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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC
November 6, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ADRIAN SMITH to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

RECOGNIZING OUR SERVICEMEMBERS ON VETERANS DAY

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this Veterans Day, we recognize the 6 percent of Americans who have put on a uniform, raised their right hand, and sworn an oath to defend our Nation.

Now, after more than 20 years of war, it is time for us to follow the words of President Abraham Lincoln and ''to care for him who shall have borne the battle.''

Congress must recommit itself to standing for these men and women who have served our great country, making sure that physicians are recruited to serve at VA hospitals in rural areas and ensuring that the PACT Act is fully implemented to protect veterans who have been exposed to toxic chemicals.

Veterans Day holds a special meaning for the 50,000 veterans and their families who call Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District home. From deploying overseas to assisting with border security and disaster relief here at home, our Nation's servicemembers have been at the heart of operations that ultimately protect all Americans.

With more veterans than any other district in Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District has a unique connection to those who have served in the Armed Forces.

This Veterans Day, let's all join in thanks for the soldiers, the sailors, the airmen, and marines who have fought and who have sacrificed to keep our Nation safe and our Nation free.

THE WORLD IS FALLING APART UNDER PRESIDENT BIDEN

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this weekend, The New York Times quoted Spencer Weiss, a Pennsylvania electrician who said: ''The world is falling apart under Biden.''

As prices spiral out of control, as illegal immigrants continue to surge at our southern border, and adversaries like China and Iran spread their influence abroad, President Biden has failed to lead. President Biden has failed to keep Americans safe.

Instead of working across the aisle to fight inflation, Joe Biden has proposed billions in new spending. Instead of passing critical legislation like the Secure the Border Act, Joe Biden has welcomed illegal immigrants into towns and cities across our country. Instead of standing with Israel, our greatest ally in the Middle East, Joe Biden has threatened to veto legislation that would resupply the Iron Dome and keep Israeli citizens safe from Hamas rockets.

Mr. Speaker, it is now more clear than ever that President Biden's policies have failed our families, failed our communities, and ultimately failed our Nation.

HONORING REVEREND DR. NAOMI ROGERS

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Reverend Dr. Naomi Rogers, a devoted Korean American.

Reverend Rogers has devoted much of her life to the spiritual well-being of Arkansans through her work as a pastor with the United Methodist Church.

Her expertise in theology and love for Christianity have allowed her to become involved with multiple Methodist churches throughout our State.

She also serves as the president of the Korean American Federation of Arkansas. Her work with the association was instrumental in the construction of the Korean War Memorial in Little Rock.

Her work and leadership have made Reverend Rogers a marvelous role model and ambassador for Korean Americans not only in Arkansas, but across our country.

I congratulate Reverend Rogers on all of her accomplishments and look forward to all that she will achieve in the future.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COLONEL LARRY STRICKLIN

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable accomplishments of Lieutenant Colonel Larry Stricklin. On 14 October, Colonel Stricklin and his colleagues celebrated

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his well-deserved retirement after 30 years of selfless service to our Nation.

Colonel Stricklin's career in the U.S. Army began in 1995 when he joined the 39th Infantry Brigade. Separating from the Army due to a car crash in 1996, Lieutenant Colonel Stricklin reenlisted in 1998.

Since then, Colonel Stricklin has served his country in Iraq and has held a variety of other key positions around the globe. He recently assisted with the military response to one of the worst pandemics in our Nation's history.

Throughout his remarkable career, Colonel Stricklin has exemplified dedication, resilience, leadership, and most of all, an unwavering dedication to our beloved country.

Mr. Speaker, I wish him a happy retirement and thank him for his service and inspiration for the next generation.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM GARY UNDERWOOD

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I am sad to rise today, but I rise to celebrate the life of my dear friend, William Gary Underwood.

His 47-year career in music, youth, and media ministry has brought joy and healing to numerous Americans and Arkansans, and Arkansas was fortunate to have him in our community.

Gary's journey through ministry was plentiful. He was involved in the Elmdale Baptist Church in Springdale, Beech Street First Baptist Church in Texarkana, and he served as the interim minister at Perryville First Baptist Church. He was also instrumental as the chaplain of the Little Rock Touchdown Club.

Gary was a member of the Southern Baptist Convention, and his passion led him to be heavily involved in the development and launch of ACTS Christian Television Network in Arkansas.

Beyond the ministry, Gary and I became friends when he joined Governor Mike Huckabee's staff as his director of media operations in 1996.

Gary's passion for music, aiding youth, and the church has left Arkansas a much better place than when he found it. He will be missed by family, friends, and many others in our State. He lived a life to be celebrated.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JUDGE FLOYD ''BUDDY'' VILLINES

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and legacy of former Pulaski County Judge Floyd ''Buddy'' Villines.

Mr. Villines graduated from Hendrix College in 1969 and afterwards would go on to serve in the U.S. Army during Vietnam where he earned a Bronze Star.

Upon return to the United States, he graduated from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock's William H. Bowen School of Law. Mr. Villines would start a career in public relations with the management of his own firm.

He won his first election in 1984, becoming a member of the Little Rock Board of Directors. He would then serve as vice mayor from 1987 to 1988, and he became mayor in 1989, serving 1 year.

In 1990, he was elected to be the Pulaski County judge, and he would serve in that post until 2014.

Villines left his mark in central Arkansas through numerous bridge and trail projects, including the Big Dam Bridge, the Arkansas River Trail, Simmons Bank Arena, and the expansion of the Statehouse Convention Center.

His impact on Pulaski County has been tremendous and his remarkable, lasting landmarks will stand as testament to his decades of leadership.

Mr. Villines will be missed dearly by his family, friends, and all of us in Pulaski County.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

Open our eyes this day, most loving God, that we would realize that though we have not sought You, You have always sought after us. While we have made ourselves the center of our own existence and interests, You, in surrounding us with the beauty of Your creation, sustaining us with the provisions of harvest and home, You have made us the focus of Your kindness and the objects of Your affection.

Forgive us, then, in our blindness to Your presence in our lives. Save us from our false sense of self-sufficiency. Redeem us from our desire to control everything.

Remind us that You, in Your sovereignty, have designed a plan drafted of grace and mercy for this world and for our lives. You have promised to seek what is lost and bring back again that which was driven away. You have assured us that You will bind up that which was broken and strengthen that which is weak.

Into this promise of Your steadfast and abiding love may we live our lives, and in response to Your desire for our faithfulness, may we dedicate our hearts, our minds, and our souls to You this and every day.

On the strength of Your word we stand and in the power of Your name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. HOUCHIN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. HOUCHIN 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.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, I rise to give notice of my intent to raise a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

H. Res. 845 censuring Representative Rashida Tlaib for promoting false narratives regarding the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack on Israel and calling for the destruction of the State of Israel.

Whereas, Israel has existed on its lands for millennia, and the United States played a critical role in returning Israel to those lands in 1948 immediately following the Holocaust and in recognition of its rights to exist as an indelible signal of our solidarity with the Jewish people;

Whereas, Israel is a critical ally to the American people and to our strategic national security interests in the Middle East;

Whereas, the people of Israel, including American citizens, were brutally attacked on October 7, 2023, by Hamas;

Whereas, Representative Rashida Tlaib, within 24 hours of the October 7 barbaric attack on Jewish citizens in the State of Israel, representing the deadliest day for Jews since the Holocaust, defended the brutal rapes, murders, beheadings, and kidnappings, including of Americans, by Hamas as justified resistance to the apartheid state;

Whereas, Representative Tlaib's October 8 statement claimed that Hamas' October 7 attack on the Jewish people was partly attributable to the United States security aid provided to Israel which ignores the fact that the Iron Dome, a codeveloped air defense system, saved lives that day by intercepting rockets launched from the Gaza Strip against Israeli civilian targets;

Whereas, on October 18, 2023, Representative Tlaib continued to knowingly spread the false narrative that Israel intentionally bombed the Al Ahli Arab hospital on October 17 after United States intelligence, Israeli intelligence, and President Biden assessed with high confidence that Israel did not cause the explosion;

Whereas, on November 3, 2023, Representative Tlaib published on social media a video containing the phrase ''from the river to the sea'' which is widely recognized as a genocidal call to violence to destroy the State of Israel and its people to replace it with a Palestinian state extending from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea;

Whereas, Representative Tlaib doubled down on this call to violence by falsely describing ''from the river to the sea'' as ''an aspirational call for freedom, human rights, and peaceful coexistence'' despite it clearly entailing Israel's destruction and the denial of its fundamental right to exist; and

Whereas, Representative Tlaib has repeatedly displayed conduct entirely unbecoming of a Member of the House of Representatives by calling for the destruction of the State of Israel and dangerously promoting false narratives regarding a brutal, large-scale terrorist attack against civilian targets inside the sovereign territory of a major, nonNATO ally while hundreds of Israeli and American hostages remain in terrorist captivity: Now, therefore, be it resolved that Representative Rashida Tlaib be censured.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SELF). Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from Georgia will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, I seek recognition to give notice of my intent to raise a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

Censuring my colleague Representative Rashida Tlaib for anti-Semitic activity and sympathizing with terrorist organizations.

Whereas, in May 2019, Rashida Tlaib said that she celebrated the Holocaust, and felt a calming feeling when thinking about the genocide of millions of Jews;

Whereas, in 2020, Rashida Tlaib retweeted an illustration with the caption: ''From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free,'' and this Palestine Liberation Organization slogan has been adopted by Hamas and calls for the elimination of Israel and the death of all Jews;

Whereas, on November 3, 2023, Rashida Tlaib tweeted that the slogan ''from the river to the sea,'' which calls for the genocide of all Jews, ''is an aspirational call for freedom, human rights, and peaceful coexistence'';

Whereas, in September 2022, Rashida Tlaib, as a member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, displayed her disdain for Israel saying: ''. . . You cannot claim to hold progressive values yet back Israel's apartheid government'';

Whereas, instead of denouncing the horrors of Hamas slaughtering Israelis, Rashida Tlaib stated on October 8, 2023, ''The path to the future must include lifting the blockade, ending the occupation, and dismantling the apartheid system that creates the suffocating dehumanizing conditions that can lead to resistance'';

Whereas, Rashida Tlaib exhibited her hatred for America by reposting a message on October 12, 2023, blaming America for allowing the deaths of Palestinian babies at the hands of Israel;

Whereas, Rashida Tlaib incited an illegal occupation at the United States Capitol complex on October 18, 2023, which put Members of Congress, their staffs, and Capitol visitors in danger by shutting down elevators, stairwells, and points of egress, while obstructing official business in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, including a Senate Foreign Affairs Committee hearing;

Whereas, the illegal occupation incited by Rashida Tlaib was organized by Jewish Voice for Peace, which the Anti-Defamation League calls ''a radical anti-Israel activist group that advocates for a complete economic, cultural, and academic boycott of the State of Israel,'' and that believes ''Israeli policies and actions are motivated by deeply rooted Jewish racial chauvinism and religious supremacism'';

Whereas, several illegal occupiers at the Capitol belong to a group messaging chat called Global Intifada, which is the Arabic word for rebellion or uprising and refers to a series of protests and violent riots carried out by Palestinians in Israel during the last century;

Whereas, by inciting an illegal occupation of the Capitol complex on October 18, 2023, Rashida Tlaib followed Hezbollah's orders to carry out a day of unprecedented anger following an explosion at a Gazan hospital, lying about Israel's responsibility for the attack, which United States intelligence agencies said was not perpetuated by Israel;

Whereas, over 300 arrests were made following the illegal occupation of the Capitol complex on October 18, 2023, for violations of District of Columbia law, such as crowding, obstructing, or incommoding, and for assaulting police officers; and

Whereas, Members of Congress who denounce the United States while praising terrorist organizations are unfit to hold office. Now, therefore, be it resolved that Representative Rashida Tlaib be censured; Representative Rashida Tlaib forthwith present herself in the well of the House of Representatives for the pronouncement of censure; and Representative Rashida Tlaib be censured with the public reading of this resolution by the Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentlewoman from Georgia will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

□ 1415

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF DEVONNIA KATE TSCHEULIN

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

Mrs. HOUCHIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Devonnia Kate Tscheulin of Scottsburg, Indiana.

Devonnia passed away on August 15 due to complications while giving birth to her third child.

Anyone who knew Devonnia knew she had a heart for service.

After graduating from Salem High School, she became a paramedic and went on to serve as deputy director for the Washington County EMS and the deputy chief director of the Scott County EMS in Scottsburg.

It is impossible for me, in the time I have here today, to capture just what made Devonnia so special, so admired.

She was known for being a comforting presence for many families in their darkest moments. She was a steady hand in times of crisis, saving many lives during her career.

Devonnia's life was meaningful, yet tragically too short. It is difficult to imagine women can die during childbirth in the United States today, but they do.

It is in her memory that I commit to pursuing legislation to ensure we are doing everything we can to protect the lives of mothers and their babies. That is why I am proud to cosponsor H.R. 3838, the Preventing Maternal Deaths Reauthorization Act of 2023. I won't stop fighting for solutions to prevent maternal deaths.

Devonnia left behind incredible loved ones like her husband, Michael, also a public servant with the fire department, and three beautiful children, Chase, Katie, and Maverick.

We will never forget Devonnia and the example that she was and still is to us all.

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, November 6, 2023.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 2702, I hereby reappoint as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress the following person: Ms. Danna Bell, Washington, D.C.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1530

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BENTZ) at 3 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

CLARIFYING JURISDICTION WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN BUREAU OF RECLAMATION PUMPED STORAGE DEVELOPMENT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1607) to clarify jurisdiction with respect to certain Bureau of Reclamation pumped storage development, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1607

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

SECTION 1. LAND WITHDRAWAL AND RESERVATION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AGREEMENT.—The term ''Agreement'' means the agreement between the United States and the Association dated September 6, 1917, as amended.

(2) ASSOCIATION.—The term ''Association'' means the Salt River Valley Water Users' Association.

(3) COVERED LAND.—The term ''covered land'' means the portion of the National Forest System land located on the south side of the Salt River from the March 9, 1903, 1-mile withdrawal area for the Bureau of Reclamation purposes extending an additional 2 miles from the Salt River at Roosevelt Dam to 18.25 river miles downstream, in the State of Arizona, not including the Superstition Mountain Wilderness Area and the Tonto National Monument, as depicted on the Map.

(4) DISTRICT.—The term ''District'' means the Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power District.

(5) MAP.—The term ''Map'' means the map prepared under subsection (e)(1).

(6) SRP.—The term ''SRP'' means—

(A) the District; and

(B) the Association.

(b) RESERVATION OF COVERED LAND.—Subject to valid existing rights, the covered land is reserved to the United States, through the Secretary of the Interior, for the exclusive right to use the covered land and interests in the covered land for the development, generation, and transmission of electrical power and energy for the use and benefit of the Salt River Federal Reclamation Project pursuant to the Agreement.

(c) WITHDRAWAL OF COVERED LAND.—The covered land is permanently withdrawn from—

(1) all forms of entry, appropriation, and disposal under the public land laws;

(2) location, entry, and patent under the mining laws; and

(3) operation of the mineral leasing, mineral materials, and geothermal leasing laws.

(d) FACILITIES.—With respect to facilities constructed by SRP on the covered land for the development, generation, and transmission of electrical power and energy—

(1) the design and specifications shall conform to Bureau of Reclamation standards, and final designs shall be subject to review and approval by the Secretary of the Interior;

(2) all construction work shall be subject to inspection and approval by the Secretary of the Interior;

(3) upon a determination of substantial completion of such facilities, the Secretary of the Interior shall accept title on behalf of the United States as part of the Salt River Federal Reclamation Project pursuant to—

(A) section 6 of the Act of June 17, 1902 (32 Stat. 389, chapter 1093; 43 U.S.C. 498); and

(B) the Agreement; and

(4) SRP shall be responsible for the care, operation, and maintenance pursuant to the Agreement.

(e) MAP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall prepare a map depicting the boundary of the covered land.

(2) AVAILABILITY.—The Map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Forest Service and the Bureau of Reclamation.

(f) MANAGEMENT OF COVERED LAND.—Management of the covered lands shall be in accordance with the Management Memorandum among the District, United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, and the Bureau of Reclamation, dated April 27, 1979, as amended.

(g) RELATION TO OTHER LAW.—

(1) COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS.—The Secretary of the Interior is directed to carry out all necessary environmental compliance under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321, et seq.), the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531, et seq.), and all other applicable environmental laws and regulations, prior to construction of facilities on the covered land for the development, generation, and transmission of electrical power and energy.

(2) LEAD AGENCY.—The Bureau of Reclamation shall be the lead agency with respect to environmental compliance.

(3) WITHDRAWAL NOT MAJOR FEDERAL ACTION.—The withdrawal of the covered land shall not constitute a major Federal action under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321, et seq.).

(4) ANTIDEFICIENCY.—The United States shall not be liable for failure to carry out any obligation or activity authorized to be carried out under this title (including any such obligation or activity under the Agreement) if adequate appropriations are not provided by Congress expressly to carry out the purposes of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1607, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my colleague, Mr. SCHWEIKERT's bill which enables the Bureau of Reclamation and Salt River Project to move forward with developing pumped storage hydropower facilities in the Salt River reservoir system in Arizona.

Pumped storage is an efficient means to store energy when supply exceeds demand and has been shown to be one of the most useful methods for regulating intermittent renewable generation resources, such as wind and solar.

Based on initial work done by the Bureau of Reclamation in 2014, the Salt River Project developed two possible locations for the construction of a pumped storage hydropower project.

H.R. 1607 would withdraw approximately 17,000 acres of Federal lands

from the National Forest System and transfer it to the Bureau of Reclamation for the development of pumped storage hydropower and the development, generation, and transmission of electrical power and energy.

Through the transfer of this land, the proposed pumped storage project to be developed will be entirely within the authorities and footprint of the Federal reclamation project—streamlining development and maximizing Federal reclamation project benefits. Without it, the project would need to be permitted by both the Bureau of Reclamation and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Mr. Speaker, for those reasons, I support and urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1607, introduced by my colleague from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) and co-led by Representative GREG STANTON, also from Arizona.

This bill would reserve certain lands in Arizona to the United States for use as part of the Salt River Federal Reclamation Project. The Salt River Project was first authorized in 1903 and provides water and power to over 2 million people in central Arizona today.

Under this legislation, the reserved lands will be used for development, generation, and transmission of electrical power and energy to assist the Salt River Project in expanding pumped storage hydropower facilities to meet increasing energy demands.

I thank my colleagues from Arizona, Representatives SCHWEIKERT and STANTON for introducing and promoting this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT), the lead sponsor of this bill.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, this is fun to have one of these where we all sort of agree on it.

Let me put in a little character—you heard some of the basic mechanisms. The Salt River Project is a waterpower quasi-municipality. It is very unique. It actually predates statehood for us. Think about that. It actually was put together before we actually became a State.

What is unique in Arizona is—many of you have heard the discussion of the thing called the duck curve. In the late afternoon you get lots of photovoltaic power and then the sun goes down, and you don't get lots of photovoltaic power, but we still run our air conditioners.

We need some ginormous batteries for those of us that live in the desert Southwest, hence, comes the concept of pumped storage. Where this is at is actually where I live. I live probably 25 minutes away from this. It is the lake I grew up on.

To try to get this visually, picture a series of lakes that are our water reservoirs for the Phoenix area, and then these cliffs that are just tremendously high—it is a very impressive area—and the concept of using gravity as a battery.

I appreciate everyone from our delegation who has been very, very helpful on this, but this is one of those occasions where it makes sense. It is environmentally sound. It actually allows us to take care of something that is somewhat unique for us in the Southwest; and that is the solar power we produce.

Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is, I do hope all of our brothers and sisters here, later on, vote ''yes'' in suspension.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, the bill before us today does streamline the permitting process for a project that is intended to keep energy costs low, help stabilize the electric grid during peak demand, and boost affordable and reliable energy.

As Mr. SCHWEIKERT explained, this is one of the oldest forms of batteries that we have to pump water uphill when we have excess energy and then to use it to generate energy on the off-hours.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join in supporting this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1607, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GRAND RONDE RESERVATION ACT AMENDMENT OF 2023

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1722) to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1722

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Grand Ronde Reservation Act Amendment of 2023''.

SEC. 2. GRAND RONDE RESERVATION ACT AMENDMENT.

Section 1(d) of Public Law 100–425 (commonly known as the ''Grand Ronde Reservation Act''; 102 Stat. 1594; 108 Stat. 4566) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''lands within the State of Oregon'' and inserting ''the 84 acres known as the Thompson Strip'';

(2) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2) GAMING PROHIBITION.—Any real property obtained by the Tribes as part of a land claim settlement approved by the United States, including any real property purchased with funds granted as part of any land claim settlement, shall not be eligible, or used, for any class II gaming or class III gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) (as those terms are defined in section 4 of that Act (25 U.S.C. 2703)).''.

SEC. 3. TREATY RIGHTS OF FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES.

Nothing in this Act, or an amendment made by this Act, shall be construed to enlarge, confirm, adjudicate, affect, or modify any treaty right of an Indian Tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1722, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1722, the Grand Ronde Reservation Act Amendment of 2023, would amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act to reflect that the Grand Ronde Tribe's extinguishment of land claims against the United States only applies to an 84-acre parcel of land known as the Thompson Strip.

Alongside many Tribes in western Oregon, the Grand Ronde Tribe entered into treaties with the United States in the 1850s. President James Buchanan established the Grand Ronde Reservation in 1857, which consisted of more than 60,000 acres. This solidified the Federal Government's treatment of the Grand Ronde as a single Tribe for Federal services and benefits.

However, in 1954, the Western Oregon Indian Termination Act was signed into law which severed the trust relationship between the Federal Government and the Tribe.

In 1983, the Tribe was successful in obtaining a restoration of Federal recognition through enactment of the Grand Ronde Reservation Act. This legislation also reestablished a reservation for the Tribe in Yamhill County, Oregon.

On October 31, 1988, the Bureau of Land Management discovered several

surveying errors on a parcel of land known as the Thompson Strip, which was located along the southeast boundary of the Tribe's reservation.

The BLM worked toward a resolution with the Tribe, which concluded in 1994 when Congress authorized a land transfer between the BLM and the Tribe. While that legislation corrected the survey error, the Tribe later determined that the phrase ''extinguishment of claims'' in the bill would include all, and potential future, land claims within the entire State of Oregon for the Tribe.

The Grand Ronde contends that this was done in error and that there was no intention to bar them from future land claims beyond the Thompson Strip.

H.R. 1722 would amend current law in order to specify that the Tribe is only barred from bringing land claims related to the 84-acre Thompson Strip parcel, not all lands within the State of Oregon.

Additionally, H.R. 1722 would add a gaming prohibition for any future land claims and prohibits the use of any money received as part of a land claim settlement from being used to purchase land for gaming purposes under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative SALINAS for her work on the legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1722, the Grand Ronde Reservation Amendment Act of 2023 offered by my colleague from Oregon (Ms. SALINAS).

This legislation will correct a decades-old error that restricted the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde in raising land claims in the State of Oregon.

During the ''termination era,'' a shameful time for our country, the Confederated Tribes, and other Tribes in Oregon, had their Federal recognition terminated by Congress in 1954. The Grand Ronde Tribe was later restored in 1983 with the passage of the Grand Ronde Restoration Act.

However, in 1988, the Bureau of Land Management discovered a land surveying mistake on the eastern boundary of the Tribe's original reservation. The survey excluded an 84-acre piece of land known as the Thompson Strip.

To compensate the Grand Ronde Tribe for the loss incurred by that error, the Bureau of Land Management subsequently arranged a land exchange with the Tribe to be approved by Congress.

Unfortunately, through that legislation in 1994, the Grand Ronde saw their rights further restricted with language that prohibited the Tribe from making any additional land claims if new errors were delivered.

Today's bill would end this unfair restriction on the Tribe so that they may pursue recourse if additional survey errors are ever found. No other Tribe in the State of Oregon faces this kind of legal restriction.

This legislation has bipartisan support in both the House and Senate, having passed out of committee by voice vote in the Senate, and unanimously here in the House.

The passage of this legislation would be immensely consequential for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. SALINAS), the sponsor of this bipartisan legislation.

Ms. SALINAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1722, the Grand Ronde Reservation Act Amendment of 2023.

My district is the proud home of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde community, who, like Oregon's other indigenous peoples, were the original stewards of our land and abundant natural resources, yet they have also faced tremendous injustices at the hands of the Federal Government.

The Grand Ronde Reservation was established in 1857. In 1871, during a survey of the reservation, an 84-acre piece of land known as the Thompson Strip was mistakenly excluded. It took over 100 years for this error to be delivered, and rectifying it does require an act of Congress.

At some point in the process of drafting legislation, language was erroneously inserted that took away Grand Ronde's right to bring any further land claims in the entire State of Oregon, not just around the Thompson Strip.

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The Grand Ronde community is to this day the only Tribe in Oregon that is subject to this prohibition.

H.R. 1722 will finally correct this decades-old error and restore Grand Ronde's ability to pursue land claims. This legislation enjoys strong bipartisan support in both the House and Senate.

I thank my colleagues here today from the Natural Resources Committee, as well as the support of the entire Oregon delegation.

Passage of H.R. 1722 would be enormously consequential for the Grand Ronde community. It would also represent a historic step forward for indigenous peoples' rights in America. I have always believed that while we are not responsible for the ills of the past, we are responsible for remedying them today.

Mr. Speaker, my amendment to the Grand Ronde Reservation Act aligns with that important pursuit. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this bill.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, again, this legislation clarifies the land claims of the Grand Ronde Tribe so they can pursue and ensure certainty, and it does ensure certainty regarding gaming. I appreciate the gentlewoman for bringing this legislation and Ranking Member GRIJALVA's work to move this in a bipartisan manner.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1722.

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

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2023

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3448) to amend chapter 3081 of title 54, United States Code, to enhance the protection and preservation of America's battlefields, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3448

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''American Battlefield Protection Program Enhancement Act of 2023''.

SEC. 2. AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 308101 of title 54, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

''§ 308101. Definitions

''In this chapter:

''(1) SECRETARY.—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary, acting through the American Battlefield Protection Program.

''(2) BATTLEFIELD REPORTS.—The term 'Battlefield Reports' means, collectively—

''(A) the document entitled 'Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields', prepared by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission, and dated July 1993; and

''(B) the document entitled 'Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the United States', prepared by the National Park Service, and dated September 2007.''.

(b) PRESERVATION ASSISTANCE.—Section 308102(a) of title 54, United States Code, is amended by striking ''Federal'' and all that follows through ''organizations'' and inserting ''Federal agencies, States, Tribes, local governments, other public entities, educational institutions, and nonprofit organizations''.

(c) BATTLEFIELD LAND ACQUISITION GRANTS IMPROVEMENTS.—Section 308103 of title 54, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

''(a) ELIGIBLE SITE DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'eligible site'—

''(1) means a site that—

''(A) is not within the exterior boundaries of a unit of the National Park System; and

''(B) is identified in the Battlefield Reports as a battlefield; and

''(2) excludes sites identified in the Battlefield Reports as associated historic sites.'';

(2) in subsection (b), by striking ''State and local governments'' and inserting ''States, Tribes, local governments, and nonprofit organizations'';

(3) in subsection (c), by striking ''State or local government'' and inserting ''State, Tribe, or local government''; and

(4) in subsection (e), by striking ''under this section'' and inserting ''under this section, including by States, Tribes, local governments, and nonprofit organizations,''.

(d) BATTLEFIELD RESTORATION GRANTS IMPROVEMENTS.—Section 308105 of title 54, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a battlefield restoration grant program (referred to in this section as the 'program') under which the Secretary may provide grants to States, Tribes, local governments, and nonprofit organizations for projects that restore day-of-battle conditions on—

''(1) land preserved and protected under the battlefield acquisition grant program established under section 308103(b); or

''(2) battlefield land that is—

''(A) owned by a State, Tribe, local government, or nonprofit organization; and

''(B) referred to in the Battlefield Reports.''; and

(2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

''(b) ELIGIBLE SITES.—The Secretary may make grants under this section for Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War battlefield sites—

''(1) eligible for assistance under the battlefield acquisition grant program established under section 308103(b); or

''(2) on battlefield land that is—

''(A) owned by a State, Tribe, local government, or nonprofit organization; and

''(B) referred to in the Battlefield Reports.''.

(e) UPDATES AND IMPROVEMENTS.—Chapter 3081 of title 54, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 308106. Updates and improvements to Battlefield Reports

''Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this section, and every 10 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that updates the Battlefield Reports to reflect—

''(1) preservation activities carried out at the battlefields in the period since the publication of the most recent Battlefield Reports update;

''(2) changes in the condition, including core and study areas, of the battlefields during that period; and

''(3) any other relevant developments relating to the battlefields during that period.''.

(f) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 3081 of title 54, United States Code, is amended as follows:

(1) By amending the item relating to section 308101 to read as follows:

''308101. Definitions.''.

(2) By adding at the end the following:

''308106. Updates and improvements to Battlefield Reports.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3448, as amended, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of my colleague and friend from New York, Congresswoman STEFANIK's legislation, the American Battlefield Protection Program Enhancement Act of 2023.

Our Nation's battlefields are hallowed sites that showcase the trials and triumphs that shaped our great Nation. From the American Revolution to the Civil War, battlefield sites now serve as outdoor classrooms that ensure future generations can learn about the conflicts that forged our great Nation.

Battlefields remind us of our storied, complex history. They also provide a way to honor those who fought and whose lives were lost. As we approach Veterans Day this Friday, I think it is important and appropriate that we reflect on the best ways that we can protect our Nation's military history for future generations.

Unfortunately, despite the rich history of these locations, many of these hallowed grounds have been lost or destroyed throughout the past centuries. In fact, the American Battlefield Trust estimates that 1 acre of hallowed ground is lost every hour on average. To address the loss of sacred battlefield sites, Congress created the American Battlefield Protection Program in 1996.

The program provides grants to protect sites related to the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and the Civil War. Since its conception, the American Battlefield Protection Program has helped protect more than 100 battlefields in 42 States and protect battlefield lands at 110 battlefield sites in 19 States.

Unfortunately, not all battlefields are covered by this program. One of those battlefields is Jenkins' Ferry State Park, in my home district. Representative STEFANIK's legislation would expand this program so battlefields like Jenkins' Ferry can receive restoration and interpretation assistance.

Jenkins' Ferry is one of three battlefields in south central Arkansas that make up the Red River Campaign National Historic Landmark. In 1864 Confederate soldiers attacked the Union Army during the Battle of Jenkins' Ferry. Union soldiers were able to retreat using a ferry site that still exists within the park today. Jenkins' Ferry State Park also features many interpretive sites and memorials to soldiers who lost their lives during the Battle of Jenkins' Ferry.

This is an important economic driver for my community and also an important recreation area. I am thankful this legislation will help improve this State park for generations to come.

H.R. 3448 would also allow educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, and Tribes to receive grants directly. The American Battlefield Protection Program is a shining example of public-private partnerships and expanding the eligible list of non-Federal partners is a commonsense solution for these organizations and local communities.

Lastly, the bill directs regular updates of battlefield reports conducted by the National Park Service and focuses resources on the highest priority battlefield locations. As technology changes and advances, these updates will be crucial in identifying new battlefield areas that served as pivotal points of conflict or need additional protections.

This bipartisan bill, which is cosponsored by 50 bipartisan Members, will enhance conservation, promote recreation, spur economic growth, and help protect our Nation's history.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill. I thank Representative STEFANIK for her leadership, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3448, the American Battlefield Protection Program Enhancement Act, reauthorizes and updates the American Battlefield Protection Program to strengthen ongoing preservation efforts of historic battlefields.

Under this program, the National Park Service provides grants through the Land and Water Conservation Fund for preservation planning, land acquisition, restoration, and interpretation in order to preserve these unique resources associated with this Nation's military history.

The bill will protect and preserve our historic battlefields to ensure that we do not lose this connection to our history. I support the effort to ensure the continuation of this important and meaningful program.

I note this bill sets a new precedent for the Land and Water Conservation Fund by authorizing direct grants to nonprofit organizations.

While this is a break from past practice, I want to thank the majority for their willingness to work with us on language that guarantees permanent protection of any land purchased with money provided by the American Battlefield Protection Program.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill. Any reservations we have, as it goes forward in the Senate, we hope

those discussions will continue. If any efforts are made to make the legislation better and more inclusive of the goal of the legislation, we will support that as well.

Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK), who is the lead sponsor of this bill.

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chair for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my legislation, the American Battlefield Protection Program Enhancement Act. I take the time to thank our chairman, BRUCE WESTERMAN, and the ranking member for their support throughout this process both in committee but also in visiting with so many communities that understand the importance of preserving and protecting these most hallowed grounds.

I introduced this bipartisan legislation with my Congressional Battlefield Caucus co-chair, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, to preserve and improve the American Battlefield Protection Program, one of the most successful land preservation programs managed by the National Park Service. Since its inception, the American Battlefield Protection Program has helped protect more than 100 battlefields in 42 States, including Fort Ann in my district in upstate New York.

New York's 21st District is truly the cradle of the American Revolution, home to Fort Ticonderoga, Fort Ann, and the Bennington Battlefield. However, as people across upstate New York and the North Country will proudly tell you, Mr. Speaker, our deep military history extends beyond the American Revolution and incorporates many important battlefields from the French and Indian War through the War of 1812.

I, myself, grew up going to these historic sites, and I consider them part of the classroom of my childhood education. For years, I have been proud to lead the charge to preserve these historic battlefields in the Congress as the co-chair of the Congressional Battlefield Caucus. It is critical that we preserve and honor the places Americans gave their last full measure of devotion in order to ensure future generations of Americans learn the lessons of those sacrifices on these very hallowed grounds.

This bill also allows nonprofits and Tribes to apply to the program directly, instead of having to go through a government sponsor. Removing this burdensome hurdle cuts through bureaucracy allowing these entities to be more efficient and effective in preserving our endangered battlefields.

This legislation also clarifies the eligibility of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 sites for battlefield land acquisition grants to ensure the program is used to preserve battlefield land, while also creating a process for the National Park Service to expand and update battlefield boundaries.

With emerging archeological technologies, historical boundaries of various battlefields have shifted as we learn more. Without the program improvements in my bill, portions of battlefields with newly discovered historic importance stand to be lost. We must not allow this to happen and, instead, strive to ensure these critical pieces of our history—our most hallowed history—are preserved for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of the bipartisan American Battlefield Protection Program Enhancement Act to ensure these battlefields continue to be preserved for years and generations to come.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, again, I thank the gentlewoman from New York for her excellent bipartisan work on this piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of Veterans Day and in honor of the hallowed history that we have, I urge adoption of this bill which will protect the sites of sacrifice and struggle that allow us to be here today in this Chamber, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of the American Battlefield Protection Program Enhancement Act, a vital piece of legislation that I had the privilege of introducing with my fellow Congressional Battlefield Caucus co-chair Congresswoman ELISE STEFANIK. This bill builds upon the success of the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), which has played a crucial role in preserving our Nation's hallowed battlegrounds associated with the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the Civil War. Since its inception in 2002, the ABPP has helped conserve over 35,000 acres of historic battlefield land across 42 States.

The American Battlefield Protection Program Enhancement Act proposes several important improvements to further enhance the effectiveness of ABPP.

It would allow non-profit organizations and tribes to apply for ABPP grants directly. Currently, only government entities are eligible to seek these grants. This change will expedite the preservation of endangered battlefields by broadening the pool of eligible applicants and harnessing the commitment and expertise of nonprofit organizations and tribal nations.

Additionally, the bill clarifies the scope of ABPP's restoration grants. Currently, these grants can only be utilized on land preserved using ABPP program funding. This proposed change will extend the use of restoration grants to other priority battlefields identified in the 1993 Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Report and in the 2007 Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites. This will ensure that their historical significance can be maintained and restored.

This legislation also clarifies the eligibility of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 sites for Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants. By codifying that these grants are solely intended for battlefield sites as identified in the Congressionally authorized reports on these two conflicts, we will uphold the original intent of ABPP and ensure the protection of these historic battlegrounds.

Finally, the bill introduces a much-needed process for updating battlefield boundaries. Despite decades of new research and archaeological discoveries, the National Park Service currently lacks a method to modify and update the battlefield maps they use. Without a systematic process for modifying boundaries, we risk losing portions of battlefields whose importance has been revealed through ongoing research. Our bill would require the National Park Service to periodically update the battlefield reports to Congress.

The American Battlefield Protection Program Enhancement Act is a critical step in our ongoing efforts to protect our Nation's heritage by building a rich educational experience for students and visitors alike. By allowing nonprofits and tribes to apply for ABPP grants, clarifying the scope of restoration grants, ensuring eligibility for Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites, and creating a process for updating battlefield boundaries, we will better preserve and honor the memories of those who fought for our Nation's independence and unity.

I urge my esteemed colleagues to support the passage of this bill, which will strengthen the ABPP and contribute to the lasting preservation of our Nation's most storied battlefields. By doing so, we will continue to pay homage to our history and ensure that future generations can learn from the sacrifices made on these sacred grounds.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3448, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FORT SAN GERONIMO PRESERVATION ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 359) to establish Fort San Geronimo del Boqueron in Puerto Rico as an affiliated area of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 359

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Fort San Gerónimo Preservation Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) FORT SAN GERÓNIMO DEL BOQUERÓN.—The term ''Fort San Gerónimo del Boquerón'' (also known as ''Fortín de San Gerónimo del Boquerón'') means the fort and grounds listed on the National Register of Historic Places and located near Old San Juan, Puerto Rico.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF AFFILIATED AREA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Fort San Gerónimo del Boquerón in Puerto Rico is established as an affiliated area of the National Park System.

(b) DESCRIPTION OF AFFILIATED AREA.—The affiliated area shall consist of the area generally depicted on the map titled ''Fort San Gerónimo Proposed Affiliated Area'', numbered 910/176698, and dated July 2021.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—The affiliated area shall be managed in accordance with—

(1) this Act; and

(2) any law generally applicable to units of the National Park System.

(d) MANAGEMENT ENTITY.—The Institute of Puerto Rican Culture shall be the management entity for the affiliated area.

(e) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may provide technical assistance and enter into cooperative agreements with the management entity for the purpose of providing financial assistance for the marketing, marking, interpretation, and preservation of the affiliated area.

(f) LIMITED ROLE OF THE SECRETARY.—Nothing in this section authorizes the Secretary to acquire property at the affiliated area or to assume managerial or financial responsibility for the operation, maintenance, or management of the affiliated area.

(g) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with the management entity, shall develop a management plan for the affiliated area.

(2) TRANSMITTAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are first made available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall submit the management plan developed under paragraph (1) to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

(h) PRIVATE PROPERTY PROTECTION.—Nothing in this Act affects the land use rights of private property owners adjacent to Fort San Gerónimo del Boquerón.

(i) NO BUFFER ZONES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to create buffer zones outside of Fort San Gerónimo del Boquerón.

(2) ACTIVITY OR USE OUTSIDE FORT SAN GERÓNIMO DEL BOQUERÓN.—The fact that an activity or use can be seen, heard, or detected from within Fort San Gerónimo del Boquerón shall not preclude, limit, control, regulate, or determine the conduct or management of activities or uses outside of Fort San Gerónimo del Boquerón.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 359, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support Resident Commissioner GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN's bill, the Fort San Geronimo Preservation Act. This legislation would establish Fort San Geronimo del Boqueron as an affiliated area of the National Park System. I applaud Resident Commissioner GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN's leadership on this effort.

Fort San Geronimo is a small, two-level, stone masonry fort located at the easternmost point of the islet of San Juan, Puerto Rico. Part of the massive fortification system built by Spanish military engineers between the 16th and 19th centuries to protect San Juan from foreign invasions, Fort San Geronimo became a centerpiece of the city's defenses and played a crucial role in the 1797 Battle of San Juan. The fort was rebuilt in 1799, largely to its original design, and continued to be used as a Spanish military post in the 19th century. After Puerto Rico became a U.S. territory in 1898, the U.S. Navy used Fort San Geronimo as a military post until 1921. Today, Fort San Geronimo is owned and managed by the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture, an agency of the Puerto Rican Government.

Establishing Fort San Geronimo as a national affiliated area is a cost-effective way to conserve this important historic and cultural site without placing it under Federal ownership or management. Under H.R. 359, the fort will continue to be managed by the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture, although the National Park Service will be able to provide assistance for the marketing, interpretation, and protection of the site.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 359, the Fort San Geronimo Preservation Act, introduced by my colleague from Puerto Rico, Resident Commissioner JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.

The Fort San Geronimo del Boqueron, located in Puerto Rico, was built as part of the fortification system to protect San Juan from invasions. Today, it is the sole surviving fortification on the island, representing the successful defense from a siege by the British military in 1797, the Battle of San Juan.

The bill before us today would establish the Fort San Geronimo del Boqueron in Puerto Rico as an affiliated area of the National Park System to ensure the fort is maintained and preserved as an important historic site.

I am pleased to support the legislation and congratulate my colleague, Resident Commissioner GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, for her fine work on the legislation.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN), the lead sponsor of this bill.

Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman WESTERMAN and Ranking Member GRIJALVA for supporting this bill, which is really wanted by the people of Puerto Rico.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 359, the Fort San Geronimo Preservation Act, legislation that will establish Fort San Geronimo del Boqueron as an affiliated area of the National Park System.

