall conduct a review of the following:

- (1) Data regarding the mortality of covered veterans.
- (2) Any data on toxic exposure experienced by covered veterans that is both relevant and available, including toxicology studies.
- (3) The type of toxic exposure risk activities covered veterans engaged in while serving in the active military, naval, air, or space service in Kosovo.

(b) COVERED VETERANS.—For purposes of subsection (a), a covered veteran is a veteran who—

- (1) served in the active military, naval, air, or space service in Kosovo; and
- (2) as part of such service, engaged in a toxic exposure risk activity.

(c) MANNER AND SUITABILITY OF REVIEW.—The Secretary shall carry out the review required by subsection (a) in a manner such that the findings of the Secretary with respect to the review are suitable and applicable under subchapter VII of chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ACTIVE MILITARY, NAVAL, AIR, OR SPACE SERVICE.—The term “active military, naval, air, or space service” has the meaning given such term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

(2) TOXIC EXPOSURE RISK ACTIVITY.—The term “toxic exposure risk activity” has the meaning given such term in section 1710(e)(4) of such title.

(3) VETERAN.—The term “veteran” has the meaning given such term in section 101 of such title.

AMENDMENT NO. 1202

(Purpose: To appropriate amounts for shellfish research, with an offset)

At the appropriate place in division B, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. (a) For an additional amount for “Agricultural Programs—Agricultural Research Service—Salaries and Expenses”, there is appropriated, out of amounts in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$1,000,000, to remain available until expended, for research on East Coast shellfish.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount made available by this Act under the heading “Farm Production and Conservation Programs—Farm Service Agency—State Mediation Grants” in title II shall be \$6,000,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 1270

(Purpose: To provide appropriations for certain research using plant genomics, with an offset)

At the appropriate place in division B, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. (a) For an additional amount for “Agricultural Programs—Agricultural Research Service—Salaries and Expenses”, there is appropriated \$1,000,000, to remain available until expended, for cooperative agreements with qualified nonprofit organizations to expedite research using plant genomics to develop drought- and disease-resistant peanut varieties and other crops.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the amount appropriated by this Act under the heading “Agricultural Programs—Processing, Research, and Marketing—Office of the Secretary” in title I for the Office of Communications shall be reduced by \$1,000,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 1116

(Purpose: To require medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs to share certain data with State cancer registries)

At the end of division A, add the following:

**TITLE V—COUNTING VETERANS’ CANCER ACT OF 2023**

**SEC. 501. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Counting Veterans’ Cancer Act of 2023”.

**SEC. 502. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) According to 2017 data from National Program of Cancer Registries of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 26,500 cancer cases among veterans were not reported to State cancer registries funded through such Program.

(2) Established by Congress in 1992 through the Cancer Registries Amendment Act (Public Law 102-515), the National Program of Cancer Registries under section 399B of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280e) collects data on cancer occurrence (including the type, extent, and location of the cancer), the type of initial treatment, and outcomes.

(3) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention support central cancer registries in 46 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, certain territories of the United States in the Pacific Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands.

(4) The data obtained by registries described in paragraph (3) combined with data from the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program of the National Cancer Institute and mortality data from National Center for Health Statistics of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention comprise the official United States Cancer Statistics.

(5) The United States Cancer Statistics reflect all newly diagnosed cancer cases and cancer deaths for the entire population of the United States, except for unreported veterans.

(6) Federal law requires the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Cancer Institute to collect cancer data for all newly diagnosed cancer cases, but that currently cannot be achieved due to frequent lack of reporting by medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(7) Releasing all data from medical facilities of the Department to State cancer registries will provide more complete data for health care providers, public health officials, and researchers to—

- (A) measure cancer occurrence and trends at the local and national level;
- (B) inform and prioritize cancer educational and screening programs;
- (C) evaluate efficacy of prevention efforts and treatment;
- (D) determine survival rates;
- (E) conduct research on the etiology, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer;
- (F) ensure quality and equity in cancer care; and
- (G) plan for health services.

(8) Capturing cancer data from medical facilities of the Department in State cancer registries and the United States Cancer Statistics can benefit veterans by—

- (A) improving the ability to identify cancer-related disparities in the veteran community;
- (B) improving understanding of the cancer-related needs of veterans, which can be incorporated into State Comprehensive Cancer Control planning for screening and treatment programs funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and
- (C) increasing opportunities for veterans with cancer to be included in more clinical trials and cancer-related research and anal-

ysis being done outside of the health care system of the Department.

(b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to improve care for veterans by ensuring all data on veterans diagnosed with cancer are captured by the national cancer registry programs supported by the National Program of Cancer Registries of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program of the National Cancer Institute.

**SEC. 503. REQUIREMENT THAT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SHARE DATA WITH STATE CANCER REGISTRIES.**

(a) SHARING OF DATA WITH STATE CANCER REGISTRIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 73 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

**“§ 7330E. Sharing of data with State cancer registries**

“(a) SHARING BY THE DEPARTMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall share with the State cancer registry of each State, if such a registry exists, qualifying data for all individuals who are residents of the State and have received health care under the laws administered by the Secretary.

“(2) REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO DATA SHARED.—In sharing data under paragraph (1) with a State cancer registry, the Secretary shall comply with the requirements for non-Department facilities to report data, in a manner that is as complete and timely as possible, without requiring a data use agreement in place between the Department and each State cancer registry—

“(A) to State cancer registries that are supported by the National Program of Cancer Registries of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention under section 399B of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280e);

“(B) to State cancer registries that are supported by the Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results Program of the National Cancer Institute authorized under the National Cancer Act of 1971 (Public Law 92-218); and

“(C) to State cancer registries as set forth in relevant State laws and regulations that authorize a cancer registry.

“(b) QUALIFYING DATA DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘qualifying data’, with respect to a State cancer registry, means all data required to be provided to the registry pursuant to the authorities specified in subparagraphs (A) through (C) of subsection (a)(2).”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of subchapter II of such chapter is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 7330D the following new item:

“7330E. Sharing of data with State cancer registries.”.

(b) SHARING BY STATE CANCER REGISTRIES.—The Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shall assist State cancer registries described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 7330E(a)(2) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1), in facilitating, to the extent allowed under State laws regulating the cancer registry program, the sharing with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of data in the possession of each such registry regarding diagnosis of cancer for each veteran—

- (1) enrolled in the system of annual patient enrollment established and operated under section 1705(a) of such title; or
- (2) registered to receive care from the Department of Veterans Affairs under section 17.37 of title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, or successor regulations.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1113

(Purpose: To provide funding for competitive grants for construction of agricultural research facilities and related activities, with an offset)

At the appropriate place in division B, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. For an additional amount for “Agricultural Programs—National Institute of Food and Agriculture—Research and Education Activities”, for competitive grants to assist in the facility construction, alteration, acquisition, modernization, renovation, or remodeling of agricultural research facilities, as authorized by the Research Facilities Act (7 U.S.C. 390 et seq.), there is hereby appropriated, and the amount otherwise provided by this Act for “Agricultural Programs—Processing, Research, and Marketing—Office of the Secretary” is hereby reduced by, \$2,000,000.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1351

(Purpose: To require the Secretary of Transportation to report on the Federal Aviation Administration’s workforce development programs)

At the appropriate place in division C, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. Using amounts made available for the Federal Aviation Administration under this Act that are not otherwise obligated, the Secretary of Transportation shall submit a report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on whether, and the degree to which, the Federal Aviation Administration’s workforce development programs authorized in section 625 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–254) have: (1) helped to expand the pool of prospective applicants to the industry; (2) strengthened aviation programs at minority-serving institutions, public institutions of higher education, women-focused institutions, and public postsecondary vocational institutions; and (3) encouraged the participation of populations that are underrepresented in the aviation workforce, including women, minorities, and individuals in economically disadvantaged geographic areas and rural communities. In submitting this report, the Federal Aviation Administration shall also provide recommendations on how it can better use its workforce development grant programs to: (1) expand the pool of prospective applicants to the industry; (2) strengthen aviation programs at minority-serving institutions, public institutions of higher education, women-focused institutions, and public postsecondary vocational institutions; and (3) encourage the participation of populations that are underrepresented in the aviation workforce, including women, minorities, and individuals in economically disadvantaged geographic areas and rural communities.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1134

(Purpose: To require the submission of a report on improving staffing at the Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resources Conservation Service at the county level)

At the appropriate place in division B, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to Congress a report describing a plan for improving staffing at the Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resources Conservation Service at the county level, including recommendations for actions that Congress may take.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1220

(Purpose: To provide funding for the suppression and control of Mormon crickets in western States)

On page 104 of the amendment, line 11, insert “, and of which \$6,000,000 shall be for the

suppression and control of Mormon crickets in western States” before the semicolon.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1277

(Purpose: To provide funding for invasive catfish control)

On page 104 of the amendment, line 11, insert “, and of which \$750,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for invasive catfish control” before the semicolon.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1140

(Purpose: To improve housing assistance for veterans experiencing homelessness)

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. IMPROVING HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR VETERANS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS.**

In carrying out the program under section 8(o)(19) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(19)) (commonly referred to as “HUD-VASH”), the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall—

(1) coordinate with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish pathways that would allow for temporary, transitional case management in areas in which public housing authorities have vouchers under the program that are available, allocated, and accompanied with case management resources provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, but underutilized due to a lack of referrals from the Department; and

(2) not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, finalize guidance regarding approval of a public housing authority to be a designated service provider.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1131

(Purpose: To require a report on the use of third-party contractors to conduct medical disability examinations of veterans)

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. REPORT ON USE OF THIRD-PARTY CONTRACTORS TO CONDUCT MEDICAL DISABILITY EXAMINATIONS.**

(a) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the use of third-party contractors to conduct medical disability examinations of veterans for purposes of obtaining compensation under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

(b) CONTENTS.—The report submitted pursuant to subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) The number of contractors described in subsection (a) in each State who are used as described in such subsection.

(2) The requirements for performance and quality in the contracts governing the use described in subsection (a), including qualifications contractors described in such subsection are required meet for such uses.

(3) The average mileage veterans described in subsection (a) are required to travel to attend a contract medical disability examination described in such subsection, disaggregated by state;

(4) The number of veterans described in paragraph (3) who are required to travel beyond the mileage requirement in a contract described in paragraph (2).

(5) A description of the process at the Department for handling complaints of veterans about the use of contractors as described in subsection (a).

(c) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1203

(Purpose: To make funds available for the aeronautical information management program)

At the appropriate place in title I, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. Of the funds made available in this Act under the heading “Department of Transportation—Federal Aviation Administration—Facilities and Equipment”, \$29,350,000 shall be for the aeronautical information management program, which includes Federal notices to air missions (“NOTAM”) sustainment, enhancements, and modernization in support of the NOTAM Improvement Act of 2023 (49 U.S.C. 40101 note).

## AMENDMENT NO. 1133

(Purpose: To require a report relating to rural community facilities direct loan applicants)

In the matter under the heading “Rural Development Programs—Rural Housing Service—Rural Community Facilities Program Account” in title III of division B, strike the period at the end and insert “: *Provided further*, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report on community facilities direct loan applicants for which there was a completed favorable analysis for eligibility but that were subsequently determined to be ineligible due to population calculation changes or other modeling errors, including a description of actions taken by the Department of Agriculture to minimize disruption to community planning initiatives and prevent future inaccurate determinations.”.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1139

(Purpose: To provide for the development of emergency evacuation route planning guidelines and best practices)

At the appropriate place in title I of division C, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. EVACUATION ROUTE PLANNING.**

Using amounts made available for the Federal Highway Administration under this Act that are not otherwise obligated, the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, shall develop and publish guidelines and best practices for States, Indian Tribes, and units of local government to use when conducting local emergency evacuation route planning, including routing of emergency response supplies, equipment, and workers, as part of natural disaster preparedness efforts.

## AMENDMENT NO. 1255

(Purpose: To provide funds for the Office of Women’s Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs to expand access of women veterans to mammography initiatives and equipment)

On page 75, line 23, strike the period at the end and insert the following: “, of which \$10,000,000 shall be made available for the Office of Women’s Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs established under section 7310 of title 38, United States Code, to be used by the Secretary to expand access of women veterans to—

(1) mobile mammography initiatives; (2) advanced mammography equipment; and

(3) outreach activities to publicize such initiatives and equipment.

AMENDMENT NO. 1352

(Purpose: To increase the set-aside for multi-benefit projects under the watershed and flood prevention operations program)

On page 121, lines 23 and 24, strike “\$10,000,000 shall be allocated to irrigation modernization projects and activities located in Western states” and insert “\$20,000,000 shall be allocated to multi-benefit irrigation modernization projects and activities”.

AMENDMENT NO. 1115

(Purpose: To provide funding for the Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Program)

On page 120, line 15, strike “2250a.” and insert “2250a: *Provided further*, That of the total amount available under this heading, \$8,500,000 shall be for necessary expenses to carry out the Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Program under section 222 of subtitle A of title II of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6923), as amended by section 12302 of Public Law 115–334.”.

Mrs. MURRAY. I know of no further debate on those amendments.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NOS. 1250, 1185, 1216, 1221, 1283, 1117, 1120, 1175, 1264, 1202, 1270, 1116, 1113, 1351, 1134, 1220, 1277, 1140, 1131, 1203, 1133, 1139, 1255, 1352, AND 1115

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the amendments en bloc.

The amendments (Nos. 1250, 1185, 1216, 1221, 1283, 1117, 1120, 1175, 1264, 1202, 1270, 1116, 1113, 1351, 1134, 1220, 1277, 1140, 1131, 1203, 1133, 1139, 1255, 1352, and 1115) are agreed to en bloc.

Mrs. MURRAY. With that, I ask that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I now ask that following disposition of the Looman nomination, the Senate vote on Vance No. 1210 and, finally, that there be 2 minutes for debate, equally divided, prior to each amendment vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Jessica Looman, of Minnesota, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor.

VOTE ON LOOMAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Looman nomination?

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 265 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rosen
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Booker	Kaine	Schumer
Brown	Kelly	Shaheen
Butler	King	Sinema
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Cardin	Lujan	Stabenow
Carper	Manchin	Sullivan
Casey	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Fetterman	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Peters	Whitehouse
Hassan	Reed	Wyden

NAYS—46

Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blackburn	Grassley	Ricketts
Boozman	Hagerty	Risch
Braun	Hawley	Romney
Britt	Hoeven	Rounds
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Collins	Lankford	Thune
Cornyn	Lee	Tillis
Cotton	Lummis	Tuberville
Cramer	Marshall	Vance
Crapo	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	Moran	Young
Ernst	Mullin	
Fischer	Murkowski	

NOT VOTING—3

Cruz	Padilla	Scott (SC)
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The nomination was confirmed.

(Ms. SMITH assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

The Senator from Ohio [Mr. VANCE] proposes an amendment numbered 1210 to amendment No. 1092.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To prohibit funds appropriated for the Department of Transportation for fiscal year 2024 from being used to enforce a mask mandate in response to the COVID–19 virus)

At the appropriate place in title I of division C, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds appropriated or made available by this division for the Department of Transportation for fiscal year 2024 may be used to enforce a mask mandate in response to the COVID–19 virus.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There are 2 minutes equally divided on this amendment.

Mr. VANCE. Mr. President, we are, unfortunately, in a world where COVID will be with us for the rest of our lives. That is not a good thing. It is not a thing to celebrate, but it is a thing to accept.

What we do not have to accept and what we do not have to make part of our lives is the never-ending cycle of public health panic that greets the rise of a respiratory virus that there is very little we can do to stop or control. What we do not have to accept is airline passengers fighting amongst each other and fighting with flight attendants because the flight attendants are asked to enforce a mask mandate. What we do not have to accept is that we respond to a public health problem with panic and with fear.

We know, of course, that the era of mask mandates caused a lot of problems. It caused problems for our kids. It caused developmental delays for school children. It caused a lot of rancor and a lot of division within our common American family.

If people want to wear masks, of course, they should be able to. But if people don’t want to wear masks on airplanes, on transit, they should have that option as well, and that is all that my amendment does. It is narrowly scoped. It applies for the next 11 months, and it applies to transportation cases. And I think it is reasonable to not ask the American people to reenter the era of mask mandates. My amendment does that, and I ask that my colleagues support it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, just to point out, this amendment only applies to surface transportation, Amtrak and passenger rail in particular. I think it is counterproductive. I understand the point that the Senator from Ohio is making. But the problem right now—look, I don’t think President Biden or the head of Amtrak or Secretary Buttigieg or anyone else is, at all, planning to implement any kind of mask mandate in the foreseeable future.

But he said something that I agree with, which is that COVID is going to be with us for the foreseeable future and there will be new variants. And if it looks the same, it looks same. But if

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume legislative session.

The Senator from Ohio.

AMENDMENT NO. 1210 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1092

Mr. VANCE. Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 1210, and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

it is, say, 10 times as virulent, 100 times as deadly and airborne, then I do think public health officials should be able to consult with Agencies to try to figure out what measures ought to work.

And for those reasons, I oppose this amendment.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 1210

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Mr. VANCE. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) and the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The result was announced—yeas 59, nays 38, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 266 Leg.]

YEAS—59

Baldwin	Graham	Paul
Barrasso	Grassley	Ricketts
Bennet	Hagerty	Risch
Blackburn	Hawley	Romney
Boozman	Hoeben	Rosen
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Britt	Johnson	Rubio
Brown	Kaine	Schmitt
Budd	Kelly	Scott (FL)
Capito	Kennedy	Shaheen
Cassidy	Klobuchar	Sinema
Collins	Lankford	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lee	Tester
Cotton	Lummis	Thune
Cramer	Manchin	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Vance
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Mullin	Young
Fischer	Murkowski	

NAYS—38

Blumenthal	Heinrich	Sanders
Booker	Hickenlooper	Schatz
Butler	Hirono	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Smith
Cardin	Lujan	Stabenow
Carper	Markey	Van Hollen
Casey	Menendez	Warner
Coons	Merkley	Warnock
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warren
Duckworth	Murray	Welch
Durbin	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Hassan	Reed	

NOT VOTING—3

Fetterman	Padilla	Scott (SC)
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The amendment (No. 1210) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The majority leader.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that at 2:15 p.m., the Senate vote on the Rubio No. 1237 and Kennedy No. 1354 amendments, and that at 5:45 p.m., the Senate vote on Lankford amendment No. 1232, with all previous provisions remaining in effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMERICAN ENERGY

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I come to the floor today to talk about the need for more American energy. Joe Biden's policies are destructive to our Nation, and that is because he continues to put liberal priorities first and America last.

Last week, the Biden administration agreed to ease oil sanctions on Nicolas Maduro's brutal socialist regime in Venezuela. Let's be clear. I want to be clear about what is going on here. Venezuela gets to produce more oil. President Biden is putting Venezuelan oil production ahead of American oil production. He is prioritizing Venezuelan energy workers over Wyoming and American energy workers.

Our energy workers at home are rightly asking: When is Joe Biden going to ease the sanctions that he has put on American energy production?

Because, since day one, American oil, American natural gas, American coal producers have been in the President's crosshairs. He refused to change course, even when gas prices skyrocketed.

Well, Biden certainly has never encouraged more American production like he has around the world in Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, and even Russia at one point. Instead, Joe Biden has raided the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, and he did it to deflect blame for high energy costs at the gas pump. That was in the runup to the midterm elections. So he used our energy stockpile emergency supply for his own political gain. And it is disgraceful.

America's energy reserve is now 45 percent lower than it was when Joe Biden entered office, much lower than it was when he was Vice President. Our emergency supply is actually at a 40-year low in terms of the energy supply we need for emergencies.

With the Hamas terrorists' attack against Israel, there is more uncertainty in global oil production, and our own stockpiles here at home are dangerously low. And this could be the time when we need it the most.

So, last week, the administration came to the conclusion: Well, maybe we ought to try to fill it up again. So he has announced the purchase of 6 million barrels of oil to help replenish our emergency supply. Six million barrels is a drop in the bucket compared to the 290 million barrels that the President has already drained. The President's administration plan is too little, too late, and it comes at too high of a price. President Biden is offering 79 cents a barrel for these 6 mil-

lion barrels of oil to help start to replenish the emergency reserve. Well, the price of oil now is \$90 a barrel.

So Joe Biden is going, once again, on bended knee to dictators, begging them to produce more oil and sell it to the United States. Maybe he believes this begging will lower oil prices and increase his abysmal approval ratings. But turning to dictators is not a way to govern, and it is not a way to focus on America's national interests.

Joe Biden continues to turn his back on America's workers, on American families; and, once again, he is putting liberal politics first and American energy workers and the American public last.

Maduro isn't Joe Biden's first date with a dictator. Oh, no. He has been coddling dictators, and he is making it a habit. He tried to placate Vladimir Putin by choosing not to impose sanctions on Russia's Nord Stream 2 Pipeline to Germany, and what the President got in return for his appeasement was more Russian aggression and Russia attacking Ukraine.

While the President was draining our strategic emergency oil reserves, he was looking for ways that the Ayatollah in Iran could sell more oil. It is astonishing. He foolishly refused to enforce maximum pressure sanctions against Iranian oil, and this refusal allowed Iran to line its pockets with \$80 billion from selling oil exports.

I wonder what they could have used that money for. Well, let's look.

The President continues to kiss up to Iran. He cut a deal to send \$6 billion in sanctioned funds to Iran. In return, Iran was able to expand its support and financing of terrorist groups like Hamas.

Today, the world is witnessing the devastation and the violence inflicted by Iranian-backed-and-funded terrorism. Hamas's unprovoked attack against Israel killed thousands of civilians, including children, with at least 33 Americans dead, more missing.

President Biden has not learned from his mistakes because he continues to repeat the mistakes over and over again. This appeasement by Joe Biden will not work. It didn't work with Russia. It didn't work with Iran. It is not going to work with Venezuela. But President Biden refused to do what we know will work—will work here at home—and that is, unleash American energy.

The President's administration has used every trick in the book to smother American production of oil, gas, and coal. It has had an extreme negative impact on families all across America and on our Nation's economy.

Look, before the COVID pandemic, the Energy Information Administration, they forecasted that here in America, we would produce about 14 million barrels every day this year—14 million barrels of oil a day. Through June of this year, due to Joe Biden's attacks on American production, production is running way, way behind



what was anticipated and what we need as a nation. As a result, we are turning to countries for the 1.4 million barrels a day that we need additional.

We are way behind, and it is not just energy. This President continues to outsource not just our supply of oil and gas but our mineral supply—critical minerals that we need here in the United States. The Democrats' reckless tax-and-spending bill just accelerates that.

Last week, I issued a report proving how the Democrats' reckless tax-and-spending bill moves the United States away from energy independence to energy and mineral dependence. An energy transition dependent on China, Russia, Iran, Venezuela, the tyrants and the terrorists there is not what our Nation needs, but it is what Joe Biden has brought upon us. Yep, it is what he caused.

America should never have to beg for energy, for minerals from anybody, let alone from dictators. Our energy policy should enrich American people. The American economy should be strengthened by it. Instead, Joe Biden's policies, dictated by the liberal left, are enriching our enemies.

America's energy policy must always put affordable, reliable American energy first. We must put America first. We must unleash American energy. That is the solution to help build our economy, build our country.

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. CAPITO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ISRAEL

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, we were here last week when I addressed the floor on this very issue that I want to talk about again because it is so absolutely critical to the world's security and our security, because violence is continuing to rage in Israel. We continue to hear the horrific and heart-breaking stories of Hamas's vicious attack on innocent Israeli civilians and families, and our own American citizens remain unaccounted for and are being held hostage by Hamas in the wake of their unjustifiable terrorist attack on the nation of Israel.

In this Chamber and in this country, our support for Israel and their right to defend themselves must be unwavering. We must stand with our ally and friend as they continue to withstand barbaric attacks from terrorist militant groups and threats from all directions.

There is absolutely no question that now is the time for American leadership. Our response needs to be united, and our response needs to meet the urgency of a moment just like this. As a world power, the United States of America has both the responsibility

and the wherewithal to support our allies, especially as they come under attack by nefarious adversaries. It becomes vitally important that our Nation recognize this, that the American public hear the stories from those in Israel, and that we understand the brutal, inhumane, and devastating tactics that Hamas is deploying on the residents of the Jewish state.

Last week, I had the opportunity to speak with two American families who have members who are being held hostage in Gaza by the terrorist organization Hamas. These stories are gut-wrenching—one, a 3-year-old child; the other, a married couple—and bring to light what is truly happening in Israel right now. Elderly families were ripped from their homes, children taken from their parents, family members executed in front of their loved ones.

I am a mother myself and a grandmother, and I know everyone in this Chamber and everybody listening has members of their own family and loved ones they care about so deeply. So can we really imagine what that feels like? This is the reality that the Israeli people are facing every day.

These attacks need to be condemned and denounced in the strongest possible terms, and they have been, and it makes it all the more imperative that the United States provide the support it needs to stop and root out the evil Hamas.

It is impossible—impossible—to understate—or to overstate, even—the outside role that Iran has played in these past 18 days since the initial attack. We know—we know—that Iran is financially supporting Hamas. We know in the strongest terms that Iran has helped reinforce Hamas's military strengths and capabilities and training. We know that Iran is backing Hezbollah, to the north in Lebanon, who stands at the ready to open a second front of this war along the Israel-Lebanon border.

We know that the Iranian-backed militias are responsible for the recent attacks on U.S. personnel stationed in the Middle East, and we know that Iran harbors deep resentment and hatred for our own United States and our ally Israel. Make no mistake, Iran is an evil empire, and they must be held accountable for these attacks as well. Sanctions need to be imposed and enforced on this regime and all others that are complicit in the illicit Iranian oil trade, which funds terror and aggression in the Middle East.

The unmistakable anti-American hatred from Iran and its allies creates greater questions regarding our own national security. It highlights the importance of our investments in our own homeland security and national defense. We are at a very difficult juncture right now, and the security of America and the defense of our allies should remain our first priority.

In addition to the terrorist attacks in Israel, there is a large-scale ground war in Europe perpetrated by Russia,

the likes of which we have not seen since World War II. China continues to increase their posture and presence toward Taiwan. And our southern border is totally porous. It remains under siege.

And 2.48 million immigrants came across our border in fiscal year 2023, a new record—a new record. Just last month, we set another new record: over 269,000 encounters at the southern border and then not to mention that 169 of these encounters were people on our terror watchlist, which is more than the last 6 fiscal years all tied together.

So what does that tell you? We are not sheltered from terrorism. We can't think that what we see going on in the Middle East can't come here. We know it has been on our shores before, and there is no reason it can't come back unless we do something where we make intentional investments.

So now is the time to make those investments into our national security across the board. Support for Israel, Ukraine, the Indo-Pacific, and our southern border is paramount and will serve to directly invest back into our own country and our own defense.

America's place on the world stage requires a level of leadership and accountability that we must accept with authority—we are the superpower—while we must always prioritize the needs of our own country first and then the support of our allies.

The good news is that when we are supporting the defense of our allies, we are also investing in deterrence and also supporting our own security and deterrence.

I am supportive of providing supplemental funding towards our defense capabilities—our southern border, Israel, Ukraine, and Indo-Pacific allies—because it is in the best interest of our country, our citizens, our neighbors, but I say in the strongest terms, I mentioned the southern border, but this must be front and center of any kind of supplemental that comes forward.

The Senate will have its say on the supplemental. The President has put his proposal before us. I would venture to say that will drastically change. The buckets may not change so much, but certainly the areas of influence will, and we will have a bill that creates and reflects our own thoughts, what we think. We need to craft a response to the attacks on Israel and other national security emergencies of this time.

I believe the Biden administration has been defined by its shakiness. The Senate needs to be defined by its strength and make certain that our country is ready and able to act.

There is no doubt that the United States is currently being tested by our adversaries, but we must make certain that we don't respond with weakness. By working together—and I think we will and can—I am confident in our ability to lead.

We must meet this moment, as our Nation has done in times of trial before. That is what will define this body, and we will move our country forward.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, 18 days ago, terror shook the Middle East. Eighteen days ago, Hamas tore children from their parents and tore mothers, fathers, brothers, and sisters from their families. Eighteen days ago, terrorism swept across Israel, destroying everything in its path.

We all know this. We have heard about these attacks repeatedly with every news cycle. Even as we continue reading articles, hearing analyses, and seeing new information, let us not forget the reality of these terror attacks, the seriousness of such a massive loss of human life.

Hamas killed over 1,400 people, over 1,400 innocent civilians, in its attacks this month. Death touched thousands of friends and family members, and its aftereffects are still rippling across Israel and across the world.

Let us resist our modern impulse to leave this tragedy behind in favor of the next headline, the next crisis. Let us allow the abuse, the torture, and the murder of Israelis and Americans alike to strike a fresh sense of grief and anger in our hearts every time we hear about them. That grief and anger must drive us to respond to the horror of terrorism.

Israel is responding, yes, but the response to terrorism should not be bound by Israel's national borders because terrorism itself is not bound by national borders.

Hamas killed American citizens in its attack on innocent people across Israel. Terrorists are still holding American citizens hostage in Gaza. Hamas has American blood on its hands.

One American, Hayim Katsman, hid in a closet with his neighbor as Hamas militants rained gunfire on an Israeli village. A neighbor told CNN that Katsman covered him with his body and saved his life by absorbing the bullets.

American Deborah Matias and her husband sacrificed themselves for their 16-year-old son, acting as human shields against Hamas's fire.

Two American brothers, Igal and Amit Wachs, died together, both trying to save those around them. Amit, who volunteered as head of the village's self-defense unit, ran outside to help his neighbors at the beginning of the attack. In the process, he was killed. Igal was killed as he searched for a weapon to defend himself and his family.

These are real people—real Americans—whose lives were extinguished far too early by the terror in Israel.

It is critical that we see the return of every American stranded in Israel or held hostage in Gaza. Every American must be accounted for and safely brought home.

Following the coldblooded slaughter of both Americans and Israelis, the United States must stand firmly with Israel. We must send a clear message to Hamas, to Hezbollah, and to their state sponsor, Iran: We will not equivocate in our support for Israel. We will stand with them and provide the assistance they need as they make difficult decisions to defend their sovereign nation.

Congress and the administration must work together to gather all of our diplomatic and economic strength against Iran. We must work together to aid Israel, whether through economic support, lethal aid, or increased intelligence sharing.

We know Israel will need more defensive capabilities, including Tamir interceptors for its Iron Dome air defense system, the backbone of its missile defense architecture. I support the Department of Defense's current plans to send our two Iron Dome batteries to Israel to bolster their security.

My colleagues and I introduced a bill to reallocate aid funding to Israel's Iron Dome that could have ended up in Hamas's pocket. This legislation would be an important first step in defending Israel against future attacks.

We know Israel will need more offensive capabilities, including precision-guided munitions to hit specific ground targets. We know Israel will need our intelligence on the Middle East so it can eliminate the Hamas threat completely. And we know standing with Israel against terror will buttress and fortify our own national defense and our own national security. Our support for Israel will help it triumph over terrorism, and our support for Israel will help us show strength and deter our adversaries. By protecting Israeli interests, we will promote American interests as well.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ROSEN). The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BUDD. Madam President, the world is still reeling from Hamas's brutal massacre of more than 1,400 Israelis and 33 Americans on October 7. Israel is completely justified in their response to the worst attack on their nation since the Yom Kippur War 50 years ago.

Israel's ultimate goal is and it rightly should be the destruction of Hamas. The United States must stand shoulder to shoulder with Israel and support this goal with lethal aid and intelligence support. In the coming weeks, Congress will consider the President's request for emergency national security funding that is aimed at doing just that.

Beyond debating the specifics of how much or what type of aid we send, I believe now is the time to rethink U.S. policy when it comes to the Hamas government and Gaza.

Beginning with their founding charter, the ideology of Hamas is motivated by anti-Semitism and genocidal—that is right, genocidal—intentions towards the Jewish people. In fact, the Hebrew word "hamas" means "violence."

Since Hamas took power in the Gaza Strip in 2006, they have continued this violence and terrorism against Israel and their allies. Hamas employs murder, rape, torture, and unspeakable brutality against the Jewish people. Hamas even fires rockets indiscriminately towards Israeli civilians, many of which misfire and land, killing people in their own Gaza, innocent Palestinians.

Make no mistake, the only word to describe Hamas is "evil," and when they commit atrocities like those of October 7, we must not look away.

One aspect of the October 7 attack that continues to this day is the plight of the more than 200 innocent people currently being held hostage in Gaza, including several Americans, including some from my own State of North Carolina.

Last week, I met with some of these families here in Washington. They told me stories about their loved ones and gave me their photos. These families—their fear and their heartache are something that no American should ever have to face.

Part of the President's funding package is so-called humanitarian aid in Gaza. Given that Gaza is governed by Hamas, I simply don't believe it is right to give a dime of taxpayer money to the very terrorists who are holding Americans hostage.

When this funding package comes to the floor, I plan to offer several amendments to hold all humanitarian aid to Gaza until each and every American hostage is home and is safe. And we should go further. U.S. and other foreign humanitarian aid should no longer be used as a crutch for Hamas to hold on to power.

The United States shouldn't be giving any money to Gaza until Hamas is no longer the de facto government. For the sake of innocent Israelis, innocent Palestinians, and for the future of peace in the Middle East, we must stop propping up such an evil regime with U.S. aid. It is my hope that the upcoming spending package includes more than just money, but that it demonstrates the strength and wisdom that this moment requires.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for up to 5 minutes, followed by Senator GRAHAM for up to 5 minutes, prior to the scheduled rollcall votes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, as elected Members of Congress, our most important obligation is the safety and security of all Americans. Events here at our southern border and across the globe are putting at risk the safety and security of Americans today.