Fort San Geronimo is a small, two-level, stone masonry fort located at the mouth of the Condado Lagoon in San Juan. Many who have visited San Juan will see it from all the hotels in the area. It is part of the massive system of fortification built by the Spanish military engineers between the 16th and 19th centuries to protect the cities, specifically 1500.

Three of the forts that were part of this defense system—Fort San Felipe del Morro, Fort San Cristobal, and Fort San Juan de la Cruz—are currently included within the San Juan National Historic Site, which is the sole National Park Service unit in Puerto Rico. Fort San Geronimo, however, is managed, as the chairman said, by the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture, a state government agency.

Despite its small size, this fort became a centerpiece of San Juan's first line of defense. It played a crucial role in the 1797 Battle of San Juan when a squadron of British ships led by Sir Ralph Abercromby attacked and attempted to invade the city for 13 days. Fort San Geronimo bore the brunt of this assault. Although severely damaged, it stood up against the firepower and successfully thwarted the British invasion, which retreated in defeat.

The 1797 British siege of San Juan would be the last attack on Puerto Rico by a major European power, underscoring Fort San Geronimo's historic significance and key strategic role.

The fort was rebuilt largely in its original design in 1799 and continued to be used as a Spanish military post throughout the 19th century. After Puerto Rico became a U.S. territory in 1898, the U.S. Navy, as the chairman mentioned, used it as a military post until 1921. It was then transferred into private property and eventually acquired by the government of Puerto Rico in 1949.

Today, this fort is the sole surviving site in Puerto Rico representing the 1797 Battle of San Juan. It was listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places in 1983 and again in 1997 as a contributing resource of the Advanced Defense Line historic district.

Yet, despite the significance of this fort, preserving Fort San Geronimo has been a challenging task due to age, weathering, and limited resources.

Over the last couple of years, entities like the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture and nonprofit organizations like Amigos del Fortin San Jeronimo have taken important steps to rehabilitate and protect the site, but it is clear that more can be done.

In 2020, the National Park Service released a study that found that Fort San Geronimo is nationally significant and met suitability criteria that there was strong local support for the agency to become involved in the site's interpretation and preservation. The study

concluded that there was the potential for the fort to be considered as an affiliated area of the National Park System.

This bill, H.R. 359, would achieve just that, designating Fort San Geronimo as the first affiliated area in Puerto Rico. The National Park Service would be authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture to provide technical and financial assistance for the fort's preservation. This would support and strengthen ongoing efforts to rehabilitate the site without placing it under Federal ownership.

Affiliated area designation would also bring national recognition to Fort San Geronimo's role in our military history. It would help us better interpret and tell the full story of the San Juan National Historic Site and that of the oldest and largest Spanish fortification system in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman WESTERMAN and Ranking Member GRIJALVA for their support. I look forward to continuing working together to get this legislation across the finish line and to help protect Fort San Geronimo for future generations.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I urge support of the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, as the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN) stated, this is a commonsense bill that will improve the conservation and protection of a key historical site. It does so while avoiding unnecessary Federal involvement. I thank the gentlewoman again for her leadership on this effort.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 359.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

HERSHEL ''WOODY'' WILLIAMS NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR MONUMENT LOCATION ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2717) to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work on the National Mall to honor the extraordinary acts of valor, selfless service, and sacrifice displayed by Medal of Honor recipients, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2717

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Hershel 'Woody' Williams National Medal of Honor Monument Location Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Congress in 2021 unanimously passed, and the President signed, Public Law 117–80 (40 U.S.C. 8903 note), which authorized the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish on Federal land in the District of Columbia a commemorative work to honor the acts of valor, selfless service, and sacrifice displayed by Medal of Honor recipients.

(2) The Medal of Honor was established by President Abraham Lincoln and first awarded 160 years ago on March 25, 1863, and is part of Lincoln's lasting and living legacy.

(3) In 1991, during the administration of President George H.W. Bush, this legacy was extended further when National Medal of Honor Day was established as March 25th of each year.

(4) The Medal of Honor is awarded to all branches of the United States Armed Forces as our nation's highest recognition for valor in combat.

(5) The number of living Medal of Honor recipients has been steadily declining, making it even more crucial to honor and recognize their heroic sacrifices and inspire future generations.

(6) Hershel ''Woody'' Williams, the last World War II Medal of Honor recipient, passed away in 2022 and laid in honor at the United States Capitol.

(7) The Medal of Honor represents the very best of our Nation—ordinary citizens, who took extraordinary action above and beyond the call of duty and became heroes of our Republic.

(8) These examples inspire all citizens and ignite within us the very spirit of America.

(9) The Medal of Honor rises to the level of supreme national and historical importance necessary to warrant representation on the National Mall.

(10) Locating the National Medal of Honor Monument in close proximity to the Lincoln Memorial within the Reserve would be a respectful extension of his enduring legacy and recognition of what ordinary people can accomplish when working for the greater good.

SEC. 3. NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR MONUMENT LOCATION.

(a) SITE.—Notwithstanding section 8908(c) of title 40, United States Code, the commemorative work authorized by section 1(a) of Public Law 117–80 (40 U.S.C. 8903 note) shall be located within the Reserve (as defined in section 8902(a) of title 40, United States Code).

(b) APPLICABILITY OF COMMEMORATIVE WORKS ACT.—Except as provided in subsection (a), chapter 89 of title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Commemorative Works Act''), shall apply to the commemorative work.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. 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. 2717, as amended, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this Saturday is Veterans Day. There is perhaps no greater way to celebrate this day than passing H.R. 2717, which seeks to honor the valor and sacrifice of some of our Nation's bravest heroes, Medal of Honor recipients.

Mr. Speaker, 160 years ago, President Abraham Lincoln awarded the first Medal of Honor in the midst of the Civil War. It is our Nation's highest honor awarded to members of the Armed Forces and is bestowed sparingly to only those who have demonstrated the highest acts of valor. Less than 100 Medal of Honor recipients are alive today out of the more than 3,500 medals that have been awarded.

As the highest and most prestigious military decoration in the United States, it symbolizes exceptional acts of bravery, selflessness, and sacrifice beyond the call of duty. Through the recognition of these remarkable individuals, the Medal of Honor inspires a sense of national pride, honors the memory of fallen heroes, and motivates future generations to embody the values of courage and honor. Inspired by the Victoria Cross, the Medal of Honor continues to instill a profound sense of respect and gratitude for the sacrifices made in the defense of freedom and justice.

Congressman MOORE's bill, the Hershel ''Woody'' Williams National Medal of Honor Monument Location Act, would ensure that the monument honoring these brave heroes can be placed on what is known as the Reserve but is commonly referred to as The National Mall here in Washington, D.C.

A monument honoring our most exceptional citizens should be reflected in the location of the memorial. Millions of Americans and visitors from across the world travel every year to our Nation's Capital to learn about the history of our great Nation. According to National Park Service data, The National Mall receives upward of 25 million visitors each year. The monuments and memorials located on The National Mall are the centerpiece of this history, and it is appropriate to include a new monument honoring veterans who have displayed the most courageous acts of valor recognized by our country.

In my home State of Arkansas, our State capital also has a memorial dedicated to Medal of Honor recipients on its grounds. I hope this monument in D.C., like the one in Arkansas, can inspire reflection, patriotism, and gratitude for our Nation's military heroes.

Earlier this year, the Committee on Natural Resources had the privilege of hearing from 1 of the 65 living Medal of Honor recipients, Master Chief Special Warfare Operator Britt Slabinski. In

his inspiring testimony, he reminded us that the Medal of Honor serves to represent those willing to go above and beyond in any circumstance, no matter how small.

This monument will serve as an everlasting reminder of the greatness of this country and the difference that one single person can make. The legislation before us today, H.R. 2717, would authorize the location of the national Medal of Honor memorial in a prominent location on The National Mall, with the intent to keep it near the Lincoln Memorial, as President Lincoln was the first to ever give out this special award.

Mr. Speaker, I was proud to support the original legislation authorizing this memorial, and I am proud to be supporting this subsequent legislation today.

Mr. Speaker, I note that this bill has been named after Hershel ''Woody'' Williams, who sadly passed away last year. He was known for his extraordinary heroism in the pivotal Battle of Iwo Jima during the Second World War. At the young age of 21, he singlehandedly cleared a path for American troops against Japanese forces in an act of extraordinary bravery. This is a touching tribute in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill. I thank Congressman MOORE for his leadership, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2717, the Hershel ''Woody'' Williams National Medal of Honor Monument Location Act, introduced by our colleague from Utah, Representative BLAKE MOORE.

This legislation would authorize the construction of a Medal of Honor memorial on The National Mall. The Medal of Honor is the highest military decoration awarded to individuals whose extraordinary acts of valor, selfless service, and sacrifice exceed the call of duty.

This memorial would honor over 3,500 Medal of Honor recipients from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard, ensuring that their courage, sacrifice, patriotism, citizenship, integrity, and commitment to preserving this great democracy of ours are preserved for generations to come.

I thank Representative MOORE and cosponsor Representative MARC VEASEY for their leadership on this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on the bill.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE), the lead sponsor of the bill.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2717, the Hershel ''Woody'' Williams National Medal of Honor Monument Location Act. I thank the chairman and ranking member for their leadership in prioritizing this important piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, Woody Williams was born on a West Virginia dairy farm in 1923 and was first drawn to the Marine Corps by their trademark uniforms. At 5-foot-6, Williams was unable to enlist in the Marines due to height restrictions. After that regulation was changed in 1943, Woody enlisted and was in the Pacific theater in less than 90 days.

On February 21, 1945, then-Corporal Williams landed on the beach at Iwo Jima, where he distinguished himself by repeatedly risking the threat of enemy fire and bayonet charges over several hours while singlehandedly destroying enemy pillboxes, or concrete trenches, to make way for American tanks and infantry.

□ 1615

His gallant actions took place on the same day as the famous flag raising on Mount Suribachi, which he witnessed from about 1,000 yards away.

After returning home, President Harry Truman awarded Corporal Hershel Williams the Medal of Honor, our Nation's highest recognition for valor in combat. He recognized his ''aggressive fighting spirit and valiant devotion to duty throughout this fiercely contested action, [sustaining] and [enhancing] the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.''

Following his distinguished marine career, Williams continued to serve others in many capacities. Some of my colleagues may remember last summer when Hershel Williams lay in state in the U.S. Capitol rotunda as the last World War II Medal of Honor recipient to pass away.

Since its inception by President Lincoln in 1862, 3,517 brave soldiers have received the Nation's highest honor for going above and beyond the call of duty and risking life and limb in selfless service to their countrymen. This elite class represents less than 0.001 percent of the 40 million brave sons and daughters who have served in the Armed Forces since the American Civil War.

While a permanent memorial for Medal of Honor recipients has been discussed for years, it was not until 2021 when President Biden signed a bill that Congressman VEASEY and I introduced to authorize the creation of a new monument to honor those who have been awarded the Medal of Honor. Today, we continue this work to authorize the creation of this monument in the Reserve, also known as the great cross-axis of The National Mall.

The monument will stand as a testament to those who protect our Nation's values, such as the nearly half dozen from my home State of Utah. We envision it as an educational platform for future generations to learn about what has been required to maintain our Republic.

By siting this monument near the Lincoln Memorial, we can pay fitting tribute to the President who established the award and embodied its principles. Our work to form a more perfect Union is unending, and I find it fitting that a monument honoring our Nation's greatest heroes will be visible from the memorial honoring one of our greatest martyrs.

Today, our Nation finds itself sharply divided along partisan lines. This monument will remind our great Nation and its people that there is far more that unites us than divides us. It is my hope that constructing this monument in its rightful place will inspire all Americans and allow us to pay our respects to and learn from these individuals and these families who, in Lincoln's words, ''have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.''

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2717.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY), the co-lead of the legislation.

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to urge the passage of the Hershel ''Woody'' Williams National Medal of Honor Monument Location Act.

The Medal of Honor is our Nation's highest military decoration that is awarded to U.S. servicemembers who have distinguished themselves with extraordinary acts of valor and sacrifice that far exceed the call of duty.

Texas, my home State, is home to over 70 valiant Medal of Honor recipients, and we also have over 1 million veterans and Active Duty military that call the Lone Star State their home. That is why I teamed up with the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE), my good friend, again to lead the passage of this Act.

Last year, we had the opportunity to work on a designation for a National Medal of Honor Museum being built in Arlington, Texas, that was in my district at the time. This amazing bill will authorize a monument right here in Washington, D.C., for Medal of Honor recipients, their families, their friends, loved ones and people who want to learn more about the history of the Medal of Honor to be able to come to D.C. and see why it is important that we create this lasting impact to the recipients of this highest award.

Today's bill, the Hershel ''Woody'' Williams National Medal of Honor Monument Location Act, is a continuation of the efforts that we worked on last year and will position this monument where it rightfully belongs, near the Lincoln Memorial, honoring President Lincoln, who was awarded one of the first Medals of Honor in 1863.

I end today by thanking Congressman MOORE for continuing to work with me on this important issue. I urge my colleagues to support this new bill that commemorates the bravery, service, and sacrifice of more than 3,500 Medal of Honor recipients that have lived across our communities here in the USA.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. MILLER).

Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in favor of the Hershel ''Woody'' Williams National Medal of Honor Monument Location Act, which would locate the new National Medal of Honor Monument near the Lincoln Memorial on The National Mall here in Washington, D.C.

Woody was an American hero from my home State of West Virginia. When he passed away last year, we paid tribute to him as he was laid in honor in the rotunda of the United States Capitol. It was his dream to honor the final Medal of Honor recipient in our Capitol, never dreaming that it would have been himself.

Woody was a country boy. He tried to enlist at the age of 16. He wasn't very tall and he wasn't allowed in then, but he made it in at 17 years old. He grew up hunting on a farm and was always a good shot. He loved his country more than anything, and he would do anything possible to defend it, so he did. He really epitomized that great, great Greatest Generation.

He was awarded the Medal of Honor in 1945 for his courage in the battle of Iwo Jima where he singlehandedly—he was the guy that made the shot—fought the Japanese with the flamethrowers, clearing the path for more American troops.

Marines raised the American flag on Mount Suribachi—we can visualize that picture because we have all seen it—that very day, resulting in the iconic photo that showed that America was winning the war in the Pacific.

Woody was not just a constituent and a hero; he was a friend. I served with him for years in Rotary, right there in little Milton, West Virginia. His legacy of service, dedication, and patriotism will live through the countless lives that he touched. His impact on our West Virginia community cannot be overstated, as his service to our veterans has continued and continued long after his career in the Marine Corps.

With Veterans Day on Saturday, this bill couldn't be more timely to honor our servicemen and -women who are willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

This monument pays tribute to the recipients of America's highest military honor for valor in combat.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from West Virginia.

Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, the monument will remind future generations of the values that shaped and preserved our great Nation. I urge every Republican and Democrat in the House and Senate to vote for this bill.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Let me just comment on all the commentary from the sponsors of the legislation, Mr. WESTERMAN, and our other colleagues, who outlined the importance of the legislation and the memorial.

There is a border community in my district, Douglas, and very prominent in their plaza is a memorial to all the men and women who have died in combat from that region, from the community of Douglas and from the county of Cochise.

I was talking to one of the VFW commanders on that visit, and he said: In this plaque, in this piece of granite, we have every ethnicity, every creed, representing different histories and cultures, and they all bled, and some died together in defense of this country.

I think this memorial will go a long way to say if that kind of sacrifice and that kind of unity is possible under the most extreme of circumstances, certainly being able to live in some sense of unity should be an ongoing goal. I think that will be part of what this memorial will mean to people.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member GRIJALVA and all the cosponsors of this bill and the great bipartisan work that has gone into making this happen. What a fitting tribute to Mr. Williams to name this bill after him.

I think back about a codel we made this past summer down to the country of Palau. We went out to a small island called Peleliu where one of the most bitter battles of World War II was fought. On that small island, really in a very hard place to get to, there stands a small monument to commemorate eight U.S. servicemembers who received the Medal of Honor in one battle.

As we were there, I thought not many Americans are ever going to get to see this small monument, and it made me realize how important it is that we do this monument here in Washington, D.C., to recognize not just Mr. Williams but all those who have served, to honor their memory, to remember their legacy, and to stand unwavering in our commitment to upholding the principles for which they fought so valiantly.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2717, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT LOCATION ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1318) to authorize the location of a monument on the National Mall to commemorate and honor the women's suffrage movement and the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1318

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Women's Suffrage National Monument Location Act''.

SEC. 2. WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT.

(a) SITE.—Notwithstanding section 8908(c) of title 40, United States Code, the Women's Suffrage National Monument shall be located within the Reserve.

(b) APPLICABILITY OF COMMEMORATIVE WORKS ACT.—Except as provided in subsection (a), chapter 89 of title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the ''Commemorative Works Act''), shall apply to the Women's Suffrage National Monument.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT.—The term ''Women's Suffrage National Monument'' means the commemorative work authorized to be established under Public Law 116–217 (40 U.S.C. 8903 note).

(2) RESERVE.—The term ''Reserve'' has the meaning given such term in section 8902(a)(3) of title 40, United States Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. 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. 1318, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 175th anniversary of the beginning of the women's suffrage movement in 1848. For the first 144 years of our Nation's history, women were not afforded the right to vote.

During the 19th century, the women's suffrage movement emerged with the goal of securing this important constitutional right for women across the Nation. It took years of hard work and dedication. Securing this important

change took over 40 years to accomplish. Finally, in 1920, the 19th amendment was formally ratified, and women were finally given the right to vote in our Nation's elections.

Now, 175 years after this important movement began, we are coming to the House floor to ensure that the monument honoring this movement is placed in the most prominent location in our Nation's capital—on The National Mall. I think it is significant to note that out of the 40 monuments and memorials on the Reserve, zero are dedicated to women's history. The Women's Suffrage National Monument would be the first.

That is why I support H.R. 1318, the Women's Suffrage National Monument Location Act. This is a worthy cause and will enhance the interpretation of The National Mall, which is visited by millions of Americans annually.

This monument, which was originally authorized by legislation signed by President Trump in 2020, would not use any Federal funds. In fact, the foundation supporting the monument even has plans to address the multimillion dollar deferred maintenance backlog in Constitution Gardens, the preferred location of the women's suffrage monument. This is a true win-win and a great model for future commemorative works.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention my disappointment with the Biden administration, which testified against this legislation earlier this year. The administration argued that The National Mall is already complete and there would be no space for this monument. I find this hard to believe, considering that the preferred location for this monument is currently occupied by food trucks.

This is a good, bipartisan and bicameral bill, and I thank Representatives LESKO and NEGUSE for leading this effort. I support the bill and reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1630

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1318, the Women's Suffrage National Monument Location Act, introduced by my colleague from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Federal lands.

This legislation authorizes a commemorative work on The National Mall to recognize the tireless work of suffragists who fought to secure women the right to vote.

While there may be some hesitation regarding the authorization of new memorials in the Reserve of The National Mall, I cannot think of a better addition to the Reserve than this particular monument.

Over 100 years ago, Congress passed the 19th Amendment to the Constitution. Yet today, not one monument or memorial on The National Mall is dedicated to American women's history.

As our Nation's Capital sees more than 25 million visitors annually, it is only fitting that we pass this legislation to ensure that we honor and recognize the women who championed these efforts and inspire future generations of strong women leaders.

I thank Representative NEGUSE for his leadership on this effort and all the women who have brought this issue before us today and for their continuing advocacy.

The Women's Suffrage National Monument will serve not only as a reminder of our Nation's history but also as a hope to continue to shape this Nation for a better future.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on the legislation and reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN).

Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman WESTERMAN for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bipartisan H.R. 1318, the Women's Suffrage National Monument Location Act, which I am an original cosponsor of.

First of all, I thank my colleagues Representatives NEGUSE and LESKO for presenting this legislation that will rightfully allow for a Women's Suffrage National Monument to be placed on The National Mall.

In 1919, Congress passed, and a year later ratified, the 19th Amendment, guaranteeing women's right to vote. At the time, only one woman had served in Congress: Jeannette Rankin from Montana, in 1916. Today, I am proud to be one of the 154 women serving in Congress—the highest number in the history of our Nation.

Women continue to rise across all levels of government, in the military, and in the private sector. Although we still have more work to do, it is crucial that we celebrate what we have accomplished in the past 104 years, while teaching and inspiring young generations about the role of women in democracy.

Women have cherished their right to vote. Report after report showcases female voters have exceeded the number of male voters in elections nationwide.

With this monument, we honor the suffragists who paved the way that allows women from all walks of life to take part in this democratic process and that also allows me to stand here as the first woman elected to represent Puerto Rico in Congress.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1318 and allow this part of America's story to be told.

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE), the sponsor of this bipartisan legislation.

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, let me first thank my colleague from Puerto Rico, as well as the chairman and the ranking member for their support, their partnership, and their leadership in helping facilitate this bill in its journey to the House floor today. I thank them all for eloquently articulating the reasons why I am such a strong supporter of this legislation and why I decided to introduce it with a broad coalition of lawmakers.

I would be remiss if I didn't also say a word of gratitude to Representative DEBBIE LESKO, who has been my partner on this bill, as well as Senators BALDWIN, BLACKBURN, and BENNET who are leading the bicameral legislation in the Senate, the companion bill.

This bill, as you have heard, Mr. Speaker, is a simple bill but a profoundly important bill. It is bipartisan, and it is bicameral.

Now, by way of background, and as the chairman articulated, I was proud to work on legislation in the 116th Congress that authorized the construction of the Women's Suffrage National Monument on Federal lands here in Washington, D.C.

We secured the first outdoor statue in honor of the brave women behind the women's suffrage movement, a monument that will honor the contributions made by a diverse group of women in the fight for women's suffrage.

This bipartisan legislation passed both chambers and was signed into law. This effort, Mr. Speaker, has been locally led from the start, driven by constituents in my Congressional District back home in Colorado, and in my view, a prime example of what we can accomplish when we display and demonstrate Colorado's ingenuity and passion and put it to good work.

In the years since, the sponsors of the monument have been hard at work to determine the best location for it to be placed within Washington, D.C.

As the chairman stated, the decision was that women's history deserves to have a place on our National Mall.

Right now, as the chairman articulated, of the 40 monuments on The National Mall, there are none dedicated and committed to women's history.

This proposed placement has broad support, including from all of our Nation's living First Ladies who serve as honorary chairs of the Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation.

Placing a monument, as you know, Mr. Speaker, specifically on our National Mall, does require an additional act of Congress, which is the legislation before us today.

This legislation simply allows the monument to be placed on the Reserve area of The National Mall. As the chairman articulated, it will be privately funded. It will not cost the Federal Government a dime.

I might just add on a more personal note, I, like many of my colleagues, am a father. I have a 5-year-old daughter and a 5-month-old son.

My daughter, Natalie, had her first trip to Washington, D.C., when she was

just a few months old. She joined me here on the floor in January of 2019 when I was sworn into office here for the first time.

I simply cannot wait for her to one day be able to come to Washington, D.C., and to see women's history reflected in the monuments and the memorials that are at the core of our Nation's Capital—not just her, but of course, all children, all Americans to be able to come and see that firsthand. This bill is an important step to doing just that.

I am hopeful that we will earn the support of our colleagues across both sides of the aisle. I think this bill is an important step in making our National Mall representative of American history, honoring the legacy of the women who fought for their rights all these years ago.

I would urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, in closing, the comments by Representative NEGUSE and Chairman WESTERMAN were appropriate.

This is a link to the history of this Nation that needs to be acknowledged and needs to be there for the rest of America to see, appreciate, and understand.

In women's history the struggle for political representation and equality in that field and in other fields is ongoing. I think this is an important memorial.

The other issue is this is a stark reminder for all of us that you cannot erase history, that you cannot change it by ignoring it or avoiding it.

I hope that after we take action on this legislation that we seek a way to revitalize the Latino museum that has already been approved and whose funding was eliminated in the appropriations bill for the Department of the Interior.

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

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

Again, I thank Representatives LESKO and NEGUSE and all the Members in the House who have come together to support this bill.

I thank my colleague Ranking Member GRIJALVA for his support and for working together on this and also the Senate for their bipartisan support.

It has bipartisan support because it is a good bill that will provide a place of prominence on our National Mall for the Women's Suffrage Monument.

It will forever enshrine the dedication and sacrifice of countless women who worked toward the goal of women's suffrage.

For those reasons, I urge adoption of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1318.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1729

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAMALFA) at 5 o'clock and 29 minutes p.m.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLE. 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 materials on H.R. 4820, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 838 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. 4820.

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

□ 1730

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. 4820) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, with Mr. BACON in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

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

The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE).

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

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to stand before you today as we consider the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies bill for fiscal year 2024.

I am glad that we are back at work moving appropriations bills through the House floor under our new Speaker. We are continuing to fulfill our constitutional duties.

I thank Chairman GRANGER, Ranking Member DELAURO, and my partner on this bill, Ranking Member MIKE QUIGLEY.

This bill responsibly funds our most critical transportation and housing needs and will have a positive impact on every congressional district in the country.

At the same time, the bill meets the challenge before us to reduce spending and get our debt under control. The bill reduces spending 25 percent below fiscal year 2023 levels, with a CBO score of $65 billion. We achieve these savings through a rescission of IRS funds and by reducing billions in excessive spending.

To really compare this bill to last year, we need to be honest about what was in the fiscal year 2023 bill, what it actually contains.

First, I will point out that last year, my Democratic friends labeled an extra $3.6 billion as emergency funding. We do not repeat that mistake this year.

Second, the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development bill uses receipts from HUD-backed mortgages and refinancing to offset spending. In fiscal year 2023, this provided $10 billion to offset spending. For fiscal year 2024, that receipt number is down over 70 percent.

Why?

It is because few people want to refinance at an 8 percent interest rate.

The real level of spending in the T-HUD bill was $101 billion in 2023 compared to $93 billion in the same bill before us today. This is a decrease of $8 billion, bringing the total slightly below the 2022 level.

Every year across government we face unavoidable cost increases in some programs. I believe we need to be responsible when addressing these costs. This bill does just that by cutting excess, removing duplication, and even trimming some programs that are, quite frankly, popular on both sides of the aisle.

Nevertheless, we also made sure to prioritize the core missions of DOT and HUD. We prioritize transportation safety on our railways, roads, and airways. I am proud that we provide resources for the Federal Aviation Administration to hire 1,800 new air traffic controllers to backfill the retiring workforce and deploy air traffic controllers to understaffed facilities. We also provide funding for the most critical air traffic control modernization programs. We all feel the impact of a strained air traffic control system. This bill will address some of those strains.

These investments will generate economic growth and ensure uninterrupted air service, which is critical for rural and remote communities and metropolitan areas alike.

This bill provides $60 billion for highways and bridges through the highway trust fund. These resources are directly allocated to our State departments of transportation, enabling State and local governments to collaborate on the highest priority road projects.

The bill prioritizes safety programs at the Department of Transportation to ensure that our roads and railways are safe for freight haulers and the traveling public.

The bill supports the DOT's maritime mission for full funding for national security programs. We ensure a responsible safety net with housing support for our most vulnerable citizens, especially the elderly, disabled veterans, and the working poor. These programs are run at the local level, through public housing authorities, private landlords, and faith-based organizations.

The bill supports self-sufficiency programs so that families can move up and out of rental assistance. Our housing assistance programs should be a hand up and not a handout.

I have heard from Members on both sides of the aisle about the importance of Community Development Block Grants, or CDBGs, so we provide the fiscal year '23 enacted level of $3.3 billion for this program.

I am proud of the work that we have done in this bill to meet our trust and treaty responsibilities to Native Americans. For years, HUD Tribal programs languished, their buying power eroded by inflation. At the same time, much of the housing on Tribal lands has deteriorated to the point of being dangerous and uninhabitable. So we have increased the Indian Housing Block Grant Program to $1.1 billion, catching up to an inflation-adjusted 1998 level. While this does not make up for decades of underinvestment, it is at least a start. The bill also increases investments in historically underfunded Tribal road programs.

The bill includes provisions that will scale back the Biden administration's regulatory overreach. For example, we prohibit funds such as to implement the affirmatively furthering fair housing rule at HUD. This does nothing to impair HUD's enforcement of the Fair Housing Act but cuts red tape for public housing authorities and other recipients of HUD funds.

The bill also bars the DOT from imposing new carbon emission reduction targets for highway projects. This would be particularly burdensome for small and rural communities.

In addition, the bill prohibits funds for drones subsidized by the Chinese Government. This will safeguard our national security and create a fair playing field for American manufacturers.

These are just a few of the policy provisions in the bill that will scale back the Biden administration's overreach. I am pleased that we will consider several amendments that will do even more to keep a check on the excesses of this administration.

I thank Members of the House for their input to this bill. We received roughly 9,000 requests, and we were able to meet over two-thirds of them, including community project funding for transportation infrastructure and bricks-and-mortar community development projects.

The alternative to passing this and other appropriations bills is a continuing resolution. Let me remind all Members that a CR will serve no one well. This bill is an ideal example of why we must avoid putting the government on autopilot.

Under a CR, our air traffic control system would suffer delays because of staffing shortages, housing assistance would be revoked from vulnerable Americans, and spending that is no longer needed from fiscal year 2023 would be carried forward for another year.

We must avoid that outcome.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased that we are moving forward. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this bill, and I yield myself the such time as I may consume.

As ranking member of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, I take pride in how the work of this subcommittee impacts the day-to-day lives of every person in our country.

Whether it is working to improve morning commutes to work and to school, fighting against the emissions that come along with moving people and goods from one place to another, or ensuring every American has a safe and stable place to call home, this bill touches the lives of every American.

Yet, this bill undercuts the fundamental values of the American people, and it does so at the expense of our lowest income families. Rather than continuing investments to upgrade our outdated infrastructure, this bill would weaken the safety of our transportation workers and communities. Instead of reducing congestion on our roads, delays at our airports, and bottlenecks at train stations, this bill would make our daily commutes and travel times longer.

When we should be investing more resources in safe and stable affordable housing to help the millions of American families that are barely able to get by each month, this bill would eliminate the opportunity for 22,000 working families to secure an affordable mortgage or home to rent.

All in all, this bill trades the basic needs of everyday Americans for the wants of the wealthiest. This message is made very clear when the bill cuts more than $7 billion for freight, rail, transit, and port infrastructure projects that span all 50 States and the District of Columbia, urban and rural.

This includes a complete elimination of the Thriving Communities program, striking out any new funding for the popular and bipartisan RAISE and Mega grant programs, gutting funding for light rail, subways, and bus projects by 82 percent, and slashing Amtrak's Northeast corridor funding by 92 percent; crippling the entire national network from Florida to New York, Texas to California, and in my own district, from Chicago to Arkansas, Montana, and all the way to the Pacific Northwest.

This bill also eliminates more than $2 billion for housing development and community revitalization programs, based on merit and need, I might add, including pulling back half a billion dollars intended to make housing safer for low-income children and families.

A safe and stable roof over your child's head should not be a worry for working parents already struggling to make ends meet. Yet, if enacted into law, this bill would force millions of families, the elderly, and the disabled to make even more difficult decisions each day on whether to live in a home riddled with lead and mold, all while the bill eliminates $25 billion from the Internal Revenue Service for tax oversight for the wealthy, an agency that this bill does not even have jurisdiction over.

Compounding these concerns are the several controversial policy riders that unnecessarily attack high-speed rail, roll back transportation safety, and call into question civil rights protections for most Americans.

This bill does not represent what a majority of our constituents have called on us to do, and I fear we have yet to see what additional cuts may be taken within this bill to appease those Members calling for draconian levels of spending, on the backs of everyday Americans.

As such, Mr. Chair, I respectfully cannot support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, one of the components in this legislation has to do with the California high-speed rail line which was originally bonded for $9.9 billion in 2008. The high-speed rail would run from San Francisco to Los Angeles, and the projected total cost was deemed to be around $33 billion that the voters of California were sold when this was placed on the ballot. They would fund $9.9 billion of it. The rest would come from the private sector, seeing that it would be such a great investment and they would make a lot of money at that. The completion date would be 2020.

As I look at the calendar, we are already 3 years behind the 2020 date. As well, they have been looking for more money because they have fallen way short. The silence has been deafening from the private investors who have not come in on that because they know it is a money loser.

So what do we have?

Instead, California keeps coming begging to the Federal Government for more and more funds. They were able to scoop up about $3 billion soon after the Obama stimulus act.

Do you remember that one, Mr. Chair, back in 2009, look for the shovel-ready projects?

So they were able to scoop that up. They took that money because the other States who initially took that money gave it back because they weren't going to make high-speed rail work in their States for anywhere near the right price.

□ 1745

Here we are, at least 3 years after the initial date, and projections now are somewhere around 2035. They are just now chipping away at the Central Valley portion that would run from about Merced to Bakersfield and end in an almond orchard out there somewhere.

They are running out of funding, so they keep coming back to the Federal Government for more. They got $3 billion of ARRA funding back then, and they have since passed a carbon tax in California, where they auction off carbon credit rights in order to prop this up even more.

They are coming to us once again. They are $28 billion short of just fulfilling the Central Valley portion, not the whole $33 billion that voters were sold many years ago. It is going to end up being about $128 billion at current projections.

Mr. Chair, we have to stop throwing money down this rathole. Initially, they tried to tell us it would be a million jobs, back when I was in the State legislature. They finally admitted after 3 years that they meant a million job-years. I guess that means 5,000 workers working for 20 years or something like that, or 200 years. Some crazy number would mean a million job-years.

By the time you would actually take this rail, which is going to be electrified from San Francisco to San Jose, you would have to switch trains. You may well have to switch trains around here somewhere, too. You could take Southwest from San Francisco to L.A., be on the beach, and already have a sunburn before you could actually get off the high-speed rail where you are going. Plus, this is without being subsidized by the taxpayers for the ultraexpensive tickets these are going to be because of the massive overrun in costs.

Mr. Chair, I appreciate my colleague, Chairman COLE, for including this language in the bill that would block $3 billion of new spending on this from Federal taxpayers.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from California.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Chair, instead, why don't we invest infrastructure money to build the water storage that would grow these crops that all Americans would utilize and enjoy, which they already do since 90 percent are grown in California?

Let's invest in good things instead of this dumb high-speed rail project, which is a rathole, a boondoggle, that will not pay off.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chair, I yield 8 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I thank Chairman COLE and Ranking Member QUIGLEY for their work on this bill. I also thank the majority and minority staff, particularly Christina Monroe, Nora Faye, and Jackie Kilroy, for all of their hard work.

Americans deserve the safest, most advanced systems in the world, across all forms of transportation. Yet, we have seen our transportation systems fail to meet the needs of the American people.

Between air-traffic control interruptions, catastrophic train derailments, highways collapsing, and record pedestrian fatalities, we should be increasing investments to strengthen our transportation systems and to keep people safe, not retreating from our transportation future.

Furthermore, every community is affected by the lack of affordable housing. There is a shortage of 7.3 million affordable homes nationwide. Yet, this bill fails to meet the housing needs of a growing and aging population.

This bill will make everything from commuting to shipping goods slower, more difficult, and more expensive for Americans. This bill guts rail investments, including a 64 percent reduction for Amtrak, resulting in service eliminations, delays to station improvements, and furloughs to its workforce, which will impact 20 million riders.

The brunt of this cut is borne by the Northeast Corridor—from $1.3 billion to $99 million, or a 92 percent cut. Northeast Corridor rail service is the lifeblood of the $5.8 trillion economic region that spans 12 States from Virginia to Maine. Business travelers and commuters, myself included, rely on this service to make our economy grow. Thousands across the region are employed directly or indirectly by rail service and the commerce that it drives.

We are not just talking about how people get to and from New York City or how we get to Washington, D.C. There are 7 million jobs within a 5-mile radius of a Northeast Corridor station. Communities of every size line the route, from rural towns to suburbs to urban destinations, and those communities rely heavily on rail travel for connectivity and commerce.

This includes communities like Aberdeen, Maryland, and Roanoke and Lynchburg, Virginia, that have stops on the Northeast Regional service. Communities like Connellsville and Greensburg, Pennsylvania, which are connected to the Northeast Corridor by intercity routes would also see drastic cuts.

Even beyond the Northeast, at these proposed levels, Amtrak anticipates nearly all long-distance and State-supported services would be impacted on national network routes.

Services would be at risk across the country: the Heartland Flyer in Oklahoma, the Silver Service to south Florida, the Texas Eagle from Chicago to Arkansas and Texas, and the Empire Builder from Chicago to Montana to the Pacific Northwest.

Thirteen of our colleagues in the majority supported the bipartisan infrastructure law, and even if they did not, they have not missed the ribbon cuttings. Yet, that law was never intended to replace annual appropriations. We cannot make that law's historic investments while gutting the annual appropriations that close the funding gap on complex and costly projects.

In parallel, we are setting our transportation infrastructure back decades. The majority sets investments in housing back, as well. This bill fails to protect housing for seniors, veterans, people with disabilities, and working families, and it fails to improve the safety of those in low-income housing.

Gutting the HOME program, the sole Federal program dedicated to affordable housing construction, by 67 percent will further squeeze the housing supply. This would result in nearly 17,000 fewer affordable homes built or rehabilitated this year and rental assistance for 5,000 fewer people.

The bill puts children and families at risk by cutting $564 million for health hazard remediations in low-income housing, including lead-based paint hazards, jeopardizing the safety of our most vulnerable populations.

In Flint, Michigan, thousands of children were exposed to lead-poisoned water for more than a year as a direct result of chronic underfunding of the EPA and overreliance on State management of Federal environmental law. We cannot repeat these costly mistakes.

To be clear, there is no amount of safe lead exposure. In children exposed to lead, you can expect to see delayed or stunted growth, learning difficulties, behavioral problems, and hearing and speech deficiencies. Failing to adequately address this issue will have dire long-term effects on our children's health and our Nation's future. Our children deserve better.

We must be honest about why we have a Fair Housing Act to begin with. The U.S. Government was an active

participant in creating the racial segregation we still see today. Black majority neighborhoods were bulldozed to create urban freeways. Racial covenants, redlining, and restrictive zoning were not just the norm; they were frequently required by Federal housing programs.

It took the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., and President Lyndon B. Johnson's urging to push this body to pass the Civil Rights Act of which the Fair Housing Act was included as title VIII. Mr. Chair, 161 Republicans and 166 Democrats voted for this landmark legislation because members of both parties understood the deep-rooted problems in this country and decided to meet that challenge. I worry that we no longer have two parties that are willing to meet today's challenges.

This bill would cripple our economy and eliminate thousands of jobs, and I must underscore that this is no messaging bill. I am taking Republicans at their word, as should all the American people. This is where they plan to take this country.

I must address the unforgivable manner in which community project funds were handled in the markup of this bill. Out of thousands of projects that adhered to published criteria, the majority cut funding for three solely because of their association with LGBTQ+ causes. This is truly despicable, and it sends the message that some of the American people are not worthy of humanity or dignity because of who they love.

With unthinkable cuts to transportation and housing and indefensible riders, I must vote against this bill, and I urge my colleagues to do the same. It will take bipartisan, bicameral support to get the 2024 Transportation-Housing bill signed into law.

Mr. Chair, I implore my colleagues on the other side of the aisle: End this partisan charade and join Democrats at the negotiating table.

The CHAIR. The Committee will rise informally.

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAMALFA) assumed the chair.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 1226. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to allow for the electronic request of certain records, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 4366. An act making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills and agreed to a concurrent resolution of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 447. An act to establish a demonstration program for the active remediation of orbital debris and to require the development of uniform orbital debris standard practices in order to support a safe and sustainable orbital environment, and for other purposes.

S. 499. An act to amend the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 to reauthorize the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program, and for other purposes.

S. 656. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to revise the rules for approval by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of commercial driver education programs for purposes of veterans educational assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 1648. An act to facilitate access to the electromagnetic spectrum for commercial space launches and commercial space reentries, and for other purposes.

S. 1973. An act to require the purchase of domestically made flags of the United States of America for use by the Federal Government.

S. 3222. An act to ensure the security of office space rented by Senators, and for other purposes.

S. Con. Res. 7. Concurrent Resolution condemning Russia's unjust and arbitrary detention of Russian opposition leader Vladimir Kara-Murza who has stood up in defense of democracy, the rule of law, and free and fair elections in Russia.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 114–255, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, appoints the following individuals (effective January 1, 2024) to serve as members of the Health Information Technology Advisory Committee:

Zeynep Sumer-King of New York.

Derek De Young of Wisconsin.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

The Committee resumed its sitting.

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

Mr. Chair, while I recognize the concerns of my good friend, the ranking member of the full committee, I think you need to put some of them in a little bit of context, particularly the subject of the Amtrak Northeast corridor.

While I recognize there is always a desire for greater support for the Northeast Corridor, I believe our bill strikes a necessary balance given the allocation we have for the year. I would also note that we are having just as many Members who believe we are spending too much as those who think we are spending too little.

Our $99.2 million appropriation supports the contingencies and legally mandated improvements to the Northeast Corridor. I recognize that while this level is certainly lower than last year, we must make three major points and take them into account.

First, prior to the passage of the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act, the Northeast Corridor normally received about $650 million to $700 million for capital improvements on an annual basis. This was at a time when Amtrak was nearly profitable. Today's ridership levels are still not back to where they were then, and the changing work patterns indicate that they may never return to those same levels.

The IIJA provides $1.2 billion, in addition to what we appropriate in this bill, annually in advanced appropriations to the Northeast Corridor for capital improvements. When you combine our appropriation with the advance, the total support for the Northeast Corridor is still double what it was prior to November 2021.

Further, Mr. Chairman, two-thirds of the Federal Railroad Administration's Federal-State partnership program advanced appropriations are set aside for projects in the Northeast Corridor, and we are also beginning to see these dollars flow.

This week, the FRA announced $16.4 billion in funding for projects along the Northeast Corridor, with $16.2 billion of those going to projects where Amtrak is the sponsor or one of the core beneficiaries of the project.

Clearly, the IIJA advanced appropriations are providing an amount of funding higher than Amtrak has ever seen in the past, particularly given the fact that their ridership is at a lower level.

The thing that my colleagues never address is that we are running a $2 trillion deficit. These programs are significantly above what Amtrak, particularly the Northeast Corridor, was receiving less than 2 years ago. We regret we have to make some adjustment, but we need to begin to bring this deficit down. This legislation responsibly does that.

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

□ 1800

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), the ranking member of the Financial Services Committee.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chair, I thank Congressman QUIGLEY very much for his leadership on the Subcommittee of Appropriations for T–HUD.

Let me just remind everyone that the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE), my friend on the opposite side of the aisle, voted against the infrastructure bill. I just want everybody to know that.

I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4820, which is among the worst—if not the worst—housing appropriations bill that has ever come to the House floor. This bill would exacerbate the affordable housing crisis by slashing the Federal housing budget by nearly 30 percent.

What is more concerning is the human cost of such draconian cuts. Specifically, these cuts would result in at least 15,000 families losing rental assistance, 20,000 affordable homes lost from the supply pipeline, and 78,000

children put at risk of in-home lead hazards.

Mr. Chair, our children, families, and communities cannot afford such devastating costs. If we want to talk about dollars, research shows that cutting funding for homelessness and lead abatement costs taxpayers more due to increased cost of our healthcare, education, and criminal justice systems.

Further, housing is a primary driver of inflation. This bill will only cause housing costs and inflation to rise even more.

It is unconscionable that as we enter the colder holiday season, Republicans would rather evict families than simply fund housing programs at the levels needed to support current families receiving assistance. Indeed, 600,000 people are already homeless in the United States. Home prices have skyrocketed by 45 percent since 2020. Over 35 million people experienced rent hikes in the last year, and an alarming 4 million households are now on the brink of eviction or foreclosure.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill. I just continue by saying the Trump tax cuts for the rich cost $4 trillion. They are conservative when they want to be, but when we are needing housing opportunities for the least of these in this country, they cannot afford to be charitable and take care of the people of this country who need safe and secure housing.

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

My friend is certainly correct, I voted against the Infrastructure, Investment and Jobs Act, and I did so for a very good reason. It didn't pay for itself. There have been three previous transportation bills in my time here, two under President Obama. I voted for those because they paid for themselves.

My friends worry about rising costs. They should worry about rising costs. It is their reckless spending that sparked the worst inflation in 40 years and the highest interest rates in 20 years. When they are concerned about housing costs, just look in the mirror.

That is not just me saying that. Go back and look at all the Democratic economists that criticized the passage of the so-called American Rescue Plan where my friends injected $1.9 trillion into the economy at a time when we were growing at over 6 percent and rapidly recovering.

We do have problems with what it costs. Nobody in my son's lifetime—he is 41 years old—ever paid 8 percent interest rates, but my friends got us there. It didn't take them long to do it, either.

The record deficits we are running are why we are having to make some of these reductions. The income to the Federal Government is actually higher than it has been in quite some time. It is higher on a percentage basis, it is higher in actual totals, but you can't continue to spend at these rates. That is what caused inflation. That is what drove up housing prices. That is why we are passing this legislation, to try and begin to responsibly fund important programs as opposed to just throwing money at problems and leaving the American people to deal with the bill in terms of higher costs, higher inflation, and more expensive housing.

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Illinois for the opportunity to discuss this very important issue.

I rise today to oppose the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2024.

Today is a monumental day for transportation in America. It is the day the Biden administration announced billions of dollars in funding for much-needed transportation projects and the day that the Republicans brought this bill to the floor to cut funding designated to make transportation in this country safer.

The differences are severe. The Biden administration is building and repairing bridges and subway tunnels to make American transportation more efficient. Republicans seem to want to make it more dangerous.

Here are a few of the drastic cuts Republicans want to enact:

They want to cut $7 billion in funding from the Department of Transportation.

They want to eliminate the Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail program. This program funds projects to improve rail performance and expand it into underserved communities.

They want to cut Amtrak funding by 65 percent and cut it by 92 percent in the most populous Northeast corridor.

In addition, they want to cut funding for Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program grants in half. This program funds rail safety technology, eliminates deadly railroad crossings, and installs safety fencing around the Nation's rail network. It will save lives across the country, but Republicans want to cut it anyway.

In the process, they are showing the American people they do not care about their safety nor their transportation system.

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. PRESSLEY).

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Chair, I oppose this legislation for the draconian cuts and dangerous provisions included in it, but also for the critical funding priorities that were excluded.

With this appropriations bill, Republicans callously stripped community project funding for The Pryde, an affordable LGBTQ+ senior housing development in the Massachusetts Seventh.

It would seem for my colleagues across the aisle that the word ''freedom'' is selectively applied. It does not apply to my bodily autonomy. It does not apply to intellectual freedom for women, African Americans, or our LGBTQ siblings when it comes to our books, and it does not apply to the freedom to love whom you love.

This project satisfies the committee's requirements and would meet a critical need in my district at a time when mortgages are skyrocketing and one-third of LGBTQ seniors are living in poverty, and many are forced to recloset themselves in order to age in community in their twilight years. Unconscionable.

Republicans are choosing homophobia over housing, profits over people, cruelty over compassion. Their actions to target, attack, and dehumanize our LGBTQ siblings are nothing more than a show of contempt.

While The Pryde has a pathway for other Federal funding, this act of policy violence contributes to the physical violence that far too many LGBTQ folks experience.

As the vice chair of the Task Force on Aging and Families, I want my LGBTQ constituents and siblings in the movement to know they deserve safe and affordable housing, they deserve to be seen and loved, and I will never stop fighting for them.

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I think I need to make clear at this point in time that the infrastructure law, that supplemental funding cannot be used to run and operate trains. This means these resources can do nothing to protect current train service or the jobs that keep our trains running smoothly.

In addition, the Northeast Corridor Commission estimates a $57 billion cost to address major and basic infrastructure along Amtrak's 100-year-old Northeast corridor with an additional $43 billion cost for stations-related improvements to increase accessibility for riders.

I thank Chairman COLE for his leadership and his willingness to accommodate as many requests as possible. He has been an honest broker on this and kept the lines of communication open, which goes a long way in this environment.

I also give my appreciation to his staff and mine, who have spent tireless hours to get us to this moment. I look forward to working with the chairman as we refine this process for fiscal year 2025. This includes minority staff Christina Monroe, Jackie Kilroy, and Nora Faye; Charlie from my office, and Doug Disrud with the majority and his staff.

Beyond what has been said before, this is a bad bill at a bad time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Chairman, I begin by reciprocating the very kind remarks of my working partner, Mr. QUIGLEY. I find him to be a person of extraordinary ability, a wonderful working partner, and somebody that I look forward to continuing a dialogue with as we go through the process.

As my friend knows, we are not at the end of that process. Our aim is to pass a vehicle and be able to go to conference, where I know my friend and I will continue to work on some of the concerns that, frankly, people on both sides of the aisle have. I think that is the way we ought to work, and I am very proud of the relationship that we have that will allow that to continue.

I will, however, point out that we have several problems. The reality is our funding levels are actually essentially where we were in 2022. This is 2023. We have not gone a long way past that.

Second, there is an enormous amount of money that has been interjected into the infrastructure bill by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and that money needs to be offset in some way to bring down this extraordinary deficit that we have.

My friends are concerned, appropriately so, about the cost of things. Those costs have been raised mostly by excessive government spending. The worst thing that we have out there right now is simply what interest rates are compared to what they were, literally, when the President walked into office. They were 1.4 percent. They peaked at 9 percent. They are still running somewhere around 7 percent. If you don't think it makes a difference, go try to buy a home.

You have to begin to responsibly restrain government spending. This bill does that. It takes us from $101 billion in total spending to $93 billion. That is a significant cut. That is exactly where we were in 2022, not very long ago.

We will continue to work and try to find common ground with our friends because I recognize, as I know my friend does, at the end of the day, all appropriations bills have to be bipartisan, but they are usually not bipartisan at this stage in the process. I am not surprised that that is where we are right now.

I think there are a lot of good features in this. I think, quite frankly, Tribal housing and Tribal roads have been underfunded for decades. It didn't matter who was in power. This bill begins to address that.

I think we have critical needs at the FAA, where we need to train more air traffic controllers to modernize the system. This bill does that. It matches up pretty closely to what this Congress actually passed when it passed the FAA Reauthorization Act earlier this year.

There is lots of infrastructure in this bill. Would we like more? Yes, we would. Maybe we will be able to get more, but right now we have to operate within the allocation that we have.

I think we have more in common to work with here than probably the initial debate and the early rhetoric suggests, and I will just close by saying my friend has my commitment that I will continue to work with him.

I share his admiration for the staff on both sides of the aisle. Sometimes I often like to say Members may not work together very well, but staff almost always does around here. At the end of the day, more problems are solved at that level sometimes than solved by the rhetoric on the floor.

My friend and I, I hope we get to a deal. I know we have one thing above all in common. We both know what a continuing resolution would mean. We both know that is a bad outcome. If that happens, we will lose the improvements in this bill, particularly for FAA, but for other areas as well.

□ 1815

My friend has my commitment that we will continue to work together. We may not get to the same place in the debate over this particular piece of legislation, but if we are going to have something that actually becomes law, he and I will have to come to an agreement. At some point, I am confident that we will.

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

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) having assumed the chair, Mr. BACON, 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. 4820) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Ms. JACOBS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, I rise to give notice of my intention to raise a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

H. Res. 846 censuring Representative Brian Mast.

Whereas, Representative Brian Mast served honorably in the United States Army with distinct sacrifice, dedication, and bravery;

Whereas, Representative Brian Mast has repeatedly made inflammatory statements regarding innocent Palestinian civilians in Gaza who are in harm's way through no fault of their own as a result of horrific terrorist attacks conducted by Hamas on October 7, 2023;

Whereas, Representative Brian Mast 's refusal to distinguish innocent Palestinians from Hamas terrorists is false, misleading, dehumanizing, dangerous, and unbecoming of a Member of Congress;

Whereas, on October 19, 2023, during a House Foreign Affairs Committee markup, Representative Brian Mast emphatically asserted that any urgently needed humanitarian aid for innocent Palestinian civilians who are in harm's way through no fault of their own ''should be slowed down'' and that there should be ''every effort made to slow down any perceived assistance'';

Whereas, on October 19, 2023, during the same House Foreign Affairs Committee markup, Representative Brian Mast stated that terrorism is ''absolutely supported by the Palestinian people, from elementary school all the way up into the elderly'';

Whereas, on November 1, 2023, during a speech on the House floor, Representative Brian Mast inexcusably compared innocent Palestinian civilians, including children, who are often used as human shields by Hamas terrorists, to Nazi collaborators that perpetrated the Holocaust against the Jewish people;

Whereas, the horrific crime against humanity perpetrated by Nazis that resulted in the murder of more than 6 million Jews during the Holocaust should never be trivialized;

Whereas, on November 1, 2023, during a speech on the House floor, Representative Brian Mast stated that ''there are very few innocent Palestinian civilians'';

Whereas, on November 2, 2023, Representative Brian Mast again incorrectly conflated innocent Palestinian civilians with Hamas terrorists by tweeting a video of a Hamas leader and asserting that ''a two-state solution means making a state out of these murderous terrorists who are openly calling for the atrocities of October 7 to be committed over and over again'';

Whereas, Representative Brian Mast's repeated conflation of innocent Palestinian civilians with Hamas terrorists sends a message to the world that violence against all Palestinians is legitimate and risks the incitement of brutal attacks across the Middle East region, including settler violence in the West Bank and Hezbollah aggression in northern Israel;

Whereas, instances of anti-Arab hate and Islamophobia have been on the rise, including the hate-fueled murder of Wadea Al-Fayoume, a 6-year-old Palestinian American who was stabbed to death in his home in Illinois on October 15, 2023, because of his identity; and

Whereas, Representative Brian Mast's comments regarding innocent Palestinian civilians in Gaza are dehumanizing, inflammatory, unacceptable, and can be reasonably construed as inviting the targeted murder of innocent Palestinians, fanning the flames of violence in the Middle East, and violating the international rules of war:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that Brian Mast be censured.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentlewoman from California will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and pass:

H.R. 1607;

H.R. 359; and

Agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

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

CLARIFYING JURISDICTION WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN BUREAU OF RECLAMATION PUMPED STORAGE DEVELOPMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1607) to clarify jurisdiction with respect to certain Bureau of Reclamation pumped storage development, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 384, nays 1, not voting 47, as follows:

[Roll No. 599]

YEAS—384

Adams	Deluzio	Kamlager-Dove
Aderholt	DeSaulnier	Kaptur
Aguilar	DesJarlais	Kean (NJ)
Alford	Diaz-Balart	Kelly (IL)
Allen	Dingell	Kelly (MS)
Allred	Doggett	Kelly (PA)
Amodei	Donalds	Khanna
Arrington	Duarte	Kiggans (VA)
Babin	Duncan	Kildee
Bacon	Dunn (FL)	Kiley
Baird	Edwards	Kilmer
Balderson	Ellzey	Kim (CA)
Balint	Emmer	Kim (NJ)
Barr	Escobar	Krishnamoorthi
Barragán	Eshoo	Kustoff
Bean (FL)	Espaillat	LaLota
Beatty	Evans	LaMalfa
Bentz	Ezell	Lamborn
Bera	Fallon	Landsman
Bergman	Feenstra	Langworthy
Beyer	Ferguson	Larson (CT)
Bice	Finstad	Latta
Biggs	Fischbach	LaTurner
Bilirakis	Fitzgerald	Lawler
Bishop (GA)	Fitzpatrick	Lee (CA)
Bishop (NC)	Fleischmann	Lee (FL)
Blunt Rochester	Fletcher	Lee (NV)
Boebert	Flood	Lee (PA)
Bonamici	Foushee	Leger Fernandez
Bost	Foxx	Lesko
Bowman	Frankel, Lois	Letlow
Boyle (PA)	Franklin, Scott	Levin
Brecheen	Fry	Lieu
Brown	Fulcher	Lofgren
Brownley	Gaetz	Lucas
Buck	Gallagher	Luetkemeyer
Bucshon	Garamendi	Luna
Burchett	Garbarino	Luttrell
Burgess	García (IL)	Lynch
Burlison	Garcia (TX)	Mace
Bush	Garcia, Mike	Malliotakis
Calvert	Gimenez	Mann
Cammack	Golden (ME)	Manning
Caraveo	Gomez	Massie
Carbajal	Gonzales, Tony	Mast
Cárdenas	Gonzalez, Vicente	Matsui
Carey	Good (VA)	McBath
Carl	Gooden (TX)	McCaul
Carson	Gosar	McClain
Carter (GA)	Granger	McClellan
Carter (LA)	Graves (LA)	McClintock
Carter (TX)	Green, Al (TX)	McCollum
Cartwright	Greene (GA)	McCormick
Casar	Griffith	McGarvey
Case	Grijalva	McGovern
Casten	Grothman	McHenry
Castor (FL)	Guthrie	Meeks
Castro (TX)	Hageman	Menendez
Chavez-DeRemer	Harder (CA)	Meuser
Cherfilus-McCormick	Harris	Mfume
Chu	Harshbarger	Miller (WV)
Clark (MA)	Hayes	Miller-Meeks
Clarke (NY)	Hern	Mills
Cleaver	Higgins (LA)	Molinaro
Cline	Higgins (NY)	Moolenaar
Cloud	Hill	Mooney
Clyburn	Himes	Moore (AL)
Clyde	Hinson	Moore (UT)
Cohen	Horsford	Moore (WI)
Cole	Houchin	Moran
Collins	Houlahan	Morelle
Comer	Hoyer	Moskowitz
Connolly	Hoyle (OR)	Moulton
Correa	Hudson	Mrvan
Costa	Huffman	Mullin
Courtney	Huizenga	Murphy
Crane	Hunt	Napolitano
Crawford	Issa	Neal
Crockett	Ivey	Neguse
Crow	Jackson (NC)	Nehls
Cuellar	Jackson (TX)	Newhouse
Curtis	Jacobs	Nickel
Davids (KS)	James	Norman
Davidson	Jayapal	Nunn (IA)
Davis (IL)	Jeffries	Obernolte
Davis (NC)	Johnson (GA)	Ocasio-Cortez
De La Cruz	Johnson (OH)	Ogles
Dean (PA)	Johnson (SD)	Omar
DeGette	Jordan	Owens
DeLauro	Joyce (OH)	Pallone
DelBene	Joyce (PA)	Palmer
		Panetta
		Pappas
		Pascrell
		Payne
		Peltola
		Perry
		Peters
		Pettersen
		Pfluger
		Pingree
		Pocan
		Porter
		Posey
		Pressley
		Quigley
		Ramirez
		Raskin
		Reschenthaler
		Rodgers (WA)
		Rogers (AL)
		Rose
		Rosendale
		Ross
		Rouzer
		Roy
		Ruiz
		Ruppersberger
		Rutherford
		Ryan
		Salazar
		Salinas
		Sánchez
		Sarbanes
		Scalise
		Scanlon
		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
		Stefanik
		Steil
		Steube
		Stevens
		Strickland
		Strong
		Sykes
		Takano
		Tenney
		Thanedar
		Thompson (CA)
		Thompson (MS)
		Thompson (PA)
		Tiffany
		Timmons
		Titus
		Tlaib
		Tokuda
		Tonko
		Torres (CA)
		Torres (NY)
		Trahan
		Turner
		Underwood
		Valadao
		Van Drew
		Van Duyne
		Van Orden
		Vasquez
		Veasey
		Velázquez
		Wagner
		Walberg
		Waltz
		Wasserman Schultz
		Waters
		Watson Coleman
		Weber (TX)
		Webster (FL)
		Wenstrup
		Westerman
		Wexton
		Wild
		Williams (GA)
		Williams (NY)
		Williams (TX)
		Wilson (SC)
		Womack
		Yakym
		Zinke

NAYS—1

Santos

NOT VOTING—47

Armstrong	Goldman (NY)	Miller (OH)
	Gottheimer	Nadler
Auchincloss	Graves (MO)	Norcross
Banks	Green (TN)	Pelosi
Blumenauer	Guest	Pence
Buchanan	Jackson (IL)	Perez
Budzinski	Jackson Lee	Phillips
Ciscomani	Keating	Rogers (KY)
Craig	Kuster	Schakowsky
Crenshaw	LaHood	Schiff
D'Esposito	Larsen (WA)	Steel
Estes	Loudermilk	Swalwell
Foster	Magaziner	Trone
Frost	McCarthy	Vargas
Gallego	Meng	Wilson (FL)
Garcia, Robert	Miller (IL)	Wittman

□ 1858

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FORT SAN GERONIMO PRESERVATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 359) to establish Fort San Geronimo del Boqueron in Puerto Rico as an affiliated area of the National Park System, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 359, nays 24, not voting 49, as follows:

[Roll No. 600]

YEAS—359

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Alford
Allen
Allred
Amodei
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Balint
Barr
Barragán
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Blunt Rochester
Boebert
Bonamici
Bost
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Buck
Bucshon
Burchett
Burgess
Bush
Calvert
Cammack
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carey
Carl
Carson
Carter (GA)
Carter (LA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Cole
Collins
Comer
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Crawford
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Curtis
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Dingell
Doggett
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Fletcher
Flood
Foushee
Foxx
Frankel, Lois
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garamendi
Garbarino
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Mike
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Gomez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
Grijalva
Grothman
Guthrie
Hageman
Harder (CA)
Harris
Hayes
Hern
Higgins (NY)
Hill
Himes
Hinson
Horsford
Houchin
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Hudson
Huffman
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Ivey
Jackson (NC)
Jackson (TX)
Jacobs
James
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Kean (NJ)
Kelly (IL)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Khanna
Kiggans (VA)
Kildee
Kiley
Kilmer
Kim (CA)
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kustoff
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Landsman
Langworthy
Larson (CT)
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (CA)
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Letlow
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Lynch
Mace
Malliotakis
Mann
Manning
Mast
Matsui
McBath
McCaul
McClain
McClellan
McClintock
McCollum
McCormick
McGarvey
McGovern
Meeks
Menendez
Meuser
Mfume
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (UT)
Moore (WI)
Moran
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Murphy
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nehls
Newhouse
Nickel
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Owens
Pallone
Palmer
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Peltola
Peters
Pettersen
Pfluger
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Posey
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rose
Ross
Rouzer
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scalise
Scanlon
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott (VA)
Scott, Austin
Scott, David
Sessions
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Simpson
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Smucker
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Spartz
Stansbury
Stanton
Stauber
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Strickland
Strong
Sykes
Takano
Tenney
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Turner
Underwood
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—24

Bean (FL)
Biggs
Bishop (NC)
Brecheen
Burlison
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Crane
Davidson
Good (VA)
Greene (GA)
Harshbarger
Higgins (LA)
Lesko
Massie
Moore (AL)
Norman
Ogles
Perry
Rosendale
Roy
Santos
Self

NOT VOTING—49

Armstrong
Auchincloss
Banks
Blumenauer
Buchanan
Budzinski
Ciscomani
Craig
Crenshaw
D'Esposito
De La Cruz
Estes
Foster
Frost
Gallego
Garcia, Robert
Goldman (NY)
Gottheimer
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Guest
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee
Keating
Kuster
LaHood
Larsen (WA)
Loudermilk
Magaziner
McCarthy
McHenry
Meng
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Nadler
Norcross
Pelosi
Pence
Perez
Phillips
Rogers (KY)
Schakowsky
Schiff
Steel
Swalwell
Trone
Vargas
Wilson (FL)
Wittman

□ 1910

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for the vote on H.R. 1607, to clarify jurisdiction with respect to certain Bureau of Reclamation pumped storage development, and for other purposes, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 599.

Had I been present for the vote on H.R. 359, the Fort Geronimo Preservation Act, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 600.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Madam Speaker, I missed the following votes, but had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 599 and "yea" on rollcall No. 600.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, today I missed a series of rollcall votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 599 and "yea" on rollcall No. 600.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. LAHOOD. Madam Speaker, I had to miss votes today due to travel from Illinois to Washington. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 599 and "yea" on rollcall No. 600.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, due to my train being delayed, I did not make it to the Capitol in time for votes this evening. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 599 and "yea" on rollcall No. 600.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

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

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

□ 1915

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 838 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4820.

Will the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GIMENEZ) kindly take the Chair.

□ 1916

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4820) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, with Mr. GIMENEZ (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, all time for general debate pursuant to House Resolution 838 had expired.

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

The bill shall be considered as read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4820

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Secretary, $176,859,000 to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That of the sums appropriated under this heading—

(1) $3,569,000 shall be available for the immediate Office of the Secretary;

(2) $1,277,000 shall be available for the immediate Office of the Deputy Secretary;

(3) $28,089,000 shall be available for the Office of the General Counsel;

(4) $22,769,000 shall be available for the Office of the Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy, of which $7,300,000 is for the Office for Multimodal Freight Infrastructure and Policy;

(5) $21,026,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs;

(6) $3,968,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs;

(7) $41,399,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration;

(8) $2,093,000 shall be available for the Office of Public Affairs and Public Engagement;

(9) $2,312,000 shall be available for the Office of the Executive Secretariat;

(10) $15,533,000 shall be available for the Office of Intelligence, Security, and Emergency Response;

(11) $33,195,000 shall be available for the Office of the Chief Information Officer; and

(12) $1,629,000 shall be available for the Office of Tribal Government Affairs:

Provided further, That the Secretary of Transportation (referred to in this title as the ''Secretary'') is authorized to transfer funds appropriated for any office of the Office of the Secretary to any other office of the Office of the Secretary: *Provided further*, That no appropriation for any office shall be increased or decreased by more than 7 percent by all such transfers: *Provided further*, That notice of any change in funding greater than 7 percent shall be submitted for approval to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That not to exceed $10,000 shall be for allocation within the Department for official reception and representation expenses as the Secretary may determine: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, there may be credited to this appropriation up to $2,500,000 in funds received in user fees.

RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

For necessary expenses related to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology, $41,713,000, of which $30,259,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That there may be credited to this appropriation, to be available until expended, funds received from States, counties, municipalities, other public authorities, and private sources for expenses incurred for training: *Provided further*, That any reference in law, regulation, judicial proceedings, or elsewhere to the Research and Innovative Technology Administration shall continue to be deemed to be a reference to the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology of the Department of Transportation.

NATIONAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AND INNOVATIVE FINANCE BUREAU

For necessary expenses of the National Surface Transportation and Innovative Finance Bureau as authorized by 49 U.S.C. 116, $10,550,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Secretary may collect and spend fees, as authorized by title 23, United States Code, to cover the costs of services of expert firms, including counsel, in the field of municipal and project finance to assist in the underwriting and servicing of Federal credit instruments and all or a portion of the costs to the Federal Government of servicing such credit instruments: *Provided further*, That such fees are available until expended to pay for such costs: *Provided further*, That such amounts are in addition to other amounts made available for such purposes and are not subject to any obligation limitation or the limitation on administrative expenses under section 608 of title 23, United States Code.

RAILROAD REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENT FINANCING PROGRAM

The Secretary is authorized to issue direct loans and loan guarantees pursuant to chapter 224 of title 49, United States Code, and such authority shall exist as long as any such direct loan or loan guarantee is outstanding.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CAPITAL

For necessary expenses for upgrading and enhancing the Department of Transportation's financial systems and re-engineering business processes, $5,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2025.

CYBER SECURITY INITIATIVES

For necessary expenses for cyber security initiatives, including necessary upgrades to network and information technology infrastructure, improvement of identity management and authentication capabilities, securing and protecting data, implementation of Federal cyber security initiatives, and implementation of enhanced security controls on agency computers and mobile devices, $49,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS

For necessary expenses of the Office of Civil Rights, $14,800,000.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING, RESEARCH, AND DEVELOPMENT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for conducting transportation planning, research, systems development, development activities, and making grants, $25,017,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, $8,517,000 shall be for necessary expenses of the Interagency Infrastructure Permitting Improvement Center (IIPIC): *Provided further*, That there may be transferred to this appropriation, to remain available until expended, amounts transferred from other Federal agencies for expenses incurred under this heading for IIPIC activities not related to transportation infrastructure: *Provided further*, That the tools and analysis developed by the IIPIC shall be available to other Federal agencies for the permitting and review of major infrastructure projects not related to transportation only to the extent that other Federal agencies provide funding to the Department in accordance with the preceding proviso.

WORKING CAPITAL FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for operating costs and capital outlays of the Working Capital Fund, not to exceed $522,165,000, shall be paid from appropriations made available to the Department of Transportation: *Provided*, That such services shall be provided on a competitive basis to entities within the Department of Transportation: *Provided further*, That the limitation in the preceding proviso on operating expenses shall not apply to entities external to the Department of Transportation or for funds provided in Public Law 117–58: *Provided further*, That no funds made available by this Act to an agency of the Department shall be transferred to the Working Capital Fund without majority approval of the Working Capital Fund Steering Committee and approval of the Secretary: *Provided further*, That no assessments may be levied against any program, budget activity, subactivity, or project funded by this Act unless notice of such assessments and the basis therefor are presented to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and are approved by such Committees.

SMALL AND DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS UTILIZATION AND OUTREACH

For necessary expenses for small and disadvantaged business utilization and outreach activities, $5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 332 of title 49, United States Code, such amounts may be used for business opportunities related to any mode of transportation: *Provided further*, That appropriations made available under this heading shall be available for any purpose consistent with prior year appropriations that were made available under the heading ''Office of the Secretary—Minority Business Resource Center Program''.

PAYMENTS TO AIR CARRIERS

(AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND)

In addition to funds made available from any other source to carry out the essential air service program under sections 41731 through 41742 of title 49, United States Code, $348,554,000, to be derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That in determining between or among carriers competing to provide service to a community, the Secretary may consider the relative subsidy requirements of the carriers: *Provided further*, That basic essential air service minimum requirements shall not include the 15-passenger capacity requirement under section 41732(b)(3) of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That amounts authorized to be distributed for the essential air service program under section 41742(b) of title 49, United States Code, shall be made available immediately from amounts otherwise provided to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration: *Provided further*, That the Administrator may reimburse such amounts from fees credited to the account established under section 45303 of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding section 41733 of title 49, United States Code, for fiscal year 2024, the requirements established under subparagraphs (B) and (C) of section 41731(a)(1) of title 49, United States Code, and the subsidy cap established by section 332 of the Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2000, shall not apply to maintain eligibility under section 41731 of title 49, United States Code.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

(INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 101. None of the funds made available by this Act to the Department of Transportation may be obligated for the Office of the Secretary of Transportation to approve assessments or reimbursable agreements pertaining to funds appropriated to the operating administrations in this Act, except for activities underway on the date of enactment of this Act, unless such assessments or agreements have completed the normal reprogramming process for congressional notification.

SEC. 102. The Secretary shall post on the web site of the Department of Transportation a schedule of all meetings of the Council on Credit and Finance, including the agenda for each meeting, and require the Council on Credit and Finance to record the decisions and actions of each meeting.

SEC. 103. In addition to authority provided by section 327 of title 49, United States Code, the Department's Working Capital Fund is authorized to provide partial or full payments in advance and accept subsequent reimbursements from all Federal agencies from available funds for transit benefit distribution services that are necessary to carry out the Federal transit pass transportation fringe benefit program under Executive Order No. 13150 and section 3049 of

SAFETEA–LU (5 U.S.C. 7905 note): *Provided*, That the Department shall maintain a reasonable operating reserve in the Working Capital Fund, to be expended in advance to provide uninterrupted transit benefits to Government employees: *Provided further*, That such reserve shall not exceed 1 month of benefits payable and may be used only for the purpose of providing for the continuation of transit benefits: *Provided further*, That the Working Capital Fund shall be fully reimbursed by each customer agency from available funds for the actual cost of the transit benefit.

SEC. 104. Receipts collected in the Department's Working Capital Fund, as authorized by section 327 of title 49, United States Code, for unused transit and van pool benefits, in an amount not to exceed 10 percent of fiscal year 2024 collections, shall be available until expended in the Department's Working Capital Fund to provide contractual services in support of section 189 of this Act: *Provided*, That obligations in fiscal year 2024 of such collections shall not exceed $1,000,000.

SEC. 105. None of the funds in this title may be obligated or expended for retention or senior executive bonuses for an employee of the Department of Transportation without the prior written approval of the Assistant Secretary for Administration.

SEC. 106. In addition to authority provided by section 327 of title 49, United States Code, the Department's Administrative Working Capital Fund is hereby authorized to transfer information technology equipment, software, and systems from Departmental sources or other entities and collect and maintain a reserve at rates which will return full cost of transferred assets.

SEC. 107. None of the funds provided in this Act to the Department of Transportation may be used to provide credit assistance unless not less than 3 days before any application approval to provide credit assistance under sections 603 and 604 of title 23, United States Code, the Secretary provides notification in writing to the following committees: the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations; the Committee on Environment and Public Works and the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs of the Senate; and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives: *Provided*, That such notification shall include, but not be limited to, the name of the project sponsor; a description of the project; whether credit assistance will be provided as a direct loan, loan guarantee, or line of credit; and the amount of credit assistance.

SEC. 108. Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available for ''Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing Program'' in title I of division L of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (Public Law 117–103), $8,948,237.30 is hereby permanently rescinded.

SEC. 109. With respect to amounts provided under the heading ''National Infrastructure Investments'' in title VIII of division J of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58) for fiscal year 2024 to carry out section 6702 of title 49, United States Code, the set aside for historically disadvantaged communities or areas of persistent poverty under subsection (f)(2) of such section shall be treated as not less than 5 percent for fiscal year 2024.

SEC. 109A. The Secretary of Transportation may transfer amounts awarded to a Federally recognized Tribe under a funding agreement entered into under part 29 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, from the Department of Transportation's Operating Administrations to the Office of Tribal Government Affairs: *Provided*, That any amounts retroceded or reassumed under such part may be transferred back to the appropriate Operating Administration.

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

OPERATIONS

(AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND)

For necessary expenses of the Federal Aviation Administration, not otherwise provided for, including operations and research activities related to commercial space transportation, administrative expenses for research and development, establishment of air navigation facilities, the operation (including leasing) and maintenance of aircraft, subsidizing the cost of aeronautical charts and maps sold to the public, the lease or purchase of passenger motor vehicles for replacement only, $12,729,627,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, of which $8,740,627,000 to be derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available under this heading—

(1) not less than $1,745,532,000 shall be available for aviation safety activities;

(2) $9,439,068,000 shall be available for air traffic organization activities;

(3) $47,018,000 shall be available for commercial space transportation activities;

(4) $949,376,000 shall be available for finance and management activities;

(5) $70,097,000 shall be available for NextGen and operations planning activities;

(6) $163,951,000 shall be available for security and hazardous materials safety activities; and

(7) $314,585,000 shall be available for staff offices:

Provided further, That not to exceed 5 percent of any budget activity, except for aviation safety budget activity, may be transferred to any budget activity under this heading: *Provided further*, That no transfer may increase or decrease any appropriation under this heading by more than 5 percent: *Provided further*, That any transfer in excess of 5 percent shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 405 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided further*, That not later than 60 days after the submission of the budget request, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall transmit to Congress an annual update to the report submitted to Congress in December 2004 pursuant to section 221 of the Vision 100-Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act (49 U.S.C. 40101 note): *Provided further*, That the amounts made available under this heading shall be reduced by $100,000 for each day after 60 days after the submission of the budget request that such report has not been transmitted to Congress: *Provided further*, That not later than 60 days after the submission of the budget request, the Administrator shall transmit to Congress a companion report that describes a comprehensive strategy for staffing, hiring, and training flight standards and aircraft certification staff in a format similar to the one utilized for the controller staffing plan, including stated attrition estimates and numerical hiring goals by fiscal year: *Provided further*, That the amounts made available under this heading shall be reduced by $100,000 for each day after the date that is 60 days after the submission of the budget request that such report has not been submitted to Congress: *Provided further*, That funds may be used to enter into a grant agreement with a nonprofit standard-setting organization to assist in the development of aviation safety standards: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available by this Act shall be available for new applicants for the second career training program: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available by this Act shall be available for the Federal Aviation Administration to finalize or implement any regulation that would promulgate new aviation user fees not specifically authorized by law after the date of the enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That there may be credited to this appropriation, as offsetting collections, funds received from States, counties, municipalities, foreign authorities, other public authorities, and private sources for expenses incurred in the provision of agency services, including receipts for the maintenance and operation of air navigation facilities, and for issuance, renewal or modification of certificates, including airman, aircraft, and repair station certificates, or for tests related thereto, or for processing major repair or alteration forms: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, not less than $194,000,000 shall be used to fund direct operations of the current air traffic control towers in the contract tower program, including the contract tower cost share program, and any airport that is currently qualified or that will qualify for the program during the fiscal year: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available by this Act for aeronautical charting and cartography are available for activities conducted by, or coordinated through, the Working Capital Fund: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act may be used to eliminate the Contract Weather Observers program at any airport.

FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

(AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND)

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, for acquisition, establishment, technical support services, improvement by contract or purchase, and hire of national airspace systems and experimental facilities and equipment, as authorized under part A of subtitle VII of title 49, United States Code, including initial acquisition of necessary sites by lease or grant; engineering and service testing, including construction of test facilities and acquisition of necessary sites by lease or grant; construction and furnishing of quarters and related accommodations for officers and employees of the Federal Aviation Administration stationed at remote localities where such accommodations are not available; and the purchase, lease, or transfer of aircraft from funds made available under this heading, including aircraft for aviation regulation and certification; to be derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, $2,972,949,000, of which $617,020,000 is for personnel and related expenses and shall remain available until September 30, 2025; $2,330,929,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2026; and $25,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided*, That there may be credited to this appropriation funds received from States, counties, municipalities, other public authorities, and private sources, for expenses incurred in the establishment, improvement, and modernization of national airspace systems: *Provided further*, That not later than 60 days after submission of the budget request, the Secretary of Transportation shall transmit to the Congress an investment plan for the Federal Aviation Administration which includes funding for each budget line item for fiscal years 2025 through 2029, with total funding for each year of the plan constrained to the funding targets for those years as estimated and approved by the Office of Management and Budget: *Provided further*, That section 405 of this Act shall apply to amounts made available under this heading in title VIII of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (division J of Public Law 117–58).

RESEARCH, ENGINEERING, AND DEVELOPMENT

(AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND)

For necessary expenses, not otherwise provided for, for research, engineering, and development, as authorized under part A of subtitle VII of title 49, United States Code, including construction of experimental facilities and acquisition of necessary sites by lease or grant, $196,050,000, to be derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund and to remain available until September 30, 2026: *Provided*, That there may be credited to this appropriation as offsetting collections, funds received from States, counties, municipalities, other public authorities, and private sources, which shall be available for expenses incurred for research, engineering, and development: *Provided further*, That amounts made available under this heading shall be used in accordance with the Report accompanying this Act: *Provided further*, That not to exceed 10 percent of any funding level specified under this heading in the Report accompanying this Act may be transferred to any other funding level specified under this heading in the Report accompanying this Act: *Provided further*, That no transfer may increase or decrease any funding level by more than 10 percent: *Provided further*, That any transfer in excess of 10 percent shall be treated as a reprogramming of funds under section 405 of this Act and shall not be available for obligation or expenditure except in compliance with the procedures set forth in that section: *Provided further*, That any activity carried out using funds made available under this heading for counter-unmanned aerial systems research, testing, and evaluation may be carried out notwithstanding section 46502 of title 49, United States Code, or sections 32, 1030, or 1367 and chapters 119 and 206 of title 18 of such code.

GRANTS-IN-AID FOR AIRPORTS

(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)

(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)

(AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FUND)

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For liquidation of obligations incurred for grants-in-aid for airport planning and development, and noise compatibility planning and programs as authorized under subchapter I of chapter 471 and subchapter I of chapter 475 of title 49, United States Code, and under other law authorizing such obligations; for procurement, installation, and commissioning of runway incursion prevention devices and systems at airports of such title; for grants authorized under section 41743 of title 49, United States Code; and for inspection activities and administration of airport safety programs, including those related to airport operating certificates under section 44706 of title 49, United States Code, $3,350,000,000, to be derived from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund and to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That none of the amounts made available under this heading shall be available for the planning or execution of programs the obligations for which are in excess of $3,350,000,000, in fiscal year 2024, notwithstanding section 47117(g) of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That none of the amounts made available under this heading shall be available for the replacement of baggage conveyor systems, reconfiguration of terminal baggage areas, or other airport improvements that are necessary to install bulk explosive detection systems: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 47109(a) of title 49, United States Code, the Government's share of allowable project costs under paragraph (2) of such section for subgrants or paragraph (3) of such section shall be 95 percent for a project at other than a large or medium hub airport that is a successive phase of a multi-phased construction project for which the project sponsor received a grant in fiscal year 2011 for the construction project: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, of amounts limited under this heading, not less than $157,475,000 shall be available for administration, $15,000,000 shall be available for the Airport Cooperative Research Program, $41,801,000 shall be available for Airport Technology Research, and $10,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be available and transferred to ''Office of the Secretary, Salaries and Expenses'' to carry out the Small Community Air Service Development Program: *Provided further*, That in addition to airports eligible under section 41743 of title 49, United States Code, such program may include the participation of an airport that serves a community or consortium that is not larger than a small hub airport, according to FAA hub classifications effective at the time the Office of the Secretary issues a request for proposals.

GRANTS-IN-AID FOR AIRPORTS

For an additional amount for ''Grants-In-Aid for Airports'', to enable the Secretary of Transportation to make grants for projects as authorized by subchapter 1 of chapter 471 and subchapter 1 of chapter 475 of title 49, United States Code, $303,921,257 to remain available through September 30, 2026: *Provided*, That amounts made available under this heading shall be derived from the general fund, and such funds shall not be subject to apportionment formulas, special apportionment categories, or minimum percentages under chapter 471 of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That the sums appropriated under this heading shall be made available for the purposes, and in amounts, specified for Community Project Funding in the table entitled ''Community Project Funding'' included in the Report accompanying this Act.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 110. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to compensate in excess of 600 technical staff-years under the federally funded research and development center contract between the Federal Aviation Administration and the Center for Advanced Aviation Systems Development during fiscal year 2024.

SEC. 111. None of the funds made available by this Act shall be used to pursue or adopt guidelines or regulations requiring airport sponsors to provide to the Federal Aviation Administration without cost building construction, maintenance, utilities and expenses, or space in airport sponsor-owned buildings for services relating to air traffic control, air navigation, or weather reporting: *Provided*, That the prohibition on the use of funds in this section does not apply to negotiations between the agency and airport sponsors to achieve agreement on ''below-market'' rates for these items or to grant assurances that require airport sponsors to provide land without cost to the Federal Aviation Administration for air traffic control facilities.