We are appalled by the terrorist attacks Hamas committed against Israel. Those attacks did great harm to the

people of Israel and also to American citizens, some of whom are still being held hostage.

We support Israel's efforts to secure the release of all of the hostages held by Hamas.

That means we also expect the Government of Qatar to do more to bring those hostages safely out of Gaza. I say that because the Government of Qatar hosts the leadership of Hamas. That is where the leadership of Hamas is. I find it remarkable that they are living in Qatar rather than in Gaza. It says a lot; doesn't it? But because they are there, the Government of Qatar is in a position to do a lot more and be helpful in getting these hostages released.

We continue to stand—and we will continue to stand—with Israel as it prepares to remove Hamas from power in Gaza, and that is something they must do for their own safety and really for the safety of many other countries, as well, because Hamas is a terrorist organization dedicated to terror. That means killing indiscriminately, and that is exactly what they have been doing and what they are doing.

We know that this will require the Israeli people to make enormous sacrifices, but that these sacrifices will ultimately bring security to Israel and to the region. More broadly, we know that many Americans, including members of our military, our diplomats, and many civilians in the Middle East, are threatened by violence instigated by Iran.

We owe it to these Americans to provide the protection they need and to deter further violence from Iran. So we must set aside fruitless negotiations with the terror regime in Tehran, increase sanctions, and demonstrate that we will respond forcefully to Iranian-backed violence against our people and our interests.

The threats that Americans face are not confined to the Middle East. Our porous southern border opens the door to threats that can emerge here at home—threats from terrorists—and we need to address that. Instability in the Middle East and other parts of the world make securing our southern border even more urgent.

We must identify who is attempting to enter the United States and stop those who are entering our country illegally. A secure border helps us identify potential threats before they get inside the United States.

Just last week, Customs and Border Protection confirmed that the United States experienced the highest ever monthly encounters at the southern border, nearly 270,000—270,000—in 1 month. And with nearly 2.5 million crossings, fiscal year 2023 has now seen the highest ever annual toll of encounters at the southern border, almost 2.5 million. And, to make matters worse, in fiscal year 2023, a record number of individuals from the terror watchlist—from the terror watchlist—attempted to cross into the United States.

Think about that—from the terror watchlist. DHS admits that this is a

growing threat. Its most recent "Homeland Threat Assessment" found that the Department is seeing annual increases of individuals on the terror watchlist attempting to illegally cross into the United States. Specifically, the report found that "as part of the overall increase in migration, we have also encountered a growing number of individuals in the Terrorist Screening Data Set (TSDS), also known as the 'watchlist.'" Hamas and other violent extremists certainly are aware of this vulnerability.

We know what the solutions are. The Biden administration won't enforce them. Everyone knows what the solutions are: Enforce the "Remain in Mexico" policy, enforce the "safe third country" agreements—we know they work. The last administration proved it. We know they work. But the Biden administration will not enforce them, and they need to. Border security is national security—and finish building the border wall.

As we consider proposals to aid our allies, we must not forget to also secure our own border. Border security is national security. Meaningful border security provisions should be included as part of our efforts to make Americans safer and more secure.

As we stand with Israel—and we must stand with Israel—we must also secure our southern border.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM. Madam President, I think Senator HOEVEN is absolutely right. If we don't secure our border, it would be a big mistake.

I just returned from Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt with a 10-person—5 and 5—Senate delegation. So the Senate is working. I am glad we have a Speaker of the House. But we had five Republicans and five Democrats, and here is the takeaway.

This is happening in Israel now because Iran fears reconciliation between Saudi Arabia and Israel. Building on the Abraham Accords that President Trump was able to achieve, President Biden has been working to try to get Saudi Arabia and Israel to have diplomatic ties and to recognize each other to end the Arab-Israeli conflict. That is a nightmare for Iran. For the region to come together, look forward; go to the light, not the darkness.

Here is what we have to decide as a country. Let's not let Iran win here.

To our Arab allies, to our friends in Turkey, this barbaric attack on Israel by Hamas is beyond what happened in the Holocaust. I have seen the photos. It is so vicious. It is so lacking any humanity.

Does it have a purpose? Yes. They filmed it so Israel had to go in.

The Ayatollah wants Israel to have to take action, hoping the world will turn on Israel, call for a cease-fire, and let time pass so that the moment to reconcile between Saudi Arabia and Israel passes. It is putting pressure on

our allies in Jordan, in Egypt, and in Turkey by saying some pretty provocative things to our Arab allies, to our Turkish friends.

This attack by Hamas against Israel has to be dealt with by the destruction of Hamas. If you are in the region and you are expecting Israel not to go on the ground, that is not going to happen. You cannot destroy Hamas from the air. They are going in on the ground, and they are going to destroy Hamas to the best they can.

The goal then is to have a Palestinian plan that would give hope to the Palestinians who lost all hope and to continue the reconciliation process. As long as Hamas exists, there is no hope for peace.

It was mentioned in Turkey that Hamas is a liberator group. Hamas could care less about the Palestinian people. They want to destroy the Jewish people. If you don't believe me, listen to what they say. They are not trying to achieve a better life for the Palestinian people. They are trying to kill all the Jews. That is their charter, their religious nonsense.

To expect Israel not to go in is unrealistic. They are going to go in, and they are going to have our full support. The goal is to destroy Hamas without destroying the chance for peace.

I see an opportunity here, once Hamas has been dismantled, to bring the region together to get the Palestinian people a better life. The Iranian Ayatollah is the great Satan—not Israel, not the United States. He is a religious Nazi. He wants to purify Islam in his own image. He wants to destroy the Jewish State and come after us. It is a religious theocracy that can't be compromised with.

Here is what I would say we need to do today. Let the Iranians know if there is a second front opened by Hezbollah against Israel—which could be devastating—that we will be going to Iran to fix the problem. If one American soldier is killed by Shiite militia attacks against our forces in Syria and Iraq, we are going to blame the Ayatollah.

I appreciate moving the military force forward—two carrier battle groups—and moving assets into the region. I do not want a war, but I am tired of living this way.

The Ayatollah needs to know that a second front means three fronts—that we are coming after you. We are going to destroy your ability to fund terrorism.

Ninety-three percent of all the money Hamas receives comes from Iran. All of their money comes from their oil industry. They are incredibly exposed to being knocked out of business.

To the Members of the Senate here, we need to tell Iran clearly what happens: If you escalate against America, you escalate against Israel, you will be in the crosshairs of American military response. It is your choice to make.

If you want a war with America, you will lose it. If you continue to try to

throw gasoline on a fire, you are going to regret it. Anything short of a military response being real to the Ayatollah will lead to more bloodshed. So if you want a smaller war, well, let Iran know: You are going to be in a bigger war if you attack Israel or kill an American.

If we don't do that, we are making a huge mistake. I am trying to stand behind the Biden administration. I want to help them reconcile Saudi Arabia and Israel. I appreciate what they have done with the military force posture moving forward, but it needs to be clear to the Iranians: Escalation means an attack on you. And if they believe that, I think we can stop this thing from getting bigger. If they don't believe it, we are going to wake up with a real big war on our hands beyond what we have today.

I have never been more worried about the situation of the world than I am right now. But here is what I am confident of: The Israelis will fight. They may get killed, but they are going down fighting. There will not be a second Holocaust. The Israeli people, through their IDF, will fight anybody who tries to destroy the Jewish people. That is Hamas. They want to kill all the Jews. I can't believe this is being said in 2023. To the world: To get to our friends in Israel, you have to come through us. If you want to destroy all the Jews, you have to come through America. And good luck with that.

I want peace between the Arabs and the Israelis. I want a better life for the Iranian people. I want a better life for the Palestinian people. But you cannot have a better life when the forces of darkness are in control.

Destroy Hamas once and for all. Create a better life for the Palestinian people. Reconcile the Arab-Israeli conflict, and move forward.

God bless our friends in Israel.

AMENDMENT NO. 1237 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1092

Madam President, I call up Senator RUBIO's amendment and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Carolina [Mr. GRAHAM], for Mr. RUBIO, proposes an amendment numbered 1237 to amendment No. 1092.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To prohibit the use of funds to implement the final rule regarding energy efficient standards for certain subsidized housing)

At the appropriate place in title II of division C, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_ . None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to impose updated minimum energy efficiency standards for new housing financed by the Department as part of carrying out the notice entitled "Adoption of Energy Efficiency Standards for New Construction of HUD- and USDA-Financed Housing" (88 Fed. Reg. 31773 (May 18, 2023)).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There are now up to 2 minutes of debate equally divided.

The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I wish to speak against this amendment. It would hurt low-income families and saddle them with higher energy costs.

The updates that HUD has proposed are estimated to generate cost savings of almost 35 percent over current standards and to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by an estimated 2.2 million tons.

That will amount to savings of \$74 million a year or a total of \$1 billion to \$1½ billion over 30 years. Now, that is real money that households, particularly in northern climates like New Hampshire, can use for other needs and millions of tons of carbon dioxide that are kept out of the atmosphere.

The fact is the current standards are outdated; and by law, HUD and USDA are supposed to update their standards within 1 year of industry revisions.

This amendment would prevent them from doing that. It will raise costs. And as Rob Portman and I worked since 2011, energy efficiency is the fastest, cheapest way to deal with our energy needs. We need to vote down this amendment. It is no good.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 1237 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1092

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question now occurs on agreeing to amendment No. 1237.

Mr. PAUL. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote or change their vote?

The result was announced—yeas 47, nays 51, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 267 Leg.]

YEAS—47

Barrasso	Fischer	Paul
Blackburn	Graham	Ricketts
Boozman	Grassley	Risch
Braun	Hagerty	Romney
Britt	Hawley	Rounds
Budd	Hoeven	Rubio
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lankford	Thune
Cotton	Lee	Tillis
Cramer	Lummis	Tuberville
Crapo	Marshall	Vance
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	Moran	Young
Ernst	Mullin	

NAYS—51

Baldwin	Cardin	Fetterman
Bennet	Carper	Gillibrand
Blumenthal	Casey	Hassan
Booker	Coons	Heinrich
Brown	Cortez Masto	Hickenlooper
Butler	Duckworth	Hirono
Cantwell	Durbin	Kaine

Kelly	Murray	Smith
King	Ossoff	Stabenow
Klobuchar	Peters	Tester
Lujan	Reed	Van Hollen
Manchin	Rosen	Warner
Markey	Sanders	Warnock
Menendez	Schatz	Warren
Merkley	Schumer	Welch
Murkowski	Shaheen	Whitehouse
Murphy	Sinema	Wyden

NOT VOTING—2

Padilla Scott (SC)

The amendment (No. 1237) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that there be up to 6 minutes of debate, equally divided, prior to the scheduled rollcall vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 1354 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1092

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I call up my amendment No. 1354, and I ask that it be reported by number.

The clerk will report by number.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Louisiana [Mr. KENNEDY] proposes an amendment numbered 1354 to amendment No. 1092.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To prohibit the availability of funds for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to report certain information to the Department of Justice for use by the National Instant Criminal Background Check System)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_ . PROHIBITION ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO REPORT CERTAIN INFORMATION REGARDING VETERANS.

None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under section 5502 of title 38, United States Code, in any case arising out of the administration by the Secretary of laws and benefits under such title, to report a person who is deemed mentally incapacitated, mentally incompetent, or to be experiencing an extended loss of consciousness as a person who has been adjudicated as a mental defective under subsection (d)(4) or (g)(4) of section 922 of title 18, United States Code, without the order or finding of a judge, magistrate, or other judicial authority of competent jurisdiction that such person is a danger to himself or herself or others.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, before I explain my amendment, I would like to yield 30 seconds to my good friend Senator TESTER.

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I want to thank the Senator from Louisiana.

I rise in support of the Kennedy amendment and in support of the Second Amendment rights of veterans in Montana and across this country.

It is not right that a DC bureaucrat at the VA could take away veterans' legal rights to their firearms simply because they need assistance in managing their finances.

A Montana veteran and mental health advocate told me that the VA's longstanding policy to threaten veterans' constitutional rights, who ask

for help in managing their affairs, has been a barrier to veterans receiving help for years. It is time to end it so veterans can reach out for the financial help they need and the mental help they need.

I agree and don't believe someone who has served this country and who needs a fiduciary should have to hire a lawyer and go back to court to get their Second Amendment rights back.

I yield to Senator KENNEDY.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, there are 16 million veterans in our country. Sometimes some of them need help with managing their financial affairs. When they do, they go to the Veterans Health Administration, and the Veterans Health Administration appoints a fiduciary to help that veteran manage his or her financial affairs.

But, under current VA policy, if a veteran who defended this country has to go to the VA and ask for help with managing his or her financial affairs, the VA automatically reports that veteran to the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System—we call it NICS—and that veteran loses his firearm. He loses his firearm automatically—no due process, no questions asked. This decision is not being made by a judge; it is being made by a bureaucrat.

All our amendment would do would be to say that the VA, just because you have asked for help with your money, cannot automatically take away your firearm or report you to NICS unless a judge has ruled that that veteran is a danger to himself or to others.

I reserve the balance of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I thought one of the few things that we agreed on with firearms was that people with serious mental illness—people who are judged to be mentally incompetent—shouldn't be able to buy guns. That is what we are talking about here today.

We are not talking about people who just can't balance their checkbooks. We are not talking about people who just need some assistance with their financial affairs. The standard that the VA uses is the standard of mental incompetence. These are veterans who have been judged to be mentally incapacitated. And let me put a finer point on it. One-third of the veterans we are talking about in this category are diagnosed schizophrenics, and this amendment allows for every single one of them to have their gun rights restored.

Some of the most mentally ill people in this Nation—people to whom we owe a duty of care; people who are, frankly, more prone to suicide than the general population—are now going to be able to get their hands on a weapon to kill themselves or others if we pass this. This is a death sentence for scores of deeply mentally ill veterans.

What it does not do is set up some process by which to have a court judge

whether or not they should own a gun. In fact, there is no current cause of action for that to occur. We didn't have to be at this point where our only choice is to restore gun rights even to actively suicidal veterans. We made an offer to sit down and try to work out a compromise—a better appeals process, a mechanism for these veterans to go to court—but that did not happen. That offer was not accepted.

So, instead, we are voting on an amendment that gives gun rights back to every single seriously mentally ill veteran who has been judged to be mentally incompetent, even those who are actively suicidal. That is a death sentence—a death sentence—for thousands of seniors, for thousands of veterans all across this country if this becomes law. This is a terrible idea, and we should defeat it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, with all the respect I can muster, what my colleague said is inaccurate.

Now, I understand this is America; people can believe what they want. There are people who wish we didn't have the Second Amendment. I get that, but we do. And I agree with Senator MURPHY. We both agree on this. CHRIS believes that love is the answer, and I do, too, but I own a handgun just in case. That is my right, and every veteran has that right. We shouldn't take away a person's gun without a judge—not a bureaucrat at the VA—ruling that person to be mentally incompetent.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 1354

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 268 Leg.]

YEAS—53

Barraso	Grassley	Ricketts
Blackburn	Hagerty	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Hoeven	Rosen
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Budd	Johnson	Rubio
Capito	Kennedy	Schmitt
Cassidy	King	Scott (FL)
Collins	Lankford	Sinema
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Lummis	Tester
Cramer	Manchin	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	Moran	Vance
Ernst	Mullin	Wicker
Fischer	Murkowski	Young
Graham	Paul	

NAYS—45

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Peters
Bennet	Hassan	Reed
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Sanders
Booker	Hickenlooper	Schatz
Brown	Hirono	Schumer
Butler	Kaine	Shaheen
Cantwell	Kelly	Smith
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Lujan	Van Hollen
Casey	Markey	Warner
Coons	Menendez	Warnock
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warren
Duckworth	Murphy	Welch
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Ossoff	Wyden

NOT VOTING—2

Padilla	Scott (SC)
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The amendment (No. 1354) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). The Senator from Illinois.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise to discuss an urgent need: the confirmation of two pending U.S. attorney nominees.

U.S. attorneys across the United States represent the Department of Justice. They are the leaders we turn to locally to deal with problems beyond local law enforcement's control—problems and challenges from Federal law. Whether we are fighting fentanyl epidemics or we are fighting those who would undermine this country—many who would cheat and steal at the expense of others—we count on professional prosecutors to make those decisions.

We go through a process here where a President will name a potential U.S. attorney. That is not the end of the story. The attorney's name is then submitted to the Senate Judiciary Committee, which I chair, and then it goes through a rigorous bipartisan process and investigation of each one of these nominees. Until they clear both sides of the table—Democrats and Republicans—the nominees don't move. Once having been cleared, they are then put up for approval before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Traditionally, that was virtually the end of the story. The name would hit the calendar. The calendar name would be called and approved, and the person would move into action.

Under the previous President, Donald Trump, there was a lot of controversy—political controversy associated with all sorts of issues. So you have to wonder: Out of the 85 U.S. attorney nominees proposed by President Donald Trump, how many of them ran into an obstacle or were stopped on the Senate floor by Democrats for political reasons? The answer: none, not one.

Despite all the controversy of the Trump administration, the feeling was that it was only fair to these men and women, asking to serve our Nation as representatives in the Department of Justice, to give them that chance if they cleared the bipartisan background process. They did. We gave our approval. They served across the Nation.

But, unfortunately, we have come into a new era. U.S. attorneys—law enforcement officers who lead our Nation to prosecute violent criminals and protect our communities from gun traffickers, gun violence, terrorism, and so many other things—are still central to our system of justice.

I have emphasized that the U.S. Attorneys Offices in the Northern District of Ohio—that would be Cleveland—and the Northern District of Illinois—that would be Chicago—undertake important investigations and prosecutions that keep our communities safe.

The State of Ohio, like many others, suffers from the scourge of fentanyl trafficking. We know about this deadly narcotic. It is a killer. It is fourth in the Nation for drug overdose deaths. The U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Ohio oversees the area's response to fatal overdoses from fentanyl through the U.S. Attorney's Heroin and Opioid Task Force. I would guess many Ohioans would want to know why that task force is waiting for Senate-confirmed leadership.

In my home State of Illinois, over the last 2 years, the Chicago Police Department has recovered more than 10,000 firearms—10,000 a year—from various criminal investigations. The U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Illinois is responsible for coordinating the efforts with all the law enforcement agencies in the Chicago Firearms Trafficking Strike Force.

My constituents can't understand why one Senator from another State is blocking the confirmation of one U.S. attorney candidate in Illinois, April Perry, who has been found to be highly qualified, not only by the White House but by a bipartisan investigative committee of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

April Perry is well-qualified for this job. She would like to be on the job and should have been weeks ago, making it safer to live in my State.

Another point I made before is the irony that the Senator who is blocking these two nominees is considering this a "tough on crime" position. Tough on crime when you refuse to put a person in the role of prosecutor who is supposed to put these criminals behind bars?

When he ran for the Senate, my colleague from Ohio pledged to "fight the criminals—not the cops." That is his quote. He argued that Americans will not be safe if "politicians keep attacking police officers instead of violent criminals."

I just have to tell him his strategy of stopping two leading U.S. attorneys, one in his State and in the State of Illinois, is the best news the criminals have had in a long time.

The same man who pledged to fight the cops now proudly brags that he wants to "grind the Department of Justice to a halt." I am not making that up, and he has not denied it. He said his goal is to "grind the U.S. Department of Justice to a halt."

Listen to this headline from a recent article in Newsmax:

Sen. Vance to Newsmax: Blocking DOJ Nominees Makes AG's Job Harder.

We want to make the Attorney General's job harder when it comes to prosecuting drug criminals? Is that what this is all about?

I said it before, and I will say it again: Senator VANCE needs to read a resolution he proposed in this body earlier this year and take his own advice. He should give law enforcement officers the support and resources they need, rather than trying to score political points by making their jobs harder.

Unlike me, Senator VANCE doesn't need to worry about sounding like a broken record. Each time I come to the floor to ask for unanimous consent, he offers a different explanation for why he is blocking the confirmation of these highly qualified nominees. First, he claimed he was punishing the Justice Department for what he falsely called "unprecedented political prosecution" of former President Trump. As I have pointed out, this is a weak excuse for hamstringing law enforcement, considering the former President has now been indicted 4 separate times on 91 different counts and continues to threaten judges, prosecutors, jurors, and witnesses.

Senator VANCE also previously stated here on the Senate floor—and I quote; it is in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

My objection is not specific to the qualifications or the particular individuals that have been nominated.

He said he wanted to make it clear that it is in reference to both Ms. Lutzko in Ohio and Ms. Perry in Illinois.

In response, I offered the junior Senator from Ohio the opportunity to keep his promise to support law enforcement by allowing us to schedule confirmation votes on these pending U.S. attorneys—exactly what he said he wanted on the Record in the Senate. He looked me in the eye and agreed with me. He released his objection to Ms. Lutzko and Ms. Perry under the condition that we hold rollcall votes on them, which I agreed to.

Seemingly overnight, he decided that he does object to even holding confirmation votes on these nominees. He then claimed that "expecting us to vote on cloture . . . is not too much to ask." I was surprised to hear that. It was a new wrinkle in his argument, considering that, just last month, the junior Senator from Ohio was on the Senate floor attempting to force the Senate to skip a cloture vote on one of his bills.

I look forward to hearing what his new argument may be today. If he is trying to punish those who are in the process of prosecuting the former President of the United States, what is his retribution when it comes to the State of Georgia? We now have so many counts naming the former President for wrongdoing, and we have four

people who have been accused who have pled guilty so far in this process. Does he have a special agenda now when it comes to the State of Georgia to determine whether or not there is going to be some retribution to grind to halt the system of justice in that State?

We have reached the point where it is hard to explain why Senator TUBERVILLE of Alabama is stopping military promotions of deserving women and men who have risked their lives in service to America, and another Republican Senator is stopping ambassadorial positions being filled, and now this Senator has decided we have enough criminal prosecutors in America to take care of crime; we don't need more.

We certainly need these two—and many more—doing a professional job.

So I ask unanimous consent that, at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 314 and 315; that there be 2 minutes of debate, equally divided in usual form, on each nomination; that upon the use or yielding back time, the Senate proceed to vote, without intervening action or debate, on the nominations in the order listed; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. VANCE. Reserving the right to object, with respect to my colleague from Illinois, I heard a number of arguments that I somehow changed my tune. What I would say is I haven't changed my tune. The Senator from Illinois keeps making different arguments, and I keep needing to respond to each one of them.

But to restate my fundamental problem here, I will note that one of the consistent criticisms of my hold on Department of Justice nominees is that this is unprecedented; that when Donald Trump was President, we let these nominees sail through, and now I am holding up these nominations to the Department of Justice. I would counter that what is unprecedented is not the hold policy but the Department of Justice attempting to throw its political opponents in jail.

Now, much is made about the political prosecution of Donald Trump. I think that is unjustified, and it is, frankly, scary in the world's greatest democracy to have the political opposition leader prosecuted by the sitting President. That is pretty weird, not something that happens a whole lot in the United States of America—and thank God for that.

But you don't even need to make it about the current President. You can

run down any number of everyday conservatives, people who have been prosecuted, investigated, harassed by this Department of Justice. It should be enforcing the law. It should leave the politics to this Chamber and to the electoral process.

I will continue to object so long as the Department of Justice conducts its business in a highly politicized way. If Merrick Garland or anyone else is listening, please get back to the business of enforcing the law, get out of politics, and then and only then will I release my hold policy.

Because of that, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last week in my home area of Chicago, a 6-year-old Palestinian boy answered the door and was stabbed over and over again until he died and then the assailant went into another room and tried to kill his mother. The question is, Is this a hate crime because of his Palestinian origin? Does it deserve an investigation? Does it sound, in America, like this is the sort of thing we want an answer to? Whom would we turn to for that investigation? The U.S. Attorney's Office in the Northern District of Illinois.

But the Senator from Ohio—because of his hurt feelings over the indictment of former President Trump by many others—has decided to say, in my region of the country, we will have no U.S. attorney; we will leave the position vacant, not because the person isn't qualified to take it over but because he is hurt and believes he wants to protest over the idea of holding a former President accountable.

Obviously, in his mind, former Presidents are above the law—not in my mind and not in any democracy. I don't know if former President Trump is guilty of any charges. We have a system of laws and law enforcement to reach that conclusion. But in the meantime, whether it is a hate crime in a suburb of Chicago or drug crimes that are claiming lives every single night in every single neighborhood in our Nation, how can we stand here in good conscience and say we want to grind the Department of Justice to a halt?

That is exactly what he said over and over again: grind the Department of Justice to a halt. To prove what? To prove what about this Nation? We deserve the opportunity to be protected by the Agencies of government we have appointed, and the men and women who are willing to sacrifice their time, their skills to serve that purpose and keep us safe deserve better treatment than what is happening on the Senate floor.

I wish I could say this is a unique experience. It has become a pattern: a House of Representatives which goes for 21, 22 days trying to find a leader on the Republican side of the aisle; military appointments, hundreds of them,

men and women, qualified, serving in the military, risking their lives, whose nominations are being held up on the Senate floor by one Republican Senator; the idea that we are holding back the possibility of appointing Ambassadors in parts of the world where war is imminent and underway and could drag the United States into conflict if we are not careful.

To take that position that we want to stop government, whether it is in the Department of Defense and their promotion policy, whether it is in the Department of State and the representatives around the world, or whether it is in the Department of Justice, is shameful.

This is not public service. This is a political errand. I wish it would come to an end soon, and I wish the Senator, who is new to this body, would think twice about whether this is how he wants to write his record in the U.S. Senate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

RECOGNIZING WOMEN'S COLLEGIATE ATHLETICS AND THE RECORD-SETTING VOLLEYBALL DAY IN NEBRASKA EVENT ON AUGUST 30, 2023

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, on August 30, Nebraska made history. Thousands of spectators streamed into Lincoln's Memorial Stadium for two women's volleyball matches: the first between the University of Nebraska at Kearney and Wayne State College and the second between the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the University of Nebraska Omaha.

On Volleyball Day in Nebraska, we broke a world record. Our Nebraska team set the new record for attendance at a women's sporting event: 92,003 fans. Volleyball Day in Nebraska took months of preparation to pull off, but the University of Nebraska did it successfully. Our Nebraska colleges planned and worked hard in anticipation of this new record. It is a picture of Nebraska. We are a State that is defined by dedication, drive, and—most of all—by community.

Nebraskans showcased that dedication and drive as they came together to get as many people as possible in the stands. And when they got there, they supported and encouraged players and fans alike. Whether the spectators were Husker, Maverick, Lopers, or Wildcat fans, they showed sportsmanship and good will.

In response to Nebraska's exciting new record, we are passing a resolution today that would celebrate women's collegiate athletics in our home State. This resolution will recognize the historic Volleyball Day in Nebraska on a Federal level.

In addition to attendance at a women's sporting event, Volleyball Day in Nebraska broke several other records. The event exceeded the previous at-

tendance record for NCAA women's volleyball. The new women's volleyball record of 92,003 fans in attendance is almost five times more than the old record of 18,755. The August 30 match also exceeded the attendance record for UNL's Memorial Stadium.

Our resolution specifically honors Nebraska's former coach Pat Sullivan, who started the University of Nebraska volleyball program in 1975. It also honors former coach Terry Pettit, who built the volleyball program from 1977 to 1999, and current coach John Cook, who has sustained excellence in this program since the year 2000.

And the team has sustained excellence ever since Volleyball Day in Nebraska. Our UNL women's volleyball team won the battle of the undefeated against Wisconsin this past weekend, and our team is now ranked No. 1. This Senate resolution celebrates a special day for women, for volleyball players, and for all Nebraskans. I am proud to bring well-deserved recognition to this unique accomplishment. As we often say, there is no place like Nebraska.

And I would yield the floor to my colleague from Nebraska, Senator RICKETTS.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. RICKETTS. Mr. President, I am here today to join my senior Senator to celebrate this historic achievement for our State of Nebraska and women's athletics.

Nebraskans, we love our sports. And we are particularly proud of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Cornhuskers. Today, I especially want to point out our pride in the UNL women's volleyball program. As my senior Senator just recognized, they are the No. 1 team in the Nation. We have had five national championships in volleyball in the State of Nebraska. It is the third most in the NCAA. That is also as many national championships as we have had for our college football team. The volleyball program has nine former Olympians. The Husker women have also played on the U.S. National Team. In fact, three of them are on that team right now. They are also pioneers in name, image, and likeness.

As my senior Senator pointed out, we just beat the previous No. 1, undefeated University of Wisconsin Badgers on Saturday night in a five-set thriller that lived up to its billing as the match of the century. In 2022, our volleyball team led the Nation with an average attendance of 8,190 fans per game. We have had 314 consecutive sellouts in the regular season. And for the last nine consecutive seasons, we have led the Nation in attendance.

But earlier this year, Nebraskans helped the women's volleyball program reach a new height, a world record. It was Volleyball Day in Nebraska: 92,003 of the best fans in sports jammed into Memorial Stadium to watch four women's volleyball programs highlight their talent. The Wayne State College Wildcats took on the University of Nebraska at Kearney Lopers, and the

Omaha Mavericks took on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Cornhuskers. The eyes of the entire world were focused on Memorial Stadium.

Right in my home State of Nebraska, we had the most highly attended women's sporting event in the world ever. As Omaha World-Herald columnist Tom Shatel wrote:

Volleyball Day in Nebraska may be the biggest Title IX statement of all time.

Volleyball Day demonstrated just how much progress we have made in providing equal opportunity to our daughters, granddaughters, and sisters in sports. Title IX was about leveling the playing field for women's athletics. And for over 50 years, it has done just that. And, of course, this is more than just about sports for many of these women. Athletics have been a pathway for scholarships, educational opportunities, and career pathways.

The University of Nebraska also prides itself in instilling life skills into its student athletes. The Huskers Women's Volleyball Program has been filled with remarkable student athletes in the truest sense of the word. They lead the Nation with 40 volleyball Academic All-Americans as part of a nation-leading 351 Academic All-Americans in all sports. They also have three NCAA volleyball Elite 90 award winners.

The players are the stars. But, of course, you can't have a good team without a good coach. The Nebraska women's volleyball program has a great one in Coach John Cook. Coach Cook has been a part of the Nebraska volleyball family for 23 years. During that time, the team has made the NCAA playoffs every single year. Under his eye, the women's volleyball team has won four national championships. And in September of 2022, Coach Cook celebrated his 800th career coaching win.

The Huskers' tagline is: "In our grit, our glory." Volleyball Day in Nebraska and a new world record in attendance at a women's sporting event is the epitome of this motto.

Congratulations to everyone at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln whose grit made Volleyball Day possible and to all the other programs who participated.

I also want to thank vice chancellor and athletic director Trev Alberts and his team for their efforts. Thanks also to Coach Cook and his staff, and most especially, thank you to the women of the University of Nebraska volleyball program. You have given us something very special to be proud of. Truly, there is no place like Nebraska. Nebraska is what America is supposed to be.

And, finally, thank you to the senior Senator from Nebraska for introducing this resolution. I am proud to join you in recognizing this great achievement. I yield back.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I would like to thank my colleague Senator RICKETTS for his great comments

in recognizing the women's volleyball team, the State of Nebraska, and the great people that we have.

Mr. President, and with that, I would ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 428, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 428) recognizing women's collegiate athletics and record-setting Volleyball Day in Nebraska event on August 30, 2023.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mrs. FISCHER. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 428) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

##### FARM BILL

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about rural communities like my hometown of Clare, MI. It was a great place to grow up. My dad and my grandpa ran the local Oldsmobile dealership on Main Street, and my mom was director of nursing at the local hospital, and my relatives were dairy farmers.

And I saw how hard they worked every single day, rarely taking a day off. In fact, on Thanksgiving or Christmas, they were not there most of the time. They had to run back and milk the cows. So I so appreciated how hard they worked. I had many jobs growing up, but my first real job was at the local Dairy Phil, where I learned the art of filling a cone with soft-serve ice cream.

It wasn't a big town. It still isn't. But there was a real sense of community there. People shopped at local businesses, attended local events, cheered for the local high school sports teams, and rallied around local families when they needed help.

Places like Clare still exist, of course. In fact, in August, I was there to celebrate the Dairy Phil's 70th anniversary. But small towns and rural communities have seen a lot of changes over the years, and not all of them have been good. When I graduated from

high school in 1968, about 1 in 4 people lived in rural communities. Today, only 1 in 7 call rural America home. There are fewer people and a lot fewer farms.

Among other things, trade wars started by the Trump administration helped fuel this consolidation, causing dramatic drops in crop prices and billions in ad hoc inequitable Federal trade assistance payments. As people have left and as our economy has changed, many smalltown Main Streets have a lot more empty storefronts. Other towns have lost their schools, and more than 190 rural hospitals have closed since 2005.

Our small towns and rural communities are under a lot of pressure, and that is something that we all should care about. These communities are important. They are a crucial part of the fabric of our Nation. And I am so proud of the investments we have made over the last few years to strengthen that fabric.

We invested in healthcare and rural hospitals during the pandemic. In the American Rescue Plan, we invested in telehealth to bring healthcare providers to people where they were when they needed healthcare. In fact, telehealth visits by people in rural areas skyrocketed from 9,000 visits in 2019 to more than 830,000 visits in 2020. We invested in keeping critical rural hospitals open, like where my mom worked as a nurse.

We also know that healthcare above the neck is as important as healthcare below the neck. Farmers and ranchers have always been a stoic group, more likely to tough it out than to talk about it. That can make anxiety and depression and other mental health issues worse. In fact, farming is one of the occupations with the highest risk of suicide today.

We took big steps towards getting folks the help they needed by investing in our bipartisan certified community behavioral health clinics. I so appreciate the Presiding Officer's support in that.

There are now more than 500 of these clinics operating across the country, many of them in rural communities. It is the largest investment in behavioral healthcare in our Nation's history.

Our rural communities have also been pummeled by the climate that is changing right before their eyes. Last year, our country saw 18 separate billion-dollar disasters—18—costing 474 Americans their lives and over \$175 billion in damages. This year, we have already seen 24 separate billion-dollar disasters so far. But it doesn't take a billion-dollar disaster to destroy a family farm. Think about the cherry farmer who loses an entire crop when warm weather causes the trees to bloom early only to be wiped out in a cold snap a few weeks later. Or a wheat farmer whose hard work is leveled when a violent summer storm pummels her fields with hail. Or a family who



have to slaughter their entire population of turkeys when their farm is struck by avian flu.

Farming has always been a tough way to make a living. With the climate crisis, it is getting even tougher. That is why it is so important that we invested almost \$20 billion in new funding for voluntary conservation programs to support our farmers and ranchers as they work to mitigate their risks from violent, unpredictable weather events and as they lead in our country's efforts to tackle the climate crisis.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we also learned how important high-speed internet is. All of a sudden, the lack of good internet connection meant our kids couldn't make it to class—maybe they would sit in the parking lot of a fast-food restaurant to try to get Wi-Fi. And folks couldn't see a doctor.

It proved the point that I have been making for years that high-speed internet is infrastructure. And I am so proud we came together in a bipartisan way to address this.

In our bipartisan infrastructure law, we invested \$65 billion to help ensure that all Americans, whether they live in a big city or 30 miles from the closest highway—have access to high-speed internet.

We also remember how hard it was to get basic food staples when supply chains broke down during the pandemic. It was even harder in small towns and rural communities. That is why we invested in strengthening food supply chains that build connections between local farmers, communities, and businesses.

Small and regional processing operations also bring jobs back into the community instead of shipping them off to large, consolidated centers hundreds of miles away.

Our food systems should be at the heart of our communities. This is about how we get local products from local farmers and producers onto local tables.

It is also important to note that when we invest in rural America, we are not just investing in the families who live there—which is important to do, of course—but we are investing in all of us because each and every one of us depends on our farmers and local communities.

Why am I saying all this? First of all, we have multiple needs in small towns and rural communities. We have spent the last 2½ years—and I want to thank the Biden administration for investing in so many ways to support our small towns and rural communities. They need it. They need our support.

But right now, we have the opportunity and responsibility to come together to build on those investments, those things that relate to quality of life and economic opportunity. And that is called the farm bill. The farm bill is our next opportunity to truly revitalize rural America.

I am committed to passing a strong, bipartisan farm bill as soon as possible.

This is actually the sixth one that I have been involved in. It is the sixth farm bill that is coming to Congress and the third one that I have been leading.

You know, our committee is unique. We don't just sit at a raised dais facing witnesses. Instead, we sit around a table, much like families do after a long day of work, and we face each other.

That is part of our bipartisan tradition. To get a farm bill done, it needs to be bipartisan. It must pull together the broad coalition of support that has been the cornerstone of this process for decades. Since Ranking Member BOOZMAN and I started working on a bipartisan farm bill in April of 2022, the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and its subcommittees have held more than 20 hearings. There has also been countless farm bill listening sessions around the country.

I appreciate so much the community input and the bipartisan work of our committee Members. The success of a farm bill is always based on finding bipartisan solutions to the problems we need to address and bipartisan ways to address funding priorities. In this farm bill, that means protecting our critically needed conservation funding for our farmers, and it means keeping nutrition funding in the nutrition title for our families.

Having said that, I have committed to finding ways to bring additional resources to meet other needs in the farm bill that are so important to producers.

I am very grateful that Leader SCHUMER is committed to find several billion dollars in additional resources through bipartisan offsets outside the farm bill to help us achieve that goal.

I have to tell you, it is almost unheard of, because I remember not that long ago when the Senate leadership was telling us to cut—cut—\$23 billion from the farm bill. So I am grateful for this unified commitment to get this done.

There are a lot of people counting on us to get this done. More than 21 million Americans depend on the food and agriculture industry for their jobs.

In Michigan, that is one out of four people that are in agriculture and the food industry. Another 4.6 million Americans work in the growing biobased manufacturing industry that I think is so exciting.

But the farm bill isn't just about jobs. It isn't just about our economy. The farm bill has three goals in my mind: We want to keep farmers farming; we want to keep families fed; and we want to keep rural communities strong and build on the investments that we have done in the last 2½ years.

The farm bill is the foundation of the farm safety net. During our oversight hearings this year, every single group representing farmers told us that protecting and strengthening crop insurance was their No. 1 priority. They asked for more options to make it more affordable, and I support that.

Crop insurance covers over 130 different crops, large and small, and it is continuing to expand to more crops and regions.

Coming from Michigan where we grow more than 300 different crops, I am proud that I have been known as the specialty crop champion. During my time in the Senate, I have led efforts to expand crop insurance protection, especially for my State's fruit and vegetable growers. I am continuing to work on ways to expand crop insurance for specialty crops and other farmers.

Time and time again, from small producers in Michigan to national groups like the American Farm Bureau, we all hear from farmers across the country that we must protect and enhance crop insurance. I agree. It is the number one risk management tool for farmers.

It can be tailored and evolve to meet the individual needs of farmers. Most importantly, farmers will see the benefits of any changes that we make to crop insurance immediately. Any changes we make to reference prices in the commodity title, for instance, will not have any impact until the fall of 2025, at the earliest. This is why I am currently exploring a proposal that would make crop insurance premiums more affordable on area-based crop insurance plans. No mandates—just new options to support our producers.

The Agricultural Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage programs are very important to many of our farmers as well, and we built a solid base in improving those programs in the 2018 Farm Bill.

There is good news here. In 2022, farmers recorded the highest farm income in history, and 2023 is projected to be the seventh highest in the last 21 years.

But we know that farmers have also experienced a lot of challenges and that not everyone has benefited from the recent high prices.

We know input costs have been rising. And though the costs of diesel fuel and fertilizer are declining, we need to ensure farmers have effective tools to address their costs so they can keep farming.

Fortunately, USDA is using its authority to help farmers long-term by supporting the development of lower cost, American-made fertilizer and implementing innovative fertilizer technologies. This will create more jobs, provide more choices for farmers, and make us less reliant on foreign supplies of fertilizer.

In many ways, the farm bill already helps farmers address higher input costs.

The dairy safety net is structured around the difference between the cost of feed and the price of milk. Crop insurance can also expand and adjust to provide similar policies for a broader group of farmers.

There is other good news. In the 2018 farm bill, we were able to improve the PLC program by including what was

called an escalator—an escalator provision that is projected to increase reference prices for most commodities—there are 20 commodities in that commodity title—and most will see a 10 to 15 percent increase by this 2025 crop year under existing law without any changes. So because of this escalator, we are going to see reference prices for many commodities increase by 10 percent to 15 percent by 2025.

I can't claim any credit for this provision. It was a bipartisan idea championed by the former House Republican chairman, Mike Conway, of Texas.

But I know it is important to find other ways to include ARC and PLC for the 22 crops that benefit from this program as well. As we do so, I believe it is important to find the best ways to help all of our farmers, both beginning farmers who are crucial for our future as well as medium- and large-established operations.

But we can't lose sight of the fact that the farm safety net extends far beyond title I, the commodity title, and title XI, the crop insurance title. The "farm" does not need to be put back into the farm bill; it is on every page. The farm safety net is support for research. It is access to affordable credit and loans. It is specialty crop block grants and dairy and sugar programs and disaster assistance and trade. It is protecting the health of our livestock, and it is voluntary conservation programs.

I strongly believe—and I know I have colleagues on both sides of the aisle who agree—that conservation programs are a vital part of risk management for our farmers today. As I said earlier, you don't need to explain to a farmer what the climate crisis is. They see it in their orchards and their pastures and their fields every day. Farmers want to make their operations more resilient in the face of the climate crisis. They want to build healthier soil by keeping carbon in the ground. That is why we are seeing record demand for popular voluntary conservation programs that we have passed, and the good news is we now have more funding to meet their needs.

The farm safety net is also about building markets, and we have received some great news on that front. This week, Secretary Vilsack announced \$2.3 billion in investments from the Commodity Credit Corporation to invest in trade promotion, markets. That is what our farmers are saying are the top two things: crop insurance and markets. They want to be able to trade. So Secretary Vilsack has announced \$2.3 billion to invest in trade promotion and important in-kind international food assistance. It is so critical. This will support American farmers and help people in need around the world.

I very much appreciate Secretary Vilsack's responding to my request, the request I sent with Senator BOOZMAN. I very much appreciate that he responded and said yes to what Senator

BOOZMAN and I had asked. Secretary Vilsack's continued commitment to meet the needs of our agricultural community, as well as his partnership with us to get a bipartisan farm bill done, is so important.

This new CCC funding doubles the amount available for trade promotion for the next 5 years. We never see that, and we are able to do that now. It also creates an opportunity to spread the money out more evenly over 10 years. This would allow us to grow permanent baseline funding for trade promotion programs in this farm bill and in every subsequent farm bill—something that has not happened since 2006.

Our farmers are looking to sell their products across the ocean, but they are also looking to sell their products across the country, across the State, and across the street. When our growers can get their apples on lunch trays at the local elementary school or sell tomatoes to their neighbors at the Saturday morning farmers' market, that puts money in their pockets and keeps our local economy going.

Farm bill trade promotion programs, international food assistance, bio-economy programs, local foods programs—all of these increase market opportunities for our Nation's farmers to be successful. And we all want farmers to be successful, not just those who are already doing well but those who are new or who are struggling. That is why I am laser-focused on ensuring that the farm bill includes targeted support for beginning farmers, for our organic farmers, and for our BIPOC farmers and urban growers.

While the farm bill is the backbone of the farm safety net, its nutrition programs are the backbone of the family safety net. So we want to make sure that we keep farmers farming, but we want to make sure that we keep families fed as well. I believe that no parent should have to worry about whether or not their child is going to be able to eat, and no American senior should have to go hungry because their food budget simply won't stretch far enough. It would be unconscionable to further cut the modest assistance of \$6 a day that helps millions of Americans put food on the table and make ends meet.

I also reject the premise that we must choose between supporting farmers and supporting families. The needs of farmers and families are interconnected. Farmers benefit when families can afford to buy the food they produce, and the economy benefits as well. In fact, every dollar in SNAP—every dollar in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program—generates \$1.50 in economic activity. Someone is buying food. They are going to the grocery store. It is the farmers, the transportation; it is the grocery store. It is one of the quickest ways to create economic opportunity.

Just like the farm safety net, these nutrition programs expand during times of need and contract during

times of plenty. We have already seen participation in SNAP decline as the country continues to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic—just like the program is designed to do.

Nutrition assistance is also much more than SNAP. It is what we call Double Up Food Bucks, which started in Michigan, with the idea of being able to support families in going to the local farmers' market and buying fresh fruits and vegetables that are more expensive by giving double the value of their SNAP dollar. This has been so successful that we are now expanding it to grocery stores, and it is widely successful across the country.

This is also about the wonderful work of our local food banks. It is getting fresh local foods to children in school. It is ensuring that those same children aren't going hungry in the summer or when school isn't in session.

I am extremely proud that, in December, Senator BOOZMAN and I led the successful effort to establish the first permanent investment in child nutrition in over a decade, which will provide summer meals to 29 million children—29 million children—every summer, and it is providing support for farmers' markets, which strengthen connections between growers and the communities they feed.

So our goal: Keep farmers farming; keep families fed; and then, finally, keep rural communities strong.

A strong farm safety net and a strong family safety net build strong small towns. Every American, no matter where they live, deserves a great quality of life and the chance to be successful. That is why we have put money into high-speed internet. That is why we have supported rural hospitals. That is why we have supported telehealth. That is why, in the last 2½ years, we have invested in rural communities.

The truth is, we need strong small towns. We need thriving rural communities. We need young folks to go off to college and want to come home, work on the farm, start a small business, and raise their families in the communities where they grew up. We need small towns to have strong schools and quality healthcare, high-speed internet, and vibrant Main Streets. We need the Dairy Phil in Clare, where I worked, to teach young people the art of creating the perfect soft-serve ice cream cone and so many other life lessons. We need them to do that for another 70 years.

Getting the farm bill done won't be easy—it never is—but I am committed to doing so. Unfortunately, it looks like this is going to take a little longer than I would like, but it would be irresponsible to allow vital programs and the farm safety net to lapse and revert to Depression-era policy in January. We cannot allow that to happen. And, given the chaos in the House, I know we will need an extension.

But let's be clear: It would be equally irresponsible to take our focus off of a 5-year farm bill that provides stability

and certainty for our farmers and communities. I am laser-focused on delivering a bipartisan farm bill that keeps farmers farming, families fed, and rural communities strong and on getting it done in the coming months. It is critical that we give rural America and agriculture the certainty of a 5-year farm bill.

The unifying principle behind the farm bill is that it is a safety net for farmers and families. When crops fail or when disaster strikes, the farm safety net steps in to provide stability and security. When a pandemic hits or the economy takes a turn for the worse, it is the family safety net that steps in. The farm bill is designed to—and it must—support both.

Senator BOOZMAN and I have a strong working relationship, and we have already accomplished so much together. I know that we can come together with colleagues on both sides of the aisle and agree on a bipartisan farm bill that addresses the important needs of agriculture and rural America. Together, and with the bedrock support of the broad farm bill coalition, everyone, from farmers to climate to nutrition advocates—we can get this done. Communities, farmers, and families are counting on us.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ISRAEL

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I wanted to take a few minutes to share my thoughts regarding the horrific situation in Israel and Gaza.

On October 7, Hamas terrorists waged a barbarous attack against Israel, killing over 1,400 innocent men, women, and children. Young people at a music festival were machine-gunned down in cold blood, babies and older people were brutally murdered, and over 200 Israeli and Americans are being held as hostages.

Some people describe the October 7 attack on Israel as equivalent to the 9/11 terrorist attack against the United States. That is wrong. Israel is a small country with under 10 million people. On a per capita basis, the 1,400 Israelis killed by Hamas would be the equivalent of over 40,000 Americans killed if Israel had the same size population as we do—40,000. On 9/11, as everybody recalls, we lost 3,000 people.

Let us be clear. Israel suffered a major attack and has, as do all other countries under similar circumstances, the absolute right to defend itself. But having the right to defend your country against a terrorist attack and a terrorist organization like Hamas does not mean having the right to violate

international law and wage indiscriminate warfare against innocent men, women, and children in Gaza.

The people of Israel have gone through a horrific and traumatic shock. It is understandable that they are furious and want to strike back forcefully. Revenge, however, is not a useful policy. Killing innocent Palestinian women and children in Gaza will not bring back to life the innocent Israeli women and children who have been killed. It will only make a terrible situation even worse and more intractable.

Let us be clear. The Palestinian people today are experiencing nothing less than a humanitarian disaster. Thousands are already dead, including many children—perhaps thousands of children—and far more have been wounded. Hundreds of thousands have been forced out of their homes. These people—deeply impoverished before this war began—now lack food, water, fuel, shelter, medicine, and other basic necessities.

Unbelievably, more than 400,000 Palestinians driven from their homes are now sheltering in densely crowded, U.N.-run schools—400,000 people in U.N.-run schools. Dozens of medical facilities have been damaged and made inoperable, and 35 United Nations aid workers have been killed. The aid trickling into Gaza is just a fraction—a small amount—of what is needed. In a few days, hospitals will run out of fuel, and ventilators and incubators will shut off.

This is a desperate, desperate humanitarian crisis.

I echo Secretary Blinken's call for the immediate release of all hostages and for a humanitarian pause by all parties. A pause is essential for the protection of civilians, as required by the laws of war, as well as for the provision of robust supplies of food, water, and medical aid to address the growing humanitarian catastrophe. I know that Senator MERKLEY and others are working hard to gain support here in the Senate for that position, and I agree with it.

Israel suffered a terrible attack, but the response must be carefully thought through and be carried out in line with international law.

When the United States was attacked on 9/11, we allowed anger and rage to drive our response. This resulted in making grave mistakes in terms of wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, which cost us thousands of members of the U.S. military and, in fact, the lives of hundreds of thousands of innocent people in those countries.

Israel has a right to defend itself and go after Hamas, but innocent Palestinians also have a right to life, security, and peace.

Please remember that the last election held in Gaza was in 2006, when a majority of people in Gaza today were not yet born or could not vote. Even then, back in 2006, a minority voted for Hamas. Hamas is an authoritarian or-

ganization that does not necessarily represent a broad swath of the Palestinian people, and we must not conflate all Palestinians with this terrorist organization.

Further and of much concern to me and, I think, many others, Israel is apparently contemplating an invasion and occupation of Gaza. I have very serious concerns about what this could mean in terms of the long-term security of Israel, the well-being of the Palestinian residents of Gaza—half of whom are children—and the hope that peace, security, and justice will at some point come to that region.

In Congress, we will soon be voting and debating a package which includes billions of dollars to Israel above and beyond the \$3.8 billion in military aid the United States sends there every year. The American people have a right to know if that money will be used to defend Israel or whether it will be used for an invasion and occupation.

Israel's proposed invasion will likely bring difficult, street-by-street fighting against entrenched Hamas fighters in a dense urban environment still populated by many civilians. Hamas will continue to use human shields and its extensive tunnel network and will likely resort to insurgent tactics.

As two experts on the subject recently wrote, "The battle will not end when Israel has reoccupied the territory. There is no Palestinian entity that Israel trusts to govern Gaza in Hamas's stead. As a result, a military victory could mean Israel has to administer the territory for the foreseeable future. Israeli officials, in other words, will have to govern an immiserated people who see them as their enemy and who may wage a guerrilla war."

I have serious concerns about what this invasion and potential occupation of Gaza will mean, both in terms of the long-term security of Israel and the well-being of the Palestinian residents of Gaza.

In Congress, as we consider a package including billions of dollars for Israel that could fund this invasion and occupation, we clearly need much more information about Israel's long-term plans and goals, as well as the U.S. Government's assessment of those prospects.

These are some—some—of the questions that need to be answered:

How many innocent men, women, and children will be killed or wounded if Israel engages in an invasion and an occupation?

How many Israeli soldiers will be killed or wounded in an operation of that kind?

How will many hundreds of thousands of civilians receive the food, water, fuel, and medical care they need in the midst of what could be extremely heavy urban warfare in a very densely populated area?

How long will it take to establish military control of Gaza, and what level of insurgent activity is anticipated from that point? In other words,

controlling Gaza is not the end of that process.

How will the success of the operation be measured?

Are there alternative approaches to a ground invasion that would be effective in ensuring Israel's long-term security?

What will this operation mean for the hostages still being held in Gaza?

What political force will administer Gaza after an Israeli operation?

Will the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who have been driven from their homes—they have been pushed out of their homes now, no place to go—will they be guaranteed safe return to their homes?

Importantly, what impact will the invasion and occupation of Gaza have on the international community's support for Israel? How will the whole world feel about a powerful nation occupying a very impoverished part of the world?

How will the international community address the ongoing needs in Gaza and the rest of Palestine when the shooting and bombs stop?

What political process will follow this conflict, and what is the desired end-state in Gaza?

These are some of the questions that have to be asked. As Congress considers the administration's emergency funding request, we need answers to these questions.

This is, tragically, the fifth conflict between Israel and Hamas in 15 years—fifth war in 15 years. Clearly, a terrorist organization like Hamas cannot be the answer to the very serious problems facing the people of Gaza.

Just a few months ago, thousands of people defied Hamas's authoritarian rule to protest on the streets of Gaza. They stood up, with great courage, against Hamas's authoritarian rule. Their voices are silenced now, but there can be no long-term solution to this ongoing crisis without a serious effort to address Palestinian demands for peace, legitimate political representation, and a vibrant economy.

I would just mention one fact, and that is, before this war, some 75 percent of the young people were unemployed. So you have, aside from everything else, an economic disaster in Gaza.

In my view, the United States must take a leading role in charting out a future that respects the lives of Palestinians and Israelis alike. We can start by answering the questions laid out above, and I very much look forward to receiving from the administration a briefing, in a classified setting, if necessary, in order for Members of Congress to understand what an occupation and invasion will look like.

We are living in a horrifically difficult moment in the Middle East, and I can understand the outrage that many people in Israel feel in terms of the attack that killed 1,400 of their people, but now is the time, in Israel and in the United States, for us to not allow revenge and rage to dictate our

policy but to really think this issue through.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

#### GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWNS

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, we have the opportunity to take a really big step today that the entire country would pause and go: Finally. We have the opportunity to end government shutdowns forever. We will say: That is off the table. We, as a nation, don't do government shutdowns.

Government shutdowns haven't always been in our system as a nation. They really started in the 1980s, and we have had this repetitive cycle of government shutdowns over and over and over again.

The American people and folks in my State in Oklahoma say: How do we make this stop?

Well, this is how we make it stop. Senator HASSAN and I sat down 5 years ago and just said: Everyone wants to stop it, but we have never figured out a way that is a totally nonpartisan way. Let's figure this out. What is a nonpartisan way to end government shutdowns?

So we sat down and worked on some language to try to figure out how to be able to do this. We took input from Members all over this conference on both sides of the aisle. We actually sat down years ago with the Trump administration and worked with their Office of Management and Budget and then have since sat down with the Biden administration, with their Office of Management and Budget, to make sure the process would actually work; that it would actually be effective because we weren't interested in having a messaging bill; we were interested in actually ending government shutdowns—that it would work.

The idea is really very simple. If Congress gets to the end of the fiscal year and the appropriations work is not done by the end of the year, we stay in session 7 days a week. We can't move to any bill other than appropriations until we actually finish appropriations.

If I can just make it just this simple: If we don't finish our classwork, we have to stay after class. That is all it is. In the meantime, the government continues to run at the previous year's levels. That way, Federal workers are held harmless. The American people are held harmless. The pressure is on the people it should be on: us.

Now, I have heard from some folks that this won't work because the House is crazy, and they won't care about staying here 7 days a week because they are crazy. Well, I would respectfully say that House Members, though definitely crazy at times, still love their families, still have responsibilities back in their home district. They also want to be able to get back home. They are not going to stay here 7 days a week forever.

We do have other bills to be able to pass—the National Defense Authoriza-

tion and thousands of other things that we still have to do. So the thought that we would be in continual CRs, both here, House and Senate, 7 days a week and never leave and that we would never do other bills is just not realistic.

I have also heard that if we take away the threat of a government shutdown, we would lose the pressure point to be able to do appropriations. Well, again, respectfully, I disagree. I don't think Federal law enforcement and Border Patrol agents, air traffic controllers, HUD staff, and millions of other Federal workers and their families are leverage. They are not leverage to be able to get appropriations work done. They are families. They are families who just want to serve their neighbors and be able to get a paycheck for it.

Right now—right now—there are thousands of marines, sailors, and airmen who are currently in the Mediterranean on high alert.

They should not have to make contingency plans for their family not to get a paycheck at the end of this month. Right now, in Fort Sill, OK, there are soldiers who are packing equipment to leave and head to the Middle East right now. They should not have to look at their loved ones before they leave and say: In case checks don't get deposited at the end of next month, here is what to do. They should be able to go serve.

So as simple as I can say it, we shouldn't say to them: Maybe we won't have a shutdown or probably we won't have a shutdown. We should say: Definitely, we are not going to have a shutdown. Thank you for serving our country.

That is what we should do. The hardest thing in this body to change is status quo. It is the hardest thing to change. Today, we have an opportunity to change the status quo and to begin the process of ending government shutdowns forever.

I encourage my colleagues to join Senator HASSAN and I and so many other folks from both sides of the aisle to say: Let's take a step forward, and let's actually do our business.

AMENDMENT NO. 1232 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1092

(Purpose: 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.)

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, I would like to call up my amendment, amendment No. 1232, and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report by number.

The legislative clerk read as follows: The Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. LANKFORD] proposes an amendment numbered 1232 to amendment No. 1092.

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of September 18, 2023, under "Text of Amendments.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, this amendment would create an automatic CR, which would make it way harder for Congress to actually get its job done and fund our government. It would allow Members, particularly those who are fine with obstructing, to ignore their responsibility to fund our government and deliver for the communities that they represent; it will hurt Agencies and programs people count on by freezing funding levels; it will weaken our ability to deliver funding for Ukraine and Israel, for childcare and so much else; it will allow critical laws to lapse and potentially create chaos on this floor.

Let's be clear. No one wants to avoid a shutdown more than I do. But the way that we avoid a shutdown is by Members of Congress sitting down and working together to prevent one, responsibly, by funding our government, not by abdicating Congress's responsibility to control the powers of the purse and avoiding the hard work of compromise by putting funding on perpetual autopilot.

But I am afraid that is exactly what this amendment would do, and it would create a new, unproven fast-track process, allowing six Senators to completely ignore our committee process, completely ignore regular order, and take over the floor and force the Senate to consider appropriations vehicles of any and all sizes with little or no scrutiny or input.

We need to get our jobs done. We need to pass our appropriations bills. That is what we are working on, not set ourselves on a path to endlessly kick the can down the road. I strongly urge my colleagues to vote no on this amendment.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 1232 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1092

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question now occurs on agreeing to amendment No. 1232.

Mr. LANKFORD. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA), is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The result was announced—yeas 56, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 269 Leg.]

YEAS—56

Barrasso	Cassidy	Daines
Blackburn	Collins	Ernst
Boozman	Cornyn	Fischer
Braun	Cotton	Graham
Britt	Cramer	Grassley
Budd	Crapo	Hagerty
Capito	Cruz	Hassan

Hawley	Marshall	Schmitt
Hoey	McConnell	Scott (FL)
Hyde-Smith	Menendez	Sinema
Johnson	Moran	Sullivan
Kaine	Mullin	Thune
Kelly	Murkowski	Tillis
Kennedy	Ricketts	Tuberville
King	Risch	Vance
Lankford	Romney	Warner
Lee	Rosen	Wicker
Lummis	Rounds	Young
Manchin	Rubio	

NAYS—42

Baldwin	Fetterman	Reed
Bennet	Gillibrand	Sanders
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Schatz
Booker	Hickenlooper	Schumer
Brown	Hirono	Shaheen
Butler	Klobuchar	Smith
Cantwell	Lujan	Stabenow
Cardin	Markey	Tester
Carper	Merkley	Van Hollen
Casey	Murphy	Warrick
Coons	Murray	Warren
Cortez Masto	Ossoff	Welch
Duckworth	Paul	Whitehouse
Durbin	Peters	Wyden

NOT VOTING—2

Padilla Scott (SC)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). On this vote, the yeas are 56, the nays are 42.

Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is not agreed to.

The amendment (No. 1232) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 3135

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3135) making emergency supplemental appropriations for assistance for the situation in Israel for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions: S. Res. 430, S. Res. 431, and S. Res. 432.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. MANCHIN. 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.")

Mr. MANCHIN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY, Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 23-70, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Latvia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$220 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH, Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-70

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of the Republic of Latvia.

(ii) Total Estimated Value: Major Defense Equipment \* \$195 million. Other \$25 million. Total \$220 million.

Funding Source: National Funds and Foreign Military Financing.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Six (6) M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS)

Twelve (12) M30A2 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS) Alternative Warhead (AW) Pods with Insensitive Munitions Propulsion System (IMPS)

Twelve (12) M31A2 GMLRS Unitary (GMLRS-U) High Explosive Pods with IMPS  
Ten (10) M57 Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS) Pods

Non-MDE: Also included are Reduced Range Practice Rocket (RRPR) Pods; intercom systems to support the HIMARS Launcher; ruggedized laptops; training; training equipment; publications for HIMARS, munitions, and spares; services; other support equipment; and other related elements of program and logistic support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (LG-B-UEL).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: LG-B-PCA.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: October 24, 2023.

\*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

##### Latvia-M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems

The Government of the Republic of Latvia has requested to buy six (6) M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS); twelve (12) M30A2 Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS) Alternative Warhead (AW) Pods with Insensitive Munitions Propulsion System (IMPS); twelve (12) M31A2 GMLRS Unitary (GMLRS-U) High Explosive Pods with IMPS; and ten (10) M57 Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS) Pods. Also included are Reduced Range Practice Rocket (RRPR) Pods; intercom systems to support the HIMARS Launcher; ruggedized laptops; training; training equipment; publications for HIMARS, munitions, and spares; services; other support equipment; and other related elements of program and logistic support. The estimated total program cost is \$220 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally that is an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve Latvia's capability to meet current and future threats, and will enhance its interoperability with U.S. and other allied forces. Latvia will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Lockheed Martin, Grand Prairie, TX. There are no known offset agreements in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the assignment of two (2) U.S. Government and five (5) contractor representatives to Latvia for a period of one year. Additional U.S. Government or contractor representative travel to Latvia will be required for program management reviews. This travel is expected to occur approximately twice a year or as needed to support equipment fielding and training.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-70

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) is a C-130 transportable wheeled launcher mounted on a 5-ton Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles truck chassis. HIMARS is the modern Army-fielded version of the Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) M270 launcher and can fire all of the MLRS Family of Munitions (FOM), including Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS) variants and the Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS). Utilizing the MLRS FOM, the HIMARS can engage targets between 15 and 300 kilometers with GPS-aided precision accuracy.

2. The Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System (GMLRS) M31A2 Unitary is the Army's primary munition for units fielding the M142 HIMARS and M270A1 Multiple Launcher Rocket System (MLRS) Launchers. The M31 Unitary is a solid propellant artillery rocket that uses Global Positioning System/Precise Positioning Service (GPS/PPS)-aided inertial guidance enabled by SAASM or M-Code to deliver a single high-explosive blast fragmentation warhead accurately and quickly to targets at ranges from 15-70 kilometers. The rockets are fired from a launch pod container that also serves as the storage and transportation container for the rockets. Each rocket pod holds six (6) total rockets.

3. The M30A2 GMLRS Alternative Warhead shares a greater than 90% commonality with the M31A1 Unitary. The primary difference between the GMLRS-U and GMLRS-AW is the replacement of the Unitary's high explosive warhead with a 200-pound fragmentation warhead of pre-formed tungsten penetrators which is optimized for effectiveness against large-area and imprecisely located targets. The munitions otherwise share a common motor, OPS/PPS-aided inertial guidance enabled by SAASM or M-Code, control system, fusing mechanism, multi-option height of burst capability, and effective range of 15-70km.

4. The M57 Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS)—Unitary is a conventional, semi-ballistic missile that utilizes a 500-pound high explosive warhead. It has an effective range of between 70 and 300 kilometers, and has increased lethality and accuracy over previous versions of the ATACMS due to a GPS/Precise Position System (PPS) aided navigation system.

5. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

6. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

7. A determination has been made that Latvia can provide the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

8. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal are authorized for release and export to Latvia.

#### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CARDIN, Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act

requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 23-68, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Japan for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$74.6 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,  
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-68

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Japan.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment\* \$71.6 million.

Other \$3.0 million.

Total \$74.6 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Up to sixty-three (63) Rolling Airframe Missiles (RAM) Block 2B Tactical Missiles, RIM 116E.

Non-MDE: Also included are RAM Guided Missile Round Pack Tri-Pack shipping and storage containers; training equipment; operator manuals and technical documentation; U.S. Government and contractor engineering; technical and logistics support services; support for establishment of an Intermediate Level Maintenance Facility (ILMF); and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (JA-P-AUU).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: JA-P-AUF, JA-P-AUN.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: October 24, 2023.

\*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

## POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Japan—Rolling Airframe Missiles (RAM)  
Block 2B Tactical Missiles

The Government of Japan has requested to buy up to sixty-three (63) Rolling Airframe Missiles (RAM) Block 2B Tactical Missiles, RIM-116E. Also included are RAM Guided Missile Round Pack Tri-Pack shipping and storage containers; training equipment; operator manuals and technical documentation; U.S. Government and contractor engineering; technical and logistic support services; support for establishment of an Intermediate Level Maintenance-Facility (ILMF); and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$74.6 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a major ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in the Indo-Pacific region.

The proposed sale will improve Japan's capability to meet current and future threats by providing significantly enhanced self-defense for surface units defending/transiting/patrolling critical air and sea lines of communication.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Raytheon Missiles and Defense Company, Tucson, AZ. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Japan.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

## TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-68

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

## Annex Item No. vii

## (vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The RIM-116E Rolling Airframe Missile (RAM) is an autonomous, lightweight, supersonic, surface-to-air tactical missile for ship self-defense against current and evolving anti-ship cruise missile threats. Advanced technology in the RIM-116E includes dual-mode (radio frequency/infrared) (RF/IR) guidance with IR all-the-way capability for non-emitting threats.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is CONFIDENTIAL.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that Japan can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Japan.

TRIBUTE TO MICHIGAN'S  
VETERANS

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to salute the people of

Michigan past and present who have served in our Armed Forces and to honor their families.

There are few actions as selfless as serving in our military. When our Nation called, these brave Michiganders stood up. They were willing to be sent anywhere—at any time—in order to protect our Nation, our people, and our values. Some of them never came home. Others came home, but were never quite the same. And many continue to serve their communities long after their military commitment is fulfilled: a U.S. Marine veteran from Holland who walks across the State each year to raise awareness of mental health issues and to highlight organizations that serve veterans; an Air Force veteran in Mid-Michigan who shares her own painful story about trying to fit in to help support other historically excluded veterans; an Upper Peninsula veteran who has spent decades coaching and mentoring young people through youth sports.

These veterans have our backs. It is crucial that we have theirs, too. That is why I was so pleased when President Biden signed the bipartisan PACT Act into law last year. This law helps ensure that veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange, burn pits, and other toxic substances during their service receive the healthcare and benefits they have earned.

One year later, the Department of Veterans Affairs has received more than 780,000 disability claims under the PACT Act and approved more than 348,000. And more than 111,000 veterans have enrolled in VA healthcare, including nearly 10,000 in Michigan. These 10,000 Michigan veterans served honorably and bravely. Sadly, they have paid a price for that service. And just as they were there for us in our Nation's time of need, now we can be with them in theirs.