SEC. 112. The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration may reimburse amounts made available to satisfy section 41742(a)(1) of title 49, United States Code, from fees credited under section 45303 of title 49, United States Code, and any amount remaining in such account at the close of any fiscal year may be made available to satisfy section 41742(a)(1) of title 49, United States Code, for the subsequent fiscal year.

SEC. 113. Amounts collected under section 40113(e) of title 49, United States Code, shall be credited to the appropriation current at the time of collection, to be merged with and available for the same purposes as such appropriation.

SEC. 114. None of the funds made available by this Act shall be available for paying premium pay under section 5546(a) of title 5, United States Code, to any Federal Aviation Administration employee unless such employee actually performed work during the time corresponding to such premium pay.

SEC. 115. None of the funds made available by this Act may be obligated or expended for an employee of the Federal Aviation Administration to purchase a store gift card or gift certificate through use of a Government-issued credit card.

SEC. 116. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available under this Act or any prior Act may be used to implement or to continue to implement any limitation on the ability of any owner or operator of a private aircraft to obtain, upon a request to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, a blocking of that owner's or operator's aircraft registration number, Mode S transponder code, flight identification, call sign, or similar identifying information from any ground based display to the public that would allow the real-time or near real-time flight tracking of that aircraft's movements, except data made available to a Government agency, for the noncommercial flights of that owner or operator.

SEC. 117. None of the funds made available by this Act shall be available for salaries and expenses of more than nine political and Presidential appointees in the Federal Aviation Administration.

SEC. 118. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to increase fees pursuant to section 44721 of title 49, United States Code, until the Federal Aviation Administration provides to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations a report that justifies all fees related to aeronautical navigation products and explains how such fees are consistent with Executive Order No. 13642.

SEC. 119. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to close a regional operations center of the Federal Aviation Administration or reduce its services unless the Administrator notifies the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations not less than 90 full business days in advance.

SEC. 119A. None of the funds made available by or limited by this Act may be used to change weight restrictions or prior permission rules at Teterboro airport in Teterboro, New Jersey.

SEC. 119B. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to withhold from consideration and approval any new application for participation in the Contract Tower Program, or for re-evaluation of Cost-share Program participants so long as the Federal Aviation Administration has received an application from the airport, and so long as the Administrator determines such tower is eligible using the factors set forth in Federal Aviation Administration published establishment criteria.

SEC. 119C. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to open, close, redesignate as a lesser office, or reorganize a regional office, the aeronautical center, or the technical center unless the Administrator submits a request for the reprogramming of funds under section 405 of this Act.

SEC. 119D. The Federal Aviation Administration Administrative Services Franchise Fund may be reimbursed after performance or paid in advance from funds available to the Federal Aviation Administration and other Federal agencies for which the Fund performs services.

SEC. 119E. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the FAA may be used to carry out the FAA's obligations under section 44502(e) of title 49, United States Code, unless the eligible air traffic system or equipment to be transferred to the FAA under section 44502(e) of title 49, United States Code, was purchased by the transferor airport—

(1) during the period of time beginning on October 5, 2018 and ending on December 31, 2021; or

(2) on or after January 1, 2022 for transferor airports located in a non-contiguous States.

SEC. 119F. Of the funds provided under the heading ''Grants-in-aid for Airports'', up to $3,500,000 shall be for necessary expenses, including an independent verification regime, to provide reimbursement to airport sponsors that do not provide gateway operations and providers of general aviation ground support services, or other aviation tenants, located at those airports closed during a temporary flight restriction (TFR) for any residence of the President that is designated or identified to be secured by the United States Secret Service, and for direct and incremental financial losses incurred while such airports are closed solely due to the actions of the Federal Government: *Provided,* That no funds shall be obligated or distributed to airport sponsors that do not provide gateway operations and providers of general aviation ground support services until an independent audit is completed: *Provided further,* That losses incurred as a result of violations of law, or through fault or negligence, of such operators and service providers or of third parties (including airports) are not eligible for reimbursements: *Provided further,* That obligation and expenditure of funds are conditional upon full release of the United States Government for all claims for financial losses resulting from such actions.

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Not to exceed $483,551,671 together with advances and reimbursements received by the Federal Highway Administration, shall be obligated for necessary expenses for administration and operation of the Federal Highway Administration: *Provided,* That in addition, $3,248,000 shall be transferred to the Appalachian Regional Commission in accordance with section 104(a) of title 23, United States Code.

FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAYS

(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)

(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

Funds available for the implementation or execution of authorized Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs shall not exceed total obligations of $60,095,782,888 for fiscal year 2024: *Provided,* That the limitation on obligations under this heading shall only apply to contract authority authorized from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account), unless otherwise specified in law.

(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)

(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

For the payment of obligations incurred in carrying out authorized Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs, $60,834,782,888 shall be derived from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account), to remain available until expended.

HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

There is hereby appropriated to the Secretary $1,361,627,349: *Provided,* That the funds made available under this heading shall be derived from the general fund, shall be in addition to any funds provided for fiscal year 2024 in this or any other Act for: (1) ''Federal-aid Highways'' under chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code; or (2) activities eligible under the Tribal Transportation Program under section 202 of such title, and shall not affect the distribution or amount of funds provided in any other Act: *Provided further,* That section 11101(e) of Public Law 117–58 shall apply to funds made available under this heading: *Provided further,* That amounts made available under this heading shall be available until September 30, 2027, and shall not be subject to any limitation on obligations for Federal-aid highways or highway safety construction programs set forth in any Act making annual appropriations: *Provided further,* That of the sums made available under this heading—

(1) $1,211,627,349 shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified for Community Project Funding in the table entitled ''Community Project Funding'' included in the Report accompanying this Act: *Provided,* That, except as otherwise provided under this heading, the funds made available under this paragraph shall be administered as if apportioned under chapter 1 of title 23, United States Code: *Provided further,* That funds made available under this paragraph that are used for Tribal projects shall be administered as if allocated under chapter 2 of title 23, United States Code, except that the set-asides described in subparagraph (C) of section 202(b)(3) of title 23, United States Code, and subsections (a)(6), (c), and (e) of section 202 of such title, and section 1123(h)(1) of MAP–21 (as amended by Public Law 117–58), shall not apply to such funds; and

(2) $150,000,000 shall be available for activities eligible under the Tribal Transportation Program, as described in section 202 of title 23, United States Code: *Provided,* That, except as otherwise provided under this heading, the funds made available under this paragraph shall be administered as if allocated under chapter 2 of title 23, United States Code: *Provided further,* That the set-asides described in subparagraph (C) of section 202(b)(3) of title 23, United States Code, and subsections (a)(6), (c), (d), and (e) of section 202 of such title shall not apply to funds made available under this paragraph: *Provided further,* That the set-aside described in section 1123(h)(1) of MAP–21 (as amended by Public Law 117–58), shall not apply to such funds.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

(INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

SEC. 120. (a) For fiscal year 2024, the Secretary of Transportation shall—

(1) not distribute from the obligation limitation for Federal-aid highways—

(A) amounts authorized for administrative expenses and programs by section 104(a) of title 23, United States Code; and

(B) amounts authorized for the Bureau of Transportation Statistics;

(2) not distribute an amount from the obligation limitation for Federal-aid highways that is equal to the unobligated balance of amounts—

(A) made available from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) for Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs for previous fiscal years the funds for which are allocated by the Secretary (or apportioned by the Secretary under section 202 or 204 of title 23, United States Code); and

(B) for which obligation limitation was provided in a previous fiscal year;

(3) determine the proportion that—

(A) the obligation limitation for Federal-aid highways, less the aggregate of amounts not distributed under paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection; bears to

(B) the total of the sums authorized to be appropriated for the Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs (other than sums authorized to be appropriated for provisions of law described in paragraphs (1) through (11) of subsection (b) and sums authorized to be appropriated for section 119 of title 23, United States Code, equal to the amount referred to in subsection (b)(12) for such fiscal year), less the aggregate of the amounts not distributed under paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection;

(4) distribute the obligation limitation for Federal-aid highways, less the aggregate amounts not distributed under paragraphs (1) and (2), for each of the programs (other than programs to which paragraph (1) applies) that are allocated by the Secretary under authorized Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs, or apportioned by the Secretary under section 202 or 204 of title 23, United States Code, by multiplying—

(A) the proportion determined under paragraph (3); by

(B) the amounts authorized to be appropriated for each such program for such fiscal year; and

(5) distribute the obligation limitation for Federal-aid highways, less the aggregate amounts not distributed under paragraphs (1) and (2) and the amounts distributed under paragraph (4), for Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs that are apportioned by the Secretary under title 23, United States Code (other than the amounts apportioned for the National Highway Performance Program in section 119 of title 23, United States Code, that are exempt from the limitation under subsection (b)(12) and the amounts apportioned under sections 202 and 204 of that title) in the proportion that—

(A) amounts authorized to be appropriated for the programs that are apportioned under title 23, United States Code, to each State for such fiscal year; bears to

(B) the total of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for the programs that are apportioned under title 23, United States Code, to all States for such fiscal year.

(b) EXCEPTIONS FROM OBLIGATION LIMITATION.—The obligation limitation for Federal-aid highways shall not apply to obligations under or for—

(1) section 125 of title 23, United States Code;

(2) section 147 of the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1978 (23 U.S.C. 144 note; 92 Stat. 2714);

(3) section 9 of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1981 (95 Stat. 1701);

(4) subsections (b) and (j) of section 131 of the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982 (96 Stat. 2119);

(5) subsections (b) and (c) of section 149 of the Surface Transportation and Uniform Relocation Assistance Act of 1987 (101 Stat. 198);

(6) sections 1103 through 1108 of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (105 Stat. 2027);

(7) section 157 of title 23, United States Code (as in effect on June 8, 1998);

(8) section 105 of title 23, United States Code (as in effect for fiscal years 1998 through 2004, but only in an amount equal to $639,000,000 for each of those fiscal years);

(9) Federal-aid highway programs for which obligation authority was made available under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (112 Stat. 107) or subsequent Acts for multiple years or to remain available until expended, but only to the extent that the obligation authority has not lapsed or been used;

(10) section 105 of title 23, United States Code (as in effect for fiscal years 2005 through 2012, but only in an amount equal to $639,000,000 for each of those fiscal years);

(11) section 1603 of SAFETEA–LU (23 U.S.C. 118 note; 119 Stat. 1248), to the extent that funds obligated in accordance with that section were not subject to a limitation on obligations at the time at which the funds were initially made available for obligation; and

(12) section 119 of title 23, United States Code (but, for each of fiscal years 2013 through 2024, only in an amount equal to $639,000,000).

(c) REDISTRIBUTION OF UNUSED OBLIGATION AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Secretary shall, after August 1 of such fiscal year—

(1) revise a distribution of the obligation limitation made available under subsection (a) if an amount distributed cannot be obligated during that fiscal year; and

(2) redistribute sufficient amounts to those States able to obligate amounts in addition to those previously distributed during that fiscal year, giving priority to those States having large unobligated balances of funds apportioned under sections 144 (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of Public Law 112–141) and 104 of title 23, United States Code.

(d) APPLICABILITY OF OBLIGATION LIMITATIONS TO TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH PROGRAMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the obligation limitation for Federal-aid highways shall apply to contract authority for transportation research programs carried out under—

(A) chapter 5 of title 23, United States Code;

(B) title VI of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act; and

(C) title III of division A of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58).

(2) EXCEPTION.—Obligation authority made available under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) remain available for a period of 4 fiscal years; and

(B) be in addition to the amount of any limitation imposed on obligations for Federal-aid highway and highway safety construction programs for future fiscal years.

(e) REDISTRIBUTION OF CERTAIN AUTHORIZED FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of distribution of obligation limitation under subsection (a), the Secretary shall distribute to the States any funds (excluding funds authorized for the program under section 202 of title 23, United States Code) that—

(A) are authorized to be appropriated for such fiscal year for Federal-aid highway programs; and

(B) the Secretary determines will not be allocated to the States (or will not be apportioned to the States under section 204 of title 23, United States Code), and will not be available for obligation, for such fiscal year because of the imposition of any obligation limitation for such fiscal year.

(2) RATIO.—Funds shall be distributed under paragraph (1) in the same proportion as the distribution of obligation authority under subsection (a)(5).

(3) AVAILABILITY.—Funds distributed to each State under paragraph (1) shall be available for any purpose described in section 133(b) of title 23, United States Code.

SEC. 121. Notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, funds received by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics from the sale of data products, for necessary expenses incurred pursuant to chapter 63 of title 49, United States Code, may be credited to the Federal-aid highways account for the purpose of reimbursing the Bureau for such expenses.

SEC. 122. Not less than 15 days prior to waiving, under his or her statutory authority, any Buy America requirement for Federal-aid highways projects, the Secretary of Transportation shall make an informal public notice and comment opportunity on the intent to issue such waiver and the reasons therefor: *Provided,* That the Secretary shall post on a website any waivers granted under the Buy America requirements.

SEC. 123. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to make a grant for a project under section 117 of title 23, United States Code, unless the Secretary, at least 60 days before making a grant under that section, provides written notification to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations of the proposed grant, including an evaluation and justification for the project and the amount of the proposed grant award.

SEC. 124. (a) A State or territory, as defined in section 165 of title 23, United States Code, may use for any project eligible under section 133(b) of title 23 or section 165 of title 23 and located within the boundary of the State or territory any earmarked amount, and any associated obligation limitation: *Provided,* That the Department of Transportation for the State or territory for which the earmarked amount was originally designated or directed notifies the Secretary of its intent to use its authority under this section and submits an annual report to the Secretary identifying the projects to which the funding would be applied. Notwithstanding the original period of availability of funds to be obligated under this section, such funds and associated obligation limitation shall remain available for obligation for a period of 3 fiscal years after the fiscal year in which the Secretary is notified. The Federal share of the cost of a project carried out with funds made available under this section shall be the same as associated with the earmark.

(b) In this section, the term ''earmarked amount'' means—

(1) congressionally directed spending, as defined in rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, identified in a prior law, report, or joint explanatory statement, which was authorized to be appropriated or appropriated more than 10 fiscal years prior to the current fiscal year, and administered by the Federal Highway Administration; or

(2) a congressional earmark, as defined in rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, identified in a prior law, report, or joint explanatory statement, which was authorized to be appropriated or appropriated more than 10 fiscal years prior to the current fiscal year, and administered by the Federal Highway Administration.

(c) The authority under subsection (a) may be exercised only for those projects or activities that have obligated less than 10 percent of the amount made available for obligation as of October 1 of the current fiscal year, and shall be applied to projects within the same general geographic area within 25 miles for which the funding was designated, except that a State or territory may apply such authority to unexpended balances of funds from projects or activities the State or territory certifies have been closed and for which payments have been made under a final voucher.

(d) The Secretary shall submit consolidated reports of the information provided by the States and territories annually to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

SEC. 125. (a) Of the unallocated and unobligated balances available to the Federal Highway Administration, the following funds are hereby permanently cancelled, subject to subsections (b) and (c), from the following accounts and programs in the specified amounts:

(1) $53,160,115 from funds available in the ''Surface Transportation Priorities'' account (69 X 0538);

(2) $1,839,130 from funds available in the ''Delta Regional Transportation Development Program'' account (69 X 0551);

(3) $11,814,580 from funds available in the ''Appalachian Development Highway System'' account (69 X 0640);

(4) $392,112 from funds available in the ''Bridge Capacity Improvements'' account (69 X 8057);

(5) $30,640,110 from funds available in the ''Miscellaneous Highway Project'' account (69 X 8058); and

(6) $7,063,307 from funds available in the ''Highway Projects'' account (69 X 8382).

(b) No amounts may be cancelled under subsection (a) from any funds for which a State exercised its authority under section 125 of division L of Public Law 114–113, section 422 of division K of Public Law 115–31, section 126 of division L of Public Law 115–141, section 125 of division G of Public Law 116–6, section 125 of division H of Public Law 116–94, section 124 of division L of Public Law 116–260, section 124 of division L of Public Law 117–103, or section 124 of division L of Public Law 117–328.

(c) No amounts may be cancelled under subsection (a) from any amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 126. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to finalize, implement, administer, or enforce the proposed rule entitled ''National Performance Management Measures; Assessing Performance of the National Highway System, Greenhouse Gas Emissions Measure'' published by the Federal Highway Administration in the Federal Register on July 15, 2022 (87 Fed. Reg. 42401) or successor regulation.

FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMS

(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)

(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)

(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

For payment of obligations incurred in the implementation, execution and administration of motor carrier safety operations and programs pursuant to section 31110 of title 49, United States Code, as amended by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58), $375,000,000, to be derived from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account), together with advances and reimbursements received by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, the sum of which shall remain available until expended: *Provided,* That funds available for implementation, execution, or administration of motor carrier safety operations and programs authorized under title 49, United States Code, shall not exceed total obligations of $375,000,000, for ''Motor Carrier Safety Operations and Programs'' for fiscal year 2024, of which $14,073,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2026, is for the research and technology program, and of which not less than $63,098,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2026, is for development, modernization, enhancement, and continued operation and maintenance of information technology and information management.

MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY GRANTS

(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)

(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)

(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

For payment of obligations incurred in carrying out sections 31102, 31103, 31104, and

31313 of title 49, United States Code, $516,300,000, to be derived from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) and to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That funds available for the implementation or execution of motor carrier safety programs shall not exceed total obligations of $516,300,000 in fiscal year 2024 for ''Motor Carrier Safety Grants'': *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading—

(1) $406,500,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2025, shall be for the motor carrier safety assistance program;

(2) $43,500,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2025, shall be for the commercial driver's license program implementation program;

(3) $60,000,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2025, shall be for the high priority program;

(4) $1,300,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2025, shall be for the commercial motor vehicle operators grant program; and

(5) $5,000,000, to remain available for obligation until September 30, 2025, shall be for the commercial motor vehicle enforcement training and support grant program.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 130. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration shall send notice of section 385.308 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, violations by certified mail, registered mail, or another manner of delivery, which records the receipt of the notice by the persons responsible for the violations.

SEC. 131. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act may be used to promulgate any rule or regulation to require vehicles with a gross vehicle weight of more than 26,000 pounds operating in interstate commerce to be equipped with a speed limiting device set to a maximum speed.

SEC. 132. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act may be used to require the use of inward facing cameras as a condition for participation in the apprenticeship pilot program under section 23022 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (49 U.S.C. 31315 note).

SEC. 133. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act may be used to implement a policy or regulation for the requirement that a motor carrier register an apprenticeship program with the Department of Labor, including registration under part 29 of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, in order to participate in the apprenticeship pilot program under section 23022 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (49 U.S.C. 31315 note).

SEC. 134. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Transportation by this Act or any other Act may be obligated or expended to implement, administer, or enforce the requirements of section 31137 of title 49, United States Code, or any regulation issued by the Secretary pursuant to such section, with respect to the use of electronic logging devices by operators of commercial motor vehicles, as defined in section 31132(1) of such title, transporting livestock as defined in section 602 of the Emergency Livestock Feed Assistance Act of 1988 (7 U.S.C. 1471) or insects.

NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

OPERATIONS AND RESEARCH

For expenses necessary to discharge the functions of the Secretary, with respect to traffic and highway safety, authorized under chapter 301 and part C of subtitle VI of title 49, United States Code, $260,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2025.

OPERATIONS AND RESEARCH

(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)

(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)

(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

For payment of obligations incurred in carrying out the provisions of section 403 of title 23, United States Code, including behavioral research on Automated Driving Systems and Advanced Driver Assistance Systems and improving consumer responses to safety recalls, section 25024 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58), and chapter 303 of title 49, United States Code, $201,200,000, to be derived from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account) and to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That none of the funds in this Act shall be available for the planning or execution of programs the total obligations for which, in fiscal year 2024, are in excess of $201,200,000: *Provided further*, That of the sums appropriated under this heading—

(1) $194,000,000 shall be for programs authorized under section 403 of title 23, United States Code, including behavioral research on Automated Driving Systems and Advanced Driver Assistance Systems and improving consumer responses to safety recalls, and section 25024 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58); and

(2) $7,200,000 shall be for the National Driver Register authorized under chapter 303 of title 49, United States Code:

Provided further, That within the $201,200,000 obligation limitation for operations and research, $57,500,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2025, and shall be in addition to the amount of any limitation imposed on obligations for future years: *Provided further*, That amounts for behavioral research on Automated Driving Systems and Advanced Driver Assistance Systems and improving consumer responses to safety recalls are in addition to any other funds provided for those purposes for fiscal year 2024 in this Act.

HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANTS

(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)

(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)

(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

For payment of obligations incurred in carrying out provisions of sections 402, 404, and 405 of title 23, United States Code, and grant administration expenses under chapter 4 of title 23, United States Code, to remain available until expended, $813,300,800, to be derived from the Highway Trust Fund (other than the Mass Transit Account): *Provided*, That none of the funds in this Act shall be available for the planning or execution of programs for which the total obligations in fiscal year 2024 are in excess of $813,300,800 for programs authorized under sections 402, 404, and 405 of title 23, United States Code, and grant administration expenses under chapter 4 of title 23, United States Code: *Provided further*, That of the sums appropriated under this heading—

(1) $378,400,000 shall be for ''Highway Safety Programs'' under section 402 of title 23, United States Code;

(2) $353,500,000 shall be for ''National Priority Safety Programs'' under section 405 of title 23, United States Code;

(3) $40,300,000 shall be for the ''High Visibility Enforcement Program'' under section 404 of title 23, United States Code; and

(4) $41,100,800 shall be for grant administrative expenses under chapter 4 of title 23, United States Code:

Provided further, That none of these funds shall be used for construction, rehabilitation, or remodeling costs, or for office furnishings and fixtures for State, local or private buildings or structures: *Provided further*, That not to exceed $500,000 of the funds made available for ''National Priority Safety Programs'' under section 405 of title 23, United States Code, for ''Impaired Driving Countermeasures'' (as described in subsection (d) of that section) shall be available for technical assistance to the States: *Provided further*, That with respect to the ''Transfers'' provision under section 405(a)(8) of title 23, United States Code, any amounts transferred to increase the amounts made available under section 402 shall include the obligation authority for such amounts: *Provided further*, That the Administrator shall notify the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations of any exercise of the authority granted under the preceding proviso or under section 405(a)(8) of title 23, United States Code, within 5 days.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION—NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 140. The limitations on obligations for the programs of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration set in this Act shall not apply to obligations for which obligation authority was made available in previous public laws but only to the extent that the obligation authority has not lapsed or been used.

FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION

SAFETY AND OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses of the Federal Railroad Administration, not otherwise provided for, $273,458,000, of which $25,000,000 shall remain available until expended.

RAILROAD RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

For necessary expenses for railroad research and development, $44,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amounts provided under this heading, up to $3,000,000 shall be available pursuant to section 20108(d) of title 49, United States Code, for the construction, alteration, and repair of buildings and improvements at the Transportation Technology Center.

CONSOLIDATED RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE AND SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

For necessary expenses related to Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements grants, as authorized by section 22907 of title 49, United States Code, $258,464,439 to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available under this heading in this Act, $28,864,439 shall be made available for the purposes, and in amounts, specified for Community Project Funding in the table entitled ''Community Project Funding'' included in the Report accompanying this Act: *Provided further*, That amounts made available for Community Project Funding under this heading in this Act shall be available for railroad project planning activities of projects otherwise eligible under 22907(c): *Provided further*, That requirements under subsections (g) and (l) of section 22907 of title 49, United States Code, shall not apply to the amounts made available under this heading in this Act for Community Project Funding: *Provided further*, That for amounts made available under this heading in this Act, eligible recipients under section 22907(b)(7) of title 49, United States Code, shall include any holding company of a Class II railroad or Class III railroad (as those terms are defined in section 20102 of title 49, United States Code): *Provided further*, That the Secretary may withhold up to 2 percent of the amounts made available under this heading in this Act for the costs of award and project management oversight of grants carried out under title 49, United States Code.

NORTHEAST CORRIDOR GRANTS TO THE NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION

To enable the Secretary of Transportation to make grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation for activities associated with the Northeast Corridor as authorized by section 22101(a) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58), $99,231,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Secretary may retain up to one-half of one percent of the amounts made available under both this heading in this Act and the ''National Network Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation'' heading in this Act to fund the costs of project management and oversight of activities authorized by section 22101(c) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58).

NATIONAL NETWORK GRANTS TO THE NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION

To enable the Secretary of Transportation to make grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation for activities associated with the National Network as authorized by section 22101(b) of division B of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58), $776,376,000, to remain available until expended.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 150. The amounts made available to the Secretary or to the Federal Railroad Administration for the costs of award, administration, and project management oversight of financial assistance which are administered by the Federal Railroad Administration, in this and prior Acts, may be transferred to the Federal Railroad Administration's ''Financial Assistance Oversight and Technical Assistance'' account for the necessary expenses to support the award, administration, project management oversight, and technical assistance of financial assistance administered by the Federal Railroad Administration, in the same manner as appropriated for in this and prior Acts: *Provided*, That this section shall not apply to amounts that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 151. None of the funds made available to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation may be used to fund any overtime costs in excess of $35,000 for any individual employee: *Provided*, That the President of Amtrak may waive the cap set in the preceding proviso for specific employees when the President of Amtrak determines such a cap poses a risk to the safety and operational efficiency of the system: *Provided further*, That the President of Amtrak shall report to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations no later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, a summary of all overtime payments incurred by Amtrak for 2023 and the three prior calendar years: *Provided further*, That such summary shall include the total number of employees that received waivers and the total overtime payments Amtrak paid to employees receiving waivers for each month for 2023 and for the three prior calendar years.

SEC. 152. None of the funds made available to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation under the headings ''Northeast Corridor Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation'' and ''National Network Grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation'' may be used to reduce the total number of Amtrak Police Department uniformed officers patrolling on board passenger trains or at stations, facilities or rights-of-way below the staffing level on May 1, 2019.

SEC. 153. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act or any other Act may be provided to the State of California for a high-speed rail corridor development project that is the same or substantially similar to the project that is the subject of Cooperative Agreement No. FR-HSR-0118-12-01-01 entered into between the California High-Speed Rail Authority and the Federal Railroad Administration.

FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

TRANSIT FORMULA GRANTS

(LIQUIDATION OF CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION)

(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)

(HIGHWAY TRUST FUND)

For payment of obligations incurred in the Federal Public Transportation Assistance Program in this account, and for payment of obligations incurred in carrying out the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 5305, 5307, 5310, 5311, 5312, 5314, 5318, 5329(e)(6), 5334, 5335, 5337, 5339, and 5340, as amended by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, section 20005(b) of Public Law 112–141, and section 3006(b) of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, $13,990,000,000, to be derived from the Mass Transit Account of the Highway Trust Fund and to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That funds available for the implementation or execution of programs authorized under 49 U.S.C. 5305, 5307, 5310, 5311, 5312, 5314, 5318, 5329(e)(6), 5334, 5335, 5337, 5339, and 5340, as amended by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, section 20005(b) of Public Law 112–141, and section 3006(b) of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, shall not exceed total obligations of $13,990,000,000 in fiscal year 2024.

TRANSIT INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS

For an additional amount for Community Project Funding for projects and activities eligible under chapter 53 of such title, $130,828,124, to remain available until expended, for the purposes, and in amounts, specified for Community Project Funding in the table entitled ''Community Project Funding'' included in the Report accompanying this Act: *Provided*, That unless otherwise specified, applicable requirements under chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code, shall apply to amounts made available in this paragraph, except that the Federal share of the costs for a project in this paragraph shall be in an amount equal to 80 percent of the net costs of the project, unless the Secretary approves a higher maximum Federal share of the net costs of the project consistent with administration of similar projects funded under chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That amounts made available under this heading in this Act shall be derived from the general fund: *Provided further*, That amounts made available under this heading in this Act shall not be subject to any limitation on obligations for transit programs set forth in this or any other Act.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING

For necessary expenses to carry out section 5314 of title 49, United States Code, $8,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, of which $500,000 shall be for the purpose of providing technical assistance and resources to Federally Recognized Tribes through the National Rural Transportation Assistance Program authorized under 5311(b)(3)(C) of title 49, United States Code: *Provided*, That the assistance provided under this heading does not duplicate the activities of section 5312 of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further*, That amounts made available under this heading are in addition to any other amounts made available for such purposes: *Provided further*, That amounts made available under this heading shall not be subject to any limitation on obligations set forth in this or any other Act.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT GRANTS

For necessary expenses to carry out fixed guideway capital investment grants under section 5309 of title 49, United States Code, and section 3005(b) of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (Public Law 114–94), $392,204,000, to remain available until expended, of which $388,281,960 shall be available for projects authorized under section 5309(d) of title 49, United States Code.

GRANTS TO THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

For grants to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority as authorized under section 601 of division B of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–432), $150,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Transportation shall approve grants for capital and preventive maintenance expenditures for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority only after receiving and reviewing a request for each specific project: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall determine that the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority has placed the highest priority on those investments that will improve the safety of the system before approving such grants.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 160. The limitations on obligations for the programs of the Federal Transit Administration shall not apply to any authority under 49 U.S.C. 5338, previously made available for obligation, or to any other authority previously made available for obligation.

SEC. 161. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated or limited by this Act under the heading ''Capital Investment Grants'' of the Federal Transit Administration for projects specified in this Act not obligated by September 30, 2027, and other recoveries, shall be directed to projects eligible to use the funds for the purposes for which they were originally provided.

SEC. 162. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any funds appropriated before October 1, 2023, under any section of chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code, that remain available for expenditure, may be transferred to and administered under the most recent appropriation heading for any such section.

SEC. 163. None of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act shall be used to adjust apportionments or withhold funds from apportionments pursuant to section 9503(e)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 9503(e)(4)).

GREAT LAKES ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation is hereby authorized to make such expenditures, within the limits of funds and borrowing authority available to the Corporation, and in accord with law, and to make such contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations, as provided by section 9104 of title 31, United States Code, as may be necessary in carrying out the programs set forth in the Corporation's budget for the current fiscal year.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

(HARBOR MAINTENANCE TRUST FUND)

For necessary expenses to conduct the operations, maintenance, and capital infrastructure activities on portions of the St. Lawrence Seaway owned, operated, and maintained by the Great Lakes St. Lawrence

Seaway Development Corporation, $40,288,000, to be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, pursuant to section 210 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2238): *Provided*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, not less than $16,300,000 shall be for the seaway infrastructure program.

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

MARITIME SECURITY PROGRAM

(INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses to maintain and preserve a U.S.-flag merchant fleet as authorized under chapter 531 of title 46, United States Code, to serve the national security needs of the United States, $318,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations available under this heading, $6,000,000 are hereby permanently rescinded.

CABLE SECURITY FLEET

For the cable security fleet program, as authorized under chapter 532 of title 46, United States Code, $10,000,000, to remain available until expended.

TANKER SECURITY PROGRAM

For Tanker Security Fleet payments, as authorized under section 53406 of title 46, United States Code, $60,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That funds appropriated for the Tanker Security Fleet Program in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (P.L. 117–103) shall be available as authorized under section 53406 of title 46, United States Code, and for the Secretary to timely reimburse each program participant up to $2,500,000 for each of its vessels covered by an operating agreement under section 53403 of title 46, United States Code, for verifiable training and other costs incurred to ensure that mariners on such vessels are fully qualified to meet the specialized requirements to serve on product tank vessels.

OPERATIONS AND TRAINING

For necessary expenses of operations and training activities authorized by law, $210,181,000: *Provided*, That of the sums appropriated under this heading—

(1) $89,507,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2025, for the operations of the United States Merchant Marine Academy;

(2) $11,900,000 shall remain available until expended, for facilities maintenance and repair, and equipment, at the United States Merchant Marine Academy;

(3) $31,921,000 shall remain available until expended, for capital improvements at the United States Merchant Marine Academy;

(4) $6,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2025, for the Maritime Environmental and Technical Assistance program authorized under section 50307 of title 46, United States Code; and

(5) $10,000,000 shall remain available until expended, for the United States Marine Highway Program to make grants for the purposes authorized under section 55601 of title 46, United States Code:

Provided further, That the Administrator of the Maritime Administration shall transmit to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations the annual report on sexual assault and sexual harassment at the United States Merchant Marine Academy as required pursuant to section 3510 of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2017 (46 U.S.C. 51318): *Provided further*, That available balances under this heading for the Short Sea Transportation Program or America's Marine Highway Program (now known as the United States Marine Highway Program) from prior year recoveries shall be available to carry out activities authorized under section 55601 of title 46, United States Code.

STATE MARITIME ACADEMY OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses of operations, support, and training activities for State Maritime Academies, $56,400,000: *Provided*, That of the sums appropriated under this heading—

(1) $22,000,000 shall remain available until expended, for maintenance, repair, and life extension of training ships at the State Maritime Academies;

(2) $19,200,000 shall remain available until expended, for the National Security Multi-Mission Vessel Program, including funds for construction, planning, administration, and design of school ships and, as determined by the Secretary, necessary expenses to design, plan, construct infrastructure, and purchase equipment necessary to berth such ships;

(3) $2,400,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2028, for the Student Incentive Program;

(4) $6,800,000 shall remain available until expended, for training ship fuel assistance; and

(5) $6,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2025, for direct payments for State Maritime Academies:

Provided further, That the Administrator of the Maritime Administration may use the funds made available under paragraph (2) and the funds provided for shoreside infrastructure improvements in Public Law 117–103 for the purposes described in paragraph (2): *Provided further*, That such funds may be used to reimburse State Maritime Academies for costs incurred prior to the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That such funds shall be available for reimbursement only for those costs incurred in compliance with all applicable Federal law, including the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 300101 et seq.).

ASSISTANCE TO SMALL SHIPYARDS

To make grants to qualified shipyards as authorized under section 54101 of title 46, United States Code, $20,000,000, to remain available until expended.

SHIP DISPOSAL

For necessary expenses related to the disposal of obsolete vessels in the National Defense Reserve Fleet of the Maritime Administration, $6,000,000, to remain available until expended.

MARITIME GUARANTEED LOAN (TITLE XI) PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For administrative expenses to carry out the guaranteed loan program, $3,000,000, which shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriations for ''Maritime Administration—Operations and Training''.

PORT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

To make grants to improve port facilities as authorized under section 54301 of title 46, United States Code, $69,727,566 to remain available until expended, for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified for Community Project Funding in the table entitled ''Community Project Funding'' included in the Report accompanying this Act.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS—MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 170. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, in addition to any existing authority, the Maritime Administration is authorized to furnish utilities and services and make necessary repairs in connection with any lease, contract, or occupancy involving Government property under control of the Maritime Administration: *Provided*, That payments received therefor shall be credited to the appropriation charged with the cost thereof and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That rental payments under any such lease, contract, or occupancy for items other than such utilities, services, or repairs shall be deposited into the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts.

SEC. 171. In addition to amounts otherwise made available by this or any other Act, there is hereby appropriated $6,000,000, to remain available until expended, to carry out section 3546 of Public Law 117–263, Recapitalization of National Defense Reserve Fleet.

PIPELINE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

For necessary operational expenses of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, $31,681,000, of which $4,500,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2026.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SAFETY

For expenses necessary to discharge the hazardous materials safety functions of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, $80,874,000; of which $14,070,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2026, of which $1,000,000 shall be made available for carrying out section 5107(i) of title 49, United States Code: *Provided*, That up to $800,000 in fees collected under section 5108(g) of title 49, United States Code, shall be deposited in the general fund of the Treasury as offsetting receipts: *Provided further*, That there may be credited to this appropriation, to be available until expended, funds received from States, counties, municipalities, other public authorities, and private sources for expenses incurred for training, for reports publication and dissemination, and for travel expenses incurred in performance of hazardous materials exemptions and approvals functions.

PIPELINE SAFETY

(PIPELINE SAFETY FUND)

(OIL SPILL LIABILITY TRUST FUND)

For expenses necessary to carry out a pipeline safety program, as authorized by section 60107 of title 49, United States Code, and to discharge the pipeline program responsibilities of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–380), $197,441,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, of which $30,000,000 shall be derived from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund; of which $160,041,000 shall be derived from the Pipeline Safety Fund; of which $400,000 shall be derived from the fees collected under section 60303 of title 49, United States Code, and deposited in the Liquefied Natural Gas Siting Account for compliance reviews of liquefied natural gas facilities; and of which $7,000,000 shall be derived from fees collected under section 60302 of title 49, United States Code, and deposited in the Underground Natural Gas Storage Facility Safety Account for the purpose of carrying out section 60141 of title 49, United States Code: *Provided*, That not less than $1,058,000 of the amounts made available under this heading shall be for the One-Call State grant program: *Provided further*, That any amounts made available under this heading in this Act or in prior Acts for research contracts, grants, cooperative agreements or research other transactions agreements (''OTAs'') shall require written notification to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations not less than 3 full business days before such research contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, or research OTAs are announced by the Department of Transportation.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GRANTS

(LIMITATION ON OBLIGATIONS)

(EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FUND)

For expenses necessary to carry out the Emergency Preparedness Grants program,

not more than $28,318,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2026, from amounts made available by section 5116(h) and subsections (b) and (c) of section 5128 of title 49, United States Code: *Provided,* That notwithstanding section 5116(h)(4) of title 49, United States Code, not more than 4 percent of the amounts made available from this account shall be available to pay the administrative costs of carrying out sections 5116, 5107(e), and 5108(g)(2) of title 49, United States Code: *Provided further,* That notwithstanding subsections (b) and (c) of section 5128 of title 49, United States Code, and the limitation on obligations provided under this heading, prior year recoveries recognized in the current year shall be available to develop and deliver hazardous materials emergency response training for emergency responders, including response activities for the transportation of crude oil, ethanol, flammable liquids, and other hazardous commodities by rail, consistent with National Fire Protection Association standards, and to make such training available through an electronic format: *Provided further,* That the prior year recoveries made available under this heading shall also be available to carry out sections 5116(a)(1)(C), 5116(h), 5116(i), 5116(j), and 5107(e) of title 49, United States Code.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General to carry out the provisions of section 404 of title 5, United States Code, as amended, $121,001,000: *Provided,* That the Inspector General shall have all necessary authority, in carrying out the duties specified in the Inspector General Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.), to investigate allegations of fraud, including false statements to the government (18 U.S.C. 1001), by any person or entity that is subject to regulation by the Department of Transportation: *Provided further,* That the Inspector General shall have independent authority over all personnel issues within this office.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SEC. 180. (a) During the current fiscal year, applicable appropriations to the Department of Transportation shall be available for maintenance and operation of aircraft; hire of passenger motor vehicles and aircraft; purchase of liability insurance for motor vehicles operating in foreign countries on official department business; and uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code.

(b) During the current fiscal year, applicable appropriations to the Department and its operating administrations shall be available for the purchase, maintenance, operation, and deployment of unmanned aircraft systems that advance the missions of the Department of Transportation or an operating administration of the Department of Transportation.

(c) Any unmanned aircraft system purchased, procured, or contracted for by the Department prior to the date of enactment of this Act shall be deemed authorized by Congress as if this provision was in effect when the system was purchased, procured, or contracted for.

SEC. 181. Appropriations contained in this Act for the Department of Transportation shall be available for services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, but at rates for individuals not to exceed the per diem rate equivalent to the rate for an Executive Level IV.

SEC. 182. (a) No recipient of amounts made available by this Act shall disseminate personal information (as defined in section 2725(3) of title 18, United States Code) obtained by a State department of motor vehicles in connection with a motor vehicle record as defined in section 2725(1) of title 18, United States Code, except as provided in section 2721 of title 18, United States Code, for a use permitted under section 2721 of title 18, United States Code.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a), the Secretary shall not withhold amounts made available by this Act for any grantee if a State is in noncompliance with this provision.

SEC. 183. None of the funds made available by this Act shall be available for salaries and expenses of more than 125 political and Presidential appointees in the Department of Transportation: *Provided,* That none of the personnel covered by this provision may be assigned on temporary detail outside the Department of Transportation.

SEC. 184. Funds received by the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Railroad Administration from States, counties, municipalities, other public authorities, and private sources for expenses incurred for training may be credited respectively to the Federal Highway Administration's ''Federal-Aid Highways'' account and to the Federal Railroad Administration's ''Safety and Operations'' account, except for State rail safety inspectors participating in training pursuant to section 20105 of title 49, United States Code.

SEC. 185. None of the funds made available by this Act or in title VIII of division J of Public Law 117–58 to the Department of Transportation may be used to make a loan, loan guarantee, line of credit, letter of intent, federally funded cooperative agreement, full funding grant agreement, or discretionary grant unless the Secretary of Transportation notifies the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations not less than 3 full business days before any project competitively selected to receive any discretionary grant award, letter of intent, loan commitment, loan guarantee commitment, line of credit commitment, federally funded cooperative agreement, or full funding grant agreement is announced by the Department or its operating administrations: *Provided,* That the Secretary of Transportation shall provide the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations with a comprehensive list of all such loans, loan guarantees, lines of credit, letters of intent, federally funded cooperative agreements, full funding grant agreements, and discretionary grants prior to the notification required under the preceding proviso: *Provided further,* That the Secretary gives concurrent notification to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations for any ''quick release'' of funds from the emergency relief program: *Provided further,* That no notification shall involve funds that are not available for obligation.