Whether it is healthcare, education, a chance at a good job, or military recognition, veterans should not stand at the back of the line for anything. That is what my dad—a World War II veteran—taught me, and I have spent my time in public service ensuring that we keep our promises to our veterans. The PACT Act is one more promise kept.

On this Veterans Day and every day, I salute everyone who has served in our military and their families. I thank them for their service, their sacrifice, and their deep dedication to our Nation. Every day, they show us what patriotism is all about.

NATIONAL WILD TURKEY  
FEDERATION

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today, along with my colleague TIM SCOTT of South Carolina, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the National Wild Turkey Federation and to recognize the organization's significant contributions to research, habitat conservation, as well as its promotion and protection of the long-honored outdoor traditions of the United States.

The National Wild Turkey Federation was incorporated on March 28, 1973, with the aim of bringing together State, Federal, and nongovernmental partners to promote the conservation of wild turkeys. Edgefield, SC, is proud to house the organization's national headquarters, and both the State and Nation continue to benefit from their stewardship.

Since 1985, the National Wild Turkey Federation, its members, and chapters have invested more than \$500,000,000 to conserve or enhance more than 22,000,000 acres of critical wildlife habitat, forests, and grasslands, as well as more than \$8,500,000 in research to ensure a healthy wild turkey population. In addition, the organization is a long-standing Stewardship partner with the U.S. Forest Service and is heavily engaged in the development and implementation of the Department of Agriculture's Wildfire Crisis Strategy. These efforts have played a significant role in one of the greatest conservation success stories in the United States: the return of the wild turkey from the brink of extinction.

I ask that you and our colleagues join me in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the National Wild Turkey Federation and wish the organization and its members continued success in fulfilling their mission.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:55 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to H. Res. 810, resolving that a message be sent to the Senate to inform that body that MIKE JOHNSON, a Representative from the State of Louisiana, has been elected Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 3135. A bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for assistance for the situation in Israel for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER  
COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2607. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Import Regulations for Horses" ((RIN0579-AE62) (Docket No. APHIS-2016-0033)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 12, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2608. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense,

transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Privacy Act of 1974; Implementation (CIG-16, Inspector General Administrative Investigation Records (IGAIR))” (RIN0790-AL62) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 16, 2023; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2609. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Limitation on Certain Institutes of Higher Education” (RIN0790-AL41) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 12, 2023; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2610. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to an inventory summary of certain required activities performed during the preceding fiscal year pursuant to staff augmentation contracts for services for on behalf of the Department; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2611. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a certification that the export of the listed items to the People’s Republic of China is not detrimental to the U.S. space launch industry; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2612. A communication from the Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Modernization of Beneficial Ownership Reporting” (RIN3235-AM93) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 16, 2023; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2613. A communication from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting a legislative proposal relative to providing appropriations to carry out agreements related to the Compacts of free Association between the Government of the United States of America and the government of the three freely associated states; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2614. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Dedicated Purpose Pool Pump Motors” (RIN1904-AF27) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 12, 2023; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-2615. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Commercial Water Heating Equipment” (RIN1904-AD34) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 23, 2023; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

#### PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-77. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska urging the United States Secretary of Commerce, the

National Marine Fisheries Service, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and other federal and state agencies to defend the state’s fisheries, including the Southeast Alaska troll fishery; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

#### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5

Whereas commercial fishing is a mainstay of the state’s economy and the largest private sector employer in the state; and

Whereas, in Southeast Alaska alone, the seafood industry directly employed 11,300 workers and provided \$653,000,000 in total economic output in 2019; and

Whereas the troll fleet is one of the largest fleets in the state and the largest fleet in Southeast Alaska, and, in 2019, approximately 1,450 fishers earned income directly from the fishery; and

Whereas state residents comprise 85 percent of the state’s commercial troll permit holders, making it the highest level of local ownership of any major fishery in the state; and

Whereas commercial salmon trolling contributes to the economy of Southeast Alaska year-round, with winter, spring, and summer troll seasons sustaining employment in fishing, seafood processing, and fisheries-related industries; and

Whereas, when accounting for multiplier effects of the fishing, seafood processing, and fisheries-related industries, commercial trolling is one of the three most valuable commercial fisheries in Southeast Alaska and has a total annual economic impact of approximately \$85,000,000, as measured in terms of total output; and

Whereas, as compared to the costs of entry to other state fisheries, the affordability of the troll fishery provides an entry level opportunity for new commercial fishers, and, as a result, there are troll fishery permit holders in nearly all 33 communities in Southeast Alaska, all of which will suffer if the Southeast Alaska chinook troll fishery is closed; and

Whereas the Wild Fish Conservancy filed a lawsuit against the United States Secretary of Commerce and the National Marine Fisheries Service alleging that the Southeast Alaska chinook troll fishery authorized by the National Marine Fisheries Service is contributing to the extinction of an endangered population of southern resident killer whales; and

Whereas only two to three percent of the total Alaska catch is from the Puget Sound chinook salmon and lower Columbia River fall stocks, which constitute the most important stocks for southern resident killer whales, and the Alaska fishery catch is only a small portion of those stocks’ runs; and

Whereas numerous studies have identified habitat loss and industrial activities in Puget Sound as factors negatively affecting southern resident killer whales; and

Whereas, while the population of southern resident killer whales has struggled, most of the northern and Alaska resident killer whale populations have at least doubled over the last 40 years; and

Whereas the Wild Fish Conservancy lawsuit has the potential to result in the closure of the Southeast Alaska troll fishery, despite the improbability of the closure resulting in meaningful benefits to southern resident killer whales; and

Whereas, if successful, the Wild Fish Conservancy lawsuit could affect other state fisheries by rescinding the state’s delegated authority to manage and implement salmon fisheries in state water and in the exclusive economic zone off the shores of the state, requiring changes in the allocation of salmon under the Pacific Salmon Treaty and implementing new restrictions and closures in the state’s fisheries; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the National Marine Fisheries Service to find a way to hold the Southeast Alaska troll fishery harmless and prioritize preparation of the necessary documents and processes to support the continuation of the Southeast Alaska winter and summer troll fisheries while the National Marine Fisheries Service prepares a new biological opinion; and be it

*Resolved*, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to commit the necessary resources to effectively defend the state’s fisheries in present and future lawsuits, including the Wild Fish Conservancy lawsuit; and be it

*Resolved*, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the state to work with the Alaska Congressional delegation to keep the Southeast Alaska troll fishery open should the court adopt the magistrate judge’s recommendation that the troll fishery be closed.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President of the United States; the Honorable Kamala D. Harris, Vice President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Gina Raimondo, United States Secretary of Commerce; the Honorable Richard W. Spinrad, Ph.D., United States Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Administrator; Janet Coit, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; the Honorable Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Mary Peltola, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

POM-78. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska disapproving the proposed rule by the National Park Service limiting non-subsistence hunting methods and urging the National Park Service to withdraw the rule; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

#### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10

Whereas the United States Supreme Court has long interpreted the United States Constitution to provide state primacy in wildlife management; and

Whereas art. VIII, sec. 4, Constitution of the State of Alaska, provides for the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife, including the maintenance of healthy predator populations; and

Whereas federal law recognizes the state’s authority to manage wildlife, including the Alaska Statehood Act and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act; and

Whereas the state has managed wildlife on both state and federal land in Alaska since the United States Department of the Interior granted the state management authority in 1959; and

Whereas the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act established each of the national preserves in the state as National Park Service land that would remain open to hunting and trapping under state management; and

Whereas the National Park Service proposed a rule to amend its regulations for non-subsistence hunting and trapping in national preserves that would prohibit certain hunting practices that have been approved by the Alaska Board of Game following a public process with significant input from biologists, local residents, and other stakeholders; and

Whereas, ignoring the state’s objection, the National Park Service has labeled certain hunting practices as predator control or



predator reduction actions and has prohibited that predator control or predator reduction in national preserves; and

Whereas, as a result, the ability of state residents to hunt bears, wolves, and even caribou is limited, without biological basis and with contrary evidence from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, which shows that those practices do not pose conservation, public safety, or public administration concerns; and

Whereas the proposed National Park Service rule would limit the ability of state residents to engage in traditional hunting practices; and

Whereas the proposed National Park Service rule is contrary to the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act and the Alaska Statehood Act; and

Whereas the proposed National Park Service rule is an overreach of federal authority and would inappropriately limit the state's authority to manage wildlife on national preserves; be it

*Resolved*, That the Alaska State Legislature disapproves of the proposed National Park Service rule; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Alaska State Legislature strongly urges the National Park Service to withdraw the proposed rule without adoption and to affirm the mandates within its 2020 national preserves rule in any new rule that is prepared in response to court order; and be it further

*Resolved*, That this resolution is the policy of the Alaska State Legislature until it is withdrawn or modified by another resolution.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President of the United States; the Honorable Kamala D. Harris, Vice President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Deb Haaland, United States Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Charles F. Sams III, Director, National Park Service; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Mary Peltola, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

POM-79. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska supporting oil and gas leasing and development within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska and urging President Biden and the United States Department of the Interior to approve the Willow Master Development Plan; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

#### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6

Whereas, in 1923, President Warren G. Harding issued an Executive Order establishing Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4 on the North Slope region to provide a potential supply of oil for the United States Navy; and

Whereas 42 U.S.C. 6501 (Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976) redesignated Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4 as the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska and transferred responsibility for its administration to the Secretary of the Interior; and

Whereas the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska encompasses 23,500,000 acres, with boundaries extending south from Icy Cape to the drainage divide of the Brooks Range, then following the divide eastward to 156 degrees west longitude, then north to the Colville River, and following the Colville River downstream to its mouth; and

Whereas the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska falls entirely within the boundary of the North Slope Borough and includes the communities of Anaktuvuk Pass, Atkasuk, Nuiqsut, Utqiagvik, and Wainwright; and

Whereas, in 2017, the United States Geological Survey estimated there to be 8,700,000,000 barrels of recoverable oil and 25,000,000,000 cubic feet of recoverable gas reserves in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska; and

Whereas the 2020 National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan and Environmental Impact Statement estimates potential annual government revenue, including local, state, and federal taxes and royalties, of \$730,000,000 to \$4,750,000,000 from oil and gas development in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska; and

Whereas the 2020 National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan and Environmental Impact Statement estimates that the exploration, development, and production of oil and gas in the reserve could generate 3,600 direct jobs and 2,750 indirect jobs annually over a period of 30 years; and

Whereas the Willow oil and gas prospect, known as the Willow project, is located in the Bear Tooth Unit of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska and would be the farthest-west producing field on the North Slope; and

Whereas the Willow project would tap into reserves of an estimated 600,000,000 barrels of oil and, at peak production, produce 180,000 barrels a day; and

Whereas the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Willow Master Development Plan was developed over multiple years through a rigorous process with significant involvement by and support from local communities and Alaska Native entities and was specifically designed to protect surface values and the Inupiat way of life; and

Whereas, on February 1, 2023, the United States Department of the Interior released its Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Willow project, which demonstrates that the project is legally sufficient and environmentally sound; and

Whereas the Inupiat people are the long-standing stewards of the land on which the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska sits, and take seriously the need for careful and balanced stewardship; and

Whereas the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, the Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope, the North Slope Borough, the Alaska Federation of Natives, the Alaska Native Village Corporation Association, the ANCSA Regional Association, the City of Utqiagvik, the City of Wainwright, the City of Atkasuk, and the Kuukpik Corporation are all united in support of the Willow project; and

Whereas the Willow project has received the support of labor unions and trade groups, including the Alaska Petroleum Joint Crafts Council, the Alaska Support Industry Alliance, the Alaska AFL-CIO, the International Union of Operating Engineers, the Laborers' International Union of North America, the National Association of Manufacturers, the North America's Building Trades Unions, and the Alaska Chamber of Commerce; and

Whereas Representative Mary Peltola, Senator Lisa Murkowski, and Senator Dan Sullivan, the Alaska delegation in Congress, unanimously support approval of the Willow project; and

Whereas state royalties from oil and gas development in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska are allocated to the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Impact Mitigation Fund, which is used to provide the local communities of Anaktuvuk Pass, Atkasuk, Nuiqsut, Wainwright, Utqiagvik, and the North Slope Borough with grants to mitigate impacts related to oil and gas development; and

Whereas oil and gas development in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska would

strengthen national security and provide long-lasting benefits to the national economy by creating thousands of jobs nationwide, generating billions of dollars in government revenue, providing affordable energy to American consumers, and decreasing dependence on foreign energy; and

Whereas resource development in the state has benefited rural communities by bringing family-supporting jobs and wages, increased educational opportunities, safe water and wastewater facilities, and expanded health care services to those communities; and

Whereas, because of resource development, compared with the national average, rural areas of the state experienced greater increases in life expectancy between 1980 and 2014 in locations where resource development activities, including oil and gas development, mining, and fisheries operations, have occurred; and

Whereas safe and responsible oil and gas exploration, development, and production has been demonstrated by over 50 years of activity on the North Slope region without adverse effects on the environment or wildlife populations; and

Whereas the state's leadership in the nation's energy future includes robust support for the development and implementation of renewable energy systems and sources to ensure that cost-effective energy and power are provided to communities and individuals in the state; and

Whereas responsible resource development today equips communities in the state to make investments in technology and infrastructure to support the use of renewable sources of energy and power; and

Whereas the Willow project is an important part of a diverse energy future for the state and the nation; be it

*Resolved*, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, to maximize the area available for oil and gas leasing and development within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska while conserving and protecting valued fish, wildlife, subsistence, and cultural resources; and be it

*Resolved*, That the Alaska State Legislature urges President Biden and the United States Department of the Interior to move forward with final approval of the Willow project by selecting the preferred Alternative E plan, which allows three drill sites, the minimum for the project to remain economically viable; and be it

*Resolved*, That a further delay in approval or construction of the Willow project undermines the values and benefits of the project to the state and its residents and the nation, and is not in the public interest; and be it

*Resolved*, That the Alaska State Legislature urges the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, when considering management activities related to the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, to take into account the long history of safe and responsible oil and gas development on the North Slope region and the enormous benefits that development of oil and gas resources in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska would bring to local communities, tribal governments, the state, and the nation.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President of the United States; the Honorable Kamala D. Harris, Vice President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Deb Haaland, United States Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Tracy Stone-Manning, Director, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior; Steve Cohn, Alaska State Director, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and

the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Mary Peltola, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mrs. MURRAY, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled "Further Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals for Fiscal Year 2024" (Rept. No. 118-108).

### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. CARDIN for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Herro Mustafa Garg, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Nominee: Herro Mustafa Garg.

Post: Ambassador to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount:

1. Self: None.
2. Spouse: Ravneesh Garg: None.

Richard H. Riley IV, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federal Republic of Somalia.

Nominee: Richard H. Riley IV.

Post: Federal Republic of Somalia.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, donee:

- Self: None.  
Spouse: None.

Mark Toner, of Pennsylvania, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Liberia.

Nominee: Mark Christopher Toner.

Post: Liberia.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: None, N/A, N/A.
2. Spouse: \$250, 09/02/2020, Biden Victory Fund.

Jacob J. Lew, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the State of Israel.

Nominee: Jacob J Lew.

Post: Ambassador to Israel.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

Elissa Slotkin for Congress, \$1000, April 2018, Biden for President, \$2800, October 2019, Elissa Slotkin for Congress, \$1000, February 2020, Khazei for Congress, \$1000, February 2020, Biden for President, \$2800, July 2020, Elissa Slotkin for Congress, \$1500, January 2020, Self.

Biden for President, \$2800, July 2020, Biden for President, \$2800, July 2020, Spouse.

David E. White, Jr., of New York, to be Deputy Director of the Peace Corps.

Paul K. Martin, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, United States Agency for International Development.

Mr. CARDIN, Mr. President, for the Committee on Foreign Relations I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Andrew Edlefsen and ending with Christopher Wilken, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 13, 2023.

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Olutayo O. Akingbe and ending with Kathy W. Yao, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 30, 2023.

By Mr. SANDERS for the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

\*Monica M. Bertagnolli, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the National Institutes of Health.

\*Charlotte A. Burrows, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2028.

\*Amanda Wood Laihow, of Maine, to be a Member of Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission for a term expiring April 27, 2029.

\*Erika L. McEntarfer, of the District of Columbia, to be Commissioner of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor, for a term of four years.

\*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

### 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. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. 3121. A bill to amend the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to improve provisions relating to dyslexia, and for other

purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 3122. A bill to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to provide for the denial of certain applications for solar or wind energy development projects right-of-way applications; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. KING):

S. 3123. A bill to provide for the standardization, consolidation, and publication of data relating to public outdoor recreational use of Federal waterways among Federal land and water management agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 3124. A bill to expand and improve the Legal Assistance for Victims Grant Program to ensure legal assistance is provided for survivors in proceedings related to domestic violence and sexual assault, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 3125. A bill to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 3126. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish or replace a headstone, marker, or medallion for the grave of an eligible Medal of Honor recipient regardless of the recipient's dates of service in the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3127. A bill to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to reduce the production and use of certain single-use plastic products and packaging, to improve the responsibility of producers in the design, collection, reuse, recycling, and disposal of consumer products and packaging, to prevent pollution from consumer products and packaging from entering into animal and human food chains and waterways, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 3128. A bill to streamline the reporting of violations against immigrant children in Federal custody, to provide protections for unaccompanied immigrant children, and to ensure safe release to sponsors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 3129. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to reauthorize the farm to school program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. THUNE, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 3130. A bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to improve the recruitment and retention of employees in the Indian Health Service, restore accountability in the Indian Health Service, improve health services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. CARPER):

S. 3131. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to expand and clarify the exclusion for orphan drugs under the Drug Price Negotiation Program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 3132. A bill to require regular reporting to Congress on individuals encountered along a border of the United States or a port of entry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 3133. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to authorize the Reentry Employment Opportunities Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 3134. A bill to amend the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area Act to adjust the boundary of the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area, to amend the Apex Project, Nevada Land Transfer and Authorization Act of 1989 to include the city of North Las Vegas, Nevada, and the Apex Industrial Park Owners Association, to clarify the authority of the Department of Defense to conduct certain military activities at the Nevada Test and Training Range, to designate the Southern Paiute Wilderness in the State of Nevada, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. VANCE, Mr. LEE, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 3135. A bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for assistance for the situation in Israel for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; read the first time.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. KING, Mr. MURPHY, and Ms. WARREN):

S. Res. 427. A resolution calling on Congress, schools, and State and local educational agencies to recognize the significant educational implications of dyslexia that must be addressed, and designating October 2023 as "National Dyslexia Awareness Month"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Mr. RICKETTS):

S. Res. 428. A resolution recognizing women's collegiate athletics and the record-setting Volleyball Day in Nebraska event on August 30, 2023; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. Res. 429. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate in support of the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) nuclear security role; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. KING):

S. Res. 430. A resolution designating October 20, 2023, as "National Early Childhood Literacy Awareness Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. RISCH, Ms. HIRONO, Ms.

COLLINS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. KELLY, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. COONS, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. BRITT, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BUDD, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. WARNER, Mr. FETTERMAN, and Ms. BUTLER):

S. Res. 431. A resolution recognizing the month of October 2023 as "National Women's Small Business Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. FETTERMAN):

S. Res. 432. A resolution recognizing the fifth commemoration of the antisemitic attack that occurred on October 27, 2018, at a synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; considered and agreed to.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 26

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 26, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the amendments made to reporting of third party network transactions by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

S. 135

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor 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. 348

At the request of Mrs. BRITT, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 348, a bill to require asylum officers at the United States embassies and consulates to conduct credible fear screenings before aliens seeking asylum may be permitted to enter the United States to apply for asylum, and for other purposes.

S. 509

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 509, a bill to provide resources for United States nationals unlawfully or wrongfully detained abroad, and for other purposes.

S. 557

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 557, a bill to prohibit certain practices relating to certain com-

modity promotion programs, to require greater transparency by those programs, and for other purposes.

S. 653

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 653, a bill to lift the trade embargo to Cuba.

S. 838

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 838, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to mental health services under the Medicare program.

S. 1258

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1258, a bill to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to submit to Congress an annual report on projects that are over budget and behind schedule, and for other purposes.

S. 1332

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1332, a bill to require the Office of Management and Budget to revise the Standard Occupational Classification system to establish a separate code for direct support professionals, and for other purposes.

S. 1351

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1351, a bill to study and prevent child abuse in youth residential programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1384

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 1384, a bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors.

S. 1426

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1426, a bill to improve the identification and support of children and families who experience trauma.

S. 1544

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1544, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure equitable payment for, and preserve Medicare beneficiary access to, diagnostic radiopharmaceuticals under the Medicare hospital outpatient prospective payment system.

S. 1613

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1613, a bill to amend the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 to reauthorize the feral swine eradication and control pilot program, and for other purposes.

S. 1753

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1753, a bill to amend the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 to allow individuals with drug offenses to receive benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes.

S. 1761

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1761, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the exception for de minimis payments by third party settlement organizations.

S. 1963

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1963, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to ensure College for All.

S. 2460

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2460, a bill to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to clarify the availability and appropriateness of training for local food service personnel, and for other purposes.

S. 2598

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2598, a bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to modify whole farm revenue protection, and for other purposes.

S. 2874

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2874, a bill to provide fresh produce to individuals facing food and nutrition insecurity, and for other purposes.

S. 2926

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2926, a bill to prohibit the importation, sale, manufacture, transfer, or possession of .50 caliber rifles, and for other purposes.

S. 3049

At the request of Mr. MORAN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3049, a bill to freeze \$6,000,000,000 of Iranian funds held in Qatar, and for other purposes.

S. 3078

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 3078, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prohibit institutions of higher education that authorize Anti-Semitic events on campus from participating in the student loan and grant programs under title IV of such Act.

S. 3105

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3105, a bill to address and take action to prevent bullying and harassment of students.

S. CON. RES. 22

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 22, a concurrent resolution expressing support for the Geneva Consensus Declaration on Promoting Women's Health and Strengthening the Family and urging that the United States rejoin this historic declaration.

S. RES. 380

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 380, a resolution designating the week of October 1, 2023, through October 7, 2023, as "Religious Education Week" to celebrate religious education in the United States.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 3125. A bill to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, I rise to join my colleague, the senior Senator from Illinois and chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Senator DURBIN, in introducing the Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act of 2023. This bill would update and reauthorize Runaway and Homeless Youth Act programs, which have provided lifesaving services and housing for America's homeless youth for nearly half a century.

Homelessness is affecting youth in truly staggering numbers. According to the National Network for Youth, an estimated 4.2 million young people experience homelessness at some point each year. Some of these youth may be away from home for a few nights, while others have been living on the streets for years. No area of this country is immune from the scourge of homelessness, as it affects rural and urban communities alike.

Tragically, runaway and homeless youth are at high risk of victimization, abuse, criminal activity, and even death. This population is at greater risk of suicide, unintended pregnancy, and substance abuse. Many are unable to continue with school and are more

likely to enter our juvenile criminal justice system. The reality is that available data likely underestimate the scale and consequences of this problem.

I have met with teachers, social workers, and others from Maine who work directly with young people experiencing homelessness, and I have talked with homeless teens to learn from their experiences. We talked about the pressure that student homelessness places on teachers, school administrators and their already strapped resources, and—most important—the homeless students themselves. I have also visited New Beginnings in Lewiston, ME, where I saw firsthand how Runaway and Homeless Youth Act resources are providing essential safety nets for young people in need. The staff at New Beginnings provides a safe place, helps young people with case management, facilitates referrals to State and local agencies, assists with housing needs and access to shelter, and connects individuals to local educational and employment programs.

Several years ago, as the chair of the Senate Transportation and Housing Appropriations Subcommittee, I held a hearing that featured testimony from Brittany Dixon, a former homeless youth from Auburn, ME who gave powerful testimony on her personal experience with homelessness. After becoming homeless, Brittany was connected with New Beginnings. In her testimony, she said, "New Beginnings provided many resources I could use to succeed, including assistance with college applications and financial aid . . . New Beginnings has helped me to develop critical life skills and to become self-sufficient . . . Programs that support homeless youth are important to so many young people like me," she added. "It gives young people the chance to have a safe place to stay while they get their footing and figure out what they want to do in their lives."

Runaway and Homeless Youth Act programs helped make Brittany's success story possible. Sadly, however, there are still many homeless youth who do not have the support they need. We must build on our past efforts because homeless youth should have the same opportunities to succeed as their peers.

The three existing Runaway and Homeless Youth Act programs—the Basic Center Program, the Street Outreach Program, and the Transitional Living Program—help community-based organizations reach young people when they need support the most. These programs help runaway and homeless youth avoid the juvenile justice system, and early intervention can help them escape victimization and trafficking.

The Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act would reauthorize and strengthen these programs that help homeless youth meet

their immediate needs, and it would help secure long-term residential services for those who cannot be safely reunited with their families. Our legislation would also create a new program—the Prevention Services Program—designed to help prevent youth from becoming homeless in the first instance. Moreover, our bill supports wraparound services for victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation.

The Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act will support those young people who run away, are forced out of their homes, or are disconnected from their families. A caring and safe place to sleep, eat, grow, study, and develop is critical for all young people. The programs reauthorized and modernized through this legislation help extend those basic services to the most vulnerable youth in our communities.

I thank Senator DURBIN for his leadership on this bill and urge my colleagues to support it.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 3128. A bill to streamline the reporting of violations against immigrant children in Federal custody, to provide protections for unaccompanied immigrant children, and to ensure safe release to sponsors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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. 3128

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

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Unaccompanied Children Act”.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

**TITLE I—STREAMLINING REPORTING OF VIOLATIONS AGAINST IMMIGRANT CHILDREN IN FEDERAL CUSTODY**

Sec. 101. Definitions.

Sec. 102. Office of the Ombudsperson for Immigrant Children in Federal Custody.

Sec. 103. Data collection.

Sec. 104. Expert advisory committee.

Sec. 105. Coordination with Department of Homeland Security.

Sec. 106. Rule of construction.

**TITLE II—PROTECTIONS FOR IMMIGRANT CHILDREN**

Subtitle A—Unaccompanied Alien Children in Immigration Proceedings

Sec. 201. Legal representation in removal proceedings.

Sec. 202. Motions to reopen.

Subtitle B—Access to Services

Sec. 211. Clarification of unaccompanied child determination procedures.

Sec. 212. Improving access to post-release services.

Sec. 213. State-level coordinators for unaccompanied children’s services.

Sec. 214. Assistance for children and families separated under zero tolerance.

Subtitle C—Facilities Housing Unaccompanied Alien Children

Sec. 221. Technical assistance for community-based care providers.

Sec. 222. Standards and compliance.

Subtitle D—Child Welfare at the Border and Prevention of Family Separation

Sec. 231. Child welfare training at the border.

Sec. 232. Preventing family separation of unaccompanied children.

**TITLE III—ENSURING SAFE RELEASE TO SPONSORS**

Sec. 301. Ensuring safe release to sponsors who are not parents or legal guardians.

Sec. 302. Expansion and evaluation of home studies.

Sec. 303. Requirements for child and sponsor case management system.

**TITLE IV—PROTECTIONS AND ACCESS TO CERTAIN SERVICES FOR SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILES AND OTHER VULNERABLE IMMIGRANTS**

Sec. 401. Eliminating annual employment-based visa caps for special immigrant juveniles.

Sec. 402. Elimination of annual numerical limitation on U visas.

Sec. 403. Access to Medicaid for certain children granted status.

**TITLE V—STOPPING CHILD LABOR TRAFFICKING**

Sec. 501. Victims of serious labor and employment violations or crime.

Sec. 502. Labor enforcement actions.

**TITLE VI—GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Sec. 601. Authorization of appropriations.

Sec. 602. Supplemental appropriation.

**TITLE I—STREAMLINING REPORTING OF VIOLATIONS AGAINST IMMIGRANT CHILDREN IN FEDERAL CUSTODY**

**SEC. 101. DEFINITIONS.**

In this title:

(1) **COMMITTEE.**—The term “Committee” means the expert advisory committee established under section 104(a).

(2) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” means the Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement.

(3) **FACILITY.**—The term “facility”—

(A) means a location at which 1 or more immigrant children are detained by the Government or held in Government custody; and  
(B) includes—

(i) an Office of Refugee Resettlement facility; and

(ii) a Department of Homeland Security facility, including—

(I) a U.S. Customs and Border Protection temporary holding facility and transportation contractor;

(II) a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement family detention facility;

(III) a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement juvenile facility;

(IV) a location operated by a private entity, including a hotel room; and

(V) any other location at which the Department of Homeland Security detains or holds in custody an immigrant child.

(4) **FLORES SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.**—The term “Flores settlement agreement” means the stipulated settlement agreement filed in the United States District Court for the Central District of California on January 17, 1997 (CV 85-4544-RJK).

(5) **IMMIGRANT CHILD.**—The term “immigrant child” means an alien (as defined in section 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)) under the age of 18 years.

(6) **IN-NETWORK FACILITY.**—The term “in-network facility” means a facility operated by an Office of Refugee Resettlement grantee, subgrantee, contractor, or subcontractor.

(7) **OFFICE OF REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT FACILITY.**—The term “Office of Refugee Resettlement facility”—

(A) means—

(i) a shelter operated by an Office of Refugee Resettlement grantee, subgrantee, contractor, or subcontractor to hold immigrant children;

(ii) a staff secure facility, a secure care facility, a residential treatment center, transitional foster care housing, or long-term foster care so operated; or

(iii) any other location operated by the Office of Refugee Resettlement to hold immigrant children; and

(B) includes an in-network facility and an out-of-network facility.

(8) **OMBUDSPERSON.**—The term “Ombudsperson” means the ombudsperson appointed under section 102(c).

(9) **OUT-OF-NETWORK FACILITY.**—The term “out-of-network facility” means a facility at which an immigrant child is placed as a result of an Office of Refugee Resettlement determination that there is no care provider available among in-network facilities to provide specialized services required by the immigrant child, such as medical or mental health support.

(10) **UNOBSTRUCTED ACCESS.**—The term “unobstructed access” means—

(A) with respect to a facility, the ability to enter the facility, including unannounced, to tour and physically visit all areas of the facility; and

(B) with respect to information, the ability to obtain requested information in a timely manner and with the full cooperation of the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Homeland Security, as applicable.

(11) **WORKING GROUP.**—The term “Working Group” means the interagency working group established under section 105(b).

**SEC. 102. OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSPERSON FOR IMMIGRANT CHILDREN IN FEDERAL CUSTODY.**

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established, within the Department of Health and Human Services, an Office of the Ombudsperson for Immigrant Children in Federal Custody (referred to in this section as the “Office of the Ombudsperson”)—

(1) to endorse and support the principle that family separation and detention are generally not in a child’s best interest; and

(2) in cases in which Federal detention or custody is required—

(A) to ensure that immigrant children are only detained or held in custody by the Federal Government in the least restrictive setting;

(B) to advocate for the quick, safe, and efficient release of immigrant children from Federal detention or custody whenever possible; and

(C) in any case in which an immigrant child is held in Department of Homeland Security custody together with his or her family unit, to advocate for the release of the child and concurrent release of the parent or legal guardian of the child.

(b) **INDEPENDENCE.**—The Office of the Ombudsperson shall be—

(1) an impartial, confidential resource to ensure the best interest of children in Federal custody; and

(2) fully independent of—

(A) the Office of Refugee Resettlement of the Department of Health and Human Services; and

(B) the Department of Homeland Security.

(C) OMBUDSPERSON.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Office of the Ombudsman shall be headed by an Ombudsman, who shall be appointed by, and report directly to, the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The individual appointed as Ombudsman shall have demonstrated experience in—

(A) immigration law; and

(B) child advocacy or child welfare.

(3) DUTIES AND AUTHORITIES.—

(A) MONITORING.—On a regular basis, the Ombudsman shall monitor facilities, including licensed facilities that are not licensed by a State, for compliance with all applicable laws, policies, and standards, including—

(i) the Flores settlement agreement;

(ii) section 235 of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232);

(iii) the applicable provisions of the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (34 U.S.C. 30301 et seq.);

(iv) applicable policies of U.S. Customs and Border Protection relating to the standard of care for individuals in Federal custody; and

(v) Office of Refugee Resettlement policies relating to the care and custody of unaccompanied alien children.

(B) INVESTIGATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Ombudsman shall investigate—

(I) claims of abuse, neglect, or mistreatment of immigrant children, by the Government or any other entity, while in Government custody;

(II) complaints against foster care providers, including foster care providers under State oversight; and

(III) potential violations of related laws and standards.

(2) REPORTING OF STATE LICENSING VIOLATIONS.—If, in the course of an investigation under clause (1)(II), the Ombudsman discovers a State licensing violation, the Ombudsman shall report the violation to the child welfare licensing agency of the applicable State.

(3) VIOLATIONS IN UNLICENSED FACILITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Ombudsman shall monitor any potential violation of law, policy, or standard in a facility that is not licensed by a State on a regular basis.

(2) REPORT.—If, in the course of monitoring a facility described under subclause (1), the Ombudsman determines that a violation of law, policy, or standard has occurred, not later than 30 days after making such determination, the Ombudsman shall report the violation to the Secretary of Health and Human Services for further action.

(C) STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS.—Not less frequently than quarterly, the Ombudsman shall invite community stakeholders, Flores settlement agreement class counsel, and, as applicable, the Flores settlement agreement court-appointed monitor to participate in a meeting—

(i) to ensure that the Ombudsman is aware of stakeholder concerns and priorities; and

(ii) to provide feedback on stakeholder requests.