SEC. 186. Rebates, refunds, incentive payments, minor fees, and other funds received by the Department of Transportation from travel management centers, charge card programs, the subleasing of building space, and miscellaneous sources are to be credited to appropriations of the Department of Transportation and allocated to organizational units of the Department of Transportation using fair and equitable criteria and such funds shall be available until expended.

SEC. 187. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if any funds provided by or limited by this Act are subject to a reprogramming action that requires notice to be provided to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, transmission of such reprogramming notice shall be provided solely to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, and such reprogramming action shall be approved or denied solely by the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided,* That the Secretary of Transportation may provide notice to other congressional committees of the action of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on such reprogramming but not sooner than 30 days after the date on which the reprogramming action has been approved or denied by the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations.

SEC. 188. Funds appropriated by this Act to the operating administrations may be obligated for the Office of the Secretary for the costs related to assessments or reimbursable agreements only when such amounts are for the costs of goods and services that are purchased to provide a direct benefit to the applicable operating administration or administrations.

SEC. 189. The Secretary of Transportation is authorized to carry out a program that establishes uniform standards for developing and supporting agency transit pass and transit benefits authorized under section 7905 of title 5, United States Code, including distribution of transit benefits by various paper and electronic media.

SEC. 190. The Department of Transportation may use funds provided by this Act, or any other Act, to assist a contract under title 49 or 23 of the United States Code utilizing geographic, economic, or any other hiring preference not otherwise authorized by law, or to amend a rule, regulation, policy or other measure that forbids a recipient of a Federal Highway Administration or Federal Transit Administration grant from imposing such hiring preference on a contract or construction project with which the Department of Transportation is assisting, only if the grant recipient certifies the following:

(1) that except with respect to apprentices or trainees, a pool of readily available but unemployed individuals possessing the knowledge, skill, and ability to perform the work that the contract requires resides in the jurisdiction;

(2) that the grant recipient will include appropriate provisions in its bid document ensuring that the contractor does not displace any of its existing employees in order to satisfy such hiring preference; and

(3) that any increase in the cost of labor, training, or delays resulting from the use of such hiring preference does not delay or displace any transportation project in the applicable Statewide Transportation Improvement Program or Transportation Improvement Program.

SEC. 191. The Secretary of Transportation shall coordinate with the Secretary of Homeland Security to ensure that best practices for Industrial Control Systems Procurement are up-to-date and shall ensure that systems procured with funds provided under this title were procured using such practices.

SEC. 192. None of the funds made available in this Act or any other Act may be used to require information, criteria, reporting requirements, or submissions with respect to any grant program of the Department of Transportation in accordance with an equity action plan, including the Equity Action Plan of the Department of Transportation published in January 2022.

This title may be cited as the ''Department of Transportation Appropriations Act, 2024''.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

For necessary salaries and expenses for Executive Offices, which shall be comprised of the offices of the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Adjudicatory Services, Congressional

and Intergovernmental Relations, Public Affairs, Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, and the Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, $18,699,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That not to exceed $25,000 of the amount made available under this heading shall be available to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (referred to in this title as ''the Secretary'') for official reception and representation expenses as the Secretary may determine.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT OFFICES

For necessary salaries and expenses for Administrative Support Offices, $664,287,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That of the sums appropriated under this heading—

(1) $90,380,000 shall be available for the Office of the Chief Financial Officer;

(2) $125,833,000 shall be available for the Office of the General Counsel, of which not less than $20,300,000 shall be for the Departmental Enforcement Center;

(3) $226,682,000 shall be available for the Office of Administration, of which not less than $4,680,000 may be for modernization and deferred maintenance of the Weaver Building;

(4) $51,743,000 shall be available for the Office of the Chief Human Capital Officer;

(5) $28,137,000 shall be available for the Office of the Chief Procurement Officer;

(6) $66,130,000 shall be available for the Office of Field Policy and Management;

(7) $4,630,000 shall be available for the Office of Departmental Equal Employment Opportunity; and

(8) $70,752,000 shall be available for the Office of the Chief Information Officer:

Provided further, That funds made available under this heading may be used for necessary administrative and non-administrative expenses of the Department, not otherwise provided for, including purchase of uniforms, or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code; hire of passenger motor vehicles; and services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated under this heading may be used for advertising and promotional activities that directly support program activities funded in this title.

PROGRAM OFFICES

For necessary salaries and expenses for Program Offices, $1,062,065,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That of the sums appropriated under this heading—

(1) $280,117,000 shall be available for the Office of Public and Indian Housing;

(2) $164,507,000 shall be available for the Office of Community Planning and Development;

(3) $468,286,000 shall be available for the Office of Housing, of which not less than $13,300,000 shall be for the Office of Recapitalization;

(4) $39,884,000 shall be available for the Office of Policy Development and Research;

(5) $98,081,000 shall be available for the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity; and

(6) $11,190,000 shall be available for the Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes.

WORKING CAPITAL FUND

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the working capital fund for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (referred to in this paragraph as the ''Fund''), pursuant, in part, to section 7(f) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3535(f)), amounts transferred, including reimbursements pursuant to section 7(f), to the Fund under this heading shall be available only for Federal shared services used by offices and agencies of the Department, and for any such portion of any office or agency's information technology end-user devices and wireless support, printing, records management, space renovation, furniture, or supply services the Secretary has determined shall be provided through the Fund, and the operational expenses of the Fund: *Provided*, That amounts within the Fund shall not be available to provide services not specifically authorized under this heading: *Provided further*, That upon a determination by the Secretary that any other service (or portion thereof) authorized under this heading shall be provided through the Fund, amounts made available in this title for salaries and expenses under the headings ''Executive Offices'', ''Administrative Support Offices'', ''Program Offices'', and ''Government National Mortgage Association'', for such services shall be transferred to the Fund, to remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall notify the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations of its plans for executing such transfers at least 15 days in advance of such transfers.

PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

TENANT-BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE

For activities and assistance for the provision of tenant-based rental assistance authorized under the United States Housing Act of 1937, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.) (in this title ''the Act''), not otherwise provided for, $27,131,600,000 to remain available until expended, which shall be available on October 1, 2023 (in addition to the $4,000,000,000 previously appropriated under this heading that shall be available on October 1, 2023), and $4,000,000,000, to remain available until expended, which shall be available on October 1, 2024: *Provided*, That of the sums appropriated under this heading—

(1) $27,374,554,000 shall be available for renewals of expiring section 8 tenant-based annual contributions contracts (including renewals of enhanced vouchers under any provision of law authorizing such assistance under section 8(t) of the Act), including renewal of other special purpose incremental vouchers: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, from amounts provided under this paragraph and any carryover, the Secretary for the calendar year 2024 funding cycle shall provide renewal funding for each public housing agency based on validated voucher management system (VMS) leasing and cost data for the prior calendar year and by applying an inflation factor as established by the Secretary, by notice published in the Federal Register, and by making any necessary adjustments for the costs associated with the first-time renewal of vouchers under this paragraph including tenant protection and Choice Neighborhoods vouchers: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided under this paragraph may be used to fund a total number of unit months under lease which exceeds a public housing agency's authorized level of units under contract, except for public housing agencies participating in the Moving to Work (MTW) demonstration, which are instead governed in accordance with the requirements of the MTW demonstration program or their MTW agreements, if any: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall, to the extent necessary to stay within the amount specified under this paragraph (except as otherwise modified under this paragraph), prorate each public housing agency's allocation otherwise established pursuant to this paragraph: *Provided further*, That except as provided in the following provisos, the entire amount specified under this paragraph (except as otherwise modified under this paragraph) shall be obligated to the public housing agencies based on the allocation and pro rata method described above, and the Secretary shall notify public housing agencies of their annual budget by the latter of 60 days after enactment of this Act or March 1, 2024: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may extend the notification period with the prior written approval of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That public housing agencies participating in the MTW demonstration shall be funded in accordance with the requirements of the MTW demonstration program or their MTW agreements, if any, and shall be subject to the same pro rata adjustments under the preceding provisos: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may offset public housing agencies' calendar year 2024 allocations based on the excess amounts of public housing agencies' net restricted assets accounts, including HUD-held programmatic reserves (in accordance with VMS data in calendar year 2023 that is verifiable and complete), as determined by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That public housing agencies participating in the MTW demonstration shall also be subject to the offset, as determined by the Secretary, excluding amounts subject to the single fund budget authority provisions of their MTW agreements, from the agencies' calendar year 2024 MTW funding allocation: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall use any offset referred to in the preceding two provisos throughout the calendar year to prevent the termination of rental assistance for families as the result of insufficient funding, as determined by the Secretary, and to avoid or reduce the proration of renewal funding allocations: *Provided further*, That up to $100,000,000 shall be available only—

(A) for adjustments in the allocations for public housing agencies, after application for an adjustment by a public housing agency that experienced a significant increase, as determined by the Secretary, in renewal costs of vouchers resulting from unforeseen circumstances or from portability under section 8(r) of the Act;

(B) for vouchers that were not in use during the previous 12-month period in order to be available to meet a commitment pursuant to section 8(o)(13) of the Act, or an adjustment for a funding obligation not yet expended in the previous calendar year for a MTW-eligible activity to develop affordable housing for an agency added to the MTW demonstration under the expansion authority provided in section 239 of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 (division L of Public Law 114–113);

(C) for adjustments for costs associated with HUD–Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD–VASH) vouchers;

(D) for public housing agencies that despite taking reasonable cost savings measures, as determined by the Secretary, would otherwise be required to terminate rental assistance for families as a result of insufficient funding;

(E) for adjustments in the allocations for public housing agencies that—

(i) are leasing a lower-than-average percentage of their authorized vouchers,

(ii) have low amounts of budget authority in their net restricted assets accounts and HUD-held programmatic reserves, relative to other agencies, and

(iii) are not participating in the Moving to Work demonstration, to enable such agencies to lease more vouchers;

(F) for withheld payments in accordance with section 8(o)(8)(A)(ii) of the Act for months in the previous calendar year that were subsequently paid by the public housing

agency after the agency's actual costs were validated; and

(G) for public housing agencies that have experienced increased costs or loss of units in an area for which the President declared a disaster under title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170 et seq.):

Provided further, That the Secretary shall allocate amounts under the preceding proviso based on need, as determined by the Secretary;

(2) $337,000,000 shall be available for section 8 rental assistance for relocation and replacement of housing units that are demolished or disposed of pursuant to section 18 of the Act, conversion of section 23 projects to assistance under section 8, relocation of witnesses (including victims of violent crimes) in connection with efforts to combat crime in public and assisted housing pursuant to a request from a law enforcement or prosecution agency, enhanced vouchers under any provision of law authorizing such assistance under section 8(t) of the Act, Choice Neighborhood vouchers, mandatory and voluntary conversions, and tenant protection assistance including replacement and relocation assistance or for project-based assistance to prevent the displacement of unassisted elderly tenants currently residing in section 202 properties financed between 1959 and 1974 that are refinanced pursuant to Public Law 106–569, as amended, or under the authority as provided under this Act: *Provided,* That when a public housing development is submitted for demolition or disposition under section 18 of the Act, the Secretary may provide section 8 rental assistance when the units pose an imminent health and safety risk to residents: *Provided further,* That the Secretary may provide section 8 rental assistance from amounts made available under this paragraph for units assisted under a project-based subsidy contract funded under the ''Project-Based Rental Assistance'' heading under this title where the owner has received a Notice of Default and the units pose an imminent health and safety risk to residents: *Provided further,* That of the amounts made available under this paragraph, no less than $5,000,000 may be available to provide tenant protection assistance, not otherwise provided under this paragraph, to residents residing in low vacancy areas and who may have to pay rents greater than 30 percent of household income, as the result of (A) the maturity of a HUD-insured, HUD-held or section 202 loan that requires the permission of the Secretary prior to loan prepayment; (B) the expiration of a rental assistance contract for which the tenants are not eligible for enhanced voucher or tenant protection assistance under existing law; or (C) the expiration of affordability restrictions accompanying a mortgage or preservation program administered by the Secretary: *Provided further,* That such tenant protection assistance made available under the preceding proviso may be provided under the authority of section 8(t) or section 8(o)(13) of the Act: *Provided further,* That any tenant protection voucher made available from amounts under this paragraph shall not be reissued by any public housing agency, except the replacement vouchers as defined by the Secretary by notice, when the initial family that received any such voucher no longer receives such voucher, and the authority for any public housing agency to issue any such voucher shall cease to exist: *Provided further,* That the Secretary may only provide replacement vouchers for units that were occupied within the previous 24 months that cease to be available as assisted housing, subject only to the availability of funds;

(3) $2,734,046,000 shall be available for administrative and other expenses of public housing agencies in administering the section 8 tenant-based rental assistance program, of which up to $30,000,000 shall be available to the Secretary to allocate to public housing agencies that need additional funds to administer their section 8 programs, including fees associated with section 8 tenant protection rental assistance, the administration of disaster related vouchers, HUD–VASH vouchers, and other special purpose incremental vouchers: *Provided,* That no less than $2,704,046,000 of the amount provided in this paragraph shall be allocated to public housing agencies for the calendar year 2024 funding cycle based on section 8(q) of the Act (and related appropriation Act provisions) as in effect immediately before the enactment of the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–276): *Provided further,* That if the amounts made available under this paragraph are insufficient to pay the amounts determined under the preceding proviso, the Secretary may decrease the amounts allocated to agencies by a uniform percentage applicable to all agencies receiving funding under this paragraph or may, to the extent necessary to provide full payment of amounts determined under the preceding proviso, utilize unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds appropriated to the Department of Housing and Urban Development under this heading from prior fiscal years, excluding special purpose vouchers, notwithstanding the purposes for which such amounts were appropriated: *Provided further,* That all public housing agencies participating in the MTW demonstration shall be funded in accordance with the requirements of the MTW demonstration program or their MTW agreements, if any, and shall be subject to the same uniform percentage decrease as under the preceding proviso: *Provided further,* That amounts provided under this paragraph shall be only for activities related to the provision of tenant-based rental assistance authorized under section 8, including related development activities;

(4) $686,000,000 shall be available for the renewal of tenant-based assistance contracts under section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013), including necessary administrative expenses: *Provided,* That administrative and other expenses of public housing agencies in administering the special purpose vouchers in this paragraph shall be funded under the same terms and be subject to the same pro rata reduction as the percent decrease for administrative and other expenses to public housing agencies under paragraph (3) of this heading: *Provided further,* That up to $10,000,000 shall be available only—

(A) for adjustments in the allocation for public housing agencies, after applications for an adjustment by a public housing agency that experienced a significant increase, as determined by the Secretary, in Mainstream renewal costs resulting from unforeseen circumstances; and

(B) for public housing agencies that despite taking reasonable cost savings measures, as determined by the Secretary, would otherwise be required to terminate the rental assistance for Mainstream families as a result of insufficient funding:

Provided further, That the Secretary shall allocate amounts under the preceding proviso based on need, as determined by the Secretary: *Provided further,* That upon turnover, section 811 special purpose vouchers funded under this heading in this or prior Acts, or under any other heading in prior Acts, shall be provided to non-elderly persons with disabilities;

(5) Of the amounts provided under paragraph (1), up to $5,000,000 shall be available for rental assistance and associated administrative fees for Tribal HUD–VASH to serve Native American veterans that are homeless or at-risk of homelessness living on or near a reservation or other Indian areas: *Provided,* That such amount shall be made available for renewal grants to recipients that received assistance under prior Acts under the Tribal HUD–VASH program: *Provided further,* That the Secretary shall be authorized to specify criteria for renewal grants, including data on the utilization of assistance reported by grant recipients: *Provided further,* That such assistance shall be administered in accordance with program requirements under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 and modeled after the HUD–VASH program: *Provided further,* That the Secretary shall be authorized to waive, or specify alternative requirements for any provision of any statute or regulation that the Secretary administers in connection with the use of funds made available under this paragraph (except for requirements related to fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, and the environment), upon a finding by the Secretary that any such waivers or alternative requirements are necessary for the effective delivery and administration of such assistance: *Provided further,* That grant recipients shall report to the Secretary on utilization of such rental assistance and other program data, as prescribed by the Secretary: *Provided further,* That the Secretary may reallocate, as determined by the Secretary, amounts returned or recaptured from awards under the Tribal HUD–VASH program under prior Acts to existing recipients under the Tribal HUD–VASH program; and

(6) The Secretary shall separately track all special purpose vouchers funded under this heading.

HOUSING CERTIFICATE FUND

(INCLUDING RESCISSIONS)

Unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds appropriated to the Department of Housing and Urban Development under this heading, the heading ''Annual Contributions for Assisted Housing'' and the heading ''Project-Based Rental Assistance'', for fiscal year 2024 and prior years may be used for renewal of or amendments to section 8 project-based contracts and for performance-based contract administrators, notwithstanding the purposes for which such funds were appropriated: *Provided,* That any obligated balances of contract authority from fiscal year 1974 and prior fiscal years that have been terminated shall be rescinded: *Provided further,* That amounts heretofore recaptured, or recaptured during the current fiscal year, from section 8 project-based contracts from source years fiscal year 1975 through fiscal year 1987 are hereby rescinded, and an amount of additional new budget authority, equivalent to the amount rescinded is hereby appropriated, to remain available until expended, for the purposes set forth under this heading, in addition to amounts otherwise available.

PUBLIC HOUSING FUND

For 2024 payments to public housing agencies for the operation and management of public housing, as authorized by section 9(e) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g(e)) (the ''Act''), and to carry out capital and management activities for public housing agencies, as authorized under section 9(d) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 1437g(d)), $8,363,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided,* That of the sums appropriated under this heading—

(1) $5,103,000,000 shall be available for the Secretary to allocate pursuant to the Operating Fund formula at part 990 of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations, for 2024 payments;

(2) $25,000,000 shall be available for the Secretary to allocate pursuant to a need-based application process notwithstanding section 203 of this title and not subject to such Operating Fund formula to public housing agencies that experience, or are at risk of, financial shortfalls, as determined by the Secretary: *Provided*, That after all such shortfall needs are met, the Secretary may distribute any remaining funds to all public housing agencies on a pro-rata basis pursuant to such Operating Fund formula;

(3) $3,180,000,000 shall be available for the Secretary to allocate pursuant to the Capital Fund formula at section 905.400 of title 24, Code of Federal Regulations: *Provided*, That for funds provided under this paragraph, the limitation in section 9(g)(1) of the Act shall be 25 percent: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may waive the limitation in the preceding proviso to allow public housing agencies to fund activities authorized under section 9(e)(1)(C) of the Act: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall notify public housing agencies requesting waivers under the preceding proviso if the request is approved or denied within 14 days of submitting the request: *Provided further*, That from the funds made available under this paragraph, the Secretary shall provide bonus awards in fiscal year 2024 to public housing agencies that are designated high performers: *Provided further*, That the Department shall notify public housing agencies of their formula allocation within 60 days of enactment of this Act;

(4) $40,000,000 shall be available for the Secretary to make grants, notwithstanding section 203 of this title, to public housing agencies for emergency capital needs, including safety and security measures necessary to address crime and drug-related activity, as well as needs resulting from unforeseen or unpreventable emergencies and natural disasters excluding Presidentially declared emergencies and natural disasters under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) occurring in fiscal year 2024: *Provided*, That of the amount made available under this paragraph, not less than $20,000,000 shall be for safety and security measures: *Provided further*, That in addition to the amount in the preceding proviso for such safety and security measures, any amounts that remain available, after all applications received on or before September 30, 2025, for emergency capital needs have been processed, shall be allocated to public housing agencies for such safety and security measures; and

(5) $15,000,000 shall be available to support the costs of administrative and judicial receiverships and for competitive grants to PHAs in receivership, designated troubled or substandard, or otherwise at risk, as determined by the Secretary, for costs associated with public housing asset improvement, in addition to other amounts for that purpose provided under any heading under this title: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law or regulation, during fiscal year 2024, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may not delegate to any Department official other than the Deputy Secretary and the Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing any authority under paragraph (2) of section 9(j) of the Act regarding the extension of the time periods under such section: *Provided further*, That for purposes of such section 9(j), the term ''obligate'' means, with respect to amounts, that the amounts are subject to a binding agreement that will result in outlays, immediately or in the future.

OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION AND RISK ASSESSMENTS

For the Department's inspection and assessment programs, including travel, training, and program support contracts, $51,000,000 to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds appropriated under the heading ''Public Housing Fund'' to support ongoing public housing financial and physical assessment activities shall be available for the purposes authorized under this heading in addition to the purposes for which such funds originally were appropriated.

SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

For activities and assistance related to Self-Sufficiency Programs, to remain available until September 30, 2027, $175,000,000: *Provided*, That of the sums appropriated under this heading—

(1) $125,000,000 shall be available for the Family Self-Sufficiency program to support family self-sufficiency coordinators under section 23 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437u), to promote the development of local strategies to coordinate the use of assistance under sections 8 and 9 of such Act with public and private resources, and enable eligible families to achieve economic independence and self-sufficiency;

(2) $35,000,000 shall be available for the Resident Opportunity and Self-Sufficiency program to provide for supportive services, service coordinators, and congregate services as authorized by section 34 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437z–6) and the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4101 et seq.): *Provided*, That amounts made available under this paragraph may be used to renew Resident Opportunity and Self-Sufficiency program grants to allow the public housing agency, or a new owner, to continue to serve (or restart service to) residents of a project with assistance converted from public housing to project-based rental assistance under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f) or assistance under section 8(o)(13) of such Act under the heading ''Rental Assistance Demonstration'' in the Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112–55), as amended (42 U.S.C. 1437f note); and

(3) $15,000,000 shall be available for a Jobs-Plus Initiative, modeled after the Jobs-Plus demonstration: *Provided*, That funding provided under this paragraph shall be available for competitive grants to partnerships between public housing authorities, local workforce investment boards established under section 107 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 (29 U.S.C. 3122), and other agencies and organizations that provide support to help public housing residents obtain employment and increase earnings: *Provided further*, That applicants must demonstrate the ability to provide services to residents, partner with workforce investment boards, and leverage service dollars: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may allow public housing agencies to request exemptions from rent and income limitation requirements under sections 3 and 6 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a, 1437d), as necessary to implement the Jobs-Plus program, on such terms and conditions as the Secretary may approve upon a finding by the Secretary that any such waivers or alternative requirements are necessary for the effective implementation of the Jobs-Plus Initiative as a voluntary program for residents: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall publish by notice in the Federal Register any waivers or alternative requirements pursuant to the preceding proviso no later than 10 days before the effective date of such notice.

NATIVE AMERICAN PROGRAMS

For activities and assistance authorized under title I of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (in this heading ''NAHASDA'') (25 U.S.C. 4111 et seq.), title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) with respect to Indian tribes, and related training and technical assistance, $1,344,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided*, That of the sums appropriated under this heading—

(1) $1,110,000,000 shall be available for the Native American Housing Block Grants program, as authorized under title I of NAHASDA: *Provided*, That, notwithstanding NAHASDA, to determine the amount of the allocation under title I of such Act for each Indian tribe, the Secretary shall apply the formula under section 302 of such Act with the need component based on single-race census data and with the need component based on multi-race census data, and the amount of the allocation for each Indian tribe shall be the greater of the two resulting allocation amounts: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall notify grantees of their formula allocation not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act;

(2) $150,000,000 shall be available for competitive grants under the Native American Housing Block Grants program, as authorized under title I of NAHASDA: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall obligate such amount for competitive grants to eligible recipients authorized under NAHASDA that apply for funds: *Provided further*, That in awarding amounts made available in this paragraph, the Secretary shall consider need and administrative capacity, and shall give priority to projects that will spur construction and rehabilitation of housing: *Provided further*, That any amounts transferred for the necessary costs of administering and overseeing the obligation and expenditure of such additional amounts in prior Acts may also be used for the necessary costs of administering and overseeing such additional amount;

(3) $2,000,000 shall be available for the cost of guaranteed notes and other obligations, as authorized by title VI of NAHASDA: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such notes and other obligations, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 661a): *Provided further*, That amounts made available in this and prior Acts for the cost of such guaranteed notes and other obligations that are unobligated, including recaptures and carryover, shall be available to subsidize the total principal amount of any notes and other obligations, any part of which is to be guaranteed, not to exceed $50,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025;

(4) $75,000,000 shall be available for grants to Indian tribes for carrying out the Indian Community Development Block Grant program under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, notwithstanding section 106(a)(1) of such Act, of which, notwithstanding any other provision of law (including section 203 of this Act), not more than $5,000,000 may be used for emergencies that constitute imminent threats to health and safety: *Provided*, That not to exceed 20 percent of any grant made with amounts made available in this paragraph shall be expended for planning and management development and administration; and

(5) $7,000,000, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purpose, shall be available for providing training and technical assistance to Indian tribes, Indian housing authorities, and tribally designated housing entities, to support the inspection of Indian housing units, for contract expertise,

and for training and technical assistance related to amounts made available under this heading and other headings in this Act for the needs of Native American families and Indian country: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available in this paragraph, not less than $2,000,000 shall be for a national organization as authorized under section 703 of NAHASDA (25 U.S.C. 4212): *Provided further*, That amounts made available in this paragraph may be used, contracted, or competed as determined by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding chapter 63 of title 31, United States Code (commonly known as the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreements Act of 1977), the amounts made available in this paragraph may be used by the Secretary to enter into cooperative agreements with public and private organizations, agencies, institutions, and other technical assistance providers to support the administration of negotiated rulemaking under section 106 of NAHASDA (25 U.S.C. 4116), the administration of the allocation formula under section 302 of NAHASDA (25 U.S.C. 4152), and the administration of performance tracking and reporting under section 407 of NAHASDA (25 U.S.C. 4167).

INDIAN HOUSING LOAN GUARANTEE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of guaranteed loans, as authorized by section 184 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 1715z–13a), $1,500,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 661a): *Provided further*, That amounts made available in this and prior Acts for the cost of guaranteed loans, as authorized by section 184 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 1715z–13a), that are unobligated, including recaptures and carryover, shall be available to subsidize total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed, not to exceed $1,800,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025.

NATIVE HAWAIIAN HOUSING BLOCK GRANT

For the Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant program, as authorized under title VIII of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4221 et seq.), $22,300,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 812(b) of such Act, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands may not invest grant amounts made available under this heading in investment securities and other obligations: *Provided further*, That amounts made available under this heading in this and prior fiscal years may be used to provide rental assistance to eligible Native Hawaiian families both on and off the Hawaiian Home Lands, notwithstanding any other provision of law: *Provided further*, That up to $1,000,000 of the amounts made available under this heading shall be for training and technical assistance related to amounts made available under this heading and other headings in this Act for the needs of Native Hawaiians and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands.

NATIVE HAWAIIAN HOUSING LOAN GUARANTEE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

New commitments to guarantee loans, as authorized by section 184A of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 1715z–13b), any part of which is to be guaranteed, shall not exceed $21,000,000 in total loan principal, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That the Secretary may enter into commitments to guarantee loans used for refinancing.

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONS WITH AIDS

For carrying out the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS program, as authorized by the AIDS Housing Opportunity Act (42 U.S.C. 12901 et seq.), $505,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, except that amounts allocated pursuant to section 854(c)(5) of such Act shall remain available until September 30, 2026: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall renew or replace all expiring contracts for permanent supportive housing that initially were funded under section 854(c)(5) of such Act from funds made available under this heading in fiscal year 2010 and prior fiscal years that meet all program requirements before awarding funds for new contracts under such section: *Provided further*, That the process for submitting amendments and approving replacement contracts shall be established by the Secretary in a notice: *Provided further*, That the Department shall notify grantees of their formula allocation within 60 days of enactment of this Act.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND

For assistance to States and units of general local government, and other entities, for economic and community development activities, and other purposes, $5,554,267,912 to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That of the sums appropriated under this heading—

(1) $3,300,000,000 shall be available for carrying out the community development block grant program under title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) (in this heading ''the Act''): *Provided*, That not to exceed 20 percent of any grant made with funds made available under this paragraph shall be expended for planning and management development and administration: *Provided further*, That a metropolitan city, urban county, unit of general local government, or insular area that directly or indirectly receives funds under this paragraph may not sell, trade, or otherwise transfer all or any portion of such funds to another such entity in exchange for any other funds, credits, or non-Federal considerations, but shall use such funds for activities eligible under title I of the Act: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 105(e)(1) of the Act, no funds made available under this paragraph may be provided to a for-profit entity for an economic development project under section 105(a)(17) unless such project has been evaluated and selected in accordance with guidelines required under subsection (e)(2) of section 105;

(2) $30,000,000 shall be available for activities authorized under section 8071 of the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (Public Law 115–271): *Provided*, That funds allocated pursuant to this paragraph shall not adversely affect the amount of any formula assistance received by a State under paragraph (1) of this heading: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall allocate the funds for such activities based on the notice establishing the funding formula published in 84 FR 16027 (April 17, 2019) except that the formula shall use age-adjusted rates of drug overdose deaths for 2021 based on data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

(3) $2,224,267,912 shall be available for grants for the Economic Development Initiative (EDI) for the purposes authorized under paragraphs (1), (2), (4), and (5) of section 105(a) of the Act (42 U.S.C. 5305(a)), and in amounts, specified for Community Project Funding in the table entitled ''Community Project Funding'' included in the Report accompanying this Act: *Provided*, That such grants for the EDI shall be available for reimbursement of otherwise eligible expenses incurred on or after the date of enactment of this Act and prior to the date of grant execution: *Provided further*, That none of the amounts made available under this paragraph for grants for the EDI shall be used for reimbursement of expenses incurred prior to the date of enactment of this Act:

Provided further, That for amounts made available under paragraphs (1) and (2), the Secretary shall notify grantees of their formula allocation within 60 days of enactment of this Act.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LOAN GUARANTEES PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Subject to section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 661a), during fiscal year 2024, commitments to guarantee loans under section 108 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5308), any part of which is guaranteed, shall not exceed a total principal amount of $300,000,000, notwithstanding any aggregate limitation on outstanding obligations guaranteed in subsection (k) of such section 108: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall collect fees from borrowers, notwithstanding subsection (m) of such section 108, to result in a credit subsidy cost of zero for guaranteeing such loans, and any such fees shall be collected in accordance with section 502(7) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That such commitment authority funded by fees may be used to guarantee, or make commitments to guarantee, notes or other obligations issued by any State on behalf of non-entitlement communities in the State in accordance with the requirements of such section 108: *Provided further*, That any State receiving such a guarantee or commitment under the preceding proviso shall distribute all funds subject to such guarantee to the units of general local government in non-entitlement areas that received the commitment.

HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM

For the HOME Investment Partnerships program, as authorized under title II of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 12721 et seq.), $500,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 231(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 12771(b)), all unobligated balances remaining from amounts recaptured pursuant to such section that remain available until expended shall be combined with amounts made available under this heading and allocated in accordance with the formula under section 217(b)(1)(A) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 12747(b)(1)(A)): *Provided further*, That the Department shall notify grantees of their formula allocations within 60 days after enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That section 218(g) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 12748(g)) shall not apply with respect to the right of a jurisdiction to draw funds from its HOME Investment Trust Fund that otherwise expired or would expire in any calendar year from 2018 through 2026 under that section: *Provided further*, That section 231(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 12771(b)) shall not apply to any uninvested funds that otherwise were deducted or would be deducted from the line of credit in the participating jurisdiction's HOME Investment Trust Fund in any calendar year from 2018 through 2026 under that section.

PRESERVATION AND REINVESTMENT INITIATIVE FOR COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT

For competitive grants to preserve and revitalize manufactured housing and eligible manufactured housing communities (including pre-1976 mobile homes) under title I of the Housing and Community Development

Act of 1974, as amended (42 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.), $20,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That recipients of grants provided with amounts made available under this heading shall be States, units of general local government, resident-owned manufactured housing communities, cooperatives, nonprofit entities including consortia of nonprofit entities, community development financial institutions, Indian Tribes (as such term is defined in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA) (25 U.S.C. 4103)), or other entities approved by the Secretary: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall reserve an amount for Indian Tribes within such competition: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may approve entities for selection that partner with one or several residents of such eligible communities or that propose to implement a grant program that would assist residents of such eligible communities: *Provided further*, That eligible uses of such grants may include infrastructure, planning, resident and community services (including relocation assistance and eviction prevention), resiliency activities, and providing other assistance to residents or owners of manufactured homes, which may include providing assistance for manufactured housing land and site acquisition: *Provided further*, That, except as determined by the Secretary, participation in this program shall not encumber the future transfer of title or use of property by the residents, owners, or communities: *Provided further*, That when selecting recipients, the Secretary shall prioritize applications that primarily benefit low- or moderately low-income residents and preserve long-term housing affordability for residents of manufactured housing or a manufactured housing community: *Provided further*, That eligible manufactured housing communities may include those that are—

(1) owned by the residents of the manufactured housing community through a resident-controlled entity, as defined by the Secretary; or

(2) determined by the Secretary to be subject to binding agreements that will preserve the community and maintain affordability on a long-term basis:

Provided further, That resiliency activities means the reconstruction, repair, or replacement of manufactured housing and manufactured housing communities to protect the health and safety of manufactured housing residents and to address weatherization and energy efficiency needs, except that for pre-1976 mobile homes, funds made available under this heading may be used only for replacement: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may waive or specify alternative requirements for any provision of any statute or regulation that the Secretary administers in connection with the use of amounts made available under this heading (except for requirements related to fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, and the environment), upon a finding that such waiver or alternative requirement is necessary to facilitate the use of such amounts.

SELF-HELP AND ASSISTED HOMEOWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

For the Self-Help and Assisted Homeownership Opportunity Program, as authorized under section 11 of the Housing Opportunity Program Extension Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 12805 note), and for related activities and assistance, $60,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026: *Provided*, That of the sums appropriated under this heading—

(1) $10,000,000 shall be available for the Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program as authorized under such section 11;

(2) $42,000,000 shall be available for the second, third, and fourth capacity building entities specified in section 4(a) of the HUD Demonstration Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 9816 note), of which not less than $5,000,000 shall be for rural capacity building activities: *Provided*, That for purposes of awarding grants from amounts made available in this paragraph, the Secretary may enter into multiyear agreements, as appropriate, subject to the availability of annual appropriations;

(3) $7,000,000 shall be available for capacity building by national rural housing organizations having experience assessing national rural conditions and providing financing, training, technical assistance, information, and research to local nonprofit organizations, local governments, and Indian Tribes serving high need rural communities; and

(4) $1,000,000 shall be available for a program to rehabilitate and modify the homes of disabled or low-income veterans, as authorized under section 1079 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. ''Buck'' McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (38 U.S.C. 2101 note): *Provided*, That the issuance of a Notice of Funding Opportunity for the amounts made available in this paragraph shall be completed not later than 120 days after enactment of this Act and such amounts shall be awarded not later than 180 days after such issuance.

HOMELESS ASSISTANCE GRANTS

For assistance under title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360 et seq.), and for related activities and assistance, $3,729,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026: *Provided*, That of the sums appropriated under this heading—

(1) $290,000,000 shall be available for the Emergency Solutions Grants program authorized under subtitle B of such title IV (42 U.S.C. 11371 et seq.): *Provided*, That the Department shall notify grantees of their formula allocation from amounts allocated (which may represent initial or final amounts allocated) for the Emergency Solutions Grant program not later than 60 days after enactment of this Act;

(2) $3,350,000,000 shall be available for the Continuum of Care program authorized under subtitle C of such title IV (42 U.S.C. 11381 et seq.) and the Rural Housing Stability Assistance programs authorized under subtitle D of such title IV (42 U.S.C. 11408): *Provided*, That the Secretary shall prioritize funding under the Continuum of Care program to continuums of care that have demonstrated a capacity to reallocate funding from lower performing projects to higher performing projects: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall provide incentives to create projects that coordinate with housing providers and healthcare organizations to provide permanent supportive housing and rapid re-housing services: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may establish by notice an alternative maximum amount for administrative costs related to the requirements described in sections 402(f)(1) and 402(f)(2) of subtitle A of such title IV or no more than 5 percent or $50,000, whichever is greater, notwithstanding the 3 percent limitation in section 423(a)(10) of such subtitle C: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available for the Continuum of Care program under this paragraph, not less than $52,000,000 shall be for grants for new rapid re-housing projects and supportive service projects providing coordinated entry, and for eligible activities that the Secretary determines to be critical in order to assist survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking: *Provided further*, That amounts made available for the Continuum of Care program under this paragraph and any remaining unobligated balances under this heading in prior Acts may be used to competitively or non-competitively renew or replace grants for youth homeless demonstration projects under the Continuum of Care program, notwithstanding any conflict with the requirements of the Continuum of Care program;

(3) $7,000,000 shall be available for the national homeless data analysis project: *Provided*, That notwithstanding the provisions of the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreements Act of 1977 (31 U.S.C. 6301–6308), the amounts made available under this paragraph and any remaining unobligated balances under this heading for such purposes in prior Acts may be used by the Secretary to enter into cooperative agreements with such entities as may be determined by the Secretary, including public and private organizations, agencies, and institutions; and

(4) $82,000,000 shall be available to implement projects to demonstrate how a comprehensive approach to serving homeless youth, age 24 and under, in up to 25 communities with a priority for communities with substantial rural populations in up to eight locations, can dramatically reduce youth homelessness: *Provided*, That of the amount made available under this paragraph, not less than $25,000,000 shall be for youth homelessness system improvement grants to support communities, including but not limited to the communities assisted under the matter preceding this proviso, in establishing and implementing a response system for youth homelessness, or for improving their existing system: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this paragraph, up to $10,000,000 shall be to provide technical assistance to communities, including but not limited to the communities assisted in the preceding proviso and the matter preceding such proviso, on improving system responses to youth homelessness, and collection, analysis, use, and reporting of data and performance measures under the comprehensive approaches to serve homeless youth, in addition to and in coordination with other technical assistance funds provided under this title: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may use up to 10 percent of the amount made available under the preceding proviso to build the capacity of current technical assistance providers or to train new technical assistance providers with verifiable prior experience with systems and programs for youth experiencing homelessness:

Provided further, That youth aged 24 and under seeking assistance under this heading shall not be required to provide third party documentation to establish their eligibility under subsection (a) or (b) of section 103 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11302) to receive services: *Provided further*, That unaccompanied youth aged 24 and under or families headed by youth aged 24 and under who are living in unsafe situations may be served by youth-serving providers funded under this heading: *Provided further*, That persons eligible under section 103(a)(5) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act may be served by any project funded under this heading to provide both transitional housing and rapid re-housing: *Provided further*, That for all matching funds requirements applicable to funds made available under this heading for this fiscal year and prior fiscal years, a grantee may use (or could have used) as a source of match funds other funds administered by the Secretary and other Federal agencies unless there is (or was) a specific statutory prohibition on any such use of any such funds: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under this heading shall be available to provide funding for new projects, except for projects created through reallocation, unless the Secretary determines that

the continuum of care has demonstrated that projects are evaluated and ranked based on the degree to which they improve the continuum of care's system performance: *Provided further,* That any unobligated amounts remaining from funds made available under this heading in fiscal year 2012 and prior years for project-based rental assistance for rehabilitation projects with 10-year grant terms may be used for purposes under this heading, notwithstanding the purposes for which such funds were appropriated: *Provided further,* That unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds transferred to or appropriated under this heading in fiscal year 2019 or prior years, except for rental assistance amounts that were recaptured and made available until expended, shall be available for the current purposes authorized under this heading in addition to the purposes for which such funds originally were appropriated.

HOUSING PROGRAMS

PROJECT-BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE

For activities and assistance for the provision of project-based subsidy contracts under the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.) (''the Act''), not otherwise provided for, $15,420,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be available on October 1, 2023 (in addition to the $400,000,000 previously appropriated under this heading that became available October 1, 2023), and $400,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be available on October 1, 2024: *Provided,* That the amounts made available under this heading shall be available for expiring or terminating section 8 project-based subsidy contracts (including section 8 moderate rehabilitation contracts), for amendments to section 8 project-based subsidy contracts (including section 8 moderate rehabilitation contracts), for contracts entered into pursuant to section 441 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11401), for renewal of section 8 contracts for units in projects that are subject to approved plans of action under the Emergency Low Income Housing Preservation Act of 1987 or the Low-Income Housing Preservation and Resident Homeownership Act of 1990, and for administrative and other expenses associated with project-based activities and assistance funded under this heading: *Provided further,* That of the total amounts provided under this heading, not to exceed $448,000,000 shall be available for performance-based contract administrators for section 8 project-based assistance, for carrying out 42 U.S.C. 1437(f): *Provided further,* That the Secretary may also use such amounts in the preceding proviso for performance-based contract administrators for the administration of: interest reduction payments pursuant to section 236(a) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z–1(a)); rent supplement payments pursuant to section 101 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965 (12 U.S.C. 1701s); section 236(f)(2) rental assistance payments (12 U.S.C. 1715z–1(f)(2)); project rental assistance contracts for the elderly under section 202(c)(2) of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q); project rental assistance contracts for supportive housing for persons with disabilities under section 811(d)(2) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013(d)(2)); project assistance contracts pursuant to section 202(h) of the Housing Act of 1959 (Public Law 86–372; 73 Stat. 667); and loans under section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 (Public Law 86–372; 73 Stat. 667): *Provided further,* That amounts recaptured under this heading, the heading ''Annual Contributions for Assisted Housing'', or the heading ''Housing Certificate Fund'', may be used for renewals of or amendments to section 8 project-based contracts or for performance-based contract administrators, notwithstanding the purposes for which such amounts were appropriated: *Provided further,* That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, upon the request of the Secretary, project funds that are held in residual receipts accounts for any project subject to a section 8 project-based housing assistance payments contract that authorizes the Department or a housing finance agency to require that surplus project funds be deposited in an interest-bearing residual receipts account and that are in excess of an amount to be determined by the Secretary, shall be remitted to the Department and deposited in this account, to be available until expended: *Provided further,* That amounts deposited pursuant to the preceding proviso shall be available in addition to the amount otherwise provided by this heading for uses authorized under this heading.

HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For capital advances, including amendments to capital advance contracts, for housing for the elderly, as authorized by section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q), for project rental assistance for the elderly under section 202(c)(2) of such Act, including amendments to contracts for such assistance and renewal of expiring contracts for such assistance for up to a 5-year term, for senior preservation rental assistance contracts, including renewals, as authorized by section 811(e) of the American Homeownership and Economic Opportunity Act of 2000 (12 U.S.C. 1701q note), and for supportive services associated with the housing, $913,000,000 to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided,* That of the amount made available under this heading, up to $112,000,000 shall be for service coordinators and the continuation of existing congregate service grants for residents of assisted housing projects: *Provided further,* That any funding for existing service coordinators under the preceding proviso shall be provided within 120 days of enactment of this Act: *Provided further,* That the Secretary may waive the provisions of section 202 governing the terms and conditions of project rental assistance, except that the initial contract term for such assistance shall not exceed 5 years in duration: *Provided further,* That upon request of the Secretary, project funds that are held in residual receipts accounts for any project subject to a section 202 project rental assistance contract, and that upon termination of such contract are in excess of an amount to be determined by the Secretary, shall be remitted to the Department and deposited in this account, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided further,* That amounts deposited in this account pursuant to the preceding proviso shall be available, in addition to the amounts otherwise provided by this heading, for the purposes authorized under this heading: *Provided further,* That unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds transferred to or appropriated under this heading shall be available for the current purposes authorized under this heading in addition to the purposes for which such funds originally were appropriated: *Provided further,* That of the total amount made available under this heading, up to $25,000,000 shall be used to expand the supply of intergenerational dwelling units (as such term is defined in section 202 of the Legacy Act of 2003 (12 U.S.C. 1701q note)) for elderly caregivers raising children: *Provided further,* That for the purposes of the preceding proviso the Secretary may waive, or specify alternative requirements for, any provision of section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q) in order to facilitate the development of such units, except for requirements related to fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, and the environment: *Provided further,* That of the total amount made available under this heading, up to $6,000,000 shall be used by the Secretary to support preservation transactions of housing for the elderly originally developed with a capital advance and assisted by a project rental assistance contract under the provisions of section 202(c) of the Housing Act of 1959.

HOUSING FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For capital advances, including amendments to capital advance contracts, for supportive housing for persons with disabilities, as authorized by section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013), for project rental assistance for supportive housing for persons with disabilities under section 811(d)(2) of such Act, for project assistance contracts pursuant to subsection (h) of section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959, as added by section 205(a) of the Housing and Community Development Amendments of 1978 (Public Law 95–557: 92 Stat. 2090), including amendments to contracts for such assistance and renewal of expiring contracts for such assistance for up to a 5-year term, for project rental assistance to State housing finance agencies and other appropriate entities as authorized under section 811(b)(3) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act, and for supportive services associated with the housing for persons with disabilities as authorized by section 811(b)(1) of such Act, $208,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided,* That, upon the request of the Secretary, project funds that are held in residual receipts accounts for any project subject to a section 811 project rental assistance contract, and that upon termination of such contract are in excess of an amount to be determined by the Secretary, shall be remitted to the Department and deposited in this account, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided further,* That amounts deposited in this account pursuant to the preceding proviso shall be available in addition to the amounts otherwise provided by this heading for the purposes authorized under this heading: *Provided further,* That unobligated balances, including recaptures and carryover, remaining from funds transferred to or appropriated under this heading shall be used for the current purposes authorized under this heading in addition to the purposes for which such funds originally were appropriated.

HOUSING COUNSELING ASSISTANCE

For contracts, grants, and other assistance excluding loans, as authorized under section 106 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended, $57,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, including up to $4,500,000 for administrative contract services: *Provided,* That funds shall be used for providing counseling and advice to tenants and homeowners, both current and prospective, with respect to property maintenance, financial management or literacy, and such other matters as may be appropriate to assist them in improving their housing conditions, meeting their financial needs, and fulfilling the responsibilities of tenancy or homeownership; for program administration; and for housing counselor training: *Provided further,* That for purposes of awarding grants from amounts provided under this heading, the Secretary may enter into multiyear agreements, as appropriate, subject to the availability of annual appropriations.

PAYMENT TO MANUFACTURED HOUSING FEES TRUST FUND

For necessary expenses as authorized by the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5401 et seq.), up to $14,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which $14,000,000 shall be derived from the Manufactured Housing Fees Trust Fund (established under section 620(e) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5419(e)): *Provided,* That not to exceed the total amount appropriated under this heading shall be available from the general fund of the Treasury to the extent necessary to incur obligations and make expenditures pending the receipt of collections to the Fund pursuant to section 620 of such Act: *Provided further,* That the amount made available under this heading from the general fund shall be reduced as such collections are received during fiscal year 2024 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2024 appropriation from the general fund estimated at zero, and fees pursuant to such section 620 shall be modified as necessary to ensure such a final fiscal year 2024 appropriation: *Provided further,* That for the dispute resolution and installation programs, the Secretary may assess and collect fees from any program participant: *Provided further,* That such collections shall be deposited into the Trust Fund, and the Secretary, as provided herein, may use such collections, as well as fees collected under section 620 of such Act, for necessary expenses of such Act: *Provided further,* That, notwithstanding the requirements of section 620 of such Act, the Secretary may carry out responsibilities of the Secretary under such Act through the use of approved service providers that are paid directly by the recipients of their services.

FEDERAL HOUSING ADMINISTRATION

MUTUAL MORTGAGE INSURANCE PROGRAM ACCOUNT

New commitments to guarantee single family loans insured under the Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund shall not exceed $400,000,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided,* That during fiscal year 2024, obligations to make direct loans to carry out the purposes of section 204(g) of the National Housing Act, as amended, shall not exceed $1,000,000: *Provided further,* That the foregoing amount in the preceding proviso shall be for loans to nonprofit and governmental entities in connection with sales of single family real properties owned by the Secretary and formerly insured under the Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund: *Provided further,* That for administrative contract expenses of the Federal Housing Administration, $150,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided further,* That notwithstanding the limitation in the first sentence of section 255(g) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z–20(g)), during fiscal year 2024 the Secretary may insure and enter into new commitments to insure mortgages under section 255 of the National Housing Act only to the extent that the net credit subsidy cost for such insurance does not exceed zero.

GENERAL AND SPECIAL RISK PROGRAM ACCOUNT

New commitments to guarantee loans insured under the General and Special Risk Insurance Funds, as authorized by sections 238 and 519 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z–3 and 1735c), shall not exceed $35,000,000,000 in total loan principal, any part of which is to be guaranteed, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided,* That during fiscal year 2024, gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans, as authorized by sections 204(g), 207(l), 238, and 519(a) of the National Housing Act, shall not exceed $1,000,000, which shall be for loans to nonprofit and governmental entities in connection with the sale of single family real properties owned by the Secretary and formerly insured under such Act.

GOVERNMENT NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION

GUARANTEES OF MORTGAGE-BACKED SECURITIES LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM ACCOUNT

New commitments to issue guarantees to carry out the purposes of section 306 of the National Housing Act, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1721(g)), shall not exceed $550,000,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided,* That $51,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, shall be for necessary salaries and expenses of the Government National Mortgage Association: *Provided further,* That receipts from Commitment and Multiclass fees collected pursuant to title III of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1716 et seq.) shall be credited as offsetting collections to this account.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH

RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

For contracts, grants, and necessary expenses of programs of research and studies relating to housing and urban problems, not otherwise provided for, as authorized by title V of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970 (12 U.S.C. 1701z–1 et seq.), including carrying out the functions of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development under section 1(a)(1)(i) of Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1968, and for technical assistance, $139,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided,* That with respect to amounts made available under this heading, notwithstanding section 203 of this title, the Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with philanthropic entities, other Federal agencies, State or local governments and their agencies, Indian Tribes, tribally designated housing entities, or colleges or universities for research projects: *Provided further,* That with respect to the preceding proviso, such partners to the cooperative agreements shall contribute at least a 50 percent match toward the cost of the project: *Provided further,* That for non-competitive agreements entered into in accordance with the preceding two provisos, the Secretary shall comply with section 2(b) of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–282; 31 U.S.C. note) in lieu of compliance with section 102(a)(4)(C) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Reform Act of 1989 (42 U.S.C. 3545(a)(4)(C)) with respect to documentation of award decisions: *Provided further,* That prior to obligation of technical assistance funding, the Secretary shall submit a plan to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations on how the Secretary will allocate funding for this activity at least 30 days prior to obligation: *Provided further,* That none of the funds provided under this heading may be available for the doctoral dissertation research grant program.

FAIR HOUSING AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

FAIR HOUSING ACTIVITIES

For contracts, grants, and other assistance, not otherwise provided for, as authorized by title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.), and section 561 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1987 (42 U.S.C. 3616a), $85,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided,* That notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary may assess and collect fees to cover the costs of the Fair Housing Training Academy, and may use such funds to develop online courses and provide such training: *Provided further,* That none of the funds made available under this heading may be used to lobby the executive or legislative branches of the Federal Government in connection with a specific contract, grant, or loan: *Provided further,* That of the funds made available under this heading, $1,000,000 may be available to the Secretary for the creation and promotion of translated materials and other programs that support the assistance of persons with limited English proficiency in utilizing the services provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

OFFICE OF LEAD HAZARD CONTROL AND HEALTHY HOMES

LEAD HAZARD REDUCTION

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the Lead Hazard Reduction Program, as authorized by section 1011 of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 4852), the Healthy Homes Initiative, pursuant to sections 501 and 502 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970 (12 U.S.C. 1701z–1 and 1701z–2), and for related activities and assistance, $345,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026: *Provided,* That the amounts made available under this heading are provided as follows:

(1) $200,000,000 shall be for the award of grants pursuant to such section 1011, of which not less than $80,000,000 shall be provided to areas with the highest lead-based paint abatement need.

(2) $140,000,000 shall be for the Healthy Homes Initiative, pursuant to sections 501 and 502 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970, which shall include research, studies, testing, and demonstration efforts, including education and outreach concerning lead-based paint poisoning and other housing-related diseases and hazards, and mitigating housing-related health and safety hazards in housing of low-income families, of which $10,000,000 shall be for the establishment and implementation of a national pilot program to facilitate new financing mechanisms to address lead and other residential environmental stressors in low-income communities.

(3) $3,000,000 shall be for the award of grants and contracts for research pursuant to sections 1051 and 1052 of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 4854, 4854a).

(4) Up to $2,000,000 in total of the amounts made available under paragraphs (2) and (3) may be transferred to the heading ''Research and Technology'' for the purposes of conducting research and studies and for use in accordance with the provisos under that heading for non-competitive agreements.

(5) $2,000,000 shall be for grants for a radon testing and mitigation safety demonstration program (the radon demonstration) in public housing: *Provided,* That the testing method, mitigation method, or action level used under the radon demonstration shall be as specified by applicable State or local law, if such law is more protective of human health or the environment than the method or level specified by the Secretary:

Provided further, That for purposes of environmental review, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and other provisions of law that further the purposes of such Act, a grant under the Healthy Homes Initiative, or the Lead Technical Studies program, or other demonstrations or programs under this heading or under prior appropriations Acts for such purposes under this heading, or under the heading ''Housing for the Elderly'' under prior Appropriations Acts, shall be considered to be funds for a special project for purposes of section 305(c) of the Multifamily Housing Property Disposition Reform Act of 1994: *Provided further,* That each applicant for a grant or cooperative agreement under this

heading shall certify adequate capacity that is acceptable to the Secretary to carry out the proposed use of funds pursuant to a notice of funding opportunity: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall conduct a demonstration to harmonize income eligibility criteria for grants under this heading in this and prior Acts with the income eligibility criteria of certain other Federal programs: *Provided further*, That for purposes of such demonstration, the Secretary may establish income eligibility criteria for such grants using income eligibility criteria of any program administered by the Secretary, the Department of Energy weatherization assistance program (42 U.S.C. 6851 et seq.), the Department of Health and Human Services low income home energy assistance program (42 U.S.C. 8621 et seq.), and the Department of Veterans Affairs supportive services for veteran families program (38 U.S.C. 2044): *Provided further*, That amounts made available under this heading, in this or prior appropriations Acts, still remaining available, may be used for any purpose under this heading notwithstanding the purpose for which such amounts were appropriated if a program competition is undersubscribed and there are other program competitions under this heading that are oversubscribed.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FUND

For Department-wide and program-specific information technology systems and infrastructure, $371,250,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026: *Provided*, That not more than 10 percent of the funds made available under this heading for development, modernization, and enhancement may be obligated until 90 days after the Secretary submits a plan and quarterly reports in accordance with the requirements stated in the Report accompanying this Act.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary salaries and expenses of the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, $154,000,000: *Provided*, That the Inspector General shall have independent authority over all personnel issues within this office.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

(INCLUDING RESCISSIONS)

SEC. 201. Fifty percent of the amounts of budget authority, or in lieu thereof 50 percent of the cash amounts associated with such budget authority, that are recaptured from projects described in section 1012(a) of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. 1437f note) shall be rescinded or in the case of cash, shall be remitted to the Treasury, and such amounts of budget authority or cash recaptured and not rescinded or remitted to the Treasury shall be used by State housing finance agencies or local governments or local housing agencies with projects approved by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for which settlement occurred after January 1, 1992, in accordance with such section. Notwithstanding the previous sentence, the Secretary may award up to 15 percent of the budget authority or cash recaptured and not rescinded or remitted to the Treasury to provide project owners with incentives to refinance their project at a lower interest rate.

SEC. 202. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used during fiscal year 2024 to investigate or prosecute under the Fair Housing Act any otherwise lawful activity engaged in by one or more persons, including the filing or maintaining of a nonfrivolous legal action, that is engaged in solely for the purpose of achieving or preventing action by a Government official or entity, or a court of competent jurisdiction.

SEC. 203. Except as explicitly provided in law, any grant, cooperative agreement or other assistance made pursuant to title II of this Act shall be made on a competitive basis and in accordance with section 102 of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Reform Act of 1989 (42 U.S.C. 3545).

SEC. 204. Funds of the Department of Housing and Urban Development subject to the Government Corporation Control Act or section 402 of the Housing Act of 1950 shall be available, without regard to the limitations on administrative expenses, for legal services on a contract or fee basis, and for utilizing and making payment for services and facilities of the Federal National Mortgage Association, Government National Mortgage Association, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, Federal Financing Bank, Federal Reserve banks or any member thereof, Federal Home Loan banks, and any insured bank within the meaning of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Act, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1811–1).

SEC. 205. Unless otherwise provided for in this Act or through a reprogramming of funds, no part of any appropriation for the Department of Housing and Urban Development shall be available for any program, project or activity in excess of amounts set forth in the budget estimates submitted to Congress.

SEC. 206. Corporations and agencies of the Department of Housing and Urban Development which are subject to the Government Corporation Control Act are hereby authorized to make such expenditures, within the limits of funds and borrowing authority available to each such corporation or agency and in accordance with law, and to make such contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations as provided by section 104 of such Act as may be necessary in carrying out the programs set forth in the budget for 2024 for such corporation or agency except as hereinafter provided: *Provided*, That collections of these corporations and agencies may be used for new loan or mortgage purchase commitments only to the extent expressly provided for in this Act (unless such loans are in support of other forms of assistance provided for in this or prior appropriations Acts), except that this proviso shall not apply to the mortgage insurance or guaranty operations of these corporations, or where loans or mortgage purchases are necessary to protect the financial interest of the United States Government.

SEC. 207. The Secretary shall provide quarterly reports to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations regarding all uncommitted, unobligated, recaptured and excess funds in each program and activity within the jurisdiction of the Department and shall submit additional, updated budget information to these Committees upon request.

SEC. 208. None of the funds made available by this title may be used for an audit of the Government National Mortgage Association that makes applicable requirements under the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).

SEC. 209. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, subject to the conditions listed under this section, for fiscal years 2024 and 2025, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may authorize the transfer of some or all project-based assistance, debt held or insured by the Secretary and statutorily required low-income and very low-income use restrictions if any, associated with one or more multifamily housing project or projects to another multifamily housing project or projects.

(b) PHASED TRANSFERS.—Transfers of project-based assistance under this section may be done in phases to accommodate the financing and other requirements related to rehabilitating or constructing the project or projects to which the assistance is transferred, to ensure that such project or projects meet the standards under subsection (c).

(c) The transfer authorized in subsection (a) is subject to the following conditions:

(1) NUMBER AND BEDROOM SIZE OF UNITS.—

(A) For occupied units in the transferring project: The number of low-income and very low-income units and the configuration (i.e., bedroom size) provided by the transferring project shall be no less than when transferred to the receiving project or projects and the net dollar amount of Federal assistance provided to the transferring project shall remain the same in the receiving project or projects.

(B) For unoccupied units in the transferring project: The Secretary may authorize a reduction in the number of dwelling units in the receiving project or projects to allow for a reconfiguration of bedroom sizes to meet current market demands, as determined by the Secretary and provided there is no increase in the project-based assistance budget authority.

(2) The transferring project shall, as determined by the Secretary, be either physically obsolete or economically nonviable, or be reasonably expected to become economically nonviable when complying with State or Federal requirements for community integration and reduced concentration of individuals with disabilities.

(3) The receiving project or projects shall meet or exceed applicable physical standards established by the Secretary.

(4) The owner or mortgagor of the transferring project shall notify and consult with the tenants residing in the transferring project and provide a certification of approval by all appropriate local governmental officials.

(5) The tenants of the transferring project who remain eligible for assistance to be provided by the receiving project or projects shall not be required to vacate their units in the transferring project or projects until new units in the receiving project are available for occupancy.

(6) The Secretary determines that this transfer is in the best interest of the tenants.

(7) If either the transferring project or the receiving project or projects meets the condition specified in subsection (d)(2)(A), any lien on the receiving project resulting from additional financing obtained by the owner shall be subordinate to any FHA-insured mortgage lien transferred to, or placed on, such project by the Secretary, except that the Secretary may waive this requirement upon determination that such a waiver is necessary to facilitate the financing of acquisition, construction, and/or rehabilitation of the receiving project or projects.

(8) If the transferring project meets the requirements of subsection (d)(2), the owner or mortgagor of the receiving project or projects shall execute and record either a continuation of the existing use agreement or a new use agreement for the project where, in either case, any use restrictions in such agreement are of no lesser duration than the existing use restrictions.

(9) The transfer does not increase the cost (as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 661a)) of any FHA-insured mortgage, except to the extent that appropriations are provided in advance for the amount of any such increased cost.

(d) For purposes of this section—

(1) the terms ''low-income'' and ''very low-income'' shall have the meanings provided by the statute and/or regulations governing the program under which the project is insured or assisted;

(2) the term ''multifamily housing project'' means housing that meets one of the following conditions—

(A) housing that is subject to a mortgage insured under the National Housing Act;

(B) housing that has project-based assistance attached to the structure including projects undergoing mark to market debt restructuring under the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Housing Act;

(C) housing that is assisted under section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q);

(D) housing that is assisted under section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q), as such section existed before the enactment of the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act;

(E) housing that is assisted under section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013); or

(F) housing or vacant land that is subject to a use agreement;

(3) the term ''project-based assistance'' means—

(A) assistance provided under section 8(b) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(b));

(B) assistance for housing constructed or substantially rehabilitated pursuant to assistance provided under section 8(b)(2) of such Act (as such section existed immediately before October 1, 1983);

(C) rent supplement payments under section 101 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1965 (12 U.S.C. 1701s);

(D) interest reduction payments under section 236 and/or additional assistance payments under section 236(f)(2) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z–1);

(E) assistance payments made under section 202(c)(2) of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q(c)(2)); and

(F) assistance payments made under section 811(d)(2) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 8013(d)(2));

(4) the term ''receiving project or projects'' means the multifamily housing project or projects to which some or all of the project-based assistance, debt, and statutorily required low-income and very low-income use restrictions are to be transferred;

(5) the term ''transferring project'' means the multifamily housing project which is transferring some or all of the project-based assistance, debt, and the statutorily required low-income and very low-income use restrictions to the receiving project or projects; and

(6) the term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(e) RESEARCH REPORT.—The Secretary shall conduct an evaluation of the transfer authority under this section, including the effect of such transfers on the operational efficiency, contract rents, physical and financial conditions, and long-term preservation of the affected properties.

SEC. 210. (a) No assistance shall be provided under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f) to any individual who—

(1) is enrolled as a student at an institution of higher education (as defined under section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002));

(2) is under 24 years of age;

(3) is not a veteran;

(4) is unmarried;

(5) does not have a dependent child;

(6) is not a person with disabilities, as such term is defined in section 3(b)(3)(E) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(3)(E)) and was not receiving assistance under such section 8 as of November 30, 2005;

(7) is not a youth who left foster care at age 14 or older and is at risk of becoming homeless; and

(8) is not otherwise individually eligible, or has parents who, individually or jointly, are not eligible, to receive assistance under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f).

(b) For purposes of determining the eligibility of a person to receive assistance under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f), any financial assistance (in excess of amounts received for tuition and any other required fees and charges) that an individual receives under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), from private sources, or from an institution of higher education (as defined under section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)), shall be considered income to that individual, except for a person over the age of 23 with dependent children.

SEC. 211. The funds made available for Native Alaskans under paragraph (1) under the heading ''Native American Programs'' in title II of this Act shall be allocated to the same Native Alaskan housing block grant recipients that received funds in fiscal year 2005, and only such recipients shall be eligible to apply for funds made available under paragraph (2) of such heading.

SEC. 212. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in fiscal year 2024, in managing and disposing of any multifamily property that is owned or has a mortgage held by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and during the process of foreclosure on any property with a contract for rental assistance payments under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f) or any other Federal programs, the Secretary shall maintain any rental assistance payments under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 and other programs that are attached to any dwelling units in the property. To the extent the Secretary determines, in consultation with the tenants and the local government that such a multifamily property owned or having a mortgage held by the Secretary is not feasible for continued rental assistance payments under such section 8 or other programs, based on consideration of (1) the costs of rehabilitating and operating the property and all available Federal, State, and local resources, including rent adjustments under section 524 of the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Act of 1997 (in this section ''MAHRAA'') (42 U.S.C. 1437f note), and (2) environmental conditions that cannot be remedied in a cost-effective fashion, the Secretary may, in consultation with the tenants of that property, contract for project-based rental assistance payments with an owner or owners of other existing housing properties, or provide other rental assistance. The Secretary shall also take appropriate steps to ensure that project-based contracts remain in effect prior to foreclosure, subject to the exercise of contractual abatement remedies to assist relocation of tenants for imminent major threats to health and safety after written notice to and informed consent of the affected tenants and use of other available remedies, such as partial abatements or receivership. After disposition of any multifamily property described in this section, the contract and allowable rent levels on such properties shall be subject to the requirements under section 524 of MAHRAA.

SEC. 213. Public housing agencies that own and operate 400 or fewer public housing units may elect to be exempt from any asset management requirement imposed by the Secretary in connection with the operating fund rule: *Provided,* That an agency seeking a discontinuance of a reduction of subsidy under the operating fund formula shall not be exempt from asset management requirements.

SEC. 214. With respect to the use of amounts provided in this Act and in future Acts for the operation, capital improvement, and management of public housing as authorized by sections 9(d) and 9(e) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g(d),(e)), the Secretary shall not impose any requirement or guideline relating to asset management that restricts or limits in any way the use of capital funds for central office costs pursuant to paragraph (1) or (2) of section 9(g) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g(g)(1), (2)): *Provided,* That a public housing agency may not use capital funds authorized under section 9(d) for activities that are eligible under section 9(e) for assistance with amounts from the operating fund in excess of the amounts permitted under paragraph (1) or (2) of section 9(g).

SEC. 215. No official or employee of the Department of Housing and Urban Development shall be designated as an allotment holder unless the Office of the Chief Financial Officer has determined that such allotment holder has implemented an adequate system of funds control and has received training in funds control procedures and directives. The Chief Financial Officer shall ensure that there is a trained allotment holder for each HUD appropriation under the accounts ''Executive Offices'', ''Administrative Support Offices'', ''Program Offices'', ''Government National Mortgage Association—Guarantees of Mortgage-Backed Securities Loan Guarantee Program Account'', and ''Office of Inspector General'' within the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

SEC. 216. The Secretary shall, for fiscal year 2024, notify the public through the Federal Register and other means, as determined appropriate, of the issuance of a notice of the availability of assistance or notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for any program or discretionary fund administered by the Secretary that is to be competitively awarded. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for fiscal year 2024, the Secretary may make the NOFO available only on the Internet at the appropriate Government website or through other electronic media, as determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 217. Payment of attorney fees in program-related litigation shall be paid from the individual program office and Office of General Counsel salaries and expenses appropriations.

SEC. 218. The Secretary is authorized to transfer up to 10 percent or $5,000,000, whichever is less, of funds appropriated for any office under the headings ''Administrative Support Offices'', or ''Program Offices'', to any other such office under such headings: *Provided,* That no appropriation for any such office under such headings shall be increased or decreased by more than 10 percent or $5,000,000, whichever is less, without prior written approval of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further,* That the Secretary shall provide notification to such Committees 3 business days in advance of any such transfers under this section up to 10 percent or $5,000,000, whichever is less.

SEC. 219. (a) Any entity receiving housing assistance payments shall maintain decent, safe, and sanitary conditions, as determined by the Secretary, and comply with any standards under applicable State or local laws, rules, ordinances, or regulations relating to the physical condition of any property covered under a housing assistance payment contract.

(b) The Secretary shall take action under subsection (c) when a multifamily housing project with a contract under section 8 of the

United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f) or a contract for similar project-based assistance—

(1) receives a failing score under the Uniform Physical Condition Standards (UPCS) or a successor standard; or

(2) fails to certify in writing to the Secretary within 3 days that all Exigent Health and Safety deficiencies or those deficiencies requiring correction within 24 hours identified by the inspector at the project have been corrected.

Such requirements shall apply to insured and noninsured projects with assistance attached to the units under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f), but shall not apply to such units assisted under section 8(o)(13) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(13)) or to public housing units assisted with capital or operating funds under section 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437g).

(c)(1) Within 15 days of the issuance of the Real Estate Assessment Center (''REAC'') inspection, the Secretary shall provide the owner with a Notice of Default with a specified timetable, determined by the Secretary, for correcting all deficiencies. The Secretary shall provide a copy of the Notice of Default to the tenants, the local government, any mortgagees, and any contract administrator. If the owner's appeal results in a passing score, the Secretary may withdraw the Notice of Default.

(2) At the end of the time period for correcting all deficiencies specified in the Notice of Default, if the owner fails to fully correct such deficiencies, the Secretary may—

(A) require immediate replacement of project management with a management agent approved by the Secretary;

(B) impose civil money penalties, which shall be used solely for the purpose of supporting safe and sanitary conditions at applicable properties, as designated by the Secretary, with priority given to the tenants of the property affected by the penalty;

(C) abate the section 8 contract, including partial abatement, as determined by the Secretary, until all deficiencies have been corrected;

(D) pursue transfer of the project to an owner, approved by the Secretary under established procedures, who will be obligated to promptly make all required repairs and to accept renewal of the assistance contract if such renewal is offered;

(E) transfer the existing section 8 contract to another project or projects and owner or owners;

(F) pursue exclusionary sanctions, including suspensions or debarments from Federal programs;

(G) seek judicial appointment of a receiver to manage the property and cure all project deficiencies or seek a judicial order of specific performance requiring the owner to cure all project deficiencies;

(H) work with the owner, lender, or other related party to stabilize the property in an attempt to preserve the property through compliance, transfer of ownership, or an infusion of capital provided by a third-party that requires time to effectuate; or

(I) take any other regulatory or contractual remedies available as deemed necessary and appropriate by the Secretary.

(d) The Secretary shall take appropriate steps to ensure that project-based contracts remain in effect, subject to the exercise of contractual abatement remedies to assist relocation of tenants for major threats to health and safety after written notice to the affected tenants. To the extent the Secretary determines, in consultation with the tenants and the local government, that the property is not feasible for continued rental assistance payments under such section 8 or other programs, based on consideration of—

(1) the costs of rehabilitating and operating the property and all available Federal, State, and local resources, including rent adjustments under section 524 of the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Act of 1997 (''MAHRAA''); and

(2) environmental conditions that cannot be remedied in a cost-effective fashion, the Secretary may contract for project-based rental assistance payments with an owner or owners of other existing housing properties, or provide other rental assistance.

(e) The Secretary shall report semi-annually on all properties covered by this section that are assessed through the Real Estate Assessment Center and have failing physical inspection scores or have received an unsatisfactory management and occupancy review within the past 36 months. The report shall include—

(1) identification of the enforcement actions being taken to address such conditions, including imposition of civil money penalties and termination of subsidies, and identification of properties that have such conditions multiple times;

(2) identification of actions that the Department of Housing and Urban Development is taking to protect tenants of such identified properties; and

(3) any administrative or legislative recommendations to further improve the living conditions at properties covered under a housing assistance payment contract.

The first report shall be submitted to the Senate and House Committees on Appropriations not later than 30 days after the enactment of this Act, and the second report shall be submitted within 180 days of the transmittal of the first report.

SEC. 220. None of the funds made available by this Act, or any other Act, for purposes authorized under section 8 (only with respect to the tenant-based rental assistance program) and section 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.), may be used by any public housing agency for any amount of salary, including bonuses, for the chief executive officer of which, or any other official or employee of which, that exceeds the annual rate of basic pay payable for a position at level IV of the Executive Schedule at any time during any public housing agency fiscal year 2024.

SEC. 221. None of the funds made available by this Act and provided to the Department of Housing and Urban Development may be used to make a grant award unless the Secretary notifies the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations not less than 3 full business days before any project, State, locality, housing authority, Tribe, nonprofit organization, or other entity selected to receive a grant award is announced by the Department or its offices: *Provided*, That such notification shall list each grant award by State and congressional district.

SEC. 222. None of the funds made available in this Act shall be used by the Federal Housing Administration, the Government National Mortgage Association, or the Department of Housing and Urban Development to insure, securitize, or establish a Federal guarantee of any mortgage or mortgage backed security that refinances or otherwise replaces a mortgage that has been subject to eminent domain condemnation or seizure, by a State, municipality, or any other political subdivision of a State.

SEC. 223. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to terminate the status of a unit of general local government as a metropolitan city (as defined in section 102 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302)) with respect to grants under section 106 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5306).

SEC. 224. Amounts made available by this Act that are appropriated, allocated, advanced on a reimbursable basis, or transferred to the Office of Policy Development and Research of the Department of Housing and Urban Development and functions thereof, for research, evaluation, or statistical purposes, and that are unexpended at the time of completion of a contract, grant, or cooperative agreement, may be deobligated and shall immediately become available and may be reobligated in that fiscal year or the subsequent fiscal year for the research, evaluation, or statistical purposes for which the amounts are made available to that Office subject to reprogramming requirements in section 405 of this Act.

SEC. 225. None of the funds provided in this Act or any other Act may be used for awards, including performance, special act, or spot, for any employee of the Department of Housing and Urban Development subject to administrative discipline (including suspension from work), in this fiscal year, but this prohibition shall not be effective prior to the effective date of any such administrative discipline or after any final decision over-turning such discipline.

SEC. 226. With respect to grant amounts awarded under the heading ''Homeless Assistance Grants'' for fiscal years 2015 through 2024 for the Continuum of Care (CoC) program as authorized under subtitle C of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, costs paid by program income of grant recipients may count toward meeting the recipient's matching requirements, provided the costs are eligible CoC costs that supplement the recipient's CoC program.

SEC. 227. (a) From amounts made available under this title under the heading ''Homeless Assistance Grants'', the Secretary may award 1-year transition grants to recipients of funds for activities under subtitle C of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11381 et seq.) to transition from one Continuum of Care program component to another.

(b) In order to be eligible to receive a transition grant, the funding recipient must have the consent of the continuum of care and meet standards determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 228. The Promise Zone designations and Promise Zone Designation Agreements entered into pursuant to such designations, made by the Secretary in prior fiscal years, shall remain in effect in accordance with the terms and conditions of such agreements.

SEC. 229. Any public housing agency designated as a Moving to Work agency pursuant to section 239 of division L of Public Law 114–113 (42 U.S.C. 1437f note; 129 Stat. 2897) may, upon such designation, use funds (except for special purpose funding, including special purpose vouchers) previously allocated to any such public housing agency under section 8 or 9 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, including any reserve funds held by the public housing agency or funds held by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, pursuant to the authority for use of section 8 or 9 funding provided under such section and section 204 of title II of the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996 (Public Law 104–134; 110 Stat. 1321–28), notwithstanding the purposes for which such funds were appropriated.

SEC. 230. None of the amounts made available by this Act may be used to prohibit any public housing agency under receivership or the direction of a Federal monitor from applying for, receiving, or using funds made available under the heading ''Public Housing Fund'' for competitive grants to evaluate and reduce lead-based paint hazards in this Act or that remain available and not awarded from prior Acts, or be used to prohibit a public housing agency from using such funds

to carry out any required work pursuant to a settlement agreement, consent decree, voluntary agreement, or similar document for a violation of the Lead Safe Housing or Lead Disclosure Rules.

SEC. 231. None of the funds made available by this title may be used to issue rules or guidance in contravention of section 1210 of Public Law 115–254 (132 Stat. 3442) or section 312 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5155).

SEC. 232. The language under the heading ''RENTAL ASSISTANCE DEMONSTRATION'' in the Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2012 (Public Law 112–55), as most recently amended by Public Law 117–103, is further amended—

(1) in the matter before the first proviso, by striking ''and 'Public Housing Operating Fund''' and inserting '', 'Public Housing Operating Fund' and 'Public Housing Fund''';

(2) in the second proviso, by striking ''until September 30, 2024'' and inserting ''for fiscal year 2012 and thereafter'';

(3) by striking the fourth proviso and inserting the following new provisos: ''*Provided further*, That at properties with assistance under section 9 of the Act requesting to partially convert such assistance, and where an event under section 18 of the Act occurs that results in the eligibility for tenant protection vouchers under section 8(o) of the Act, the Secretary may convert the tenant protection voucher assistance to assistance under a project-based subsidy contract under section 8 of the Act, which shall be eligible for renewal under section 524 of the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Act of 1997, or assistance under section 8(o)(13) of the Act, but only if the property meets any additional requirements established by the Secretary to facilitate conversion: *Provided further*, That to facilitate the conversion of assistance under the preceding proviso, the Secretary may transfer an amount equal to the total amount that would have been allocated for tenant protection voucher assistance for properties that have requested such conversions from amounts made available for tenant protection voucher assistance under the heading 'Tenant-Based Rental Assistance' to the heading 'Project-Based Rental Assistance': *Provided further*, That at properties with assistance previously converted hereunder to assistance under the heading 'Project-Based Rental Assistance,' which are also separately assisted under section 8(o)(13) of the Act, the Secretary may, with the consent of the public housing agency and owner, terminate such project-based subsidy contracts and immediately enter into one new project-based subsidy contract under section 8 of the Act, which shall be eligible for renewal under section 524 of the Multifamily Assisted Housing Reform and Affordability Act of 1997, subject to the requirement that any residents assisted under section 8(o)(13) of the Act at the time of such termination of such project-based subsidy contract shall retain all rights accrued under section 8(o)(13)(E) of the Act under the new project-based subsidy contract and section 8(o)(13)(F)(iv) of the Act shall not apply: *Provided further*, That to carry out the previous proviso, the Secretary may transfer from the heading 'Tenant-Based Rental Assistance' to the heading 'Project-Based Rental Assistance' an amount equal to the amounts associated with such terminating contract under section 8(o)(13) of the Act:'';

(4) in the thirteenth proviso, as so reordered by the preceding provisions of this section—

(A) by inserting '' 'Public Housing Fund', 'Self-Sufficiency Programs', 'Family Self-Sufficiency', 'Housing for the Elderly','' after '' 'Public Housing Operating Fund','' ;and

(B) by inserting ''or the ongoing availability of services for residents'' after ''effective conversion of assistance under the demonstration'';

(5) after the twenty-third proviso, as so reordered by the preceding provisions of this section, by inserting the following proviso: ''*Provided further*, That owners of properties with a senior preservation rental assistance contract under section 811 of the American Homeownership and Economic Opportunity Act of 2000 (12 U.S.C. 1701q note), shall be eligible, subject to requirements established by the Secretary as necessary to facilitate the conversion of assistance while maintaining the affordability period and the designation of the property as serving elderly families, and tenant consultation procedures, for conversion of assistance available for such assistance contracts to assistance under a long-term project-based subsidy contract under section 8 of the Act'';

(6) in the twenty-eighth proviso, as so reordered by the preceding provisions of this section, by inserting '', section 811 of the American Homeownership and Economic Opportunity Act of 2000,'' after ''Housing Act of 1959''; and

(7) in the thirty-third proviso, as so reordered by the preceding provisions of this section, by striking ''any section 202 project rental assistance contract or section 811 project rental assistance contract conversions'' and inserting ''the conversion of assistance from section 202(c)(2) of the Housing Act of 1959, section 811 of the American Homeownership and Economic Opportunity Act of 2000, or section 811(d)(2) of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act''.

SEC. 233. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce the proposed rule entitled ''Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing'' published by the Department of Housing and Urban Development in the Federal Register on February 9, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 8516), or to direct a grantee to undertake specific changes to existing zoning laws as a part of carrying out the interim final rule entitled ''Restoring Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Definitions and Certifications'' published by such Department in the Federal Register on June 10, 2021 (86 Fed. Reg. 30779).

SEC. 234. For fiscal year 2024, if the Secretary determines or has determined, for any prior formula grant allocation administered by the Secretary through the Offices of Public and Indian Housing, Community Planning and Development, or Housing, that a recipient received an allocation greater than the amount such recipient should have received for a formula allocation cycle pursuant to applicable statutes and regulations, the Secretary may adjust for any such funding error in the next applicable formula allocation cycle by (a) offsetting each such recipient's formula allocation (if eligible for a formula allocation in the next applicable formula allocation cycle) by the amount of any such funding error, and (b) reallocating any available balances that are attributable to the offset to the recipient or recipients that would have been allocated additional funds in the formula allocation cycle in which any such error occurred (if such recipient or recipients are eligible for a formula allocation in the next applicable formula allocation cycle) in an amount proportionate to such recipient's eligibility under the next applicable formula allocation cycle: *Provided*, That all offsets and reallocations from such available balances shall be recorded against funds available for the next applicable formula allocation cycle: *Provided further*, That the term ''next applicable formula allocation cycle'' means the first formula allocation cycle for a program that is reasonably available for correction following such a Secretarial determination: *Provided further*, That if, upon request by a recipient and giving consideration to all Federal resources available to the recipient for the same grant purposes, the Secretary determines that the offset in the next applicable formula allocation cycle would critically impair the recipient's ability to accomplish the purpose of the formula grant, the Secretary may adjust for the funding error across two or more formula allocation cycles.

SEC. 235. The Secretary may transfer from amounts made available for salaries and expenses under all headings in this title (excluding amounts made available under the heading ''Office of Inspector General'') to the heading ''Information Technology Fund'' for information technology needs, including for additional development, modernization, and enhancement, to remain available until September 30, 2026: *Provided*, That the total amount of such transfers shall not exceed $5,000,000: *Provided further*, That this transfer authority shall not be used to fund information technology projects or activities that have known out-year development, modernization, or enhancement costs in excess of $500,000: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall provide notification to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations no less than three business days in advance of any such transfer.

SEC. 236. The Secretary shall comply with all process requirements, including public notice and comment, when seeking to revise any annual contributions contract.

SEC. 237. There is hereby established in the Treasury of the United States a fund to be known as the Department of Housing and Urban Development Nonrecurring Expenses Fund (the Fund): *Provided*, That unobligated balances of expired discretionary funds appropriated in this or any succeeding fiscal year from the General Fund of the Treasury to the Department of Housing and Urban Development by this or any other Act may be transferred (not later than the end of the fifth fiscal year after the last fiscal year for which such funds are available for the purposes for which they were appropriated) into the Fund: *Provided further*, That amounts deposited in the Fund shall be available until expended, in addition to such other funds as may be available for such purposes, for capital needs of the Department, including facilities infrastructure and information technology infrastructure, subject to approval by the Office of Management and Budget: *Provided further*, That amounts in the Fund may be obligated only after the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate are notified at least 15 days in advance of the planned use of funds.

SEC. 238. For the fiscal year 2024 allocation of amounts under the Native American Housing Block Grants program, as authorized under title I of Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4111 et seq.), the number of qualifying low-income housing dwelling units under section 302(b)(1) of such Act (25 U.S.C. 4152(b)(1)) shall not be reduced due to the placement of a Native American veteran assisted with amounts provided under the Tribal HUD-VASH Program within any such qualifying unit.

SEC. 239. (a) Subsection (a) of section 184 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 1715z–13a(a)) is amended to read as follows:

''(a) AUTHORITY.—To provide access to sources of private financing to Indian families, Indian housing authorities, and Indian tribes, who otherwise could not acquire

housing financing because of the unique legal status of Indian lands and the unique nature of tribal economies; and to expand homeownership opportunities to Indian families, Indian housing authorities and Indian tribes on fee simple lands, the Secretary may guarantee not to exceed 100 percent of the unpaid principal and interest due on any loan eligible under subsection (b) made to an Indian family, Indian housing authority, or Indian tribe on trust land and fee simple land.''.

(b) Paragraph (2) of section 184(b) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 1715z–13a(b)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

''(2) ELIGIBLE HOUSING.—The loan shall be used to construct, acquire, refinance, or rehabilitate 1- to 4-family dwellings that are standard housing.''.

SEC. 240. Section 105 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5305) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(i) SPECIAL ACTIVITIES BY INDIAN TRIBES.—Indian tribes receiving grants under section 106(a)(1) of this Act are authorized to carry out activities described in subsection (a)(15) of this section directly.''.

SEC. 241. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used in contravention of existing Federal law regarding non-citizen eligibility and ineligibility for occupancy in federally assisted housing or for participation in and assistance under federal housing programs, including section 214 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 1436a) and title IV of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.).

SEC. 242. Of the unobligated balances of amounts made available under the heading ''Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes'' from prior Acts making appropriations for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, $564,200,000 are hereby permanently rescinded.

SEC. 243. None of the funds made available to the Department of Housing and Urban Development in this or prior Acts may be used to issue a solicitation or accept bids on any solicitation that is substantially equivalent to the draft solicitation entitled ''Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) Contract Support Services (HAPSS)'' posted to www.Sam.gov on July 27, 2022.

SEC. 244. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to provide Federal funds to a local jurisdiction that refuses to comply with a request from the Department of Homeland Security to provide advance notice of the scheduled release date and time for a particular illegal alien in local custody.

This title may be cited as the ''Department of Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2024''.

TITLE III

RELATED AGENCIES

ACCESS BOARD

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Access Board, as authorized by section 502 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 792), $9,955,000.

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Federal Maritime Commission as authorized by section 46107 of title 46, United States Code, including services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; hire of passenger motor vehicles as authorized by section 1343(b) of title 31, United States Code; and uniforms or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code, $43,720,000, of which $2,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided,* That not to exceed $3,500 shall be for official reception and representation expenses.

NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General for the National Railroad Passenger Corporation to carry out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App. 3), $30,410,000: *Provided,* That the Inspector General shall have all necessary authority, in carrying out the duties specified in such Act, to investigate allegations of fraud, including false statements to the Government under section 1001 of title 18, United States Code, by any person or entity that is subject to regulation by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation: *Provided further,* That the Inspector General may enter into contracts and other arrangements for audits, studies, analyses, and other services with public agencies and with private persons, subject to the applicable laws and regulations that govern the obtaining of such services within the National Railroad Passenger Corporation: *Provided further,* That the Inspector General may select, appoint, and employ such officers and employees as may be necessary for carrying out the functions, powers, and duties of the Office of Inspector General, subject to the applicable laws and regulations that govern such selections, appointments, and employment within the National Railroad Passenger Corporation: *Provided further,* That concurrent with the President's budget request for fiscal year 2025, the Inspector General shall submit to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations a budget request for fiscal year 2025 in similar format and substance to budget requests submitted by executive agencies of the Federal Government.

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the National Transportation Safety Board, including hire of passenger motor vehicles and aircraft; services as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, but at rates for individuals not to exceed the per diem rate equivalent to the rate for a GS–15; uniforms, or allowances therefor, as authorized by sections 5901 and 5902 of title 5, United States Code, $145,000,000, of which not to exceed $2,000 may be used for official reception and representation expenses.

NEIGHBORHOOD REINVESTMENT CORPORATION

PAYMENT TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD REINVESTMENT CORPORATION

For payment to the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation for use in neighborhood reinvestment activities, as authorized by the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation Act (42 U.S.C. 8101–8107), $172,000,000.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Surface Transportation Board, including services authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, $48,184,000: *Provided,* That, notwithstanding any other provision of law, not to exceed $1,250,000 from fees established by the Surface Transportation Board shall be credited to this appropriation as offsetting collections and used for necessary and authorized expenses under this heading: *Provided further,* That the amounts made available under this heading from the general fund shall be reduced on a dollar-for-dollar basis as such offsetting collections are received during fiscal year 2024, to result in a final appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than $46,934,000.

UNITED STATES INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

OPERATING EXPENSES

For necessary expenses, including payment of salaries, authorized travel, hire of passenger motor vehicles, the rental of conference rooms, and the employment of experts and consultants under section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness in carrying out the functions pursuant to title II of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended, $4,188,000.

TITLE IV

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS ACT

(INCLUDING RESCISSIONS)

SEC. 401. None of the funds in this Act shall be used for the planning or execution of any program to pay the expenses of, or otherwise compensate, non-Federal parties intervening in regulatory or adjudicatory proceedings funded in this Act.

SEC. 402. None of the funds appropriated in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year, nor may any be transferred to other appropriations, unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 403. The expenditure of any appropriation under this Act for any consulting service through a procurement contract pursuant to section 3109 of title 5, United States Code, shall be limited to those contracts where such expenditures are a matter of public record and available for public inspection, except where otherwise provided under existing law, or under existing Executive Order issued pursuant to existing law.

SEC. 404. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be obligated or expended for any employee training that—

(1) does not meet identified needs for knowledge, skills, and abilities bearing directly upon the performance of official duties;

(2) contains elements likely to induce high levels of emotional response or psychological stress in some participants;

(3) does not require prior employee notification of the content and methods to be used in the training and written end of course evaluation;

(4) contains any methods or content associated with religious or quasi-religious belief systems or ''new age'' belief systems as defined in Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Notice N–915.022, dated September 2, 1988; or

(5) is offensive to, or designed to change, participants' personal values or lifestyle outside the workplace.

(b) Nothing in this section shall prohibit, restrict, or otherwise preclude an agency from conducting training bearing directly upon the performance of official duties.

SEC. 405. Except as otherwise provided in this Act, none of the funds provided in this Act, provided by previous appropriations Acts to the agencies or entities funded in this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2024, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury derived by the collection of fees and available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that—

(1) creates a new program;

(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 the Congress;

(4) proposes to use funds directed for a specific activity by either the House or Senate Committees on Appropriations for a different purpose;

(5) augments existing programs, projects, or activities in excess of $5,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less;

(6) reduces existing programs, projects, or activities by $5,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less; or

(7) creates, reorganizes, or restructures a branch, division, office, bureau, board, commission, agency, administration, or department different from the budget justifications submitted to the Committees on Appropriations or the table in the Report accompanying this Act, whichever is more detailed, unless prior approval is received from the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations:

Provided, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, each agency funded by this Act shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and of the House of Representatives to establish the baseline for application of reprogramming and transfer authorities for the current fiscal year: *Provided further,* That the report shall include—

(A) a table for each appropriation with a separate column to display the prior year enacted level, the President's budget request, adjustments made by Congress, adjustments due to enacted rescissions, if appropriate, and the fiscal year enacted level;

(B) a delineation in the table for each appropriation and its respective prior year enacted level by object class and program, project, and activity as detailed in this Act, the table in the Report accompanying this Act or in the budget appendix for the respective appropriations whichever is more detailed, and shall apply to all items for which a dollar amount is specified and to all programs for which new budget (obligational) authority is provided, as well as to discretionary grants and discretionary grant allocations; and

(C) an identification of items of special congressional interest.

SEC. 406. Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, not to exceed 50 percent of unobligated balances remaining available at the end of fiscal year 2024 from appropriations made available for salaries and expenses for fiscal year 2024 in this Act, shall remain available through September 30, 2025, for each such account for the purposes authorized: *Provided,* That a request shall be submitted to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations for approval prior to the expenditure of such funds: *Provided further,* That these requests shall be made in compliance with reprogramming guidelines under section 405 of this Act.

SEC. 407. No funds in this Act may be used to support any Federal, State, or local projects that seek to use the power of eminent domain, unless eminent domain is employed only for a public use: *Provided,* That for purposes of this section, public use shall not be construed to include economic development that primarily benefits private entities: *Provided further,* That any use of funds for mass transit, railroad, airport, seaport or highway projects, as well as utility projects which benefit or serve the general public (including energy-related, communication-related, water-related and wastewater-related infrastructure), other structures designated for use by the general public or which have other common-carrier or public-utility functions that serve the general public and are subject to regulation and oversight by the government, and projects for the removal of an immediate threat to public health and safety or brownfields as defined in the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act (Public Law 107–118) shall be considered a public use for purposes of eminent domain.

SEC. 408. None of the funds made available in this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government, except pursuant to a transfer made by, or transfer authority provided in, this Act or any other appropriations Act.

SEC. 409. No funds appropriated pursuant to this Act may be expended by an entity unless the entity agrees that in expending the assistance the entity will comply with sections 2 through 4 of the Act of March 3, 1933 (41 U.S.C. 8301–8305, popularly known as the ''Buy American Act'').

SEC. 410. No funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act shall be made available to any person or entity that has been convicted of violating the Buy American Act (41 U.S.C. 8301–8305).

SEC. 411. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for first-class airline accommodations in contravention of sections 301–10.122 and 301–10.123 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 412. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to send or otherwise pay for the attendance of more than 50 employees of a single agency or department of the United States Government, who are stationed in the United States, at any single international conference unless the relevant Secretary reports to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations at least 5 days in advance that such attendance is important to the national interest: *Provided,* That for purposes of this section the term ''international conference'' shall mean a conference occurring outside of the United States attended by representatives of the United States Government and of foreign governments, international organizations, or nongovernmental organizations.

SEC. 413. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act may be used by the Surface Transportation Board to charge or collect any filing fee for rate or practice complaints filed with the Board in an amount in excess of the amount authorized for district court civil suit filing fees under section 1914 of title 28, United States Code.

SEC. 414. (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. 415. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to deny an Inspector General funded under this Act timely access to any records, documents, or other materials available to the department or agency over which that Inspector General has responsibilities under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), or to prevent or impede that Inspector General's access to such records, documents, or other materials, under any provision of law, except a provision of law that expressly refers to the Inspector General and expressly limits the Inspector General's right of access.

(b) A department or agency covered by this section shall provide its Inspector General with access to all such records, documents, and other materials in a timely manner.

(c) Each Inspector General shall ensure compliance with statutory limitations on disclosure relevant to the information provided by the establishment over which that Inspector General has responsibilities under the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.).

(d) Each Inspector General covered by this section shall report to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate within 5 calendar days any failures to comply with this requirement.

SEC. 416. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to pay award or incentive fees for contractors whose performance has been judged to be below satisfactory, behind schedule, over budget, or has failed to meet the basic requirements of a contract, unless the Agency determines that any such deviations are due to unforeseeable events, government-driven scope changes, or are not significant within the overall scope of the project and/or program unless such awards or incentive fees are consistent with 16.401(e)(2) of the Federal Acquisition Regulations.

SEC. 417. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall be available to pay the salary for any person filling a position, other than a temporary position, formerly held by an employee who has left to enter the Armed Forces of the United States and has satisfactorily completed his or her period of active military or naval service, and has within 90 days after his or her release from such service or from hospitalization continuing after discharge for a period of not more than 1 year, made application for restoration to his or her former position and has been certified by the Office of Personnel Management as still qualified to perform the duties of his or her former position and has not been restored thereto.

SEC. 418. (a) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to approve a new foreign air carrier permit under sections 41301 through 41305 of title 49, United States Code, or exemption application under section 40109 of that title of an air carrier already holding an air operators certificate issued by a country that is party to the U.S.-E.U.-Iceland-Norway Air Transport Agreement where such approval would contravene United States law or Article 17 bis of the U.S.-E.U.-Iceland-Norway Air Transport Agreement.

(b) Nothing in this section shall prohibit, restrict or otherwise preclude the Secretary of Transportation from granting a foreign air carrier permit or an exemption to such an air carrier where such authorization is consistent with the U.S.-E.U.-Iceland-Norway Air Transport Agreement and United States law.

SEC. 419. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under this Act may be used to operate, procure, or enter into a contracting action related to acquire unmanned aircraft systems, as defined under section 44801 of title 49, United States Code, manufactured by an entity that is—

(1) included on the Consolidated Screening List or Entity List as designated by the Secretary of Commerce;

(2) included in the Chinese Military-Industrial Complex list by the Secretary of the Treasury;

(3) included in the 1260H list by the Secretary of Defense;

(4) domiciled in the People's Republic of China;

(5) subject to influence or control by the government of the People's Republic of China; or

(6) a subsidiary or affiliate of an entity described in paragraphs (1) through (5).

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to an operation, procurement, or contracting action that—

(1) is for purposes of counter-UAS testing, analysis, training, or aviation safety testing and research; and

(2) notification is provided in writing not later than 15 days after making an expenditure to such an operation, procurement, or contracting action to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives

and the Senate in a manner that identifies the unmanned aircraft system and intended use of such system, provided that such notification may include a classified annex, as necessary.

SEC. 420. Of the unobligated balances available in Public Law 117-169, $25,035,000,000 available under section 10301(1)(A)(ii) as of the date of the enactment of this Act are permanently rescinded.

SEC. 421. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to provide any education, training, or professional development that utilizes, promotes, or teaches Critical Race Theory, any concept associated with Critical Race Theory, or that teaches or trains any idea or concept that condones an individual being discriminated against or receiving adverse or beneficial treatment based on race or sex, that condones an individual feeling discomfort, guilt, anguish, or any other form of psychological distress on account of that individual's race or sex, as well as any idea or concept that regards one race as inherently superior to another race, the United States or its institutions as being systemically racist or sexist, an individual as being inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive by virtue of that individual's race or sex, an individual's moral character as being necessarily determined by race or sex, an individual as bearing responsibility for actions committed in the past by other members of the same race or sex, or meritocracy being racist, sexist, or having been created by a particular race to oppress another race.

SEC. 422. The Secretary of Transportation and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall provide the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations quarterly written notification regarding the status of pending congressional reports.

SEC. 423. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish, administer, or enforce any requirement to elevate any structure that is newly constructed, substantially repaired, or substantially improved and is located within the areas impacted or distressed as a result of a major disaster declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) and within a special flood hazard area for purposes of the National Flood Insurance Program, to an elevation higher than the elevation required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency under the National Flood Insurance Program.

SEC. 424. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in contravention of section 312 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5155).

SEC. 425. With respect to a person who has received Federal assistance for a major disaster or emergency under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) related to Major Disaster Declarations for Disaster Number 4263 from March of 2016 or Disaster Number 4277 from August of 2016, none of the funds under this or a prior Act shall be used to enforce an income threshold to limit the eligibility of such recipient from qualifying for a waiver of the general prohibition of the duplication of benefits under section 312(b)(4) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5155(b)(4)) for assistance made available under section 145(a) of division C of Public Law 114-223, section 192(b) of division C of Public Law 114-223, or section 421 of division K of Public Law 115-31.

SEC. 426. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to facilitate new scheduled air transportation originating from the United States if such flights would land on, or pass through, property confiscated by the Cuban Government, including property in which a minority interest was confiscated, as the terms confiscated, by the Cuban Government, and property are defined in paragraphs (4), (5), and (12)(A), respectively, of section 4 of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (22 U.S.C. 6023 (4), (5), and 7 (12)(A)): *Provided*, That for this section, new scheduled air transportation shall include any flights not already regularly scheduled prior to May 2022.

SEC. 427. (a) In the table of projects in the explanatory statement referenced in section 417 of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2022 (division L of Public Law 117-103) the item relating to ''Midland Center for the Arts only for structural improvements'' is deemed to be amended by striking recipient ''City of Midland'' and inserting ''Midland Center for the Arts.''

(b) In the table of projects entitled ''Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending'' included in the explanatory statement that accompanied the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2023 (division L of Public Law 117-328)—

(1) the item relating to ''River Road Homes Affordable Housing Infrastructure'' is deemed to be amended by striking recipient ''Town of Canaan'' and inserting ''Falls Village Housing Trust Inc.''; and

(2) the item relating to ''The Star Community Family Life Center'' is deemed to be amended by striking recipient ''The Star Community Family Life Center'' and inserting ''Morning Star Baptist Life Center Five Star Program, Inc.''

SEC. 428. None of the funds made available in this Act or any other Act may be used for any activities related to the implementation of Priced Zones (Cordon Pricing) under the Value Pricing Pilot Program or New York City's Central Business District Tolling Program.

SEC. 429. None of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act may be used for any program, project, or activity associated with the collection of tolls on Interstate Route 5 or Interstate Route 205 in the State of Oregon.

SEC. 430. None of the funds made available by this Act may be obligated or expended to fly or display a flag over a facility of a Department or agency funded by this Act other than the flag of the United States; the flag of a State, insular area, or the District of Columbia; the flag of a Federally recognized Tribal entity; the official flag of the Secretary of Transportation or the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; the official flag of a U.S. Department or agency; or the POW/MIA flag.

SEC. 431. (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 7 of title 1, United States Code, section 1738C of title 28, United States Code, or any other provision of law, none of the funds provided by this Act, or previous appropriations Acts, shall be used in whole or in part to take any discriminatory action against a person, wholly or partially, on the basis that such person speaks, or acts, in accordance with a sincerely held religious belief, or moral conviction, that marriage is, or should be recognized as, a union of one man and one woman.

(b) DISCRIMINATORY ACTION DEFINED.—As used in subsection (a), a discriminatory action means any action taken by the Federal Government to—

(1) alter in any way the Federal tax treatment of, or cause any tax, penalty, or payment to be assessed against, or deny, delay, or revoke an exemption from taxation under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 of, any person referred to in subsection (a);

(2) disallow a deduction for Federal tax purposes of any charitable contribution made to or by such person;

(3) withhold, reduce the amount or funding for, exclude, terminate, or otherwise make unavailable or deny, any Federal grant, contract, subcontract, cooperative agreement, guarantee, loan, scholarship, license, certification, accreditation, employment, or other similar position or status from or to such person;

(4) withhold, reduce, exclude, terminate, or otherwise make unavailable or deny, any entitlement or benefit under a Federal benefit program, including admission to, equal treatment in, or eligibility for a degree from an educational program, from or to such person; or

(5) withhold, reduce, exclude, terminate, or otherwise make unavailable or deny access or an entitlement to Federal property, facilities, educational institutions, speech fora (including traditional, limited, and nonpublic fora), or charitable fundraising campaigns from or to such person.

(c) ACCREDITATION; LICENSURE; CERTIFICATION.—The Federal Government shall consider accredited, licensed, or certified for purposes of Federal law any person that would be accredited, licensed, or certified, respectively, for such purposes but for a determination against such person wholly or partially on the basis that the person speaks, or acts, in accordance with a sincerely held religious belief or moral conviction described in subsection (a).

SEC. 432. None of the funds made available by this title may be used in contravention of section 642 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996.

SEC. 433. (a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds made available, limited, or otherwise affected by this Act shall be used to approve or otherwise authorize the imposition of any toll on any segment of highway or bridge located on the Federal-aid system in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that—

(1) as of the date of enactment of this Act, is not tolled;

(2) is constructed with Federal assistance provided under title 23, United States Code;

(3) is constructed with Federal assistance provided under section 141 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

(4) is in actual operation as of the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) NUMBER OF TOLL LANES.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to any segment of highway on the Federal-aid system described in that subsection that, as of the date on which a toll is imposed on the segment, will have the same number of nontoll lanes as were in existence prior to that date.

(2) HIGH-OCCUPANCY VEHICLE LANES.—A high-occupancy vehicle lane that is converted to a toll lane shall not be subject to this section, and shall not be considered to be a non-toll lane for purposes of determining whether a highway will have fewer non-toll lanes than prior to the date of imposition of the toll, if—

(A) high-occupancy vehicles occupied by the number of passengers specified by the entity operating the toll lane may use the toll lane without paying a toll, unless otherwise specified by the appropriate county, town, municipal or other local government entity, or public toll road or transit authority; or

(B) each high-occupancy vehicle lane that was converted to a toll lane was constructed as a temporary lane to be replaced by a toll lane under a plan approved by the appropriate county, town, municipal or other local government entity, or public toll road or transit authority.

SEC. 434. Spending Reduction Account—The amount by which the applicable allocation of new budget authority made by the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives under section 302(b) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 exceeds the amount of proposed new budget authority is $0.

This Act may be cited as the ''Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024''.

The Acting CHAIR. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived.

No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in part B of House Report 118–261, amendments en bloc described in section 8 of House Resolution 838, and pro forma amendments described in section 9 of House Resolution 838.

Each amendment printed in part B of House Report 118–261 may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by the Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided by section 9 of House Resolution 838, 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 House Report 118–261 not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees, shall not be subject to amendment, except as provided by section 9 of House Resolution 838, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

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

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. COLE OF OKLAHOMA

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, pursuant to House Resolution 838, I offer amendments en bloc.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc No. 1 consisting of amendment Nos. 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 26, 27, 28, 33, 35, 38, 39, 41, and 42 printed in part B of House Report 118–261 offered by Mr. COLE of Oklahoma:

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. FALLON OF TEXAS

Page 2, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000)''.

Page 3, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000)''.

Page 6, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MS. HAGEMAN OF WYOMING

Page 2, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $5,000,000)''.

Page 3, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $5,000,000)''.

Page 19, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $5,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. PFLUGER OF TEXAS

Page 4, line 13, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000)''.

Page 118, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

Page 119, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. ESPAILLAT OF NEW YORK

Page 6, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000) (reduced by $1,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. SWALWELL OF CALIFORNIA

Page 14, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,745,532,000) (increased by $1,745,532,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MRS. RODGERS OF WASHINGTON

Page 19, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $32,000,000) (decreased by $32,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. SWALWELL OF CALIFORNIA

Page 21, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000) (increased by $1,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MR. ALLRED OF TEXAS

Page 30, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000) (increased by $1,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 12 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS

Page 53, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000) (increased by $1,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 14 OFFERED BY MR. GOTTHEIMER OF NEW JERSEY

Page 53, line 16 after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000) (increased by $1,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO OF NEW YORK

Page 54, line 2, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $100,000,000) (increased by $100,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 16 OFFERED BY MR. GARBARINO OF NEW YORK

Page 55, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,160,769,000) (reduced by $1,160,769,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 17 OFFERED BY MR. LAWLER OF NEW YORK

Page 55, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,160,000,000) (decreased by $1,160,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 18 OFFERED BY MR. LAWLER OF NEW YORK

Page 55, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $416,000,000) (reduced by $416,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 19 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO OF NEW YORK

Page 55, line 23, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $100,000,000) (increased by $100,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 21 OFFERED BY MS. CROCKETT OF TEXAS

Page 59, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $130,828,124) (increased by $130,828,124)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 26 OFFERED BY MS. MOORE OF WISCONSIN

Page 80, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000)''.

Page 120, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

Page 120, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

Page 121, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 27 OFFERED BY MR. MAST OF FLORIDA

Page 80, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $4,680,000)''.

Page 81, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $4,680,000)''.

Page 81, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $4,680,000)''.

Page 118, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $4,680,000)''.

Page 119, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $4,680,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 28 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO OF NEW YORK

Page 80, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert (''reduced by $2,500,000)''.

Page 81, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $2,500,000)''.

Page 82, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $2,500,000)''.

Page 82, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $2,500,000)''.

Page 131, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $5,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 33 OFFERED BY MR. ESPAILLAT OF NEW YORK

Page 98, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000) (reduced by $1,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 35 OFFERED BY MR. BARR OF KENTUCKY

Page 111, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $30,000,000)''.

Page 112, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $30,000,000)''.

Page 142, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $30,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 38 OFFERED BY MRS. BEATTY OF OHIO

On page 114, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000,000) (reduced by $1,000,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 39 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO OF NEW YORK

Page 120, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increase by $3,350,000,000) (reduce by $3,350,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 41 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO OF NEW YORK

Page 139, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increase by $345,000,000) (reduce by $345,000,000)''.

AMENDMENT NO. 42 OFFERED BY MR. ESPAILLAT OF NEW YORK

Page 139, line 25, after ''hazards,'' insert ''such as fire hazards,''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY), each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

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

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this bipartisan en bloc amendment which represents amendments from both sides of the aisle. The en bloc includes 25 noncontroversial amendments that reiterate our collective support

for the Nation's transportation and housing needs.

Mr. Chairman, I thank my good friend Ranking Member QUIGLEY and all Members who have worked with us on this en bloc, and I ask my colleagues to support the amendment.

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

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

Mr. Chair, I rise in support of this en bloc amendment. This includes amendments from both parties and was crafted through consultation between the majority and the minority.

This amendment supports critical infrastructure, safety, and housing programs to emphasize the importance of achieving robust investment.

Mr. Chairman, I support the amendment, I urge its adoption, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS), who is the chairman on the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of my amendment to recognize Washington State University and celebrate the success of their ASCENT program. This program is the primary university-based education and research vehicle for the FAA, and it is laser focused on developing new and exciting technology we need to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

By working with stakeholders and industry leaders, students and faculty at WSU are showing the world what is possible. Their research is revolutionizing the way we think about sustainable aviation fuel, and it is helping secure a cleaner future.

Today, we have the opportunity to ensure the work continues. We can fully fund the ASCENT program and make sure America continues to lead the way to usher in a new era of innovation and win the future.

Mr. Chairman, this program will help America keep its competitive edge, and I strongly urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE).

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, I thank the ranking member and chairman for their leadership.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment is simple. It is amendment No. 26, and it would increase funds for the continuum of care grants under the McKinney-Vento Homelessness Assistance program by $1 million to help survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking who are experiencing homelessness and provide them the resources they need to leave abusive and harmful situations.

These grants provide local organizations, faith-based organizations, and Tribal entities with the funds necessary to help combat our Nation's homelessness crisis. Domestic violence shelters funded by the continuum of care grants are the first place survivors turn to in order to provide them with the opportunity to escape dangerous and abusive situations and ultimately helps to prevent the loss of life at the hand of abusers.

In my own State we had a record number of domestic violence loss in 2022 at a rate of one death every 3.8 days.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Wisconsin.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this en bloc amendment.

I would end with a question asked by Jenna Gormal: Will we invest in prevention measures, housing, economic, and racial equity, commonsense firearms regulations, body autonomy, or will we accept the deaths of our family and community members at the hands of domestic violence?

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST).

Mr. MAST. Mr. Chair, the amount of teleworking in Washington is astronomical. We all know post-pandemic it is nearly impossible to get an employee of a Federal agency on the phone because they are still working in their homes and not in the office.

Perhaps some of the worst offenders are those at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD. According to a GAO study from July of this year, the occupancy rate of HUD's headquarters, the Robert C. Weaver Federal building, is roughly 9 percent occupancy. The building is just a stone's throw from here where we are sitting right now, and it is sitting basically empty.

Why, then, I ask, are we proposing to spend $4.68 million to modernize a building that very few are using?

I propose we do something else with that money. At the same time many of our Nation's veterans are living in untenable conditions, and they have lived with physical disabilities as a result of war. I am here today to argue that a better use of that $4.68 million is to support low-income veterans via the Veterans Housing Rehabilitation and Modification Pilot Program.

This program provides awards through competitive grants to nonprofit organizations that provide nationwide or State programs that primarily serve low-income veterans. Once the grant is received, the veterans' homes receive modifications such as wheelchair ramps, widening door thresholds to accommodate mobility needs, shower bars, and things related to that.

It is estimated that with the money that would be transferred there, they would be able to modify hundreds of more homes for these veterans.

Mr. Chairman, I thank the chairman, and I thank the ranking member for making my amendment as a part of the en bloc package. I urge my colleagues to support the adoption of the en bloc package.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Chairman, I thank Ranking Member QUIGLEY for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my en bloc amendment filed with my colleague, Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI, which highlights the importance of the HOME Investment Partnership program to meet affordable housing needs in the United States.

For 30 years, Mr. Chair, HOME has proven to be one of the most effective locally driven tools to help States and communities address their most pressing housing challenges; whether that is new affordable housing construction, rehabilitation of existing buildings, homebuyer assistance, and tenant-based rental assistance, including veterans, as we approach Veterans Day, persons with disabilities, seniors, and persons experiencing homelessness.

We cannot slash or cut these funds because we know slashing the funds for the HOME program from $1.7 million to $500 million—the lowest allocation since the program was established in 1992—at a time when the Nation, and as we all know in all districts, is facing an affordable housing crisis, with record lows in housing inventory and soaring rents and construction costs, slashing such an essential housing program by nearly 70 percent is unthinkable.

Every American deserves access to safe and affordable housing, and every single one of my colleagues in this Chamber ought to support the HOME program to be fully funded to achieve that purpose.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support my amendment, and I urge them to support the robust funding for the HOME program.

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI).

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, I thank my colleague Representative BEATTY for her leadership.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of this amendment to highlight the importance of the HOME Investment Partnership Program in meeting the needs of working families across America.

Hardworking Americans deserve to have a house, and they deserve to have a home. We face drastic shortages of affordable housing in California and in most every other part of America. Housing costs have skyrocketed significantly, outpacing incomes.

This is why the President's budget rightfully included $1.8 billion for the HOME Investment Partnership Program. This funding will help construction and rehabilitation of affordable rental housing as well as providing

homeownership opportunities for working families. We must support the funding programs like HOME to ensure that every American has a home.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chairman, I support the en bloc amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman's support. I also, obviously, support the en bloc amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE).

The en bloc amendments were agreed to.

□ 1930

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. LAWLER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part B of House Report 118–261.

Mr. LAWLER. 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 4, line 13, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $10,000,000)''.

Page 54, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $10,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAWLER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Chair, tonight, I rise to advocate for the passage of my amendment to the T-HUD bill, amendment No. 3, which would allocate an additional $10 million toward the DOT's Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements account, otherwise known as CRISI.

The CRISI program is designed to provide financial support for project development and infrastructure upgrades, including station improvements, improving rail system reliability, and grade crossing projects, to ensure efficient and safe rail service.

CRISI also assists with the creation and improvement of grade crossing projects, something of critical importance to my constituents and others across the country.

Nowhere is rail safety more important than in New York's 17th Congressional District, where hundreds of thousands of my constituents live within 5 miles of a train track or train station.

Earlier this year, we saw the impacts of rail safety concerns when a sweeping brush fire was ignited near the train tracks in Rockland County. Thankfully, due to the efforts of our heroic first responders, no one was injured or killed, but the fire came awfully close to doing serious damage and causing potential loss of life, which is why it is so critical to ensure that CRISI is funded appropriately.

Earlier this year, I sent a letter with dozens of my colleagues calling for the full funding of this program, and this amendment helps toward that goal.

Rail safety is not something that should be shortchanged in funding, especially after the disasters we have seen nationwide, including in East Palestine, Ohio.

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chair, I rise in reluctant opposition to this amendment because while I strongly support the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement Program, I do not support diverting resources that are also necessary to support the Department's investments in research and workforce development.

The Office of the Secretary's Research and Technology program coordinates and collaborates with public and private partners to invest in research that will make our transportation system more safe, efficient, competitive, accessible, and sustainable.

OST-R has already been cut by almost 15 percent in this bill, and another $10 million cut in research and these partnerships would be a major step backward.

We simply cannot rob Peter to pay Paul. That said, it is good to see a colleague on the other side of the aisle recognize the importance of the CRISI program and the inadequacy of its current funding level, but let's also be frank with each other. The bill we are talking about here cuts the CRISI program by over $280 million. It is essentially cut in half. A $10 million increase in this amendment in the context of $280 million in cuts isn't undoing so much damage.

The larger issue here is that the majority chose to write the T-HUD bill to an allocation that does not adequately support the needs of the agencies and programs within the bill. My friends across the aisle need to stop wasting time and work with House Democrats to write spending bills in accordance with the bipartisan Fiscal Responsibility Act.

Mr. Chair, I look forward to working with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to increase funding for the CRISI program once the majority increases the allocation of the T-HUD bill. Again, I support the intent of the increase of the CRISI program, but I do not support the offset.

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

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE), the chair of the Rules Committee.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I rise in support of his amendment.

There is no question that the CRISI program is incredibly popular and improves the safety and efficiency of passenger and freight rail. It is the most in-demand program, and despite having over a billion dollars, we quite often get more requests.

Mr. Chair, this is a very good and thoughtful request, and I am happy to support it.

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Chair, I think it is important, obviously, to increase support for safety improvements, given some of the incidents that we have seen across the country.

Mr. Chair, in response to my colleague across the aisle, I don't think we would be in this situation if the prior Congress didn't increase spending by over $5 trillion in 2 years. In looking to find savings for the American taxpayer while making sure that these programs are funded to the degree that they need to be, I think it is important that we increase funding in this account by $10 million, and I encourage all of my colleagues to support that.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAWLER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MS. ESCOBAR

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in part B of House Report 118–261.

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 5, line 5, after the first dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $10,550,000) (increased by $10,550,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. ESCOBAR) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Chair, my amendment highlights the importance of the Thriving Communities Program within the Department of Transportation, which my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have struck funding for.

The Biden-Harris administration launched the much-needed program in 2022 to prepare State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments to better access Federal funding for their communities. This program is intended to help provide technical assistance to underresourced and disadvantaged communities to help them identify, develop, and deliver on transportation, housing, and other much-needed community revitalization opportunities.

It is unfortunate to see that my colleagues on the other side have eliminated this program, which helps communities in their own districts. Not only does the program provide technical assistance, but it also provides

grant and financial management support, predevelopment assistance, community engagement, planning, and project delivery support.

With historical funding provided by the bipartisan infrastructure law and the Inflation Reduction Act, it has been a priority for the Biden-Harris administration to ensure Federal investments that tackle climate, clean energy, and transportation initiatives are equitably distributed to economically disadvantaged communities as well as rural communities.

In fact, many of the same colleagues who approve of slashing this funding have actually enjoyed and celebrated the projects built in their districts with this money.

I represent El Paso, Texas, an economically disadvantaged community that would benefit from the Thriving Communities Program. By eliminating this program, communities like mine and many like it across the country will not have the needed resources or equal opportunity to access and benefit from available Federal funding for vital projects in their communities. Rural communities, especially, will suffer.

As we all know, economically disadvantaged and rural communities across this country deserve programs like this because they know their needs but lack the needed resources to seek Federal funding.

It is programs like the Thriving Communities Program that continue to help the most vulnerable access the historic Federal funding passed by the bipartisan infrastructure law and Inflation Reduction Act.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chair, the Thriving Communities Program is duplicative to the technical assistance already provided by the DOT's Office of the Secretary.

I recognize the burdens that rural, Tribal, and disadvantaged communities face in obtaining Federal grant funds, but a $25 million office focused on providing additional technical assistance is unnecessary.

DOT should focus on simplifying the grant application process as opposed to a slush fund for additional grant consultants.

I understand that this program has received a total of $50 million in funding over the last 2 years. However, even the Senate recognizes that this program does not need any more funding. They detail in their report that they are also not providing any funding for this program this year because the program still has $28 million in unused balances.

I simply don't think it is necessary, and I urge the rejection of the amendment.

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

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY).

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of my colleague's amendment. The Thriving Communities Program facilitates the planning and development of community revitalization activities to ensure that underresourced and disadvantaged communities can access funding provided in the bipartisan infrastructure law.

Many rural and Tribal communities that have suffered historic disinvestment lack the resources and capacity to successfully develop infrastructure projects and access critical Federal funding.

The elimination of the Thriving Communities Program is just another example of my colleagues across the aisle turning their back on the very communities they represent.

Mr. Chair, I strongly support my colleague's amendment.

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Chair, eliminating this funding is reckless. It will make it harder for underserved and rural communities across the United States to access this much-needed Federal funding.

We know that investment in infrastructure doesn't just help rebuild our country, but it also creates badly needed American jobs that help communities across America thrive. That is why I ask my colleagues to support this amendment.

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

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

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

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

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in part B of House Report 118–261.

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 5, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $6,750,000)''.

Page 203, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $6,750,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, 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 reduces the funding level for the National Surface Transportation and Innovation Finance Bureau to the fiscal year 2022 level, saving $6.75 million.

This office was created by the FAST Act solely to help entities apply for Federal subsidies for transportation projects. It has become so complicated, and there are so many different programs, that now we have to have an entity that navigates interested parties through it.

In fiscal year 2022, this program was funded at $3.8 million. In this House bill, just 2 years later, it is funded at $10.55 million.

Let's think about that. We are lending out so much money from the taxpayers that we need to use taxpayer dollars to create an office to assist people looking to take those loans.

This office is supposed to streamline and improve the application process for DOT's credit assistance programs, according to the Department of Transportation website. These programs, which include TIFIA and RRIF credit assistance programs, have very favorable terms for the borrower. Unfortunately, they have unfavorable terms for the taxpayer.

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

□ 1945

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment to cut funding for the Build America Bureau by more than half.

The Build America Bureau supports transportation and infrastructure development projects by working closely with States, municipalities, and project sponsors to provide technical assistance on preplanning and project development. They help with applying for credit programs and cultivate public-private partnerships.

This helps communities successfully develop projects and navigate available public and private financing opportunities which require significant capacity and expertise that can be a barrier for many small, rural, or otherwise disadvantaged communities looking to access capital.

We should support programs that make it easier to build, and I urge my colleagues to reject this amendment.

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, these programs, unfortunately, often finance projects that have little or no value to interstate commerce.

This is the Federal Government. The Federal Government exists to do things that the State and local governments can't do, but yet the State and local governments can do these things. They just choose not to. I don't blame them. Why would they when the Federal Government will pay for them?

I will give you some examples:

It includes $606 million in TIFIA assistance to the Moynihan Train Hall project in New York City to relieve congestion at Penn Station.

It includes $99 million in TIFIA assistance to the city of Bellevue, Washington, for 12 multimodal roadways to support the new Bel-Red neighborhood in the heart of the city. It is great for those cities. I am sure it is wonderful, but that project alone included 25,000 linear feet of sidewalk and 21,000 linear feet of dedicated and separate bike lanes, all within one city.

They weren't crossing State lines. People in Pennsylvania are paying for the one in Washington, people in New Mexico, Florida. They are not there, though. They just get to pay for it.

It also includes $908 million in TIFIA assistance to a regional rail project that only traverses through three counties in Texas.

What region is that? I guess that is the Texas region, right? It is not the Southwest. I mean, it is technically, but this doesn't cross any State lines. There is no interstate nexus here. There is no reason for the Federal Government to be involved.

I am sure these projects and many more funded by these programs are appreciated by the residents of these areas. I am absolutely certain of it. I am also sure that I am in the minority when I say there should be fewer of these programs to redistribute taxpayer-funded subsidies across the country. We simply can't afford them. We simply can't afford them.

I know I am going to be a broken record, but we are going to hear the broken record of $33 trillion in debt and climbing every single day at exponential rates unseen before in history. At a bare minimum, instead of creating an increasing funding for an office to manage the web of bureaucracy of these subsidy programs, why don't we actually cut these programs, especially the duplicative ones?

My colleague on the other side of the aisle says it exists to help them apply and successfully develop projects. I am sure it does. I am sure they develop the projects just to receive this money. That is why they do it, because this thing exists. Maybe the project wouldn't exist if it weren't for this first.

He says it requires expertise. I am sure it does because it is complicated. It is so complicated that we have a bureau now just to navigate these things for grant recipients and would-be grant recipients and funding recipients. We can't afford this. We don't need this, and I urge adoption.

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. KIM).

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Mr. Chair, I rise today in concern over implications and consequences of what is before us with this bill. I rise in opposition to proposed cuts to Amtrak that will diminish the funding it needs to provide the service Americans rely on every day.

I know how important Amtrak is because I am one of those Americans who rely on its service. I am one of 9.3 million Americans who used the Northeast Corridor in 2022 to get home, see family, or conduct business. In fact, I just rode the Amtrak train down today to be here at the Capitol to do the work of this country. I am one of nearly 23 million Americans nationwide who have used Amtrak last year to bring our communities closer together and help create economic opportunities for working people.

For this reason, at the appropriate time, I will offer a motion to recommit this bill back to committee and will insert this as text into the RECORD. If the House rules permit, I would have offered the motion with an important amendment to this bill.

My amendment would increase the level of grants for the Northeast Corridor and National Network to match the fiscal year 2023 enacted level. In short, it would help make sure a critical program that millions rely on has the funding it needs to continue operating at the level the American people expect.

Unfortunately, delivering for the American people is not a priority in this Republican budget. This budget guts Amtrak funding by 64 percent. It guts funding for the Northeast Corridor by 92 percent, and it eliminates critical programs for rail safety at a time when we should be prioritizing safety for our workers and our communities.

This Republican budget impacts my home State of New Jersey particularly hard. At a time when train derailments are costing lives, this budget would result in nearly 200 fewer safety inspections in my State of New Jersey alone. At a time when we should be investing in our infrastructure, New Jersey stands to lose nearly $173 million in funding for our transit and highway projects.

New Jersey deserves better, and America deserves better. We can start to make this right for them by passing this MTR to provide the funding we need for programs that millions of Americans depend on.