(D) INDIVIDUAL CASE ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Ombudsman may offer individual case assistance to an immigrant child who is in Government custody if the case of the immigrant child is long-pending or otherwise requires expedited processing or elevated attention, as determined by the Ombudsman.

(2) COMMUNICATION.—To ensure a complete understanding of the status of a case described in clause (1), the Ombudsman may communicate with—

(I) the immigrant child concerned;

(II) the family members and potential sponsor of such child; and

(III) the child advocate, legal counsel, Office of Refugee Resettlement case manager and Federal field specialist, and any other relevant individual charged with care provision, case management, or case coordination of the immigrant child concerned.

(E) SUBPOENA AUTHORITY.—Subject to the approval of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Ombudsman may—

(i) issue a subpoena to require the production of all information, reports, and other documentary evidence necessary to carry out the duties of the Ombudsman; and

(ii) invoke the aid of any appropriate court of the United States.

(F) REPORTING MECHANISMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Ombudsman shall establish and maintain—

(I) a toll-free telephone number to receive complaints and reports of matters for investigation; and

(II) an email address to receive such complaints and reports.

(2) AVAILABILITY.—The Ombudsman shall ensure that—

(I) in each facility—

(aa) such telephone number is made available in a prominent, visible, and public location in a common area of the facility; and

(bb) a telephone is accessible to each immigrant child;

(II) such email address is made available to sponsors, Flores settlement agreement class counsel, legal services providers and child advocates who serve such immigrant children, and state-level coordinators appointed under paragraph (7) of section 235(c) of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232(c)), as added by section 213; and

(III) in each facility, such telephone number and email address are made available, in a prominent, visible, and public location in a common area of the facility, to all individuals employed, contracted, or otherwise tasked with the care and custody of children by the Secretary of Health and Human Services so that such individuals may report—

(aa) any potential violation of law, policy, or standard relating to immigrant children in Federal custody; or

(bb) any other claim of abuse, neglect, or mistreatment of immigrant children.

(3) REVIEW AND EVALUATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 2 years thereafter, the Ombudsman shall complete a review of the reporting mechanisms under this subparagraph to evaluate whether such mechanisms are sufficient to ensure the oversight and monitoring required by this title.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after the completion of each review required by subclause (1), the Ombudsman shall submit to Congress a report on the results of the review that includes, in the case of a determination that such mechanisms are insufficient, recommendations for their improvement.

(G) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30 each year, the Ombudsman shall submit to Congress a report on the accomplishments and challenges of the Office of the Ombudsman during the fiscal year ending on that date.

(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report required by clause (1) shall include, for the applicable fiscal year, the following:

(I) A summary of the status of immigrant children in Federal Government custody that highlights broader trends and recommendations for future action.

(II) Statistical information on immigrant children in Federal Government custody, together with an analysis of such information.

(III) A summary of complaints received and proposed resolutions.

(IV) A description of the investigations into claims of abuse, neglect, or mistreatment of immigrant children in Federal Government custody, including a summary of the results of such investigations.

(V) Any attempt by the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, or any entity to which the authority of the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Secretary of Health and Human Services is delegated, to interfere with the independence of the Office of the Ombudsman.

(VI) A description of the objectives of the Office of the Ombudsman for the next fiscal year.

(H) ADDITIONAL DUTIES.—The Ombudsman shall—

(1) conduct a review of data collection, as described in section 103(a);

(2) establish the Committee, as described in section 104; and

(3) enter into a memorandum of understanding, as described in section 105(a).

(I) ACCESS TO FACILITIES.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure—

(1) unobstructed access by the Ombudsman to any facility; and

(2) the ability of the Ombudsman—

(A) to monitor any facility; and

(B) to meet confidentially with—

(i) staff of any facility;

(ii) employees, grantees, contractors of the Office of Refugee Resettlement and the Department of Homeland Security; and

(iii) any immigrant child in Federal Government custody, after notification of the immigrant child's counsel, as applicable.

(J) ACCESS TO INFORMATION.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall ensure unobstructed access by the Ombudsman to—

(1) the case files, records, reports, audits, documents, papers, recommendations, or any other pertinent information relating to the care and custody of an immigrant child; and

(2) the written policies and procedures of all Office of Refugee Resettlement facilities.

(K) REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Ombudsman may request from the Secretary of Health and Human Services or the Secretary of Homeland Security, or any entity to which the authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services or the Secretary of Homeland Security has been delegated, any information or assistance required to carry out this title. Information and assistance requested pursuant to this paragraph shall be provided to the Ombudsman in a timely manner.

(2) UNREASONABLE REFUSAL.—If upon request for information by the Ombudsman, an entity or agency described in paragraph (1) unreasonably refuses to provide, or otherwise does not provide, as determined by the Ombudsman, such information or assistance requested by the Ombudsman, the Ombudsman shall, without delay—

(A) in the case of an unreasonable refusal by the Department of Health and Human Services, report to the Secretary of Health and Human Services the circumstances of such refusal;

(B) in the case of an unreasonable refusal by the Department of Homeland Security, report to the Secretary of Homeland Security the circumstances of such refusal; or

(C) in the case of an unreasonable refusal by the Secretary of Health and Human Services or the Secretary of Homeland Security, report on the circumstances of such refusal to—

(i) the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

(ii) the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives.

#### SEC. 103. DATA COLLECTION.

(a) INDEPENDENT REVIEW BY OMBUDSPERSON.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Ombudsperson shall regularly review data collected by the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Homeland Security relating to immigrant children in facilities.

(2) COLLABORATION REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide the Ombudsperson unobstructed access to—

(A) real-time custody and detention data for each immigrant child detained by the Government or held in Government custody, including—

(i) the location and level of placement;

(ii) biographical information, including full name, date of birth, country of citizenship, and alien number;

(iii) all locations at which the immigrant child has been detained or held in custody;

(iv) the dates and times the immigrant child is booked in and booked out of any facility;

(v) transfer and discharge information; and

(vi) whether the child—

(I) has an attorney of record; and

(II) has been appointed an independent child advocate under section 235(c)(6) of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232(c)(6)); and

(B) Department of Homeland Security and Department of Health and Human Services data personnel for the purpose of reviewing data collection and integrity issues.

(b) OFFICE OF REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT DATA COLLECTION SYSTEM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To support the data collection and monitoring duties of the Ombudsperson and to facilitate public monitoring, the Director shall develop a data collection system that collects and maintains the following information:

(A) The total number of immigrant children held in custody by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(B) The average and median number of days immigrant children remain in such custody.

(C) The average and median number of days immigrant children stay in an Office of Refugee Resettlement facility.

(D) The number of immigrant children discharged to sponsors, disaggregated by sponsor category, placement level, specific Office of Refugee Resettlement facility.

(E) The sponsor categories of immigrant children held at each Office of Refugee Resettlement facility, disaggregated by placement level.

(F) The number and percentage of immigrant children held in an Office of Refugee Resettlement facility with more than 25 immigrant children, disaggregated by placement level.

(G) The percentage of filled capacity across all Office of Refugee Resettlement facilities.

(H) The total number of children held at out-of-network facilities, disaggregated by placement level.

(I) For each Office of Refugee Resettlement facility—

(i) the percentage of filled capacity;

(ii) the maximum number of available beds;

(iii) the number and percentage of immigrant children with disabilities, disaggregated by placement level;

(iv) the number and percentage of immigrant children receiving mandatory home studies, discretionary home studies, and post-release services, disaggregated by placement level; and

(v) the number and percentage of immigrant children on a waitlist to receive post-release services.

(2) ACCESSIBILITY.—All information collected and maintained by the data collection system required by paragraph (1)—

(A) searchable; and

(B) disaggregated by country of citizenship, race, gender, primary language, age, and, as applicable, ethnicity.

(3) PUBLICATION.—Not later than the 15th of each month, the Director shall make the data collected under paragraph (1) for the preceding month available to the Ombudsperson.

(c) PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN USES OF INFORMATION.—Information collected under this section may not be used for immigration enforcement or law enforcement purposes.

(d) PRIVACY PROTECTIONS.—Any record collected, stored, received, or published under this section shall be—

(1) collected, stored, received, or published in a manner that protects the privacy of any individual whose information is included in such data;

(2) de-identified or anonymized in a manner that protects the identity of any individual whose information is included in such data; and

(3)(A) limited in use for the purpose of carrying out the duties of the Office of the Ombudsperson; and

(B) protected from any other—

(i) internal use by any entity that collects, stores, or receives the record; or

(ii) inappropriate use.

#### SEC. 104. EXPERT ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Ombudsperson shall establish an expert advisory committee to assist the Ombudsperson in—

(1) identifying relevant trends relating to immigrant children in Government custody;

(2) conducting fact-finding missions and investigations of facilities; and

(3) ensuring Government and private contractor compliance with applicable law and standards for facilities.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The members of the Committee shall—

(1) be appointed by the Ombudsperson;

(2) represent various geographical regions; and

(3) be comprised of subject matter experts, including—

(A) legal advocates or specialists in the fields of child and family welfare, immigration, and human rights;

(B) pediatricians or other appropriate pediatric health care experts;

(C) child or adolescent psychiatrists or psychologists;

(D) social workers;

(E) data analysis experts; and

(F) any other relevant subject matter expert.

(c) MEETINGS.—The Committee shall meet not less frequently than quarterly.

(d) DUTIES.—The Committee shall regularly—

(1) review facility compliance with applicable law and standards relating to Government detention and custody of immigrant children, including the Flores settlement agreement and section 235 of the William

Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232); and

(2) submit to the Ombudsperson recommendations for improvement.

(e) SITE VISITS.—The Committee may designate 1 or more individuals who shall have the authority—

(1) to carry out facility site visits; and

(2) interview immigrant children held in Government custody, after notification of counsel, as applicable.

#### SEC. 105. COORDINATION WITH DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

(a) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—On the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Ombudsperson shall enter into a memorandum of understanding to coordinate oversight between the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Health and Human Services.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The memorandum of understanding required by paragraph (1) shall do the following:

(A) Require the Secretary of Homeland Security to provide information to the Ombudsperson with respect to each immigrant child detained by U.S. Customs and Border Protection or U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or who is otherwise in the custody of the Secretary of Homeland Security, including—

(i) the location of the immigrant child;

(ii) biographical information, including full name, date of birth, country of citizenship, race, and alien number;

(iii) all locations at which the immigrant child has been so detained or held in Department of Homeland Security custody;

(iv) exact times at which the immigrant child was booked in and booked out of such custody;

(v) the date on which the immigrant child is released from such custody or transferred to the custody of the Secretary of Health and Human Services;

(vi) in the case of an immigrant child who remains in Department of Homeland Security custody for more than 72 hours, the reason for such continued custody; and

(vii) any other information the Ombudsperson considers relevant to the oversight and monitoring duties described in section 102(c)(3).

(B) Establish the right of the Ombudsperson and the Committee to monitor Department of Homeland Security facilities for compliance with applicable standards of custody.

(C) Provide the Ombudsperson and the Committee full and unobstructed access to—

(i) Department of Homeland Security facilities for regular site visits; and

(ii) the written policies and procedures of Department of Homeland Security facilities.

(3) LIMITATION.—The memorandum of understanding may only allow the Ombudsperson to share information with the Secretary of Homeland Security on a case-by-case basis, and with the informed consent of the immigrant child concerned (unless the Ombudsperson determines that the child lacks the capacity to consent), if the Ombudsperson determines that the disclosure of the information to the Secretary of Health and Human Services will advance the best interests of the immigrant child, including by facilitating the release of the immigrant child from custody.

(4) EVALUATION.—Not later than 2 years after the Ombudsperson and the Secretary of Homeland Security enter into the memorandum of understanding required by this subsection, the Comptroller General of the

United States shall evaluate the coordination between the Ombudsperson and the Secretary to determine whether such memorandum of understanding is sufficient to ensure the oversight and monitoring required by this title.

(5) **RECOMMENDATIONS.**—If the Comptroller General makes a determination under paragraph (4) that the memorandum of understanding is insufficient, the Comptroller General shall recommend actionable steps to be implemented—

(A) to improve coordination between the Ombudsperson and the Secretary of Homeland Security; and

(B) to ensure effectiveness of the mandate of the Ombudsperson.

(b) **INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established an interagency working group to identify and discuss concerns relating to immigrant children in facilities.

(2) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Working Group shall be composed of representatives of—

(A) the Department of Justice;

(B) the Department of Health and Human Services, including the Director or a senior representative of the Office of Refugee Resettlement;

(C) U.S. Customs and Border Protection;

(D) U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement;

(E) relevant oversight offices, including—

(i) the Immigration Detention Ombudsman of the Department of Homeland Security; and

(ii) the Inspectors General of the Department of Justice, the Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; and

(F) any other relevant Federal agency or office.

(3) **MEETINGS.**—The Working Group shall—

(A) hold meetings not less frequently than quarterly;

(B) invite representatives of nongovernmental organizations that provide services to immigrant children to participate in such meetings as the Ombudsperson considers appropriate; and

(C) provide to the Ombudsperson a summary of each such meeting.

#### **SEC. 106. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

Nothing in the title shall be construed to preclude or limit Flores settlement agreement class counsel from conducting independent investigations or seeking enforcement actions relating to violations of the Flores settlement agreement in any appropriate district court of the United States.

### **TITLE II—PROTECTIONS FOR IMMIGRANT CHILDREN**

#### **Subtitle A—Unaccompanied Alien Children in Immigration Proceedings**

#### **SEC. 201. LEGAL REPRESENTATION IN REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 235 of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (8 U.S.C. 1232) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(5)(D)(iii), by striking “access to” and inserting “representation by”; and

(2) in subsection (c), by amending paragraph (5) to read as follows:

“(5) **LEGAL REPRESENTATION.**—

“(A) **APPOINTMENT OR PROVISION OF COUNSEL.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—As expeditiously as possible after an unaccompanied alien child is issued a notice to appear under section 239(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229(a)), the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall appoint or provide counsel to represent the child in removal proceedings under section 240 of the Immi-

gration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229a), related matters before the Department of Homeland Security, and in any appeal proceeding before the Attorney General from any such removal proceeding. Counsel shall be provided under this subparagraph at Government expense unless a child has retained counsel authorized to represent the child in such proceedings.

“(ii) **IMMIGRATION FILE.**—Each unaccompanied alien child, and the counsel of such a child, shall receive a complete copy of the child’s immigration file (other than documents protected from disclosure under section 552(b) of title 5, United States Code).

“(B) **ROLE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.**—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall—

“(i) to the maximum extent practicable, make every effort to use the services of competent counsel who agree to provide representation to children described in subparagraph (A)(i) without charge;

“(ii) in the case of an unaccompanied alien child who retained counsel at his or her own expense but whose counsel has ceased to represent the child, ensure the continued representation of the child through the pendency of removal proceedings and any appeal proceeding before the Attorney General from any such removal proceeding by appointing or providing new counsel as expeditiously as possible;

“(iii) in consultation with the Attorney General, develop model guidelines for representing children in immigration proceedings for the purposes of—

“(I) helping to protect children from individuals suspected of involvement in criminal, harmful, or exploitative activities associated with the smuggling or trafficking of children; and

“(II) ensuring the fairness of removal proceedings in which children are involved; and

“(iv) as necessary and appropriate, enter into contracts or award grants for the provision of immigration-related legal services to children.

“(C) **ROLE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.**—The Attorney General shall ensure that all immigration courts before which unaccompanied alien children appear contain specialized children’s dockets. Such dockets shall contain child-appropriate procedures that advance due process in unaccompanied alien children’s proceedings. Immigration judges assigned to specialized children’s dockets shall have received specialized training in such procedures. Such procedures shall include processes for coordinating with legal services organizations to facilitate legal representation of unaccompanied alien children.”.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) Section 462(b)(1)(A) of Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(b)(1)(A)) is amended by striking “, consistent with the law regarding appointment of counsel that is in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act”.

(2) Section 292 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1362) is amended by inserting “, except as provided in section 235(c)(5) of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (8 U.S.C. 1232(c)(5))” after “at no expense to the Government”.

#### **SEC. 202. MOTIONS TO REOPEN.**

Section 240(c)(7)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229a(c)(7)(C)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(v) **SPECIAL RULE FOR UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN ENTITLED TO APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL.**—If the Secretary of Health and Human Services fails to appoint or provide counsel for an unaccompanied alien child (as defined in 462(g)(2) of Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g)(2)))—

“(I) the limitations under this paragraph with respect to the filing of a motion to reopen by such child shall not apply; and

“(II) the filing of such a motion shall stay the removal of the child.”.

#### **Subtitle B—Access to Services**

#### **SEC. 211. CLARIFICATION OF UNACCOMPANIED CHILD DETERMINATION PROCEDURES.**

(a) **ELIGIBILITY FOR SERVICES REGARDLESS OF CUSTODIAL STATUS.**—Section 235(c)(1) of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (8 U.S.C. 1232(c)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following: “Such policies and programs shall be available to unaccompanied alien children regardless of whether they are or have ever been in Federal custody.”.

(b) **SCREENINGS OF CHILDREN FROM CONTIGUOUS COUNTRIES CONDUCTED BY ASYLUM OFFICERS.**—Section 235(a) of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (8 U.S.C. 1232(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “the Secretary of Homeland Security” and inserting “an asylum officer (as defined in section 235(b)(1)(E) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1225(b)(1)(E)))”; and

(2) in paragraph (4) by inserting “by an asylum officer” after “the child shall be screened”.

(c) **ANALYSIS OF EFFICACY OF CURRENT LAW.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the head of any other Federal agency the Secretary of Homeland Security considers appropriate, and child welfare advocates, shall complete an analysis of the efficacy of the law, including regulations, relating to unaccompanied alien children from contiguous countries (in effect as of the date on which the analysis is completed), including the efficacy of such laws in providing access to protection for victims of trafficking and children fleeing persecution.

(2) **REPORT.**—Not later than 60 days after the date on which each analysis required by paragraph (1) is completed, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report on the results of the analysis.

(3) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.**—Not later than 180 days after the date on which each report is submitted under paragraph (2), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall make the report available to the public on an internet website of the Department of Homeland Security.

#### **SEC. 212. IMPROVING ACCESS TO POST-RELEASE SERVICES.**

Section 235(c)(3)(B) of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (8 U.S.C. 1232(c)(3)(B)) is amended—

(1) by adding at the end the following: “Follow-up services under this clause shall commence not later than the date that is 30 days after the date on which the child concerned is released from the custody of the Secretary of Health and Human Services.”;

(2) in the first sentence, by striking “Before” and inserting the following:

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Before”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) **ACCESS TO POST-RELEASE SERVICES.**—

“(I) **HOME VISITS.**—Not later than 90 days after the date on which a child is released from the custody of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary shall ensure that the child receives an in-person



home visit to determine the well-being of the child and to assess the suitability and safety of the home in which the child was placed if—

“(aa) except as described in item (bb), a sponsor has agreed to receive such services; or

“(bb) the child, based on all available objective evidence—

“(AA) has been or is at risk of becoming a victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons;

“(BB) is a special needs child with a disability (as defined in section 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102));

“(CC) has been or is at risk of becoming a victim of physical or sexual abuse under circumstances that indicate that the child’s health or welfare has been or would be significantly harmed or threatened; or

“(DD) is a child whose sponsor clearly presents a risk of abuse, maltreatment, exploitation, neglect, or labor exploitation to the child.

“(II) ADDITIONAL FOLLOW-UP SERVICES.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall ensure that a child receives additional follow-up services if, in the course of the home visit under subclause (I), it is determined for the first time that the child, based on all available objective evidence—

“(aa) has been or is at risk of becoming a victim of a severe form of trafficking in persons;

“(bb) is a special needs child with a disability (as defined in section 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102));

“(cc) has been or is at risk of becoming a victim of physical or sexual abuse under circumstances that indicate that the child’s health or welfare has been or would be significantly harmed or threatened; or

“(dd) is a child whose sponsor clearly presents a risk of abuse, maltreatment, exploitation, neglect, or labor exploitation to the child.”.

**SEC. 213. STATE-LEVEL COORDINATORS FOR UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN’S SERVICES.**

Section 235(c) of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (8 U.S.C. 1232(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(7) ASSISTANCE TO STATE AND LOCAL ENTITIES FOR UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN’S SERVICES.—

“(A) ASSISTANCE TO STATES.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services may provide funding to each State to appoint a State-level coordinator to fulfill the responsibilities described in subparagraph (C).

“(B) NONGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATOR.—If a State does not appoint a coordinator under subparagraph (A), the Secretary of Health and Human Services may appoint a nongovernmental coordinator to fulfill the responsibilities described in subparagraph (C).

“(C) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibilities described in this subparagraph shall include the following:

“(i) To raise the awareness of governmental and nongovernmental entities with respect to the vulnerabilities of unaccompanied alien children, including Federal oversight mechanisms, such as the Office of the Ombudsperson for Immigrant Children in Federal Custody established under section 102 of the Protecting Unaccompanied Children Act.

“(ii) To coordinate the efforts of such entities so as to meet the educational, medical and mental health care, child welfare, and social services needs of unaccompanied alien children.

“(iii) To work with service providers engaged in the care and custody of unaccom-

panied alien children to identify community services, and to increase access to such services, for unaccompanied alien children.

“(iv) To ensure that schools, recreational facilities, community centers, and similar institutions have information regarding—

“(I) the risks of human trafficking and labor exploitation for vulnerable children; and

“(II) child labor laws, local minimum wage requirements, and mechanisms for reporting violations of such laws and requirements.

“(v) To ensure that information provided under clause (iv)—

“(I) is written in plain, child-accessible language (including in appropriate languages other than English); and

“(II) makes clear that such laws and requirements apply to all children and workers regardless of immigration status.

“(vi) To ensure that language is not a barrier to obtaining the services described in this paragraph.”.

**SEC. 214. ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SEPARATED UNDER ZERO TOLERANCE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an individual shall be eligible for the benefits described in subsection (b), if the individual—

(1) has completed security and law enforcement background checks to the satisfaction of the Secretary of Homeland Security; and

(2)(A) has been paroled into the United States under section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5)) pursuant to the implementation of Executive Order 14011, and has not had such parole terminated; or

(B) is eligible, based on a determination by the Secretary of Health and Human Services through reference to the identified members of the classes, and their minor children, in the class-action lawsuits *J.P. v. Barr* (C.D. Cal. 2020) and *Ms. L. v. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement*, 330 F.R.D. 284 (2019), for any assistance, program, benefit, or services described in subsection (b).

(b) BENEFITS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an individual described in subsection (a) shall be eligible for—

(1) resettlement assistance, entitlement programs, and other benefits available to refugees admitted under section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157) to the same extent, and for the same periods of time, as such refugees;

(2) services described under section 412(d)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1522(d)(2)), subject to subparagraph (B) of such section, if such individual is an unaccompanied alien child (as defined in section 462(g) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g))); and

(3) a driver’s license or identification card under section 202 of the REAL ID Act of 2005 (division B of Public Law 109-13; 49 U.S.C. 30301 note), notwithstanding subsection (c)(2)(B) of such section.

**Subtitle C—Facilities Housing Unaccompanied Alien Children**

**SEC. 221. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR COMMUNITY-BASED CARE PROVIDERS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 235(c)(2) of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (8 U.S.C. 1232(c)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) in the first sentence, by striking “Subject to” and inserting the following:

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) PRESUMPTION OF LEAST RESTRICTIVE SETTING.—The least restrictive setting that is in the best interest of the child is presumed to be a placement that most approximates a family and in which the child’s spe-

cial needs, if any, may be met. Children placed under this subsection shall be placed in the following order of preference:

“(I) Family-based foster care.

“(II) Group home foster care.

“(III) A shelter with capacity for 25 or fewer children.

“(iii) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide technical assistance to nongovernmental, nonprofit organizations that are eligible for grants and contracts awarded by the Department of Health and Human Services to ensure that children are placed in small scale, community-based settings.”.

(b) ANNUAL REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to Congress a report on the number of unaccompanied alien children who, during the preceding fiscal year, resided in a facility with a capacity for 25 or fewer children.

(2) DESCRIPTION OF BARRIERS TO OBTAINING HHS CONTRACTS AND GRANTS.—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall describe in detail the barriers for small-scale community-based providers to undergoing the Department of Health and Human Services contracting and granting processes, including staffing limitations, availability, outreach, recruitment of potential providers, other identified barriers to making the transition to small-scale community-based facilities, and recommendations to address such barriers.

(3) CONSULTATION.—In developing each report required by paragraph (1), the Secretary for Health and Human Services shall consult with staff of current small-scale or community-based facilities housing children and other organizations with expertise in child development, child welfare, and serving children with disabilities.

(c) PLAN TO TRANSITION CARE TO FOSTER CARE OR SMALL-SCALE SETTINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall develop a plan to transition all unaccompanied alien children in the custody of the Secretary to—

(A) foster care placements; or

(B) shelters with capacity for 25 or fewer children.

(2) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to Congress the plan developed under paragraph (1).

**SEC. 222. STANDARDS AND COMPLIANCE.**

Section 235(c)(2) of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (8 U.S.C. 1232), as amended by section 221, is further amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by adding at the end the following:

“(iv) BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR COVERED INDIVIDUALS.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subclause (II), the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall ensure that, not less frequently than every 5 years, each covered individual completes a background check to the satisfaction of the Secretary.

“(II) WAIVER FOR DIRECT SERVICES PROVIDERS.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services may waive the application of subclause (I) in the case of an attorney of record or licensed medical practitioner who provides on-site services at a facility that houses unaccompanied alien children.

“(III) SCOPE.—The scope of a background check required by this clause shall include, at a minimum, the following:

“(aa) A fingerprint check by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and State criminal history repositories.

“(bb) A child protective services check with the individual’s State of United States residence for the last 5 years.

“(cc) Background investigation updates at a minimum of every 5 years.

“(IV) COVERED INDIVIDUAL DEFINED.—In this clause, the term ‘covered individual’ means—

“(aa) an employee or contractor with direct access to unaccompanied alien children in the care and custody of the Secretary of Health and Human Services;

“(bb) an individual with unsupervised, direct access to such children; and

“(cc) a foster parent with whom an unaccompanied alien child is placed, including a transitional or long-term foster parent, and each foster parent household member who is aged 18 years or over.

“(V) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this clause may be construed to supersede applicable State licensing requirements for background checks on employees of programs or facilities involved in the care and custody of children.”; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), in the first sentence, by striking “subparagraph (A)” and inserting “subparagraph (A)(i)”.

#### **Subtitle D—Child Welfare at the Border and Prevention of Family Separation**

### **SEC. 231. CHILD WELFARE TRAINING AT THE BORDER.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COOPERATING ENTITY.—The term “cooperating entity” means a State or local entity acting pursuant to an agreement with the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(2) EXPERT IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT.—The term “expert in child development” means an individual who has significant education and expertise on infant, child, and adolescent development, and on the effects of trauma on children.

(3) EXPERT IN CHILD WELFARE.—The term “expert in child welfare” means an individual who has—

(A) knowledge of Federal and State child welfare laws and standards; and

(B) not less than 5 years of experience in the field of child and adolescent development or child welfare.

(4) EXPERT IN PEDIATRIC MEDICINE.—The term “expert in pediatric medicine” means—

(A) an individual who is board-certified in pediatric medicine in one or more States; and

(B) an individual with an advanced degree in pediatric medicine on the faculty of an institution of higher education in the United States.

(b) GUIDELINES.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, experts in child development, experts in child welfare, and experts in pediatric medicine, shall develop guidelines for the treatment of children in the custody of the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

(c) MANDATORY TRAINING.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall—

(1) require all U.S. Customs and Border Protection personnel, and cooperating entity personnel, who have contact with a child at a port of entry or Border Patrol station to undergo appropriate training, which shall include live training, on—

(A) the applicable legal authorities, policies, practices, and procedures relating to children; and

(B) child-friendly interviewing techniques, child development, trauma, and the manner in which trauma affects the health and behavior of children; and

(2) require U.S. Customs and Border Protection personnel, not less frequently than

annually, to undertake continuing training on—

(A) identifying and responding to common signs and symptoms of medical distress in children;

(B) best practices with respect to the guidelines developed under subsection (b); and

(C) changes in the legal authorities, policies, and procedures described in paragraph (1)(A).

### **SEC. 232. PREVENTING FAMILY SEPARATION OF UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN.**

Section 235(b) of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (8 U.S.C. 1232(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) PREVENTING SEPARATION FROM NON-PARENT RELATIVES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an unaccompanied alien child determined to have entered the United States or have been apprehended with a relative who is neither a parent nor guardian, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security or other appropriate agencies of the government, shall evaluate whether that unaccompanied alien child can be safely released from Federal custody to that relative as a sponsor consistent with the process described in paragraph (3) of this section.

“(B) RELEASE TO RELATIVE.—If the Secretary of Health and Human Services makes such a determination, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall release the unaccompanied alien child to that relative unless the circumstances in subparagraph (C) apply.

“(C) CONSIDERATION OF RELATIVE AS SPONSOR.—If an unaccompanied alien child is transferred to the custody of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the non-parent relative described in subparagraph (A) may continue to be evaluated as a potential sponsor to whom the child may be released from Federal custody as described in subsection (c)(3) of this section, as necessary to ensure child well-being and safety.

“(D) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to change the definition of a parent or legal guardian for the purpose of making a determination of whether a child is an unaccompanied alien child pursuant to 462(g)(C) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g)(C)).

“(E) FACILITIES REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall ensure that child-appropriate spaces are available to complete the evaluations described in this paragraph. Such space shall accommodate staff of the Department of Health and Human Services, as appropriate.

“(F) RECORDKEEPING.—With respect to each alien over the age of 18 years who has entered the United States with an unaccompanied alien child, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall—

“(i) maintain an electronic record that includes the familial relationship between the adult and child; and

“(ii) share such record with the Secretary of Health and Human Services as necessary to facilitate the identification of an appropriate sponsor for the child.”.

### **TITLE III—ENSURING SAFE RELEASE TO SPONSORS**

#### **SEC. 301. ENSURING SAFE RELEASE TO SPONSORS WHO ARE NOT PARENTS OR LEGAL GUARDIANS.**

Section 235(c)(3)(A) of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (8 U.S.C. 1232(c)(3)(A)) is amended—

(1) by inserting “or sponsor” after “makes a determination that the proposed custodian”;

(2) by inserting “, address,” after “custodian’s identity”; and

(3) by striking the period and inserting the following: “, in accordance with uniform procedures established by the Secretary of Health and Human Services. If a proposed sponsor is not the parent or legal guardian of a child, such procedures shall include criminal background and public records checks for any proposed sponsor or adult member of the proposed sponsor’s household. The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall ensure that information obtained about a sponsor or a household member of a sponsor through such checks is not shared with the Department of Homeland Security or any other Federal agency for the purpose of immigration enforcement.”.

#### **SEC. 302. EXPANSION AND EVALUATION OF HOME STUDIES.**

(a) Section 235(c)(3)(B) of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (8 U.S.C. 1232(c)(3)(B)), as amended by section 212, is further amended—

(1) in clause (i), by inserting “or custodian clearly” after “whose proposed sponsor”;

(2) by adding at the end the following: “A home study shall also be conducted for a child whose proposed sponsor is a distant relative or unrelated to the child in which verification of relationship cannot be clearly demonstrated.”;

(3) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iv); and

(4) by inserting after clause (i) the following:

“(ii) GUIDELINES.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall establish guidelines for the conduct of home studies under clause (i) that include—

“(I) a deadline for completion of a home study that is not sooner than 15 calendar days after the date on which the home study is requested;

“(II) objective, publicly available criteria for releasing a child following a negative home study recommendation; and

“(III) requirements for individuals who conduct home studies, including at a minimum professional or educational knowledge related to child and adult development, cultural competence, trauma, parenting and family dynamics, and screening and identifying indicators of human trafficking.

“(iii) REPORT.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of the Protecting Unaccompanied Children Act, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall report on the effectiveness of home studies conducted under clause (i).

“(II) ELEMENTS.—Each report required by subclause (I) shall include the following:

“(aa) An assessment of the effectiveness of such home studies in identifying safety concerns.

“(bb) For the preceding 2-year period—

“(AA) the number of home studies conducted and a description of the outcomes of such home studies, including whether or not each home study resulted in a positive or negative recommendation of the sponsor concerned;

“(BB) the number and type of safety concerns identified through such home studies; and

“(CC) the number of sponsors to whom a child was not released due to safety concerns identified through a home study.”.

#### **SEC. 303. REQUIREMENTS FOR CHILD AND SPONSOR CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 235(c)(3) of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (8 U.S.C. 1232(c)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(D) CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall maintain a searchable electronic case management system to track the placement of unaccompanied alien children that includes the following information:

“(I) The name and address of each proposed sponsor, including the number of unaccompanied alien children placed with each sponsor and names of household members of a proposed sponsor.

“(II) Reported safety concerns, including reports of trafficking or exploitation, identified for sponsors of unaccompanied alien children, or identified for adult members of household at a specific address.

“(III) Vulnerabilities of unaccompanied alien children while in the care and custody of the Secretary of Health and Human Services, including whether the child is a priority for post-release services.

“(IV) Reports of trafficking or exploitation made by unaccompanied alien children, including reported information about geographic area (such as a neighborhood) where such trafficking occurred and where employers implicated in such reports are located.

“(ii) CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS.—

“(I) POTENTIAL DUPLICATE RECORDS.—In the event that the case management system detects a potential duplicate record, employees of the Department of Health and Human Services and grantees or contractors acting on behalf of the Department, shall verify the records and, if necessary, consolidate duplicate records.

“(II) EXCLUSION OF INFORMATION ON IMMIGRATION STATUS.—The case management system shall not include information with respect to the immigration status of any sponsor or adult member of a sponsor’s household.

“(III) NONDISCLOSURE FOR ENFORCEMENT PURPOSES.—The information contained in the case management system shall not be disclosed to the Secretary of Homeland Security for the purpose of immigration enforcement.

“(iii) PRIVACY PROTECTIONS.—Any record collected, stored, received, or published under this subparagraph shall be—

“(I) collected, stored, received, or published in a manner that protects the privacy of any individual whose information is included in such data;

“(II) de-identified or anonymized in a manner that protects the identity of any individual whose information is included in such data; and

“(III)(aa) limited in use for the purpose of carrying out the duties of the Office of the Ombudsperson; and

“(bb) protected from any other—

“(AA) internal use by any entity that collects, stores, or receives the record; or

“(BB) inappropriate use.”

**TITLE IV—PROTECTIONS AND ACCESS TO CERTAIN SERVICES FOR SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILES AND OTHER VULNERABLE IMMIGRANTS**

**SEC. 401. ELIMINATING ANNUAL EMPLOYMENT-BASED VISA CAPS FOR SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILES.**

(a) ALIENS NOT SUBJECT TO DIRECT NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.—Section 201(b)(1)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151(b)(1)(A)) is amended by striking “subparagraph (A) or (B)” and inserting “subparagraph (A), (B), or (J)”.

(b) PREFERENCE ALLOCATION FOR EMPLOYMENT-BASED IMMIGRANTS.—Section 203(b)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)(4)) is amended by striking “subparagraph (A) or (B)” and inserting “subparagraph (A), (B), or (J)”.

**SEC. 402. ELIMINATION OF ANNUAL NUMERICAL LIMITATION ON U VISAS.**

Section 214(p) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(p)) is amended by striking paragraph (2).

**SEC. 403. ACCESS TO MEDICAID FOR CERTAIN CHILDREN GRANTED STATUS.**

(a) ELIGIBILITY.—Section 402(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1612(b)(2)(A)(i)) is amended —

(1) in subclause (IV), by striking “or” at the end;

(2) in subclause (V), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(VI) an alien is granted special immigrant status under section 101(a)(27)(J) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)(J));

“(VII) an alien under the age of 21 is granted status under section 101(a)(15)(U) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(U)); or

“(VIII) an alien is eligible for deferred action pursuant to the June 15, 2012, Department of Homeland Security Memorandum entitled ‘Exercising Prosecutorial Discretion with Respect to Individuals Who Came to the United States as Children’, or any successor policy.”

(b) MODIFICATION TO DURATION OF ATTRIBUTION.—Section 421(b) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1631(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “or” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) is granted special immigrant status under section 101(a)(27)(J) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)(J));

“(4) in the case of an alien under the age of 21, is granted status under section 101(a)(15)(U) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(U)); or

“(5) is eligible for deferred action pursuant to the June 15, 2012, Department of Homeland Security Memorandum entitled ‘Exercising Prosecutorial Discretion with Respect to Individuals Who Came to the United States as Children’, or any successor policy.”

**TITLE V—STOPPING CHILD LABOR TRAFFICKING**

**SEC. 501. VICTIMS OF SERIOUS LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT VIOLATIONS OR CRIME.**

(a) PROTECTION FOR VICTIMS OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT VIOLATIONS.—Section 101(a)(15)(U) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(U)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i)—

(A) by striking subclause (I) and inserting the following:

“(I) the alien—

“(aa) has suffered substantial physical, emotional, or mental abuse or harm as a result of having been a victim of criminal activity described in clause (iii);

“(bb) has suffered substantial physical, emotional, or mental abuse or harm related to a violation described in clause (iv);

“(cc) is a victim of criminal activity described in clause (iii) and would suffer extreme hardship upon removal; or

“(dd) has suffered a violation described in clause (iv) and would suffer extreme hardship upon removal.”;

(B) in subclause (II), by inserting “, or a labor or employment violation resulting in a workplace claim described in clause (iv)” before the semicolon at the end;

(C) in subclause (III)—

(i) by striking “or State judge, to the Service” and inserting “, State, or local judge, to the Department of Homeland Security, to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, to the Department of Labor (including the Occupational Safety and Health Administration), to the National Labor Relations Board, to the head official of a State or local government department of labor, workforce commission, or human relations commission or council”;

(ii) by striking “investigating or prosecuting” and inserting “investigating, prosecuting, or seeking civil remedies for”; and

(iii) by inserting “, or investigating, prosecuting, or seeking civil remedies for a labor or employment violation related to a workplace claim described in clause (iv)” before the semicolon; and

(D) in subclause (IV)—

(i) by inserting “(aa)” after “(IV)”;

(ii) by inserting “or” after the semicolon at the end; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following: “(bb) a workplace claim described in clause (iv) resulting from a labor or employment violation.”;

(2) in clause (ii)(II), by striking “and” at the end;

(3) in clause (iii), by striking “or” at the end and inserting “and”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(iv) in the labor or employment violation related to a workplace claim, the alien has filed, is a material witness in, or is likely to be helpful in the investigation of, a bona fide workplace claim (as defined in section 274A(e)(10)(B)(iii)(II)); or”.

(b) TEMPORARY PROTECTION FOR INJURED WORKERS AND VICTIMS OF CRIME, LABOR, AND EMPLOYMENT VIOLATIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Homeland Security may permit an alien to temporarily remain in the United States, shall not remove the alien from the United States during the permitted period, and shall provide the alien with the alien employment authorization, if the Secretary determines that the alien—

(1) has filed for relief under section 101(a)(15)(U) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(U)) or section 101(a)(15)(T) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(T));

(2)(A) has filed, or is a material witness to, a bona fide workplace claim (as defined in paragraph (10) of section 274A(e) of such Act, as added by section 502(b) of this Act) or has filed, or is a material witness to, a civil claim arising from criminal activity (as defined in paragraph (10) of section 274A(e) of such Act, as added by section 502(b) of this Act); and

(B) has been helpful, is being helpful, or is likely to be helpful to—

(i) a Federal, State, or local law enforcement official;

(ii) a Federal, State, or local prosecutor;

(iii) a Federal, State, or local judge;

(iv) the Department of Homeland Security;

(v) the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission;

(vi) the Department of Labor, including the Occupational Safety and Health Administration;

(vii) the National Labor Relations Board;

(viii) the head official of a State or local government department of labor, workforce commission, or human relations commission or council; or

(ix) other Federal, State, or local authorities; or

(3) has filed a workers’ compensation claim or is undergoing treatment for a workplace injury or illness.

(c) REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO U VISAS.—Section 214(p) of the Immigration

and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(p)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “or investigating, prosecuting, or seeking civil remedies for workplace claims described in section 101(a)(15)(U)(iv)” after “section 101(a)(15)(U)(iii)” each place such term appears; and

(2) in paragraph (6)—

(A) by inserting “or workplace claims described in section 101(a)(15)(U)(iv)” after “described in section 101(a)(15)(U)(iii)”; and

(B) by inserting “or workplace claim” after “prosecution of such criminal activity”.

(d) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS FOR VICTIMS OF CRIMES.—Section 245(m)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1255(m)(1)) is amended, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “or an investigation or prosecution regarding a workplace claim” after “prosecution”.

(e) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS AND FEES.—Section 245(l)(7) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1255(l)(7)) is amended by striking “permit aliens to apply for a waiver of” and inserting “not require the payment of”.

(f) CHANGE OF NONIMMIGRANT CLASSIFICATION.—Section 384(a)(1) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1367(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (E), by striking “physical or mental abuse and the criminal activity” and inserting “abuse and the criminal activity or workplace claim”;

(2) in subparagraph (F)—

(A) by striking “(8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(51))” and inserting “(8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(51))”; and

(B) by adding “or” at the end; and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (F) the following:

“(G) the alien’s employer.”.

(g) CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.—Section 384(b)(2) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1367(b)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following: “However, neither the Secretary of Homeland Security nor the Attorney General may use the information furnished pursuant to any application under section 101(a)(15)(T), 101(a)(15)(U), 101(a)(27), 101(a)(51), 106, 240A(b)(2), or 244(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(T), 1101(a)(15)(U), 1101(a)(27), 1101(a)(51), 1105a, 1229b(b)(2), or 1254a(a)) or section 107(b)(1)(E)(i)(II)(bb) of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(b)(1)(E)(i)(II)(bb)), for purposes of initiating or carrying out a removal proceeding.”.

#### SEC. 502. LABOR ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS.

(a) REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS.—Section 239(e) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “In cases where” and inserting “If”; and

(B) by inserting “or as a result of information provided to the Department of Homeland Security in retaliation against individuals for exercising or attempting to exercise their employment rights or other legal rights” after “paragraph (2)”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end the following:

“(C) At a facility about which a workplace claim has been filed or is contemporaneously filed.”.

(b) UNLAWFUL EMPLOYMENT OF ALIENS.—Section 274A(e) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(10) CONDUCT IN ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS.—

“(A) ENFORCEMENT ACTION.—If the Secretary of Homeland Security undertakes an

enforcement action at a facility about which a workplace claim has been filed or is contemporaneously filed, or as a result of information provided to the Department of Homeland Security in retaliation against employees for exercising their rights related to a workplace claim, the Secretary shall ensure that—

“(i) any aliens arrested or detained who are victims of or material witnesses to workplace claim violations or criminal activity (as described in subparagraph (T) or (U) of section 101(a)(15)) are not removed from the United States until after the Secretary—

“(I) notifies the appropriate agency with jurisdiction over such violations or criminal activity; and

“(II) provides such agency with the opportunity to interview such aliens; and

“(ii) no aliens entitled to a stay of removal or abeyance of removal proceedings under this section are removed.

“(B) PROTECTIONS FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME, LABOR, AND EMPLOYMENT VIOLATIONS.—

“(i) STAY OF REMOVAL OR ABEYANCE OF REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS.—An alien against whom removal proceedings have been initiated under chapter 4 of title II, who has filed a workplace claim, who is a material witness in any pending or anticipated proceeding involving a bona fide workplace claim or civil claim arising from criminal activity, or who has filed for relief under section 101(a)(15)(U), shall be entitled to a stay of removal or an abeyance of removal proceedings and to employment authorization until the resolution of the workplace claim or the denial of relief under section 101(a)(15)(U) after exhaustion of administrative or judicial appeals, whichever is later.

“(ii) DURATION.—Any stay of removal or abeyance of removal proceedings and employment authorization issued pursuant to clause (i) shall remain valid until the resolution of the workplace claim or the denial of relief under section 101(a)(15)(U) after the exhaustion of administrative or judicial appeals, and shall be extended by the Secretary of Homeland Security for a period of not longer than 10 additional years upon determining that—

“(I) such relief would enable the alien asserting a workplace claim or civil claim arising from criminal activity, or assisting in investigation or prosecution of criminal activity, to pursue the matter to resolution, according to any agency administering any statute underlying these claims or any other credible evidence;

“(II) the deterrent goals of any statute underlying a workplace claim, criminal activity, or civil claim arising from criminal activity would be served, according to any agency administering such a statute or any other credible evidence; or

“(III) such extension would otherwise further the interests of justice.

“(iii) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

“(I) CIVIL CLAIM ARISING FROM CRIMINAL ACTIVITY.—The term ‘civil claim arising from criminal activity’ means any written or oral claim, charge, complaint, or grievance filed with, communicated to, or submitted to a Federal, State, or local agency or court related to the violation of applicable Federal, State, and local laws arising from criminal activity described in section 101(a)(15)(U)(iii).

“(II) MATERIAL WITNESS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the term ‘material witness’ means an individual who presents a declaration from an attorney investigating, prosecuting, or defending the claim or from the presiding officer overseeing the claim attesting that, to the best of the declarant’s knowledge and belief, reasonable cause exists to believe that the testimony of the individual will be relevant to the outcome of the workplace claim.

“(III) WORKPLACE CLAIM.—The term ‘workplace claim’ means any written or oral claim, charge, complaint, or grievance filed with, communicated to, or submitted to the employer, a Federal, State, or local agency or court, or an employee representative related to the workplace injury or illness or to the violation of applicable Federal, State, and local labor laws, including laws concerning wages and hours, labor relations, family and medical leave, occupational health and safety, civil rights, or nondiscrimination.”.

(c) CONTINUED APPLICATION OF WORKFORCE AND LABOR PROTECTION REMEDIES.—Section 274A(e) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(e)), as amended by subsection (b), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(11) RIGHTS, REMEDIES, AND RELIEF.—Notwithstanding an employee’s status as an unauthorized noncitizen during the time of relevant employment or during the back pay period or the failure of the employer or employee to comply with the requirements under this section or with any other provision of Federal law relating to the unlawful employment of noncitizens—

“(A) all rights, remedies, and relief provided under any Federal, State, or local law relating to workplace rights, including reinstatement and back pay, are available to such employee; and

“(B) a court may not prohibit such an employee from pursuing other causes of action giving rise to liability in a civil action.”.

#### TITLE VI—GENERAL PROVISIONS

##### SEC. 601. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

##### SEC. 602. SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION.

In any month in which the number of unaccompanied children referred to the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to section 462 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279) and section 235 of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232) exceeds 10,000, as determined by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, an additional \$30,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be made available for obligation for every 500 unaccompanied children above that level (including a pro rata amount for any increment less than 500), for carrying out such sections 462 and 235 and the activities authorized by this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 427—CALLING ON CONGRESS, SCHOOLS, AND STATE AND LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES TO RECOGNIZE THE SIGNIFICANT EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF DYSLEXIA THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED, AND DESIGNATING OCTOBER 2023 AS “NATIONAL DYSLEXIA AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. KING, Mr. MURPHY, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 427

Whereas dyslexia is—

(1) defined as an unexpected difficulty in reading for an individual who has the intelligence to be a much better reader; and

(2) most commonly caused by a difficulty in phonological processing (the appreciation of the individual sounds of spoken language), which affects the ability of an individual to speak, read, spell, and, often, the ability to learn a second language;

Whereas the First Step Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-391; 132 Stat. 5194 et seq.) included a definition of dyslexia as part of the requirement of the Act to screen inmates for dyslexia upon intake in Federal prisons;

Whereas the definition of dyslexia in section 3635 of title 18, United States Code, as added by section 101(a) of the First Step Act of 2018, is the first and only definition of dyslexia in a Federal statute;

Whereas dyslexia is the most common learning disability and affects 80 to 90 percent of all individuals with a learning disability;

Whereas dyslexia is persistent and highly prevalent, affecting as many as 1 out of every 5 individuals;

Whereas dyslexia is a paradox, in that an individual with dyslexia may have both—

(1) weaknesses in decoding that result in difficulties with accurate or fluent word recognition; and

(2) strengths in higher-level cognitive functions, such as reasoning, critical thinking, concept formation, and problem solving;

Whereas great progress has been made in understanding dyslexia on a scientific level, including the epidemiological, cognitive, and neurobiological bases of dyslexia;

Whereas the achievement gap between typical readers and dyslexic readers occurs as early as first grade; and

Whereas early screening for, and early diagnosis of, dyslexia are critical for ensuring that individuals with dyslexia receive focused, evidence-based intervention that leads to fluent reading, the promotion of self-awareness and self-empowerment, and the provision of necessary accommodations that ensure success in school and in life: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) calls on Congress, schools, and State and local educational agencies to recognize that dyslexia has significant educational implications that must be addressed; and

(2) designates October 2023 as “National Dyslexia Awareness Month”.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 428—RECOGNIZING WOMEN’S COLLEGIATE ATHLETICS AND THE RECORD-SETTING VOLLEYBALL DAY IN NEBRASKA EVENT ON AUGUST 30, 2023**

Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Mr. RICKETTS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 428

Whereas Volleyball Day in Nebraska was held in Memorial Stadium in Lincoln, Nebraska, on August 30, 2023, with 92,003 people in attendance;

Whereas Volleyball Day in Nebraska set a new world record for attendance at a women’s sporting event, exceeding the previous record of 91,648 at the 2022 soccer match between Barcelona and Wolfsburg;

Whereas Volleyball Day in Nebraska included student-athletes from 4 teams representing the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the University of Nebraska at Kearney, and Wayne State College;

Whereas Volleyball Day in Nebraska set a new record for National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this resolution as

the “NCAA”) women’s volleyball attendance, exceeding the previous record of 18,755 and the NCAA women’s volleyball regular-season record of 16,833;

Whereas Volleyball Day in Nebraska also set a new record for attendance in Nebraska’s Memorial Stadium, exceeding the previous record of 91,585 set in 2014;

Whereas the University of Nebraska volleyball program started in 1975, led by Coach Pat Sullivan;

Whereas Coach Terry Pettit built the University of Nebraska volleyball program from 1977 to 1999, accumulating a 694-148-12 record, winning 21 conference championships, and winning the 1995 national championship;

Whereas, since 2000, Coach John Cook has sustained excellence in the University of Nebraska volleyball program by accumulating a 656-98 record, winning 4 national championships, obtaining 3 national runner-up finishes, and appearing in 22 consecutive NCAA tournaments;

Whereas the University of Nebraska volleyball team has over 300 consecutive sellouts, the longest sellout streak of any NCAA women’s sport;

Whereas the University of Nebraska athletic programs create pride and joy both on the fields of play and in the hearts of alumni and fans, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln leads the United States with 351 Academic All-Americans;

Whereas more than 200,000 alumni residing in all 50 States and in countries around the world are proud to call the University of Nebraska their alma mater; and

Whereas there is no place like Nebraska: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the University of Nebraska, women’s volleyball players, and their supporters in setting these records on Volleyball Day in Nebraska;

(2) recognizes the impact of the record-setting Volleyball Day in Nebraska on young women, inspiring them to pursue their aspirations as athletes and individuals; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate send—

(A) 1 copy of this resolution to Nebraska Governor Jim Pillen;

(B) 1 copy of this resolution to University of Nebraska System President Ted Carter and University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chancellor Rodney Bennett; and

(C) 1 copy of this resolution to University of Nebraska-Lincoln Vice Chancellor for Athletics Trev Alberts, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Volleyball Coach John Cook, former University of Nebraska-Lincoln Volleyball Coach Terry Pettit, and former University of Nebraska-Lincoln Volleyball Coach Pat Sullivan.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 429—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE IN SUPPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY’S (IAEA) NUCLEAR SECURITY ROLE**

Mr. LUJÁN (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 429

Whereas the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), created in 1957 for the purpose of assisting states in the development and use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, plays a critical role in the global nuclear security regime;

Whereas the agency’s activities in nuclear security date back to the 1970s, when the

agency began providing ad hoc training courses in physical protection;

Whereas these responsibilities expanded following the collapse of the former Soviet Union, reports of nuclear smuggling in the late 1990s, and again after the devastating terror attacks on September 11, 2001;

Whereas the agency established the Nuclear Security Fund to assist countries in protecting their nuclear and radiological materials and facilities;

Whereas the agency’s nuclear security efforts are sustained by its technical expertise, experience, transparency, and confidentiality;

Whereas rogue regimes and clandestine organizations continue to exhibit the ambition to acquire nuclear materials that can be used to build crude radiological and nuclear weapons;

Whereas the IAEA Office of Nuclear Security relies almost exclusively on voluntary funding, which is inherently unpredictable and inconsistent; and

Whereas the 2016 Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, D.C., issued an Action Plan on April 1, 2016, citing the agency’s need for “reliable and sufficient resources”: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) maintains that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) plays an indispensable role in strengthening nuclear security and safety around the globe;

(2) reaffirms that the United States has a vital interest in preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and securing nuclear materials; and

(3) encourages the United States and other member states of the IAEA to take steps to ensure that the IAEA has the resources needed to successfully carry out its duties, including—

(A) supporting the IAEA to continue convening ministerial meetings on nuclear security to promote political commitment;

(B) contributing to the implementation of the IAEA’s Nuclear Security Plan through reliable and sufficient resources; and

(C) providing appropriate political, technical, and financial support to the Nuclear Security Fund.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 430—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 20, 2023, AS “NATIONAL EARLY CHILDHOOD LITERACY AWARENESS DAY”**

Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. KING) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 430

Whereas many children from families with low incomes begin school already far behind children from families with higher incomes;

Whereas research shows that children from families with low incomes are less likely to have interactions that are critical for language development, including—

- (1) being read to or spoken to regularly;
- (2) having access to books;
- (3) having a literacy-rich environment; and
- (4) accessing high-quality early childhood education programs;

Whereas language development is an important precursor to literacy;

Whereas access to high-quality early childhood education programs can support early childhood language development and literacy;

Whereas, as early as 3 years of age, the vocabulary of a child can predict the future third-grade reading proficiency of the child;

Whereas, during the first 3 years of life, children from families with low-incomes can

hear as many as 30,000,000 fewer words than children from more affluent families;

Whereas, in 2022, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (referred to in this preamble as “NAEP”) reported that—

(1) 66 percent of fourth-grade public school students nationally performed below the NAEP proficient level in reading; and

(2) 37 percent of fourth-grade public school students nationally performed below the NAEP basic level in reading; and

Whereas awareness of early childhood literacy issues must be heightened to encourage greater support to help children achieve reading proficiency: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 20, 2023, as “National Early Childhood Literacy Awareness Day”;

(2) encourages States, localities, schools, early childhood education programs, and nonprofit organizations to observe the day with appropriate programs and activities, with the goal of increasing public awareness about early childhood literacy issues;

(3) recognizes the need to make early childhood literacy a public priority;

(4) supports the efforts of businesses, State and local governments, early childhood education programs, nonprofit organizations, educators, and volunteers dedicated to increasing childhood literacy rates;

(5) applauds the initiatives of businesses, State and local governments, early childhood education programs, nonprofit organizations, educators, and volunteers that—

(A) use time and resources to address early childhood literacy issues, the causes of poor reading scores, and potential solutions to those issues; and

(B) use time and resources to address early childhood literacy issues, the causes of poor reading scores, and potential solutions to those issues; and

(6) encourages parents, other family members, and caregivers to introduce children to the world of books and other literacy activities in different ways, including by—

(A) reading to children;

(B) telling stories;

(C) teaching letters and words; and

(D) visiting libraries.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 431—RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2023 AS “NATIONAL WOMEN’S SMALL BUSINESS MONTH”

Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. RISCH, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. MANCHIN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. KELLY, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CASEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. COONS, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. BRITT, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BUDD, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. WARNER, Mr. FETTERMAN, and Ms. BUTLER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 431

Whereas there are more than 12,000,000 women-owned businesses in the United States;

Whereas women-owned businesses generate \$1,800,000,000 in total revenue;

Whereas women-owned businesses employ more than 9,230,000 workers;

Whereas 38 percent of small businesses are women-owned;

Whereas women entrepreneurs continue to face challenges in Federal contracting, mentorship, and access to capital; and

Whereas the celebration of “National Women’s Small Business Month” would honor the efforts of women business owners and women entrepreneurs and recognize the significance of the contributions of these business owners and entrepreneurs to the small business community: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the month of October 2023 as “National Women’s Small Business Month”;

(2) honors the vital role of women small business owners and women entrepreneurs in the United States during “National Women’s Small Business Month”;

(3) recognizes the significant contributions of women small business owners and women entrepreneurs to the small business community;

(4) supports and encourages young women entrepreneurs to pursue their passions and create more start-up businesses;

(5) recognizes the importance of creating policies that promote a business-friendly environment for small business owners that is free of unnecessary and burdensome regulations and red tape; and

(6) supports efforts to—

(A) encourage consumers to shop locally; and

(B) increase awareness of the value of locally-owned small businesses and the impact of women-owned small businesses on the economy of the United States.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 432—RECOGNIZING THE FIFTH COMMEMORATION OF THE ANTISEMITIC ATTACK THAT OCCURRED ON OCTOBER 27, 2018, AT A SYNAGOGUE IN PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. FETTERMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 432

Whereas, on October 27, 2018, a mass shooting took place at the Tree of Life synagogue in the Squirrel Hill neighborhood of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where members of the Tree of Life, Dor Hadash, and New Light congregations were engaged in Shabbat morning services;

Whereas 11 innocent worshippers were killed, 2 congregants were critically injured, and 5 law enforcement officers were injured while attempting to rescue victims and apprehend the perpetrator in the deadliest antisemitic attack in the history of the United States;

Whereas the 11 innocent worshippers killed in the attack included—

- (1) Joyce Fienberg;
- (2) Richard Gottfried;
- (3) Rose Mallinger;
- (4) Jerry Rabinowitz;
- (5) Cecil Rosenthal;
- (6) David Rosenthal;
- (7) Bernice Simon;
- (8) Sylvan Simon;
- (9) Daniel Stein;
- (10) Melvin Wax; and
- (11) Irving Younger;

Whereas the perpetrator of the attack espoused antisemitic views and targeted the

individuals worshipping at the Tree of Life synagogue because of their religious beliefs;

Whereas, on June 16, 2023, a Federal jury in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, found the perpetrator of the attack guilty on 63 counts, including hate crimes and the obstruction of the free exercise of religion resulting in death;

Whereas the people of the United States commend the service of those jury members, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police, the Allegheny County Police, all other Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies who assisted with the investigation, and the prosecution team from the United States Attorney’s Office in the Western District of Pennsylvania and the Department of Justice that worked to bring the perpetrator to justice;

Whereas antisemitism remains an evil and destructive form of identity-based hate that destroys lives and runs contrary to the values of the United States; and

Whereas the Anti-Defamation League recorded 3,697 incidents of antisemitic harassment, vandalism and assault throughout the United States in 2022, representing a 36 percent increase in antisemitic incidents from 2021, and the largest number of antisemitic incidents on record since the Anti-Defamation League began tracking antisemitic incidents in 1979: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) honors the memory of the victims who were killed in the horrific, antisemitic attack at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on October 27, 2018, and expresses the hope that their memory may continue to be a blessing to their families and community;

(2) honors the selfless and dedicated service of—

(A) the law enforcement and emergency response officials who responded to the attack;

(B) the medical professionals who provided and continue to provide care for the victims; and

(C) the law enforcement agencies and Federal prosecutors who worked to investigate and hold the perpetrator accountable in Federal court for his hateful, antisemitic attack on the Jewish community;

(3) expresses continued solidarity and support to the Tree of Life, Dor Hadash, and New Light congregations, the Pittsburgh Jewish community, and the families, friends, and loved ones affected by the tragedy;

(4) commends the Tree of Life community for, in the wake of tragedy, dedicating itself to efforts to eliminate antisemitism and other forms of identity-based hate;

(5) condemns rising antisemitism and stands with the Jewish communities in Pittsburgh, the United States, and around the world; and

(6) reaffirms the commitment of the United States—

(A) to condemn antisemitism in all its forms;

(B) to protect the right of the people of the United States to freely exercise their religious beliefs; and

(C) to ensure the safety and security of all people of the United States.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1357. Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 662, to amend the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023 to improve disaster relief funding for agricultural producers, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 1357.** Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 662, to amend the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023 to improve disaster relief funding for agricultural producers, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Block Grant Assistance Act of 2023”.

**SEC. 2. DISASTER RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2023, AMENDMENT.**

Title I of the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023 (division N of Public Law 117–328; 136 Stat. 5201), is amended, in the matter under the heading “DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE—AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS—PROCESSING, RESEARCH AND MARKETING—OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY”, by inserting “: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Agriculture may provide assistance for losses described under this heading in this Act in the form of block grants to eligible States and territories” before the period at the end.

**SEC. 3. EMERGENCY DESIGNATION.**

Amounts repurposed under the amendment made by section 2 that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001(a)(1) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022, and section 1(e) of H. Res. 1151 (117th Congress), as engrossed in the House of Representatives on June 8, 2022, are designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(A)(i)).

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I have 10 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the ses-

sion of the Senate on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet in executive session during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 10 a.m.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans’ Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 3:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE AND REGIONAL SECURITY COOPERATION

The Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Security Cooperation of the Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS, FORESTS, AND MINING

The Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I would ask unanimous consent that John Schmidt, a detailee in my office,

be granted floor privileges until December 31 of this year.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2023

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Thursday, October 26; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate resume consideration of Calendar No. 198, H.R. 4366, as provided under the order of October 24; further, that if Senator PAUL makes a motion to discharge S.J. Res. 44 from the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Senate vote on the motion at 11:30 a.m.; further, that if the motion to discharge is not agreed to, the Senate vote on the Braun amendment No. 1182 to H.R. 4366; finally, that upon disposition of the Braun amendment, the Senate move to consideration of S.J. Res. 42; that there be up to 30 minutes of debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; and that following the use or yielding back of time, the joint resolution be considered read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:02 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, October 26, 2023, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate October 25, 2023:

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

JESSICA LOOMAN, OF MINNESOTA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### HONORING BOJANGLES BEING NAMED ONE OF THE TOP TEN FAST-FOOD RESTAURANTS IN THE COUNTRY

#### HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2023*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Bojangles on being named one of the top ten regional fast-food restaurants in the country according to USA Today's Readers' Choice 2023.

Bojangles opened back in 1977 in Charlotte, North Carolina and has since spread nationwide, operating around 800 locations throughout the Midwest, South and up and down the East Coast. However, Bojangles has remained true to its Carolina roots and is a regional staple, specializing in perfectly seasoned fried chicken, biscuits and, of course, all the fixings.

I have been a big fan of Bojangles since I was a boy growing up in North Carolina. To this day, one of my favorite parts about going home after a long stint in Washington is being able to sit down and enjoy Bojangles with my family, friends, or staff.

Bojangles is a cultural icon and an esteemed member of our community in North Carolina. Its economic and community impact on our state is astounding and I look forward to continuing to work with them to see what they will accomplish in the future.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing Bojangles, its leaders, and employees on this momentous occasion and thanking them for all they do for our shared home of North Carolina.

### RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF EASTERSEALS NEW JERSEY

#### HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2023*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of Easterseals New Jersey. Since its establishment on January 8, 1948, Easterseals New Jersey has upheld its mission to enrich the lives of individuals with disabilities and their families.

Easterseals New Jersey remains committed to advancing opportunities for children and adults with developmental disabilities and special needs and empowering them to achieve their goals. Each year Easterseals New Jersey serves over 5,000 people in this endeavor.

Easterseals New Jersey has striven to identify the unmet needs of individuals and their caregivers and provides direct, hands-on support and resources to the community. From its fully accessible camp to its community activities, Easterseals New Jersey provides safe environments for socialization and recreation.

Additionally, its employment services, vocational assessments, and residences, among many other programs, help individuals develop life skills and reach their goals.

In its 75th year, Brian Fitzgerald serves as President and CEO of Easterseals New Jersey and is supported by a dedicated and hard-working group of staff, volunteers, and a Board of Directors. Together, the organization shares a commitment and passion for helping people with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, once again, it is my honor to recognize Easterseals New Jersey on its 75th anniversary. Their work to enhance the quality of life of those with disabilities is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

### CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN UNION, SOUTH CAROLINA

#### HON. RALPH NORMAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2023*

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the rich history and 150th anniversary of Grace United Methodist Church in Union County—a testament to the enduring spirit of the faith and community among all its members.

Early Methodism found its roots in Union County thanks to the tireless efforts of the renowned Methodist missionary, Francis Asbury, who visited Union County between 1788 and 1802.

By 1826, a “new” Methodist church had already been established on North Enterprise Street. Regrettably, it was eventually demolished in 1893 to make way for the Union Cotton Mill facilities.

In 1871, the dream of constructing a stone church was realized, largely due to the generous donation of granite by Benjamin Dudley Culp. The church was fittingly renamed “Grace” in honor of this contribution.

Colonel John L. Young, a dedicated church member, businessman, and builder of the Union and Spartanburg Railroad, oversaw the construction. By 1873, the church had taken its current form.

In 1919, further expansion and renovation work transformed Grace United Methodist Church into its present appearance. The center tower on the front was removed, and the belfry tower was raised and given a lower roof. On the right side of the sanctuary, a new section of pews was added, complete with a full basement and rooms on the main floor for a parlor, choir room, and Sunday school classes.

The architectural integration of these changes was so skillful that the addition became virtually seamless. A significant milestone was achieved in 1968 when a new Casavant organ, boasting twenty-one stops, twenty-eight ranks, and 1,476 pipes, was dedicated to the church.

The stained-glass windows in the church add to its beauty and significance. Four unique windows on the left side of the nave are particularly meaningful. The first window features a crown and cross, symbolizing celestial light. The second window displays an anchor, representing hope and fundamental truth. The third window showcases tablets with the Ten Commandments, a reminder of moral laws. The fourth, known as the Holy Bible window, depicts an open book, symbolizing accessibility to all and honoring the memory of Mary Elizabeth Greer, made by her sister, Cornelia Greer Walker.

As I reflect on the history of Grace United Methodist Church, I want to recognize the profound impact it has had on the spiritual and social fabric of Union County. Grace United Methodist Church stands as a timeless testament to the enduring power of faith, community, and the unwavering dedication of its members. May it continue to inspire and uplift the hearts of those who gather within its hallowed walls for generations to come.

### HONORING THE REMARKABLE CAREER OF EMS PIONEER MICHAEL BENENATI

#### HON. PATRICK RYAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2023*

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Michael Benenati for his long and distinguished career in the field of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in the Hudson Valley.

Michael's career began in 1977 when he certified as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) in New York State. While a full-time student at The Pennsylvania State University, he worked as a crew chief and medical receptionist for the University Ambulance Service, responding to emergencies on campus and in the surrounding community.

In 1987, Michael received his certification as a paramedic in New York State. He has worked part-time in Mobile Life Support and as Emergency Dispatcher for Ulster County ever since.

Michael has served as an important leader in EMS in the Hudson Valley. From 1998 to 2004, Michael worked as the Captain of New Paltz Rescue Squad. Since 2004, he has served as EMS Administrator for the La-Grange Fire District.

Michael has also been a tenacious and effective advocate for needed improvements to EMS in the Hudson Valley and across the country.

As leader of the New York State EMS Council Sustainability Technical Advisory Group, he spearheaded a review of challenges faced by EMS and potential solutions. The group's recommendations were compiled in the NYS 2023 Evidence Based EMS Agenda for the Future, a nationally recognized blueprint for the future of EMS.

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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



Michael has been lauded for his important contributions to the field of EMS. He has been recognized time and again by the State of New York, Ulster County, New York State EMS Council, Hudson Valley Regional EMS Councils, New York State Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Association, and the EMS Councils of both Ulster and Dutchess Counties, among others.

Most recently, Michael received the Harriet C. Weber EMS Leadership Award from the New York State EMS Council in honor of his decades-long career serving Hudson Valley communities and advocating for fellow EMS workers. Michael is a true public servant who exemplifies the very best of our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Michael Benenati. It is my privilege to rise in recognition of his extraordinary career.

HONORING BISCUITVILLE BEING  
NAMED THE NUMBER ONE FAST-  
FOOD RESTAURANT IN THE  
COUNTRY

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2023*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Biscuitville on being named the number one top regional fast-food restaurant in the country according to USA Today's Readers' Choice 2023.

Biscuitville opened in 1966 in Burlington, North Carolina and has since spread nationwide, operating around 70 locations across the region. However, Biscuitville has remained true to its North Carolina roots and is a regional staple, best known for its famous fresh biscuits and biscuit sandwiches.

I have been a big fan of Biscuitville since I was a young boy in North Carolina. To this day, one of my favorite parts about going home after a long stint in Washington is being able to sit down and enjoy Biscuitville with my family, friends, or staff.

Biscuitville is a cultural icon and an esteemed member of our community in North Carolina. Its economic and community impact on our state is astounding and I look forward to continuing to work with them to see what they will accomplish in the future.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing Biscuitville, its leaders, and employees on this momentous occasion and thanking them for all they do for our shared home of North Carolina.

RECOGNIZING SPINA BIFIDA  
AWARENESS MONTH

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2023*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, each October we recognize National Spina Bifida Month and pay tribute to the nearly 166,000 Americans living with Spina Bifida—the most common permanently disabling birth defect compatible with life—and to draw atten-

tion to the critical challenges we must address to ensure each and every American can achieve their full potential and attain the quality of life they deserve.

The federal government has an obligation to advance research into devastating diseases and disabilities to help find cures and therapies and to identify preventative strategies. Equally important is federal support for programs and initiatives that help patients and their families as they struggle to live with these conditions, such as Spina Bifida.

Literally translated as “split spine,” Spina Bifida is a condition that occurs when a baby's neural tube fails to develop or close properly. Typically occurring within the first 28 days of pregnancy while the neural tube is forming, Spina Bifida often develops before a woman even knows she is pregnant.

Sponsored by the Spina Bifida Association (SBA), National Spina Bifida Awareness Month is a time to highlight the needs of the community and recognize the importance of the work done year-round to advance research, programs, and policies aimed at meeting those needs.

As co-chair of the Congressional Spina Bifida Caucus, I've had the honor to work alongside SBA to advance Spina Bifida awareness, research, and public health efforts in Congress. Founded in 1973, SBA is the Nation's only organization solely dedicated to advocating for and assisting those living with and affected by this debilitating birth defect.

Through its nearly 60 chapters in more than 125 communities, the SBA brings expectant parents together with those who have a child with Spina Bifida. This interaction helps to answer questions and concerns, but most importantly it lends much needed support, solidarity, inspiration, and hope.

Mr. Speaker, Spina Bifida is a birth defect that can happen to anyone. Every day, an average of eight babies are affected by Spina Bifida and approximately 3,000 pregnancies are affected by this birth defect each year.

We do not know the exact cause of this condition, but research has found that if a woman takes 400 mcg of folic acid every day before she becomes pregnant, she reduces her risk of having a baby with Spina Bifida or another neural tube defect by as much as 70 percent.

No two cases of Spina Bifida are ever the same and so this birth defect is commonly referred to as the “snowflake condition.” Children born with Spina Bifida typically undergo dozens of surgeries before they reach the age of 18. And during their lifetime, someone with Spina Bifida will face at least \$1 million in medical expenses, including multiple surgeries, and most can expect to spend much of their lives in a wheelchair or walking with braces.

Despite these challenges—and thanks to advances in research and medicine, along with policies supportive of children with disabilities—nearly two-thirds of Americans currently living with Spina Bifida have made it to adulthood. And while these strides are certainly worth celebrating, people with Spina Bifida—particularly adults—continue to face a crisis of care that could be largely prevented with the right resources and policies.

For instance, while we have a coordinated system of care designed to treat children with Spina Bifida in the U.S., there is no equivalent for adults. The result is that adults face a

“care cliff” and enter a very fractured medical system where they are unable to find physicians willing or even knowledgeable enough to provide treatment, as Spina Bifida is still largely taught in medical schools as a pediatric condition and education has failed to keep pace with the rapid rise in the adult Spina Bifida population.

Thousands of adults are left with few options other than to seek care in the emergency room or continue to see their pediatric care team until insurance will no longer cover their care because of their age. And to make matters worse, many of these adults rely on Medicaid as their insurance provider, so even if they have the means to travel to an adult specialist, if they are located in another state—as is often the case—their coverage is denied. Across the country, there are more than 100 pediatric clinics devoted to caring for children with Spina Bifida. There are only 20 whose focus is on adults.

At the federal level, we can and should make dramatic improvements in the ability of adults with Spina Bifida to access quality care by increasing the funding of the CDC's National Spina Bifida Program—the only federal program tasked with improving the care and outcomes for people living with Spina Bifida.

In 2008, the Federal Spina Bifida Program created a National Spina Bifida Patient Registry to collect the scientific data needed to evaluate existing medical services for Spina Bifida patients, and to provide clinicians, researchers, patients, and families, a window into what care models are effective and what treatments are not making a measurable difference.

Building on this in 2014, the Spina Bifida Program funded the development of a Spina Bifida Collaborative Care Network to identify and to disseminate best practices for the care of people with Spina Bifida at all ages.

However, with only \$7.5 million in annual funding—and this amount has been stagnant—there are only 11,000 patients in the national registry, limiting the ability of medical professionals to glean knowledge that would advance research in areas critical to improving quality of life. Even modest increases to this funding would make an enormous difference.

Additionally, we should urge NIH to work collaboratively across their many divisions to better understand Spina Bifida. As Spina Bifida can affect every organ and every system in the human body, a collaborative effort undertaken by NIH could result in research that would lead to better care for both this generation and future generations of Spina Bifida patients. Moreover, the new designation of those with disabilities as a health disparity creates a new opportunity to harness federal resources for the Spina Bifida community by ensuring their representation in NIH research and thereby recognizing those with this complex condition in a new and critical light.

We are so fortunate today that our country is benefiting from the talent and contributions of the first generation of adults living with Spina Bifida. Today, I honor and celebrate all of them, along with their care partners, and also remember those we have lost to this condition. And I urge my colleagues to not only increase funding for the National Spina Bifida Program, but to work together so that these Americans receive the care and treatment all of us want for our families and loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, with added federal support, more people living with Spina Bifida could receive assistance they need along their life's journey. I invite my colleagues to join me in this mission and join me in the Spina Bifida Caucus to broaden our efforts and advance the goal of a better future for people living with Spina Bifida.

RECOGNIZING FORMER COCONUT CREEK CITY OFFICIAL MIKKIE BELVEDERE

**HON. JARED MOSKOWITZ**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2023*

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize former Coconut Creek City Official Mikkie Belvedere for her many years of public service.

Born in Tel Aviv to German parents who fled Nazi persecution, Mikkie emigrated to the United States as a teenager. Elected to the Coconut Creek City Commission at 72, she has a long history of serving her community in Coconut Creek. Mikkie served three four-year terms, during which her fellow commissioners elected her Vice-Mayor and then Mayor of Coconut Creek.

Her public service extends far beyond city government, becoming active in various local groups, from helping establish and grow the Coconut Creek Multicultural Circle to serving as President of the Wynmoor Democratic Club. She is also an active member of her synagogue congregation. In her retirement, Mikkie remains intent on staying positive and helping her community, encouraging everyone she meets to "Keep Smiling."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in recognizing former Coconut Creek City Official Mikkie Belvedere for her outstanding service to the people of Coconut Creek in Florida's 23rd Congressional District.

SPINA BIFIDA AWARENESS MONTH

**HON. KEVIN HERN**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2023*

Mr. HERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Day, as well as October as National Spina Bifida Month.

Spina Bifida impacts families across these United States, my own included. My sister and niece have lived with Spina Bifida since childhood.

Spina Bifida is a birth defect which results from a hole in the spiral cord that fails to close properly, which allows nerves and fluid to form a sac outside the body. This defect means that a child must undergo dozens of surgeries before adulthood, and even then, they face a multitude of mental and physical health issues. Each condition is unique, and no two children will be affected the same way.

In a testament to the innovation and research of our American scientific ingenuity, we now have the first generation of adults who are living with Spina Bifida. However, there is still much work to do.

It is our obligation to ensure proper funding for Spina Bifida care and research so that treatment and quality of life can improve for all Americans with this condition.

COMMEMORATING OCTOBER AS NATIONAL SPINA BIFIDA AWARENESS MONTH

**HON. JERROLD NADLER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2023*

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate October as National Spina Bifida Awareness Month, to recognize the approximately 166,000 Americans living with this condition, and to draw attention to the critical challenges we must address to ensure that each and every one of these individuals can achieve their full human potential and have the quality of life they deserve.

According to the Spina Bifida Association of America, Spina Bifida is the most common permanently disabling birth defect compatible with life. Literally translated as "split spine," Spina Bifida occurs when a baby's neural tube fails to develop or close properly. Typically occurring within the first 28 days of pregnancy while the neural tube is forming, Spina Bifida often develops before a woman even knows she is pregnant.

Children born with Spina Bifida typically undergo dozens of surgeries before they reach the age of 18. And during their lifetime, someone with Spina Bifida will face at least a \$1 million in medical expenses, including multiple surgeries.

Despite these challenges—and thanks to advances in research and medicine, along with policies supportive of children with this condition—nearly two-thirds of Americans currently living with Spina Bifida have made it to adulthood. And while these strides are certainly worth celebrating, people with Spina Bifida—particularly adults—continue to face a crisis of care that could be largely prevented with the right resources and policies.

While we have a coordinated system of care designed to treat children with Spina Bifida in the U.S., there is no equivalent for adults. The result is that adults face a "care cliff" and enter a very fractured medical system where they are unable to find physicians willing or even knowledgeable enough to provide treatment, as Spina Bifida is still largely taught in medical schools as a pediatric condition and education has failed to keep pace with the rapid rise in the adult Spina Bifida population. Thousands of adults are left with few options other than to seek care in the emergency room or continue to see their pediatric care team until insurance will no longer cover their care because of their age. And to make matters worse, many of these adults rely on Medicaid as their insurance provider, so even if they have the means to travel to an adult specialist, if they are located in another state—as is often the case—their coverage is denied. Across the country, there are more than 100 pediatric clinics devoted to caring for children with Spina Bifida. There are only 20 whose focus is on adults.

At the federal level, we could make dramatic improvements in the ability of adults with Spina Bifida to access quality care by increas-

ing the funding of the CDC's National Spina Bifida Program—the only federal program tasked with improving the care and outcomes for people living with Spina Bifida. In 2008, the Spina Bifida Program created a National Spina Bifida Patient Registry to collect the scientific data needed to evaluate existing medical services for Spina Bifida patients, and to provide clinicians, researchers, patients, and families, a window into what care models are effective and what treatments are not making a measurable difference. Building on this in 2014, the Spina Bifida Program funded the development of a Spina Bifida Collaborative Care Network to identify and to disseminate best practices for the care of people with Spina Bifida at all ages. However, with only \$7.5 million in annual funding, there are only 11,000 patients in the national registry, limiting the ability of medical professionals to glean knowledge that would advance research in areas critical to improving quality of life. Even modest increases to this funding would make an enormous difference.

Additionally, we should urge NIH to work collaboratively across their many divisions to better understand Spina Bifida. As Spina Bifida can affect every organ and every system in the human body, a collaborative effort undertaken by NIH could result in research that would lead to better care for both this generation and future generations of Spina Bifida patients. Moreover, the new designation of those with disabilities as a health disparity creates a new opportunity to harness federal resources for the Spina Bifida community by ensuring their representation in NIH research and thereby recognizing those with this complex condition in a new and critical light.

We are so fortunate today that our country is benefiting from the talent and contributions of the first generation of adults living with Spina Bifida. Today, I honor and celebrate all of them, along with their care partners, and also remember those we have lost to this condition. I urge my colleagues to not only increase funding for the National Spina Bifida Program, but to work together so that these Americans receive the care and treatment all of us want for our families and loved ones.

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY OF PASTOR CONWAY C. JOHNSON

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2023*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pastor Conway C. Johnson as he celebrates his 10th Pastoral Anniversary at Sharon Baptist Church of New Brunswick, New Jersey. Pastor Johnson continues to provide outstanding spiritual leadership and fellowship to the greater New Brunswick community.

Elected as pastor of Sharon Baptist Church on June 8, 2013, Pastor Johnson brought with him a wealth of experience when he began leading the congregation on August 4, 2013. Pastor Johnson entered the ministry at 18 and began his pastoral ministry at 28. Prior to his call to serve Sharon Baptist Church, Pastor Johnson led New Hope Baptist Church of Manitou Park for 10 years.

Under his leadership, the membership of Sharon Baptist Church has grown immensely. He has encouraged his congregants to practice faith in action, serving the needs of people through several worship and outreach ministries.

Pastor Johnson is married to his loving wife Nakia, and together they are blessed with five children. Supporting his spiritual and charitable journey, he holds a Master of Arts degree in Human Services from Lincoln University of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in celebrating the 10th Pastoral Anniversary of Pastor Conway C. Johnson. His leadership, service, and dedication to the church and community are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL GIFT SHOP TAX ACT

### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2023*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the Federal Gift Shop Tax Act, which would allow state and local governments to impose a sales tax at gift shops on federal property. These governments would be able to generate millions of dollars in new tax revenue.

When the federal government engages in activity that is not inherently governmental, such as operating a gift shop, there is no reason to exempt customer purchases from a sales tax. The items sold at federal gift shops, such as jewelry, apparel, accessories, games and books, are subject to a sales tax if sold on private property. Customers are often unaware of the exemption from a sales tax at gift shops on federal property, so the introduction of a sales tax is unlikely to have a significant impact on gift shop sales. It would, however, create a valuable revenue stream for state and local governments. In addition, state and local governments often provide uncompensated services on federal property, such as fire service, and allowing them to impose a sales tax at gift shops on federal property would allow them to recoup some of these costs.

This bill is of particular importance to the District of Columbia, which is home to a number of gift shops on federal property, such as at the Smithsonian Institution and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

#### COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNI- VERSARY OF THE VAN RAALTE FARMHOUSE

### HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2023*

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Van Raalte Farmhouse. The Van Raalte Farmhouse has been a staple of our West Michigan community for generations,

and we thank the City of Holland for preserving not only this site but the legacy of the Van Raalte family.

The farmland was purchased by the founder of Holland, Reverend Albertus Van Raalte, in 1847. The Reverend split the land between two of his children, Albertus and Benjamin, as a gift for their valiant service during the Civil War. Benjamin, a soldier in the Union Army who served in Michigan's 25th Infantry, purchased his brother's half of the land and constructed a beautiful neoclassical farmhouse on the property in the early 1870s. Benjamin cultivated the land for the remainder of his life, producing peaches and peony flowers. The farm became known as "The Maples" due to the large sugar maples grown on the property.

The farm stayed in the family for multiple generations until it was sold in the 1980s to the city of Holland, Michigan. Holland helped transform the farmhouse and its land into a beautiful park. In 1989, Van Raalte Farmhouse was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Today, community members continue to enjoy hikes and picnics as well as cross-country skiing and sledding in the winter at the park.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commemorating 150 years of history at the Van Raalte Farmhouse as the Van Raalte family's story and the farmhouse's beauty continue to inspire the people of Michigan's Fourth District.

#### ISRAEL AT WAR

### HON. JENNIFER A. KIGGANS

OF VIRGINIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2023*

Mr. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following message I shared on October 11 at a meeting of Jewish leaders with Governor Glenn Youngkin of Virginia at the offices of the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater in Virginia Beach.

Thank you Governor Youngkin for your initiatives to fight the precipitous rise of anti-Semitism in these United States and around the world. Your very timely visit with us so shortly after the October 7 terrorist Hamas vicious attacks on Israel's innocent civilians near the Gaza border is deeply appreciated along with ordering the lowering of the flag throughout the Commonwealth. We turn to our shared one God of life's blessings who always brings us together to be one caring family, gratefully united and gloriously diverse, ever harkening onto the divine commandments of loving-kindness.

At this painfully trying time of excruciating anguish and an over-whelming sense of violation by heartless enemies of humanity and civilized society, evoking terrifying images of the Holocaust deeply seared within us and to which I can personally testify as son of Polish survivors who lost hundreds of murdered relatives, and one who spent his early childhood in Europe's transit and DP Camps, later growing up in Haifa, Israel and serving in the IDF in the 1960s.

Just as we did not allow ultimate victory to Nazism rooted in historical anti-Semitism, so we shall defeat, whatever the cost, those who now shamefully delight in the barbaric slaughter of Jewish babies and their shocked parents, mowing down hundreds of youth celebrating peace at a music festival along with rape and torture; dragging to cruel captivity the young as well as frail

Holocaust survivors who had found refuge in the world's only sovereign Jewish state and the Middle-East's only democracy. We shall never abandon our beloved Israeli sisters and brothers heroically fighting for the very survival of their ancestral homeland which they have already honored with remarkable accomplishments benefiting all humanity.

We are uplifted and reassured at this fateful hour of existential threat to Israel's very well-being by the incomparable Israeli-American alliance of shared values and interests that, no doubt, makes a critical difference for the defense of the entire free world. The Ford and Eisenhower strike groups whose homeport is Hampton Roads are truly a source of swelling pride. The recent historic strides toward lasting Middle East peace with the major inclusion at last of Saudi Arabia, likely pushed Iran and its proxies—the enemies of peace who glorify death and dying while the West sanctifies life and living—to this inhuman cowardice massive assault on a holy Jewish day—50 years and a day since the other traumatic surprise of the Yom Kippur War—with total disregard for basic human norms.

They will be held accountable. Perhaps it was also a failed attempt of divergence from the Ukraine tragedy. Restoring Israel's damaged deterrence is a must priority. The internal Israeli bitter divisions around misguided Judicial Reform were perceived to reflect a weakened society, though Israel unites in a national security emergency, but a heavy price is nonetheless exacted by an enemy tragically neglecting and sacrificing its own Palestinian people.

Oh God sustain our sacred resolve to face evil and subdue it with Shalom's eternal blessings that we shall not compromise over, of healing, hope and harmony. Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman is founder and spiritual leader of Temple Lev Tikvah in Virginia Beach.

#### HONORING WHITNEY ANDERSON'S APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NA- TIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDER- ALLY-INSURED CREDIT UNIONS

### HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2023*

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Whitney Anderson on her recent election to the Board of Directors of the National Association of Federally-Insured Credit Unions (NAFCU). Credit unions play a vital role in our nation's banking ecosystem allowing more people to access capital, obtain mortgages, and receive other financial tools that are otherwise difficult to obtain. Additionally, I've seen firsthand in my district, how credit unions provided vital services during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that the smallest of businesses received the necessary aid to assist during such trying times.

Whitney currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Elements Financial, headquartered in Indianapolis, Indiana. She previously served as Chief Community Development Officer at Michigan State University Federal Credit Union, served as President of the Desk Drawer Fund, and President of Ever Green 3C. Additionally, Whitney has had significant community involvement on boards such as the African American Credit Union Coalition (AACUC) National Board, MLK Commission of Mid-Michigan, and United Way. Her

years of leading a broad range of teams, projects, and responsibilities provide a solid foundation and will add a unique perspective in her new role.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Whitney Anderson and wishing her the best of luck in her new role on the NAFCU Board of Directors. I look forward to working with her and NAFCU members to better serve our constituents across Indiana's 7th Congressional District.

HONORING THE REMARKABLE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ELVIRA "VERA" TAMARGO GARCIA

**HON. KATHY CASTOR**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Elvira "Vera" Tamargo Garcia, who passed away at the age of 88 on August 8, 2023. She was a lifelong Tampa native and devoted teacher who dedicated her life to civic service. Vera's contributions and tireless dedication to the Tampa Bay community will forever be remembered.

Vera embodied the true spirit of public service, exemplifying the values of compassion, dedication and mentorship. Throughout her 48-year career as a teacher at Broward, Ballast Point and Mendenhall elementary schools, she left a mark on hundreds of students she taught, their parents, and new teachers she mentored. Throughout her career, Vera taught in every elementary grade. Her passion was for early childhood education, and she played an important role in launching kindergarten instruction in Hillsborough County schools. Her talent and experience as an educator were evident in the numerous accomplishments she achieved. Vera's recognitions included Florida's Outstanding Young Educator in 1966 and was ranked fourth at the national level.

She attended the University of Tampa for her bachelor's degree and subsequently earned a master's degree from the University of South Florida. In her classroom, Vera strived to teach her students the values of respect and friendship along with phonics and counting, and her selfless service is manifested in the good principles of my Tampa Bay neighbors. Her tenacious determination as an instructor to future generations shaped much of her perspective and identity, but her work as a caregiver extended beyond the classroom.

Many knew Vera for her work advocating for Tampa's Latino heritage, protecting and preserving the Centro Asturiano de Tampa's original cemetery and its 121-year-old building. Vera took the role of president for the historic social club for immigrants and their descendants, making her the first woman to hold that position at the "Centro." She and her husband, attorney William F. "Willie" Garcia, devoted their later years to the preservation of the "Centro." Earlier in their lives, Vera and Willie were active in state and local politics, running campaigns, attending rallies and always supporting Democratic candidates at the local, state and federal levels. At home, they would adorn Christmas gifts with handmade themed ornaments that they would spend

months creating. Their marriage was filled with love and support for each other, accompanied by humor that made their bond stronger.

The eldest of three girls, Vera was born to Francisco "Pancho" and Honorina "Nora" Tamargo. She and her two sisters, Junis and Sandra, shared a room as children and their lives as adults. Her devotion to her family was shown in her commitment to spend Christmas together with her two sisters and cousin Mary Louise. Vera was beloved by her many nieces, nephews and cousins who could call or stop by her home to say hello, help with a chore, or take her to a family gathering.

For her two sons, William and Joseph, Vera was that unshakable support who got them where they needed to pursue their interests from swim meets to Scouting camping trips. Her grandchildren called her "Bueli", and they will remember her love and the way she lit up just hearing their voices.

Vera is survived by her sons, daughters-in-law, grandchildren and many loved ones to whom I extend my deepest sympathies. She will be remembered not only for her many years of selfless service, but also for her genuine compassion and kindness.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my sincere condolences to Vera's family and friends. She impacted the lives of countless members of the Tampa Bay community and her steadfast leadership and patient mentorship undeniably enhanced the lives of my neighbors. Tampa Bay is grateful for her contributions and the legacy she leaves.

HONORING COOK OUT BEING NAMED ONE OF THE TOP TEN FAST-FOOD RESTAURANTS IN THE COUNTRY

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Cook Out on being named one of the top ten regional fast-food restaurants in the country according to USA Today's Readers Choice 2023.

Cook Out opened in 1989 in Greensboro, North Carolina and has since spread nationwide, operating more than 300 locations across the Southern United States. However, Cook Out has remained true to its Carolina roots and is a regional staple, best known for its famous tray combos and delicious milkshakes.

I have been a big fan of Cook Out since I was growing up in North Carolina. To this day, one of my favorite parts about going home after a long stint in Washington is being able to sit down and enjoy Cook Out with my family, friends, or staff.

Cook Out is a cultural icon and an esteemed member of our community in North Carolina. Its economic and community impact on our state is astounding and I look forward to continuing to work with them to see what they will accomplish in the future.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing Cook Out, its leaders, and employees on this momentous occasion and thanking them for all they do for our shared home of North Carolina.

RECOGNIZING COVENANT COMMUNITY CARE

**HON. RASHIDA TLAIB**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize Covenant Community Care, a well-known and trusted healthcare provider, as they celebrate the grand opening of their newest health clinic on Joy Road in Detroit in the 12th Congressional District.

Covenant Care grew from humble beginnings in southwest Detroit when a doctor and pastor joined forces to with the simple idea of providing free healthcare access to the uninsured. The doctor delivered on her promise to provide free healthcare to the uninsured and many more rallied behind the cause, creating Covenant Community Care in 2000. The need for more resources was evident, and Covenant Community Care has been steadfast in its mission to remove barriers to high quality healthcare services. Over the years, Covenant Community Care has leveraged partnerships with other medical service providers and now has several locations across metropolitan Detroit.

I had the honor of securing House-appropriated Community Project Funding for Covenant Community Care in FY2023 to support the construction of their newest clinic to provide critical services to our community. Covenant has operated a small health clinic at 18917 Joy Rd in Detroit for nearly eight years that has limited their ability to expand services. This project will be impactful not only tripling the clinical footprint in the community but providing accessibility to essential care like primary medical, dental, and behavioral health services to the Cody-Rouge neighborhood and surrounding communities.

I am always incredibly honored to serve as a partner for the Covenant Community Care team and appreciate the ongoing high level of care and compassion you provide to our communities across the district and region. We offer congratulations and wish them well on the opening of their new clinic.

HONORING MRS. LORI DOBRATZ

**HON. ABIGAIL DAVIS SPANBERGER**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Mrs. Lori Dobratz on more than 37 years of service to our country.

Lori's career with the federal government began in February 1986 with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, D.C., where she worked as the Secretary to the Division Chief in the medical unit. In May 1995, Lori joined Capital District Contracting Center, which later became the Fort Belvoir Mission and Installation Contracting Command. Throughout her 28 years there, Lori has played a critical role as a Management Support Assistant.

As part of the U.S. Army Contracting Command, Lori supported efforts to ensure Army readiness at all times. Her hard work and contributions in service to the U.S. Army have not

gone unnoticed—as evidenced by the four performance awards Lori has received over the last five years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mrs. Lori Dobratz for her hard work, dedication, and service to our country, as well as in celebrating her career, accomplishments, and retirement.

SUPPORTING H. RES. 771, STANDING WITH ISRAEL AS IT DEFENDS ITSELF AGAINST THE BARBARIC WAR LAUNCHED BY HAMAS AND OTHER TERRORISTS

### HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2023*

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, due to a family matter, I was not present to vote on Roll Call No. 528. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 528. I stand firm in my support for our ally, Israel, and the Jewish community amidst the ongoing conflict. I condemn the atrocities committed by Hamas and other terrorists and support additional appropriations so that Israel may defend itself.

#### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and

any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, October 26, 2023 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

#### MEETINGS SCHEDULED

##### OCTOBER 31

- 9:30 a.m.  
Committee on Appropriations  
To hold hearings to examine the national security supplemental request. SD-106
- 10 a.m.  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety  
To hold hearings to examine AI and the future of work. SD-430
- Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine threats to the homeland. SD-562

##### NOVEMBER 1

- 10 a.m.  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
To hold hearings to examine the science of extreme event attribution, focusing on how climate change is fueling severe weather events. SD-406
- Committee on the Judiciary  
To hold hearings to examine pending nominations. SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine small businesses and America's outdoor recreation economy. SR-428A

3 p.m.

Committee on Rules and Administration  
To hold hearings to examine ongoing threats to election administration. SR-301

3:30 p.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine research at the Department of Veterans Affairs. SR-418

##### NOVEMBER 2

- 10 a.m.  
Committee on Finance  
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Martin O'Malley, of Maryland, to be Commissioner of Social Security. SD-215
- Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Harry Coker, Jr., of Kansas, to be National Cyber Director, Jeff Rezmovic, of Maryland, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, and Suzanne Elizabeth Summerlin, of Florida, to be General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority. SD-562

##### NOVEMBER 7

- 2:30 p.m.  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
To hold hearings to examine causes of roadway safety challenges and possible interventions. SD-406

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S5155–S5195*

**Measures Introduced:** Fifteen bills and six resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3121–3135, and S. Res. 427–432. **Pages S5182–83**

#### Measures Reported:

Special Report entitled “Further Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals for Fiscal Year 2024”. (S. Rept. No. 118–108) **Page S5182**

#### Measures Passed:

**Volleyball Day in Nebraska:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 428, recognizing women’s collegiate athletics and the record-setting Volleyball Day in Nebraska event on August 30, 2023. **Page S5172**

**National Early Childhood Literacy Awareness Day:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 430, designating October 20, 2023, as “National Early Childhood Literacy Awareness Day”. **Page S5177**

**National Women’s Small Business Month:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 431, recognizing the month of October 2023 as “National Women’s Small Business Month”. **Page S5177**

**Fifth Commemoration of the Antisemitic Attack at Tree of Life Synagogue:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 432, recognizing the fifth commemoration of the antisemitic attack that occurred on October 27, 2018, at a synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. **Page S5177**

#### Measures Considered:

**Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act—Agreement:** Senate resumed consideration of H.R. 4366, making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, taking action on the following amendments and motions proposed thereto: **Pages S5155–63**

Adopted:

Murray (for Moran) Amendment No. 1250 (to Amendment No. 1092), to prohibit the use of funds appropriated by division A to change rates for reimbursement for transportation via a special mode of

transportation under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and to reduce certain amounts available to the Department of Veterans Affairs. **Page S5160**

Murray (for Daines) Amendment No. 1185 (to Amendment No. 1092), to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress an earned value analysis of the Veterans Electronic Health Record system of the Department of Veterans Affairs. **Page S5160**

Murray (for Sullivan/Rosen) Amendment No. 1216 (to Amendment No. 1092), to prioritize the use of funds for certain telehealth services and mental health programs for veterans. **Page S5160**

Murray (for Sullivan/Lummis) Amendment No. 1221 (to Amendment No. 1092), to prohibit the use of funds to procure seafood from China for use in school meals. **Page S5160**

Murray (for Peters/Cornyn) Amendment No. 1283 (to Amendment No. 1092), to provide funding for the emergency and transitional pet shelter and housing assistance grant program. **Page S5160**

Murray (for Rosen) Amendment No. 1117 (to Amendment No. 1092), to make amounts available to the Veterans Health Administration to sustain and increase telehealth capacity and associated programmatic efforts. **Page S5160**

Murray (for Schatz) Amendment No. 1120 (to Amendment No. 1092), to extend the period of availability for fiscal year 2021 national infrastructure investments. **Page S5160**

Murray (for Booker/Tuberville) Amendment No. 1175 (to Amendment No. 1092), to increase funding for rural decentralized water systems. **Page S5160**

Murray (for Tillis) Amendment No. 1264 (to Amendment No. 1092), to require a review regarding veterans who engaged in toxic exposure risk activities while serving in Kosovo. **Pages S5160–61**

Murray (for Reed) Amendment No. 1202 (to Amendment No. 1092), to appropriate amounts for shellfish research, with an offset. **Page S5161**

Murray (for Britt) Amendment No. 1270 (to Amendment No. 1092), to provide appropriations for certain research using plant genomics, with an offset. **Page S5161**

Murray (for Kelly/Tillis) Amendment No. 1116 (to Amendment No. 1092), to require medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs to share certain data with State cancer registries. **Page S5161**

Murray (for Hirono/Moran) Amendment No. 1113 (to Amendment No. 1092), to provide funding for competitive grants for construction of agricultural research facilities and related activities, with an offset. **Page S5162**

Murray (for Warnock) Amendment No. 1351 (to Amendment No. 1092), to require the Secretary of Transportation to report on the Federal Aviation Administration's workforce development programs. **Page S5162**

Murray (for Smith/Ricketts) Amendment No. 1134 (to Amendment No. 1092), to require the submission of a report on improving staffing at Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resources Conservation Service at the county level. **Page S5162**

Murray (for Rosen) Amendment No. 1220 (to Amendment No. 1092), to provide funding for the suppression and control of Mormon crickets in western States. **Page S5162**

Murray (for Cardin/Van Hollen) Amendment No. 1277 (to Amendment No. 1092), to provide funding for invasive catfish control. **Page S5162**

Murray (for Padilla) Amendment No. 1140 (to Amendment No. 1092), to improve housing assistance for veterans experiencing homelessness. **Page S5162**

Murray (for Shaheen) Amendment No. 1131 (to Amendment No. 1092), to require a report on the use of third-party contractors to conduct medical disability examinations of veterans. **Page S5162**

Murray (for Klobuchar/Moran) Amendment No. 1203 (to Amendment No. 1092), to make funds available for the aeronautical information management program. **Page S5162**

Murray (for Kelly/Sinema) Amendment No. 1133 (to Amendment No. 1092), to require a report relating to rural community facilities direct loan applicants. **Page S5162**

Murray (for Padilla) Amendment No. 1139 (to Amendment No. 1092), to provide for the development of emergency evacuation route planning guidelines and best practices. **Page S5162**

Murray (for Ossoff) Amendment No. 1255 (to Amendment No. 1092), to provide funds for the Office of Women's Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs to expand access of women veterans to mammography initiatives and equipment. **Page S5162**

Murray (for Merkley/Crapo) Amendment No. 1352 (to Amendment No. 1092), to increase the set-aside for multi-benefit projects under the watershed and flood prevention operations program. **Page S5163**

Murray (for Stabenow) Amendment No. 1115 (to Amendment No. 1092), to provide funding for the Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Program. **Page S5163**

By 59 yeas to 38 nays (Vote No. 266), Vance Amendment No. 1210 (to Amendment No. 1092), to prohibit funds appropriated for the Department of Transportation for fiscal year 2024 from being used to enforce a mask mandate in response to the COVID-19 virus. **Pages S5163-64**

By 53 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. 268), Kennedy Amendment No. 1354 (to Amendment No. 1092), to prohibit the availability of funds for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to report certain information to the Department of Justice for use by the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. **Page S5169**

#### Rejected:

By 47 yeas to 51 nays (Vote No. 267), Graham (for Rubio) Amendment No. 1237 (to Amendment No. 1092), to prohibit the use of funds to implement the final rule regarding energy efficient standards for certain subsidized housing. **Page S5168**

By 56 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. 269), Lankford Amendment No. 1232 (to Amendment No. 1092), 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. (Pursuant to the order of Tuesday, October 24, 2023, the amendment having failed to achieve 60 affirmative votes, was not agreed to.) **Page S5177**

#### Withdrawn:

Schumer motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations, with instructions, Schumer Amendment No. 1230, to change the effective date. **Page S5160**

Murray Amendment No. 1205 (to Amendment No. 1092), to change the effective date. **Page S5160**

#### Pending:

Schumer (for Murray/Collins) Amendment No. 1092, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S5155**

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, October 26, 2023, as provided under the order of Tuesday, October 24, 2023; that if Senator Paul makes a motion to discharge S.J. Res. 44, directing the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Niger that have not been authorized by Congress, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, Senate vote on the motion at 11:30 a.m.; that if the

motion to discharge is not agreed to, Senate vote on Braun Amendment No. 1182 to the bill; that upon disposition of the Braun Amendment, Senate move to the consideration of S.J. Res. 42, 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”; that there be up to 30 minutes for debate equally divided between the two Leaders or their designees, and that following the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution. **Page S5195**

**Nomination Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 51 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 265), Jessica Looman, of Minnesota, to be Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor.

**Page S5163**

**Messages from the House:** **Page S5179**

**Measures Read the First Time:** **Page S5179**

**Executive Communications:** **Pages S5179–80**

**Executive Reports of Committees:** **Page S5182**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S5183–84**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:**  
**Pages S5184–94**

**Additional Statements:**

**Amendments Submitted:** **Pages S5194–95**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:** **Page S5195**

**Privileges of the Floor:** **Page S5195**

**Record Votes:** Five record votes were taken today. (Total—269) **Pages S5163, S5164, S5168, S5169, S5177**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:02 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, October 26, 2023. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S5195.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:* Committee announced the following subcommittee assignments for the 118th Congress:

*Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment:* Senators Menendez (Chair), Reed, Tester, Warner, Warren, Warnock, Butler, Rounds, Crapo, Tillis, Kennedy, Hagerty, and Vance.

*Subcommittee on National Security and International Trade and Finance:* Senators Warner (Chair), Tester,

Van Hollen, Cortez Masto, Butler, Hagerty, Britt, Cramer, and Daines.

*Subcommittee on Economic Policy:* Senators Warren (Chair), Reed, Menendez, Van Hollen, Smith, Fetterman, Kennedy, Rounds, Tillis, Lummis, and Daines.

*Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development:* Senators Smith (Chair), Reed, Menendez, Tester, Cortez Masto, Warnock, Fetterman, Butler, Lummis, Crapo, Rounds, Kennedy, Hagerty, Vance, and Britt.

*Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection:* Senators Warnock (Chair), Warner, Warren, Van Hollen, Cortez Masto, Smith, Fetterman, Tillis, Crapo, Lummis, Vance, Britt, and Cramer.

*Senators Brown and Scott (SC) are ex officio members of each subcommittee.*

### CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUPPLY CHAINS

*Committee on the Budget:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine how climate change threatens supply chains, after receiving testimony from Scott Kelly, Resilience, Cambridge, United Kingdom; Adam Rose, University of Southern California, Los Angeles; Kathy Fulton, American Logistics Aid Network, Auburndale, Florida; David Barker, Barker Companies, Iowa City, Iowa; and Robert McNally, Rapidan Energy Group, Washington, D.C.

### PENDING LEGISLATION

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining concluded a hearing to examine S. 175, to codify certain public land orders relating to the revocation of certain withdrawals of public land in the State of Alaska, S. 297, to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to authorize certain construction activities on public lands, S. 1348, to redesignate land within certain wilderness study areas in the State of Wyoming, S. 1719, to amend the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 to establish emergency fire-shed management areas, S. 1764, to improve Federal activities relating to wildfires, S. 1889, to provide for the recognition of certain Alaska Native communities and the settlement of certain claims under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, S. 2132, to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a pilot program for the establishment and use of a pre-fire-suppression stand density index, S. 2151, to amend the Southwest Forest Health and Wildlife Prevention Act of 2004 to require the establishment of an additional Institute under that Act, S. 2581, to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, S. 2615, to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide that Village Corporations shall not be required to convey land in



trust to the State of Alaska for the establishment of Municipal Corporations, S. 2855, to modernize and streamline the permitting process for broadband infrastructure on Federal land, S. 2867, to address the forest health crisis on the National Forest System and public lands, S. 2991, to improve revegetation and carbon sequestration activities in the United States, S. 3033, to withdraw certain Federal land in the Pecos Watershed area of the State of New Mexico from mineral entry, S. 3036, to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the State of Utah certain Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management within the boundaries of Camp Williams, Utah, S. 3044, to redesignate the Mount Evans Wilderness as the “Mount Blue Sky Wilderness”, S. 3045, to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over certain Federal land in the State of California, S. 3046, to make permanent the authority to collect Shasta-Trinity National Forest marina fees, H.R. 3324, to extend the authority to collect Shasta-Trinity Marina fees through fiscal year 2029, S. 3062, to provide for the removal of small-diameter trees in fire hazard areas, and S. 3079, to establish a policy regarding appraisal and valuation services for real property for a transaction over which the Secretary of the Interior has jurisdiction, after receiving testimony from Nada Wolff Culver, Principal Deputy Director, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior; Jacqueline Emanuel, Associate Deputy Chief, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; and Mark Boshell, Utah Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office, Salt Lake City.

#### PAID LEAVE

*Committee on Finance:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine paid leave, focusing on policy, practice, and impact on the workforce, after receiving testimony from Ben Verhoeven, Peoria Gardens, Inc., Albany, Oregon; and Jocelyn Frye, National Partnership for Women and Families, Rachel U. Greszler, The Heritage Foundation Grover M. Hermann Center for the Federal Budget, and Elizabeth Milito, National Federation of Independent Business, all of Washington, D.C.

#### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Jacob J. Lew, of New York, to be Ambassador to the State of Israel, Richard H. Riley IV, of California, to be Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Somalia, Mark Toner, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Liberia, and Herro Mustafa Garg, of California, to be Ambassador to the Arab Republic of Egypt, all of the Department of State, Paul K. Martin, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, United

States Agency for International Development, David E. White, Jr., of New York, to be Deputy Director of the Peace Corps, and routine lists in the Foreign Service.

#### BLACK SEA REGION SECURITY

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Security Cooperation concluded a hearing to examine the Department of State’s strategy for security in the Black Sea region, after receiving testimony from James C. O’Brien, Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs.

#### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* Committee ordered favorably reported the following bills:

S. 2685, to make data and internal guidance on excess personal property publicly available, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2866, to improve the customer experience of the Federal Government, ensure that Federal services are simple, seamless, and secure, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 3029, to amend title 5, United States Code, to increase death gratuities and funeral allowances for Federal employees, with an amendment;

S. 2150, to establish an Interagency Council on Service to promote and strengthen opportunities for military service, national service, and public service for all people of the United States, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2087, to reauthorize the Congressional Award Act, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2414, to require agencies with working dog programs to implement the recommendations of the Government Accountability Office relating to the health and welfare of working dogs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1258, to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to submit to Congress an annual report on projects that are over budget and behind schedule;

S. 3071, to amend section 324 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to incentivize States, Indian Tribes, and Territories to close disaster recovery projects by authorizing the use of excess funds for management costs for other disaster recovery projects, with amendments; and

S. 3067, to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to conduct an evaluation and submit to Congress a report on ways to reduce the complexity of the cost effectiveness requirements for hazard mitigation assistance, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Monica M. Bertagnolli, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, Charlotte A. Burrows, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Erika L. McEntarfer, of the District of Columbia, to be Commissioner of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor, and Amanda Wood Laihow, of Maine, to be a Member of Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

**BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW AND THE INFLATION REDUCTION ACT**

*Committee on Indian Affairs:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine implementing the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act in native communities, after receiving testimony from Jarred-Michael Erickson, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Nespelem, Washington; Jacob Keyes, Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma, Perkins; Timothy Nuvangyaoma, Hopi Tribe, Kykotsmovi, Arizona; Sherry Parker, Hualapai Tribe, Peach Springs, Arizona; Shawn Malia Kana'iaupuni, Partners in Development Foundation, Honolulu, Hawaii; Jasmine Boyle, Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc., Anchorage; and Susan Masten, Native American Finance Officers Association, Washington, D.C.

**UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine ensuring the safety and well-being of unaccompanied children, after receiving testimony from Joseph Salazar, Office Director, Office of Central American Affairs, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, Department of State; Robin Dunn Marcos, Director, Office of Refugee Resettlement, Administration for Children and Families, De-

partment of Health and Human Services; Seema Nanda, Solicitor of Labor, Office of the Solicitor, Department of Labor; and Cardell T. Morant, Assistant Director, Homeland Security Investigations, Center for Countering Human Trafficking, Department of Homeland Security.

**FOSTER CHILDREN**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Law concluded a hearing to examine the human rights of foster children, after receiving testimony from Melissa D. Carter, Emory Law School, Decatur, Georgia; Emma M. Hetherington, University of Georgia School of Law Wilbanks Child Endangerment and Sexual Exploitation Clinic, Athens; Rachel Aldridge, Wray, Georgia; and Mon'a Houston, Savannah, Georgia.

**ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY**

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine VA accountability and transparency, focusing on quality care and benefits for veterans, after receiving testimony from Tracey Therit, Chief Human Capital Officer, Office of Human Resources and Administration/Operations, Security and Preparedness, David Perry, Chief Officer, Workforce Management and Consulting, Veterans Health Administration, Aaron Robison, Senior Attorney-Advisor, Accountability, Office of General Counsel, and Ted Radway, Executive Director, Investigations, and Acting Executive Director, Compliance and Oversight, Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection, all of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

**INTELLIGENCE**

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

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# House of Representatives

**Chamber Action**

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 27 public bills, H.R. 6040–6066; and 5 resolutions, H. Res. 810–814, were introduced. **Pages H5103–05**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages H5107–08**

**Reports Filed:** Reports were filed today as follows:  
H.R. 3369, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to

conduct a study and hold public meetings with respect to artificial intelligence systems, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–244);

H.R. 3309, to amend the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 to establish a uniform fee schedule applicable to the processing of forms for the consideration of applications for the placement of communications facilities on certain buildings and

other property owned by the Federal Government, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–245, Part 1);

H.R. 3838, to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize Federal support of States in their work to save and sustain the health of mothers during pregnancy, childbirth, and the postpartum period, to eliminate disparities in maternal health outcomes for pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated deaths, to identify solutions to improve health care quality and health outcomes for mothers, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–246);

H.R. 3821, to reauthorize the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act of 2018 (H. Rept. 118–247);

H.R. 3343, to require the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to submit to Congress a plan for the Assistant Secretary to track the acceptance, processing, and disposal of certain Form 299s, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–248);

H.R. 4510, to reauthorize the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, to update the mission and functions of the agency, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–249);

H.R. 1105, to amend the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 to reauthorize the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–250);

H.R. 3581, to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the family caregiver program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to include services related to mental health and neurological disorders, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–251);

H.R. 4259, to amend the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to require notification with respect to individualized education program teams, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–252);

H.J. Res. 88, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to “Improving Income Driven Repayment for the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program and the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program” (H. Rept. 118–253);

H.R. 4957, to apply the requirements of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998 to a vacancy in the office of the Secretary of Labor, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–254); and

H.R. 5349, to develop and disseminate a civic education curriculum and oral history resources re-

garding certain political ideologies, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–255).

**Page H5103**

**Guest Chaplain:** The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Reverend Jeremy Leganski, Immaculate Conception Church, Elmhurst, IL. **Page H5047**

**Call of the House:** Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XX, Representative Bost moved a call of the House. Accordingly, Members were counted and the Chair announced that 429 Members being counted, a quorum was present, Roll No. 526. **Pages H5047–48**

**Election of Speaker:** The House resumed proceedings from Tuesday, October 17th, Wednesday, October 18th, and Friday, October 20th. The House conducted an additional vote to elect a Speaker, from which a majority was ascertained, and a Speaker was elected. During the final vote for Speaker, the Honorable Mike Johnson (LA) received 220 votes and the Honorable Hakeem Jeffries received 209 votes, Roll No. 527. The Honorable Mike Johnson of Louisiana was elected Speaker of the House of Representatives. On Tuesday, October 17th, the Chair appointed Representatives Steil, Morelle, Loudermilk, and Sewell to act as Tellers. **Pages H5048–49**

**Escort Committee:** The Chair appointed the following committee to escort the Speaker-elect to the Chair: Representatives Scalise, Emmer, Stefanik, Hudson, Palmer, McClain, McCarthy, Donalds, Hern, Bergman, Rodgers, Arrington, Fallon, Molinaro, Cammack, Jeffries, Clark (MA), Aguilar, Lieu, DelBene, Clyburn, Neguse, Escobar, Underwood, Wasserman Schultz, Lee, Kildee, Jacobs, Crockett; and the members of the Louisiana delegation: Representatives Graves, Higgins, Letlow, and Carter. **Pages H5049–50**

**Administration of the Oath of Office to the Speaker:** The Dean of the House, the Honorable Hal Rogers, administered the oath of office to the Speaker. **Page H5052**

**Notify the Senate of the Election of the Speaker:** The House agreed to H. Res. 810, to inform the Senate of the election of the Speaker. **Page H5053**

**Notify the President of the Election of the Speaker:** The House agreed to H. Res. 811, authorizing the Clerk to inform the President of the election of the Speaker. **Page H5053**

**Policies of the Chair:** The Chair announced that the Speaker’s announced policies with respect to particular aspects of the legislative process placed in the Record on January 9, 2023, will continue in effect for the remainder of the 118th Congress. **Page H5053**

**Speaker Pro Tempore:** The Chair announced that the Speaker delivered to the Clerk a letter dated October 25, 2023, listing Members in the order in which each shall act as Speaker pro tempore under clause 8(b)(3) of rule 1. **Page H5053**

**Succession of the Speaker of the House:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he designated Representative Scalise to exercise authority regarding any assembly, reassembly, or reconvening. **Page H5053**

**Speaker Pro Tempore Designations:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative McHenry, Representative Smith (NE), Representative Harris, Representative Reschenthaler, Representative Wittman, Representative Cline, Representative Hudson, and Representative Joyce (PA) to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through the remainder of the One Hundred Eighteenth Congress. **Page H5053**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 2:49 p.m. and reconvened at 3:31 p.m. **Page H5053**

**Suspensions:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure: Standing with Israel as it defends itself against the barbaric war launched by Hamas and other terrorists: H. Res. 771, standing with Israel as it defends itself against the barbaric war launched by Hamas and other terrorists, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yea-and-nay vote of 412 yeas to 10 nays with six answering “present”, Roll No. 528. **Pages H5053–64**

**Extension of Time:** Agreed by unanimous consent that debate on H. Res. 771 be extended by 10 minutes on each side. **Page H5054**

**Committee Resignation:** Read a letter from Representative Johnson (LA) wherein he resigned from the Committee on Armed Services. **Page H5064**

**Committee Resignation:** Read a letter from Representative Johnson (LA) wherein he resigned from the Committee on the Judiciary and the House Judiciary Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government. **Page H5064**

***Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024:*** The House considered H.R. 4394, making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024. Consideration is expected to resume tomorrow, October 26th. **Page H5066**

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment printed in part A of H. Rept. 118–242 shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. **Pages H5071–83**

Agreed to:

Fleischmann amendment en bloc No. 1 consisting of the following amendments printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–242: Lawler (No. 1) that increases and decreases funding for the Army Corps of Engineers by \$1 million with the intent to direct the Secretary to ensure that the New York-New Jersey Harbor and Tributaries Focus Area Feasibility Study (HATS) complies with the Water Resources Development Acts (WRDA) of 2020 and 2022; Molinaro (No. 2) that increase/decrease amendment to highlight the importance of shoreline and flood management along the Hudson River; Graves (LA) (No. 4) that increases and decreases the Army Corps-Civil Works Construction budget by \$1.746 billion to direct the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works to prioritize the completion of overbudget projects originally “fully funded” by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018; Molinaro (No. 5) that increase/decrease amendment to highlight the importance of shoreline and flood management along the Susquehanna River; Phillips (No. 6) that increases and decreases funding for the Army Corps of Engineers Operation and Maintenance account by \$3 million to provide funding for the implementation of Section 11207 of the FY 2023 NDAA regarding the establishment of an Aqua Alert notification system pilot program; Moylan (No. 7) that includes Typhoons on same basis as Hurricanes; Lawler (No. 8) that increases and decreases funding for Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies with the intent to direct the Secretary to implement disaster response to assist the communities impacted by recent flooding in New York as soon as possible; Moylan (No. 9) that increases funding for flood control and coastal emergencies with offsets; Boebert (No. 10) that transfers \$1 million from Departmental Administration Account to the Upper Colorado River Basin Development Fund for Colorado River Dam Fund to increase water storage; Boebert (No. 11) that transfers funds from Departmental Administration Account to the Colorado River Storage Project to help combat drought in the West; Fallon (No. 17) that increases and decreases funding for the Department of Energy Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response by \$5,000,000 to prioritize critical infrastructure programs such as CyTRICS and Consequence-driven Cyber-informed Engineering (CCE); Walberg (No. 18) that increases and decreases funding for the Department of Energy Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response with the intent to direct the Director to prioritize the testing, analysis, certification, and integration applicability of commercially available non-certificate and non-public

key infrastructure based advanced cyber security software to secure the Electrical Power Grid from internal and external unauthorized access and attacks; Peltola (No. 21) that increases and decreases by \$3 million the Department of Energy Title 17 Innovative Technology Loan Guarantee Program to provide loan guarantees in support of the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline; Jackson (No. 23) that brings funding for the HE Synthesis, Formulation, and Production facility at the Pantex Plant into accordance with the House-passed NDA; and Lawler (No. 33) that increases and decreases funding for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission with the intent to direct the Commissioner to ensure coordination with federal, state, local, and public stakeholders to explore alternatives to disposing of radioactive wastewater into the Hudson River from Indian Point Energy Center;

**Page H5083**

Neguse amendment (No. 13 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–242) that increases the Water and Related Resources Account by \$500,000, to be directed to the Endangered Species Recovery Implementation Program (Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins);

**Page H5085**

Cammack amendment (No. 34 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–242) that prohibits funds from being used to finalize any rule or regulation that has resulted in or is likely to result in an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more; and

**Page H5083**

Fallon amendment (No. 35 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–242) that prohibits any funding to be used to finalize, implement, or enforce the proposed rule titled, “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Furnaces.”

**Page H5083**

#### Proceedings Postponed:

Perry (No. 3 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–242) that seeks to reduce the funding for Army Corps of Engineers—Civil; Investigations by \$715,000 for the purpose of eliminating funding for the Delaware River Basin Commission;

**Page H5084**

Neguse (No. 12 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–242) that seeks to increase the Water and Related Resources Account by \$1 million to be directed to the Colorado River Compliance Activities account, specifically for the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Endangered Fish Recovery programs;

**Pages H5085–86**

Westerman (No. 14 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–242) that seeks to reduce funding for the Bureau of Reclamation Policy and Administration to Fiscal Year 2022 levels consistent with the Limit, Save, Grow Act;

**Pages H5086–87**

Griffith (No. 15 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–242) that seeks to increase funds for the Fossil

Energy and Carbon Management program within the Department of Energy by \$600 million and reduces funds for the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy program by \$1.1 billion;

**Pages H5087–88**

Roy (No. 16 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–242) that seeks to eliminate funding for DOE’s Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy;

**Pages H5088–89**

Perry (No. 19 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–242) that seeks to strike funding for Clean Energy Demonstrations;

**Pages H5089–90**

Norman (No. 20 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–242) that seeks to eliminate funding (\$470,000,000) for Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy;

**Pages H5090–92**

Perry (No. 25 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–242) that seeks to reduce the funding level in this bill for the Appalachian Regional Commission to FY19 levels;

**Pages H5092–93**

Perry (No. 26 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–242) that seeks to reduce the funding level for the Delta Regional Commission to the FY19 level;

**Pages H5093–94**

Perry (No. 27 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–242) that seeks to reduce funding for the Denali Commission to FY19 levels;

**Page H5094**

Perry (No. 28 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–242) that seeks to eliminate funding for the Denali Commission (\$17 million);

**Pages H5094–95**

Perry (No. 29 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–242) that seeks to reduce funding for the Northern Border Regional Commission to FY19 levels;

**Page H5095**

Perry (No. 30 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–242) that seeks to reduce funding for the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission to FY19 level;

**Pages H5095–96**

Perry (No. 31 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–242) that seeks to cut funding for the Southwest Border Regional Commission in half; and

**Pages H5096–97**

Perry (No. 32 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–242) that seeks to cut the funding for the Great Lakes Authority in half.

**Page 5097**

H. Res. 756, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 4394) and (H.R. 4364) was agreed to on Tuesday, October 3rd.

**Meeting Hour:** Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow, October 26th.

**Page H5100**

**Presidential Messages:** Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency declared with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Columbia is to continue in effect beyond October 21, 2023—referred to

the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered printed (H. Doc. 118–70). **Page H5065**

Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency declared with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo is to continue in effect beyond October 27, 2023—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered printed (H. Doc. 118–71). **Page H5065**

**Senate Referrals:** S. 2854 was held at the desk. S. 2231 was held at the desk. S.J. Res. 32 was held at the desk. **Page H5064**

**Senate Messages:** Messages received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appear on pages H5064.

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** One yea-and-nay vote and one quorum call, Roll No. 527, developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H5049.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 12 p.m. and adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

### THE SUBMARINE INDUSTRIAL BASE AND ITS ABILITY TO SUPPORT THE AUKUS FRAMEWORK

*Committee on Armed Services:* Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces held a hearing entitled “The Submarine Industrial Base and its Ability to Support the AUKUS Framework”. Testimony was heard from Mara E. Karlin, Performing the Duties of Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Department of Defense; Erik K. Raven, Under Secretary of the Navy, Department of the Navy; Vice Admiral William Houston, Commander, Naval Submarine Forces, Department of the Navy; and Rear Admiral Jonathan Rucker, Program Executive Officer, Attack Submarines, Department of the Navy.

### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security concluded a markup on legislation on the Advanced Reactor Fee Reduction Act; legislation on the Advanced Nuclear Reactor Prize Act; legislation on the Nuclear for Brownfields Site Preparation Act; legislation on the Strengthening American Nuclear Competitiveness Act; legislation on the NRC Mission Alignment Act; legislation on the Nuclear Licensing Efficiency Act; legislation on the Advanced Nuclear Deployment Act; legislation on the Modernize Nuclear Reactor Environmental Reviews Act; legislation on the Advancing Nuclear Regulatory Oversight Act; H.R. 995, the “Global Nuclear Energy Assessment and

Cooperation Act”; H.R. 5718, the “Nuclear Fuel Security Act of 2023”; H.R. 4528, the “Strengthening the NRC Workforce Act of 2023”; H.R. 4167, the “Protecting America’s Distribution Transformer Supply Chain Act”; legislation on the Hands Off Our Home Appliances Act; legislation on the GRID Act; legislation on the Affordable HOMES Act; and H.R. 4045, the “Hydropower Clean Energy Future Act”. Legislation on the Advanced Reactor Fee Reduction Act, legislation on the Advanced Nuclear Reactor Prize Act, legislation on the Nuclear for Brownfields Site Preparation Act, legislation on the Strengthening American Nuclear Competitiveness Act, legislation on the NRC Mission Alignment Act, legislation on the Nuclear Licensing Efficiency Act, legislation on the Advanced Nuclear Deployment Act, legislation on the Modernize Nuclear Reactor Environmental Reviews Act, legislation on the Advancing Nuclear Regulatory Oversight Act, legislation on the Hands Off Our Home Appliances Act, legislation on the GRID Act, legislation on the Affordable HOMES Act, H.R. 5718, and H.R. 4167 were forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment. H.R. 995, H.R. 4528, and H.R. 4045 were forwarded to the full Committee, as amended.

### SUPPORTING ACCESS TO LONG-TERM SERVICES AND SUPPORTS: AN EXAMINATION OF THE IMPACTS OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS ON WORKFORCE AND ACCESS TO CARE

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Health held a hearing entitled “Supporting Access to Long-Term Services and Supports: An Examination of the Impacts of Proposed Regulations on Workforce and Access to Care”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### MODERNIZING FINANCIAL SERVICES THROUGH INNOVATION AND COMPETITION

*Committee on Financial Services:* Subcommittee on Digital Assets, Financial Technology and Inclusion held a hearing entitled “Modernizing Financial Services Through Innovation and Competition”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### HOW AMERICA AND ITS ALLIES CAN STOP HAMAS, HEZBOLLAH, AND IRAN FROM EVADING SANCTIONS AND FINANCING TERROR

*Committee on Financial Services:* Subcommittee on National Security, Illicit Finance, and International Financial Institutions held a hearing entitled “How America and Its Allies Can Stop Hamas, Hezbollah, and Iran from Evading Sanctions and Financing Terror”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**THE U.S.-HONDURAS BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP: ANALYZING THE SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT XIOMARA CASTRO DE ZELAYA**

*Committee on Foreign Affairs:* Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere held a hearing entitled “The U.S.-Honduras Bilateral Relationship: Analyzing the Socialist Government of President Xiomara Castro de Zelaya”. Testimony was heard from Eric Jacobstein, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, Department of State; and Mileydi Guilarte, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, U.S. Agency for International Development.

**THE GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT CENTER: HELPING OR HURTING U.S. FOREIGN POLICY**

*Committee on Foreign Affairs:* Subcommittee on Oversight and Accountability held a hearing entitled “The Global Engagement Center: Helping or Hurting U.S. Foreign Policy”. Testimony was heard from Daniel Kimmage, Principal Deputy Coordinator, Global Engagement Center, Bureau of Global Public Affairs, Department of State.

**AN EXAMINATION OF THE IRANIAN REGIME’S THREATS TO HOMELAND SECURITY**

*Committee on Homeland Security:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “An Examination of the Iranian Regime’s Threats to Homeland Security”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**EVALUATING FEDERAL CYBERSECURITY GOVERNANCE**

*Committee on Homeland Security:* Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection held a hearing entitled “Evaluating Federal Cybersecurity Governance”. Testimony was heard from Eric Goldstein, Executive Assistant Director, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Department of Homeland Security; and Chris DeRusha, Federal Chief Information Security Officer, Office of Management and Budget, and Deputy National Cyber Director for Federal Cybersecurity, Office of the National Cyber Director.

**MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES**

*Committee on Natural Resources:* Full Committee began a markup on H.R. 1792, the “South Pacific Tuna Treaty Act of 2023”; H.R. 2560, the “Sea Turtle Rescue Assistance Act of 2023”; H.R. 3415, the “Pilot Butte Power Plant Conveyance Act”; H.R. 4587, the “Red Snapper Act”; H.R. 4770, the “Chesapeake Bay Science, Education, and Ecosystem Enhancement Act of 2023”; H.R. 5009, the “WILD

Act”; H.R. 5283, the “Protecting our Communities from Failure to Secure the Border Act of 2023”; and H.R. 5616, the “BRIDGE Production Act of 2023”.

**LEGISLATIVE MEASURES**

*Committee on Natural Resources:* Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing on H.R. 1449, the “CLEAN Act”; H.R. 2855, the “Sinkhole Mapping Act of 2023”; legislation on the Right of Way Application Transparency and Accountability Act; and legislation on the Restoring American Energy Dominance Act. Testimony was heard from Representatives Soto, Boebert, and Fulcher; Tom Kropatsch, Oil and Gas Supervisor, Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission; and public witnesses.

**LEGISLATIVE MEASURES**

*Committee on Natural Resources:* Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries held a hearing on H.R. 520, to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to provide that artificially propagated animals shall be treated the same under that Act as naturally propagated animals; H.R. 2990, the “National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Sexual Harassment and Assault Prevention Improvements Act of 2023”; H.R. 5103, the “FISHES Act”; H.R. 5504, to require the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to withdraw proposed rules relating to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and for other purposes; H.R. 5509, the “Electronic Permitting Modernization Act”; H.R. 5874, the “TAAP Act”; and legislation to prohibit the implementation of certain documents until the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries of the National Marine Fisheries Service issues documents relating to the Rice’s whale. Testimony was heard from Representatives McClintock, Bonamici, Newhouse, Porter, and Ciscomani; Gary Frazer, Assistant Director for Ecological Services, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

**FAITH UNDER FIRE: AN EXAMINATION OF GLOBAL RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION**

*Committee on Oversight and Accountability:* Subcommittee on National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs held a hearing entitled “Faith Under Fire: An Examination of Global Religious Persecution”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**THE POWER OF APPRENTICESHIPS:  
FASTER, BETTER PATHS TO PROSPEROUS  
JOBS AND LESS WASTE IN HIGHER  
EDUCATION**

*Committee on Oversight and Accountability:* Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs held a hearing entitled “The Power of Apprenticeships: Faster, Better Paths to Prosperous Jobs and Less Waste in Higher Education”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM AND  
OPPORTUNITY FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES,  
STUDENTS, AND WORKERS**

*Committee on Ways and Means:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Educational Freedom and Opportunity for American Families, Students, and Workers”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

***Joint Meetings***

**FREEING INTERNATIONAL CAPTIVES**

*Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe:* Commission concluded a hearing to examine Hamas’ hostages, Putin’s prisoners, and freeing international captives, after receiving testimony from Irwin Cotler, Raul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights; Davyd Arakhamia, Servant of the People Party; Jared Genser, Perseus Strategies; and Evgenia Kara-Murza, Free Russia Foundation.

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**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY,  
OCTOBER 26, 2023**

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

**Senate**

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:* to hold hearings to examine combating the networks of illicit finance and terrorism, 10 a.m., SD-538.

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* to hold hearings to examine Federal offshore energy strategy and policies, 9:30 a.m., SD-366.

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* Subcommittee on Chemical Safety, Waste Management, Environmental Justice, and Regulatory Oversight, to hold hearings to examine evaluating alternative materials for single-use plastics, 10 a.m., SD-406.

*Committee on the Judiciary:* business meeting to consider subcommittee assignments, and the nominations of Mustafa Taher Kasubhai, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon, John A. Kazen, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, Eumi K. Lee, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, Shanlyn A.S. Park, and Micah W.J. Smith, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of Hawaii, and Jamel Semper, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, 10 a.m., SH-216.

*Special Committee on Aging:* to hold hearings to examine access to therapies for people with rare, progressive, and serious diseases, 10 a.m., SD-106.

**House**

*Committee on Financial Services,* Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Moving the Money: Understanding the Iranian Regime’s Access to Money Around the World and How They Use It to Support Terrorism”, 9 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on Natural Resources,* Full Committee, continue markup on H.R. 1792, the “South Pacific Tuna Treaty Act of 2023”; H.R. 2560, the “Sea Turtle Rescue Assistance Act of 2023”; H.R. 3415, the “Pilot Butte Power Plant Conveyance Act”; H.R. 4587, the “Red Snapper Act”; H.R. 4770, the “Chesapeake Bay Science, Education, and Ecosystem Enhancement Act of 2023”; H.R. 5009, the “WILD Act”; H.R. 5283, the “Protecting our Communities from Failure to Secure the Border Act of 2023”; and H.R. 5616, the “BRIDGE Production Act of 2023”, 9:15 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

*Committee on Ways and Means,* Subcommittee on Social Security, hearing entitled “One Million Claims and Growing: Improving Social Security’s Disability Adjudication Process”, 9 a.m., 2020 Rayburn.



*Next Meeting of the SENATE*  
10 a.m., Thursday, October 26

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*  
10 a.m., Thursday, October 26

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Senate Chamber

**Program for Thursday:** Senate will continue consideration of H.R. 4366, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

At 11:30 a.m., Senate is expected to vote on or in relation to Paul motion to discharge S.J. Res. 44, Niger War Powers Resolution, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, followed by a vote on or in relation to Braun Amendment No. 1182 to H.R. 4366.

At 1:45 p.m., Senate will vote on passage of S.J. Res. 42, School Lunch CRA.

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House Chamber

**Program for Thursday:** Continue consideration of H.R. 4394—Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024.

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HOUSE

Carson, André, Ind., E1014  
Castor, Kathy, Fla., E1015  
Gonzalez, Vicente, Tex., E1016  
Hern, Kevin, Okla., E1013  
Hudson, Richard, N.C., E1011, E1012, E1015

Huizenga, Bill, Mich., E1014  
Kiggans, Jenniver A., Va., E1014  
Moskowitz, Jared, Fla., E1013  
Nadler, Jerrold, N.Y., E1013  
Norman, Ralph, S.C., E1011  
Norton, Eleanor Holmes, The District of Columbia, E1014

Pallone, Frank, Jr., N.J., E1011, E1013  
Ryan, Patrick, N.Y., E1011  
Smith, Christopher H., N.J., E1012  
Spanberger, Abigail Davis, Va., E1015  
Tlaib, Rashida, Mich., E1015



## Congressional Record

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