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

Mr. Kim of New Jersey moves to recommit the bill H.R. 4820 to the committee on Appropriations with the following amendments.

Page 55, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,160,769,000)''.

Page 55, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $416,624,000)''

Mr. QUIGLEY. 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 amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair understands that amendment No. 13 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 20 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 20 printed in part B of House Report 118–261.

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 55, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $776,376,000)''.

Page 203, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $776,376,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, 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, let's be clear. The gentleman who spoke just before me that just rode the train in from New Jersey today should have no problem with this amendment because it does nothing to the Northeast Corridor. However, what it does do, it cuts the over $776 million in funding for the National Network of the National Railroad Passenger Corporation.

I understand that the President has an affinity for passenger rail, especially Amtrak. Amtrak's 15-year vision released in 2021 mirrors that enthusiasm, plotting out an ambitious 39 new routes in the next 15 years. The problem is, it can't be said enough here in Washington, we are out of money. We are borrowing money to pay these bills.

The behemoth IIJA passed just a few years ago contained billions in funding directly for both the Northeast Corridor, which the good gentleman from New Jersey just talked about, but also the National Network.

This doesn't include billions of dollars going to passenger rail grant and loan programs at DOT, many of which Amtrak has been and remains eligible for at this moment. It doesn't include it. This amounts to at least $4.4 billion for Amtrak across both accounts. They are already getting that, $4.4 billion per year, preauthorized, prepaid. Why in the world would we continue to pump money into a budget line item that will automatically get generous support for the next few years at least? Like I just said, $4.4 billion.

Furthermore, this ignores that sucking chest wound of Amtrak's finances. Even before the pandemic, Amtrak's ticket revenue wasn't meeting its operating expenses; and now after the pandemic, numbers look even more grim. In FY22 Amtrak ran an astounding $886 million operating deficit, $806 million of which was from the National Network, easily the lion's share. We simply must stop the bleeding.

While I didn't vote for the Biden blowout infrastructure bill, it did contain a supplemental appropriation of $3.2 billion per year for FY22 through FY26 for Amtrak's National Network. They are already getting that $3.2 billion.

This amendment simply cuts $776 million contained in this bill, the bill that we are trying to move today, this bill, from the National Network.

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment and its extreme proposal to zero out the National Network grants. Amtrak's National Network trains carried 16.5 million people last year and provided the only intercity public transportation in many small rural communities.

Without this grant, nearly all of Amtrak's service outside of the Boston-Washington Northeast Corridor—15 long-distance routes that are the only Amtrak service in 23 States, and 28 State-supported short-distance routes funded through Amtrak State partnerships—would disappear. That would include the Texas Eagle from Chicago to Arkansas.

How would I visit Mr. WOMACK or Mr. HILL in Arkansas without this, just to name a few?

The funding in this committee bill is already woefully short of ensuring the National Network is safe, reliable, and on time. Funding for the National Network has already been cut by 35 percent, from $1.2 billion to $776 million which, if enacted, would radically reduce or suspend service on rail lines across the country.

It also cuts funding for the Amtrak workforce of more than 20,000 employees, including almost 3,000 employees in the State of Pennsylvania.

I support robust funding for Amtrak and its National Network so that we can have safe and reliable passenger rail service across the country. We need investments in rail, not these draconian cuts.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, we absolutely do need investments in passenger rail, but private companies won't do it because it loses money. Amtrak is happy to do it because it is not their money. It is our money. It is our taxpayers' money. They get up early in the morning while it is still dark out, pack their lunch, and head off to work so they can pay the taxes for an operation that lost $886 million in FY 2022—$886 million.

You know who lost their job when they lost $886 million of the taxpayers' hard-earned money? Nobody. Nobody lost their job. It doesn't matter.

What happens is we came in and we are asking for more money. We already talked about the billions they are already getting, and this is adding insult to injury for everybody who has to pay for it.

It is awesome to have rails that go across the country. It is one of the founding principles of our country, opening the West. However, it wasn't the government that did it. It was entrepreneurs. It was people who speculated and risked their capital. Then the people who rode the trains paid for them. However, people who aren't riding the trains are paying for them, and they don't have any more money.

Do I want to see them close? I certainly don't. I don't want to see these lines ended and these services ended, but if we keep going, $33 trillion, I don't know when the breaking point is, but everything is going to end at some point. We could learn a lesson, trim the waste, fix things that we can fix, so we can avoid everything stopping, but I guess we are going to head over the cliff.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 2000

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chair, let's dismiss the notion that we don't subsidize all other forms of transportation, especially air travel.

If the private sector wants to take over air travel and pay for all parts of airports and everything that comes with it, then so be it, but that is not going to happen.

The fact of the matter is there are many benefits from having a robust rail system that serves communities that would not otherwise have them.

Mr. Chair, I oppose this amendment and urge my colleagues to join me in doing so. 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.

Mr. QUIGLEY. 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. 22 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 22 printed in part B of House Report 118–261.

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 7, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $130,828,124)''.

Page 203, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $130,828,124)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, 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 over $130 million in transit infrastructure grants for the earmarks contained in this bill.

Even though many of my colleagues have chosen to request earmarks, or using the current euphemism, community project funding, I remain opposed to the use of this funding for local projects.

The corruptive and wasteful earmark process represents what I believe are the worst of our taxpayers' dollars being spent on projects that oftentimes have no Federal nexus whatsoever.

Take some of the grant projects being funded in this bill using transit infrastructure grants:

$1.05 million for the rehabilitation of the Baldwin Park Train Station in Baldwin Park, California. I am sure it is beautiful. I am sure the residents love it. People in Pennsylvania don't know where it is and don't want to pay for it.

$790,000 for the West Anaheim zero-emission microtransit project. I am not even sure what that is. Maybe I would be sure if I was in West Anaheim, but I am in Pennsylvania. I am not planning on traveling there anytime soon, but apparently my tax dollars are.

$850,000 for the City of Phoenix Valley Metro microtransit. The City of Phoenix is beautiful. I have been there. I haven't used the microtransit project, but I get to pay for it, and so do all my bosses.

$850,000 for the Norwalk Transit System bus stop equity project in Norwalk, California. I am sure it is beautiful. I am not sure what the equity project is. I would rather not pay for it, and neither would the folks that sent me here. They don't want to pay for it either because they don't have any money, and neither does this government.

Now, there is no doubt that some of the earmarks funded in this bill will benefit some folks around the country. However, again, many of them have no Federal nexus. State and local governments should be doing these things, not the Federal Government.

I bet nearly all of them are already eligible for some form of Federal transit spending anyhow. They don't need an earmark, and they can compete like everybody else on that boondoggle. We don't need this boondoggle on top of that boondoggle.

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chair, tomorrow I think I will join the boondoggle caucus just to find out everything that is going on with boondoggles everywhere.

For the life of me, I can't understand why some of my Republican Members and friends across the aisle take offense at projects that increase safety on our roads while so many others support this and have earmarks—or however we want to describe or call them—

it really doesn't make that much difference.

It is important to remember that these came under Republican guidance that required a Federal nexus under this year's rules.

The committee project funding within this bill has gone through extensive vetting by Republican and Democratic offices before being submitted for review to the committee.

Let's make that even clearer. Every single one of the 127 transit projects containing funding in this bill were submitted by a Republican or a Democratic Member of this body.

Not only has each Member undertaken extensive vetting within their districts to identify the project as a priority, but the Department of Transportation has reviewed every single project and determined they are eligible.

They are eligible based on guidance and requirements that our Republican colleagues determined, including Federal law and regulation.

Those of you who are not aware, Republicans on the House Appropriations Committee already voted to strip funding away from three eligible projects simply because they benefit LGBTQ+ youth, seniors, and allies.

We have seen this before. It is an overreach by Republican Members for otherwise eligible projects so that based on their own ideology, they can dictate how each individual Member should support their district and constituents who voted them into office.

To my Republican colleagues who have funded transit projects in this bill, what will you tell your transit agencies who put the sweat and resources into submitting eligible projects for funding?

I would mention the folks who did that: Mr. GARCÍA, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. MOORE, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. ROSE, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. VALADAO, and many, many more along those same lines.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, I understand that it received guidance. It doesn't matter to me if it the received guidance.

As a matter of fact, it seems to me based on the examples I gave you that the guidance is flawed, which is why I voted against this when we started this session and we crafted the rules. I voted against all of this because I knew this was going to happen.

I don't cast any aspersions to Republicans or Democrats in this. I am not going to name any names. I am not mad at anybody here. I think it is bad for the whole country, and it is a bad way of doing business.

As to the safety aspect, I guess when you don't have any real argument to make about the projects themselves and the alleged Federal nexus, you throw the old safety—like, of course, everybody on this side of the aisle, we want to be unsafe. We love to be unsafe. We want everybody to be unsafe just like we like to breathe dirty air and drink dirty water, and people somehow believe that. Nothing could be further from the truth.

If the only way we can be safe is by bankrupting the country, I wonder how this country made it this far. We made it pretty far without bankrupting ourselves, but yet, we can make it no further.

I guess that is what we are going to learn here with this process on this bill. Too much money. Too much borrowing. We can't afford it. No Federal nexus.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on this amendment, and I yield the balance of my time.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chair, a quick thought on earmarks. In general, a person doesn't like earmarks, but on the other hand, using the language that they often use, they don't want some nameless, faceless bureaucrat in D.C. making decisions on how their money is spent. It is one way or the other.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE).

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chair, I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to my good friend from Pennsylvania's amendment for a simple reason. Actually, I will start with where my friend, the ranking member, was.

These decisions are too often made by faceless bureaucrats in Washington, D.C., and there ought to be an opportunity for Members to advocate.

We all know the top lines are set long before any of these projects are awarded, so this doesn't add a single dime. It just allows Members to advocate under a structured process for things that they think will make a difference in the lives of their constituents.

We are not spending one cent more than we would have spent. We are giving Members the opportunity to influence decisions that are important to them and their constituents.

We do take our vetting responsibilities very seriously. These were vetted by the Republican Appropriations Committee and staffers in cooperation with our friends from the other side of the aisle, and we don't approve them all. About a third of these things never make it, and a lot of them don't get as much money as they ask for.

This is a good tool, an important tool. Congress went without it for a decade and decided after that experience, we need it back.

Overwhelming majorities in both conferences made that decision, not one or the other. We voted on this rule in our conference multiple times. The margin has gotten bigger every time.

Mr. Chair, I urge defeat of the amendment.

Mr. QUIGLEY. 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 amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 23 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 23 printed in part B of House Report 118–261.

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 22, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $392,204,000)''.

Page 203, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $392,204,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, 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 would strike the funds for the Capital Investment Grant Program.

For the past decade, the Capital Investment Grant Program has led to the misallocation of funds to the most expensive projects without regard to the project's financial viability or expected ridership, which would seem to me to be kind of important.

By overextending their resources in search of Federal grant funding, transit agencies fail to consider the impact this will have on their ability to provide existing services.

While this was true before the pandemic, it is of particular concern in the post-pandemic environment. FDA data shows 2023 ridership came in a little over 50 percent of 2019 levels, so there is little need to build out additions to the transit system before we can ascertain the long-term impact of the pandemic and the interest in public transportation generally on ridership.

People aren't riding, yet we are going to build more of this stuff. That seems, I don't know, a little counterintuitive to me.

Congress now has provided in excess of $100 billion in annual and emergency spending to public transit agencies over the pandemic era period.

There is a reason for that. We need to slow down and determine where future ridership is headed before we continue to throw good money after bad into capital projects we can't afford, are unnecessary, and will never be sustained.

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to yet another anti-mobility amendment to eliminate funding for transit capital investment grants.

The bill already cuts transit infrastructure by 82 percent. The gentleman from Pennsylvania's previous amendment doubled down on that by eliminating Member-sponsored transit projects.

The bipartisan infrastructure law authorized this program to receive $3 billion for fiscal year 2024. Instead of debating an amendment to get us closer to that amount, we are wasting our time reneging on yet another bipartisan agreement.

This amendment would make it impossible for dozens of commuter rail and bus projects already in the pipeline for construction grants to move along in a timely manner. That includes the thousands of jobs supported by those projects. In fact, for every $1 invested in public transit, another $5 is leveraged.

Today, there are 69 projects across the Nation seeking funding under this program, including such places as Huntsville, Alabama; Indianapolis, Indiana; Rochester, Minnesota; Columbus, Ohio; Salt Lake City, and Spokane, Washington.

While we often focus on the local benefits, the need for increased mobility and access to job centers, medical care, and schools goes beyond any one district.

Transit gets essential workers from home to the places many of us rely on: hospitals, stores, service delivery hubs, and schools, not only supporting thousands of jobs across the country but the local economies that rely on these workers.

The American people are tired of seeing half complete construction projects on the side of the road and deserve the confidence of this body that their taxpayer dollars will result in real infrastructure benefits.

Instead of cutting off funding for buses and subways and those employed by and relying on these transportation systems, we should be investing in these projects that give commuters more reliable service, lower congestion on the roads, and make it a little easier to breathe.

I urge all my colleagues to reject this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, no one here is anti-mobility. We are anti-bankruptcy. We want everybody to be able to go where they need to go when they need to go there.

We can't afford these projects. The fact is the only way they can be done is if the Federal Government pays for them. It would probably be done no other way, which begs the question: If it is the only way they can be done, are they really affordable? Of course, they are not. It is how we ended up $33 trillion in debt, for things like this.

Again, we are not opposed to anybody, any State, any locality investing in their community to do these things. The Federal Government simply doesn't have the money to do it anymore.

The gentleman talks about the return on investment. Well, the return on investment doesn't come to these projects because if it did, they wouldn't be seeking all this money every single year.

Return on investment doesn't come to the taxpayers. We just keep spending and spending and spending. Somebody in this place, somebody in this body, somebody in this town has to pick somewhere to start saving some money.

We don't have any problem with the rest of everything we do picking the winners and losers, but there can never be any losers when it comes to funding in this place except for the taxpayer.

They get to lose because no one cares about them. I am here to say I care about them. We have got to stop this.

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

□ 2015

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chairman, when President Eisenhower developed the Interstate Highway System after coming back from Europe in the Second World War, it wasn't brought to you by some corporate sponsor.

It is a recognition that there are things that government does that have value. It accomplishes things the private sector can't or won't do, and that doesn't mean they shouldn't get done. It is the whole purpose of government.

We recognize it at this time when we are trying to be economically competitive with the rest of the world that our economic competitors are outspending us on the critical ingredient leading to economic growth, which is, in large part, infrastructure. That is why the trucking industry, the rail industry, and so many others were pushing so hard to get that infrastructure bill done. It is why we have to do that to keep growing the economy, which drives jobs and, indeed, tax growth so we can pay for these things.

If we don't, and the roads and our transit systems become pothole-filled or inoperable, the economy will come to a standstill, as well.

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 amendment was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 24 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 24 printed in part B of House Report 118–261.

Mr. OGLES. 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 61, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $1,000,000)(reduced by $1,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chairman, my amendment increases and decreases to emphasize the importance of restoring public safety and the rule of law on the D.C. Metro.

While it primarily is focusing on crime on the Metro, I would be remiss if I failed to mention that law and order in our Nation's Capital has completely collapsed.

Based on preliminary data from the Metropolitan Police Department, crime has increased 27 percent overall this year. More concerning, violent crime has increased by 40 percent. Compared to this time last year, the homicide rate is up 33 percent; robbery is up 69 percent; and motor vehicle theft is up by 101 percent.

A month ago, one of our esteemed colleagues was carjacked, a fate that befalls too many people in the D.C. metro area. The fact that criminals are so brazen as to steal the car of a Member of Congress shows how far the situation has deteriorated.

This sharp increase in the crime rate is directly attributable to the failed home rule policy that has empowered a leftist government to pursue its ideological agenda at the expense of the general welfare.

Let me say it one more time: D.C. home rule is a complete and total failure.

Mr. Chairman, all too often, criminals in this city receive a slap on the wrist. There are few places where crime is more noticeable than the D.C. metro area. From October 2022 to October 2023, crime has almost tripled.

We should be ashamed. We have residents, colleagues, children, and tourists taking our Metro while visiting our city, and it is not safe. Safety is something that we should be able to guarantee on a federally funded transit system.

From a 2-year period, 2020 to 2022, there were a total of six homicides on the Metro. This year, there have already been seven.

Mr. Chairman, earlier this year, I introduced the Seat of Government Act, which would repeal the District of Columbia's home rule and restore control of D.C. to the Federal Government, where it belongs.

Mr. Chair, I ask for the 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 Tennessee (Mr. OGLES).

The amendment was agreed to.

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 118–261.

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 61, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $150,000,000)''.

Page 203, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $150,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, 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 $150 million in grants from the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, known as WMATA.

This area that we are operating in, that we are speaking about, is full of highly educated professionals, many of whom work for the government or government contractors and associated jobs. Some of the surrounding counties in Maryland and Virginia have some of the highest median incomes per county in the country. It is pretty affluent around here.

Like many transit agencies, even before the pandemic, WMATA had an unsustainable budget outlook and operation, getting 53 percent of its budget through State and local subsidies—not through fares of all the well-to-do folks around the area riding, but through subsidies.

If you were to run a business where you only made 47 percent of your budget in revenues, you would be out of business pretty darn quick.

During the pandemic, most Federal agencies sent their workers home. Even so, WMATA received over $2 billion from pandemic-era legislation to keep it afloat. Nobody was riding because everybody was sent home, but this place sent them $2 billion to keep paying the bills when nobody was riding—only in Washington, D.C. Unfortunately, only in America.

We are now post-shutdown, and Federal workers are still not going to the office. A recent GAO report showed that 17 of the 24 Federal agencies surveyed used an average of 25 percent or less of their headquarters building capacity right here in Washington, D.C. That is 75 percent of the space in these headquarters buildings around here that taxpayers are paying for with no benefit because 75 percent of it is empty. Not only are they paying for a building nobody is in, but they are paying for a transit system that is taking no one to work in these places.

WMATA said that in May of this year, rail ridership reached only 50 percent of pre-pandemic levels on weekends and 89 percent on weekends. Mr. Chairman, 50 percent of pre-pandemic is half. It just now reached half of pre-pandemic levels in May of this year.

After Federal COVID relief for WMATA is exhausted, the Metro's budget deficit will be $750 million in fiscal year 2025 and $830 million in fiscal year 2026.

When is it going to end? When?

WMATA's leadership says that the deficit results from inflation, collective bargaining agreements, and, importantly, $288 million from decreased ridership.

Well, I can't do anything about those things, but I can try to do something about the exorbitant amount of money we are losing, that the taxpayers are sending into this black hole and getting nothing for it.

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chair, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Chair, I strongly oppose this amendment. This amendment would eliminate $150 million in Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act funding for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

This funding, which Congress has provided annually since 2008, supports much-needed high-priority capital and preventive maintenance projects, including rehabilitating crumbling rail station platforms, supporting first responder safety, repairing elevators and escalators, mitigating tunnel water leaks, and replacing aging and obsolete equipment on railcars.

Hundreds of thousands of national capital region residents, visitors, and Federal Government employees rely on the Metro daily. Without this funding, there could be reductions in rail service and increased risk to the safety of riders, as well as increased road traffic emissions.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this reckless amendment.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, reckless? We just heard from the gentleman right before me about how dangerous it is to ride in the National Capital's transit system. People come here and it is dangerous to ride on the transit system of their Capital. That is reckless.

This transit system is expecting to get this $150 million in grants, and they are still going to lose $750 million in 2025 and $830 million in 2026. They are still going to lose that even with the $150 million because they have no interest in trying to make this solvent.

Why should they? They keep on getting bailed out by the good people from around the country who can't even go to their Nation's Capital and be sure that they won't be beaten up, robbed, or worse on the transit system. It is unacceptable. There ought to be some accountability. There ought to be any accountability.

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chairman, I note that Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia plans to submit a statement to the RECORD opposing this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. SPANBERGER).

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

Tonight, I am speaking on behalf of thousands of Virginians who rely every single day on the Metro. They take it to work. They take it to school. They take it to see their families.

This cut would hurt their commutes. This cut would eliminate funding for urgent capital projects, meaning it would impact the safety and reliability of the system. This cut would be a slight to the Federal workers, including those who work right here on Capitol Hill and those who rely on the Metro to get to their jobs so that they can keep our government functioning, our country safe, and our economy running.

Historically, support for Metro's capital funding has not been hyperpartisan, and we should not change course right now. That is why I am proud to stand with members of the Maryland and Virginia delegations and my colleagues from the District of Columbia in pushing back against this senseless proposal.

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, this shouldn't be hyperpartisan. My friends on the other side of the aisle, I am sure they like taking the train. I am sure their constituents and their bosses do, as well. Having other people pay for it is an awesome circumstance. Everybody would want that.

We all like things for free, but things aren't free. We have to pay for things in this country, and we are out of money, Mr. Chairman.

It shouldn't be hyperpartisan, and it is not hyperpartisan. Those in this room would have you believe that, but there are people on both sides of the aisle who know that this thing is inefficient, wasteful, dangerous, and, yes, indeed, reckless.

Mr. Chairman, I urge adoption of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 2030

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. IVEY).

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to the Perry amendment. This amendment would cut $150 million in Federal capital funding for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

The Perry amendment would undermine a successful Federal-State-local partnership which provides Metro with $150 million in Federal funding for urgent capital projects. This funding is matched 100 percent with $150 million from Metro compact members, Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. The $300 million annual investment is critical to improving the safety and reliability of the system.

Continued bipartisan support for America's transit agency will ensure WMATA progress on restoring aging infrastructure and maintaining a safe and reliable system for visitors from across the United States.

This annual capital funding program was created by Republican Congressman Tom Davis as part of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act. This program has received

broad bipartisan support for more than a decade, and the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act reauthorized the program until 2030.

Funding for the Federal Government's FY 2024 contribution to Metro is included in this bill on the House floor this week and was in the T-HUD bill that recently passed the Senate by a vote of 82–15.

The funding enjoys such consistent and longstanding support in Congress because the Federal Government is both a stakeholder in the system and a chief beneficiary of this annual capital funding contribution.

Metro is a $40 billion asset to the national capital region and is essential to the operation of the Federal Government. More than one-third of all Metro stations are located on Federal property serving Federal facilities.

Unlike other transportation networks in the Nation, the Metro system serves a distinct vital national security role for the Federal Government, providing transportation to the Pentagon, Homeland Security, and the FBI offices. Metro transports thousands of Federal employees to work each day, and that number is increasing as Metro helps Federal agencies increase in-person work.

Metro recently saw its highest rate of Federal employee ridership since the beginning of the COVID–19 pandemic.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman from Illinois has expired.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chair, I rise as the designee of the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), and I move to strike the last word.

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the distinguished ranking member of the Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee.

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

This is America's subway. This is America's Metro. Millions of people from throughout this country come here and enjoy Metro's convenience while seeing the Federal Government, seeing their National Capital, and visiting all of us. That is why this is important to Congress, because it is America's subway. That is why, very frankly, Bill Lehman, many years ago, referred to it as America's subway and why the Federal Government would invest in its operations.

I rise in strong opposition to this amendment. Obviously, a lot of people from my district ride Metro and come to work for the Federal Government, and thousands of Federal employees rely on it to get to their work serving the American people.

Metro is especially crucial now when many of the Federal workers are returning to the office after the pandemic, which I heard in the Rules Committee we want them to do. I agree with that. Indeed, in just the last 2 months, Federal employee ridership has reached its highest point since the pandemic began.

This is not just a local subway. This is the subway that all of our constituents use when they come to our city, the city of our Nation.

We depend on Metro and Metro depends on us. That is why Congress pledged to invest $150 million in Metro capital improvements through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and why over the years we have invested in Metro's operations and well-being.

We need to honor that historic commitment. This amendment would break that promise. This money is—I am sure one of my colleagues or maybe all of my colleagues have told—matched many times over, as you would expect, by the local governments, all the local governments, and Washington D.C., as I am sure its Representative, who does such an extraordinary job, ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, pointed out.

I understand the author of this amendment wants to cut spending in many, many places. This is one that he has chosen, but I think it is a bad choice. I think that every Republican and every Democrat who invites his constituents or her constituents to come to Washington, who invites their employees to be here on time and for many hours of the day and night, to consider strongly opposing this amendment with an overwhelming vote, a bipartisan vote, because Metro has been a bipartisan effort.

I have worked on Metro since I came here with Frank Wolf. Frank Wolf was a Republican from Virginia. We were essentially joined at the hip in fighting for Metro, not as a Republican Metro or Democratic Metro, but for the Nation's Metro.

Reject this amendment. Keep our word and our investment in the subway that serves all of our citizens.

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

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

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Chair, I rise today to oppose Perry amendment No. 25, which would zero out the federal government's annual dedicated funding contribution to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), or the DC Metro as it is known.

This amendment would eliminate a successful federal-state-local partnership which provides Metro with $150 million in federal funding for urgent capital projects.

This funding is matched 100 percent with $150 million from Metro Compact members Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, D.C.

This annual capital funding program was created by Republican Representative Tom Davis.

It was reauthorized in the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, through my legislation the Metro Accountability and Investment Act.

And the funding was included in both the House and Senate T–HUD bills for FY2023.

The funding enjoys such consistent and longstanding support in Congress because the federal government is both a stakeholder in the system and a chief beneficiary of this annual capital funding contribution.

The federal government receives two seats on the Metro Board of Directors. Despite making no contributions to Metro's operating budget, the federal government is entitled to make decisions about the service, safety, and budget of Metro.

Metro transports thousands of federal employees to work each day, and that number is increasing as Metro helps federal agencies increase in-person work.

Simply put, the federal government cannot function without Metro.

Please join me in opposing this self-defeating amendment.

Vote no on Perry Amendment No. 25.

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. GROTHMAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 29 printed in part B of House Report 118–261.

Mr. GROTHMAN. 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 81, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $1,000,000) (increased by $1,000,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chair, this amendment would increase and decrease the Office of the Chief Human Capital Officer at the Department of Housing and Urban Development to express concern regarding the inherently divisive nature of the Diversity Council and the associated race, ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation-based Affinity or Employee Resource Groups.

Right now, HUD has several different employee affinity groups for different racial, ethnic, gender, or sexual orientations. These groups include Blacks in Government, for African American HUD employees; HUD AANHPI for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander; and HUD FedQ for LGBT employees.

The so-called Diversity Council is reflective of this administration's drive

to divide America. In other words, we should go to work every day, and Hispanic employees should be in one room and talk about what they have in common and Black people should be in another room and talk about what they have in common, and the gay people should be in another room and talk about what they have in common. On the face of it, it is a little bit ridiculous. It is divisive by its nature, as is so much of the affirmative action mania that has taken over this country.

A growing volume of research demonstrates that professional development programs and other trainings in DEI are abject failures.

There was a piece in The New York Times, by author Jesse Singal, that compared different DEI interventions and noted: ''Racial affinity groups, a popular intervention in which participants are temporarily separated by race so they can talk about race, have perhaps proved even more problematic. They've sparked complaints, in places like Jacksonville, Florida, where a principal was temporarily reassigned after she attempted to separate White students from students of color. . . .''

In any event, the purpose of the groups is to tell people: Because your great-grandfather or grandfather came from Cuba, we are going to put you with these other people and you are supposed to share something in common with these people. In other words, people are labeled as being different by their race or by their gender, which on the face of it is such a racist and sexist thing to do.

I am not sure we should have a HUD, but if we are going to have a HUD, it should focus on its goals of providing housing or making sure we have affordable housing for the country, not setting aside groups of people who come from wildly different backgrounds and telling them because you are a Pacific Islander, or you are Hispanic, or you are Black you should think in a certain way.

I talked to an employee who has to put up with one of these groups in private at a business. That is exactly what they are. They have some expert diversity person telling people that because you are Black, you should think such and such a way, or because your grandfather is from Cuba, you should think such and such a way, or because your grandmother is from Korea, you should think in such and such a way. It is just anti-American across the board.

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chair, can I just point out the absurdity of where we are right now? Let's have two White guys talk about racial equality and equity, but here goes.

Instead of focusing on investing in affordable housing and the safe, efficient transportation infrastructure that powers our economy, we are discussing several harmful anti-equality amendments that have no place in this bill and are frankly a distraction.

The Diversity Council and related groups that my colleague objects to include several affinity employee resource groups that provide opportunities, resources, advocacy for fairness, and peer support for HUD employees that are part of historically marginalized and underrepresented groups such as people with disabilities, women, and veterans.

We may not like the fact that those inequalities still exist, but they do. It does no one any good to hear no evil, see no evil, and speak no evil. The existence of these groups is not divisive. Instead, it promotes inclusion.

I don't know why some of my Republican colleagues are so afraid of the word ''equity'' or why they would stand in the way of efforts to ensure that the needs of disabled, women, and veteran employees are met so they are all treated equally and fairly.

It is and always will be a movement toward a more perfect union. There was never anything in the Constitution or the Declaration of Independence, or anything else you can go down the street and read in another building, that tells us that we will ever have this accomplished. Instead, it is easier to say it is divisive, it is not necessary, it denies truth, or it denies history. That in itself is destructive.

This amendment is unnecessary. It is divisive, offensive, and a deep distraction. I urge my colleagues to vote ''no.''

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Chair, I would comment that I think the gentleman has kind of a bizarre view of the world and I don't think is accurately analyzing what America is today.

E pluribus unum, out of many, one, is the way we view America.

When they define members of these groups, if you are one-quarter American Indian or one-quarter Hispanic or one-quarter Black, you are considered part of a group. To think that these people all have something in common because of where their grandparents were born, maybe grandparents who have long since died, is a little bit offensive on its face.

If you look at how different groups do in this country, by the way, frequently the most economically successful group today are Asian Americans from India, then from the Philippines. Cubans do better than the average American.

Like I said, they are kind of bizarre. For the purpose of identifying people or setting aside these groups, you are going to have people classified by one grandparent, supposedly of color, even though nobody under the sun even knows what their ancestry is, is divisive on its face.

□ 2045

I believe the only reason people keep pushing this garbage is they want to divide America and they want to have people who are perfectly happy Americans walk around and being told that because your grandfather was Native American or because your grandfather was Korean, you know——

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. 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 Wisconsin will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 30 OFFERED BY MR. BRECHEEN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 30 printed in part B of House Report 118–261.

Mr. BRECHEEN. 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 82, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $25,181,000)''.

Page 82, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert ''(reduced by $25,181,000)''.

Page 203, line 2, after the dollar amount, insert ''(increased by $25,181,000)''.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 838, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BRECHEEN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

Mr. BRECHEEN. Mr. Chairman, my amendment would reduce spending by bringing the Department of Housing and Urban Development's funding for the fair housing activities back to the fiscal year 2019 levels, which would be a cut of $19.7 million.

Cutting funding back to pre-COVID 19 levels across the board for nondefense discretionary funding can right-size a discretionary budget that has grown 30 percent larger since the pandemic. We must return nondefense discretionary spending back to the 2019 spending levels if we are ever to have hope on the discretionary side of getting our fiscal house in order.

To accomplish that for this program—this is a modest cut of 0.022 percent of the total funding of this bill. I want to repeat that. It is a 0.022 percent cut, that is a cut of one-fifth of 1 percent.

Allowing the data to speak for itself, according to HUD's own statistics, there were 11,741 housing discrimination complaints filed to the Department in 2022.

According to HUD, in fiscal year 2022, there were 15 cases of housing discrimination that were referred to the Department of Justice, of those cases, 14

were closed out by DOJ, meaning there was only one case out of over 11,000 that led to a charge of housing discrimination.

While many housing discrimination complaints are settled, most cases are found to be without cause or closed entirely. According to the Congressional Research Service, 3 to 5 percent of the complaints lead to a formal charge, and between zero to 1 percent of complaints lead to a referral to the Department of Justice.

Again, we need to get our fiscal house in order. We are rapidly approaching $34 trillion in debt. It is costing families, through devaluation of our dollar, $1,200 more per month to buy the exact same goods and services as compared to when our current President took office almost 3 years ago.

The effects of that, we all know, with interest rate changes are causing housing problems for a multitude of people.

The debt to GDP ratio is at our highest level since World War II. Our interest payments on the debt are about to cost more than defense spending, and that is within months to years ahead in short order.

Autopilot, mandatory spending amounts to 70 percent of our government spending. This number is expected to skyrocket to 90 percent within the next 10 years. This out-of-control spending at some point has to come to an end, either by choice or it will happen to us by force.

Mr. Chairman, I reiterate that this is incredibly small in terms of cuts—0.022 percent, one-fifth of 1 percent to the underlying bill. Let's return back to the 2019 fiscal year.

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition.

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Chairman, this amendment slashes funding for the HUD office responsible for enforcement of fair housing law by 25 percent below fiscal year 2023, undermining basic civil rights protections that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, and familial status.

This gutting of the office would result in the loss of an estimated 150 personnel who work to enforce the Fair Housing Act of 1968 and other civil rights laws.

In addition to improper investigation of fair housing complaints, the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity coordinates with the Department of Justice, trains fair housing practitioners, enforces VAWA protections, manages grants, conducts civil rights reviews of HUD investments, and develops policies that proactively advance housing equity.

Mr. Chair, I have seen firsthand in Chicago how, for example, LGBTQ youth—who are over-represented in the homeless population—can face discrimination when attempting to access homeless shelters.

HUD guidance has played a critical role in clarifying the responsibilities of housing providers and assisting them in how to best promote fair and equal access.

Again, weakened civil rights enforcement hurts our most vulnerable constituents the most. In 2021, 54 percent of fair housing complaints nationwide were cases of discrimination on the basis of disability.

Housing affordability is not the only crisis Americans face when seeking stable housing. Discrimination is a real challenge for people with disabilities, veterans, seniors, and Tribal communities, and other vulnerable populations.

Instead of hollowing out meaningful implementation of civil rights protections, we should be taking every possible action to ensure Americans are not falling prey to loopholes and the lack of enforcement.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote ''no'' on 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 Oklahoma (Mr. BRECHEEN).

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. 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 Oklahoma will be postponed.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BRECHEEN) having assumed the chair, Mr. GIMENEZ, 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. 4820) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

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, November 3, 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, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on November 3, 2023, at 3:20 p.m., said to contain a message from the President regarding the President's notification to the Congress consistent with section 8 of the Fishermen's Protective Act of 1967, as amended (22 U.S.C. 1978).

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Acting Clerk of the House.

NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS CONSISTENT WITH SECTION 8 OF THE FISHERMEN'S PROTECTIVE ACT OF 1967, AS AMENDED (22 U.S.C. 1978)—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 118–77)

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

To the Congress of the United States:

On August 24, 2023, the Secretary of the Interior certified under section 8 of the Fishermen's Protective Act of 1967, as amended (the ''Pelly Amendment'') (22 U.S.C. 1978), that nationals of the People's Republic of China (PRC) are engaging in trade or taking of eight species of pangolin that diminishes the effectiveness of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This letter constitutes my notification to the Congress consistent with subsection (b) of the Pelly Amendment.

Pangolins, the world's only scaly mammal, are captured and trafficked at a higher rate annually than rhinoceroses, elephants, and tigers combined. Consumer demand for pangolin scales for traditional medicinal practices has pushed all eight pangolin species, originating from across Africa and Asia, toward extinction. Effective January 2, 2017, all species of pangolin were included in CITES Appendix I, which prohibits international trade for primarily commercial purposes. Despite this prohibition, the PRC remains the largest destination country for pangolin scales.

The PRC has taken some steps to curtail pangolin trafficking at its international ports and has uplisted pangolins under its Wildlife Protection Law. Yet the PRC maintains a system that allows for the legal commercial trade of pangolin scales for medicinal use from its national stockpiles, thereby indirectly providing commercial avenues for selling illegal pangolin specimens through its domestic pangolin market. Provincial governments within the PRC are allowed to issue permits to designated pharmaceutical companies and other entities to acquire pangolin specimens from the PRC's national stockpiles for medicinal use.

According to the United Nations, pangolin seizures have increased tenfold since 2014; moreover, based on data

collected between 2007 and 2018, 71 percent of seizures were destined for the PRC. The size of individual seizures has also increased; for example, in 2019 Malaysian authorities reported seizing a record-setting 30 tons of pangolin products. My Administration therefore remains concerned that, despite assurances from the PRC regarding its anti-trafficking efforts, demand for pangolin scales appears to be growing. The PRC must do more to close domestic markets for pangolins and pangolin specimens that provide cover for the illegal market. Without these actions, it is likely that pangolin populations will continue to decline, bringing the species closer to extinction.

Since the Secretary of the Interior's certification on August 24, 2023, executive departments and agencies have outlined conservation and anti-trafficking conditions that must be met by the PRC to ameliorate United States concerns that the PRC is undermining pangolin conservation under CITES. Necessary actions by the PRC that would demonstrate its commitment to pangolin conservation and compliance with CITES directives include completely closing its domestic market for pangolins and pangolin parts, transparent accounting of domestic stockpiles, and fully removing pangolins and pangolin parts from the national list of approved medicines. The PRC has made some progress towards its international commitments, but given the complexity of the PRC's domestic pangolin market and its overlapping jurisdictions, more time is needed to ensure that the appropriate agencies from the PRC are implementing the necessary steps to protect pangolin species from possible extinction.

That is why I have directed the Department of State and the Department of the Interior to continue their ongoing efforts and to report back to me on the outcome of the ongoing negotiations at the CITES Standing Committee meeting taking place in Geneva from November 6–10, 2023. If significant commitments by the PRC to implement CITES-directed measures to protect pangolin species have not been made by December 31, 2023, I plan to direct certain prohibitions on the importation of, and impose trade measures on, certain products from the PRC.

The United States will take the steps necessary to end illegal trade in order to save pangolins from extinction, with the goal of demonstrating progress by the end of this year.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, *November 3, 2023.*

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THE PRESIDENT'S FAILED FOREIGN POLICIES

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, in only 3 years, President Biden's failed foreign policies have caused chaos around the globe.

In the Middle East, Biden failed to enforce congressionally enacted sanctions while opening up new lines of cash for Iran to fund terror. Now, Israel is under attack from Iran-backed terrorist proxies.

In Europe, Biden lifted sanctions on Putin's Nord Stream 2 pipeline, a move that he was warned was a calamitous foreign policy disaster, while simultaneously undermining American energy production, weakening our influence, and empowering malign producers of energy like Russia.

In Afghanistan, Biden's chaotic troop withdrawal left Americans dead, the Afghan Government to collapse, and stranded tens of thousands of Afghan allies.

In Asia, Biden continues to ignore a growing number of aggressive provocations from the Chinese Communist Party. He gave the CCP a pass on their COVID obstruction, let their spy balloon gather intelligence from sensitive military sites, promoted the use of the CCP's spyware app called TikTok, and was standing idly by as China reportedly set up a spy base in Cuba.

In North America, cartels are exploiting Biden's open borders agenda to poison tens of thousands of Americans with deadly fentanyl, while experts warn of the ever-growing terror threat as 1.6 million got-aways have escaped into the country on Biden's watch.

Mr. Speaker, his foreign policy agenda has been a failure on every front, and the entire world is less safe from it.

BRIGADIER GENERAL NORMAN ''SNAP'' GADDIS

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Barton College in Wilson, North Carolina, hosted Military Appreciation Day this past weekend.

The Bulldogs brought the community together to honor our veterans and for a good, hard-hitting football game.

We celebrated a true American hero, Brigadier General Norman ''Snap'' Gaddis. General Gaddis is a World War II fighter pilot who turned 100 years old this past September. He flew 72 combat missions before being listed missing in action, a prisoner of war held by the North Vietnamese for nearly 6 years and holds a Purple Heart.

The Bulldogs also recognized marine veteran and State representative Ken Fontenot.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank Barton president Doug Searcy, first lady Beth Searcy, the board chair Eric Sellers, and the entire Bulldog family for honoring our veterans and their families.

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, November 3, 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, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on November 3, 2023, at 3:20 p.m., said to contain a message from the President regarding the Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to the Threat From Securities Investments That Finance Certain Companies of the People's Republic of China.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Acting Clerk of the House.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE THREAT FROM SECURITIES INVESTMENTS THAT FINANCE CERTAIN COMPANIES OF THE PRC—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 118–78)

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 threat from securities investments that finance certain companies of the People's Republic of China (PRC) that was declared in Executive Order 13959 of November 12, 2020, and expanded in scope in Executive Order 14032 of June 3, 2021, is to continue in effect beyond November 12, 2023.

The PRC exploits United States capital to resource and to enable the development and modernization of its military, intelligence, and other security apparatuses, which continues to allow the PRC to directly threaten the United States homeland and United States forces overseas. Through the national strategy of Military-Civil Fusion, the PRC increases the size of the country's military-industrial complex by compelling civilian Chinese companies to support its military and intelligence activities. Those companies, though remaining ostensibly private and civilian, directly support the

PRC's military, intelligence, and security apparatuses. At the same time, those companies raise capital by selling securities to United States investors that trade on public exchanges both here and abroad, lobbying United States index providers and funds to include these securities in market offerings, and engaging in other acts to ensure access to United States capital.

The PRC military-industrial complex, by directly supporting the efforts of the PRC's military, intelligence, and other security apparatuses, continues to constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat, which has its source in whole or substantial part outside the United States, to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. In addition, the use of Chinese surveillance technology outside the PRC and the development or use of Chinese surveillance technology to facilitate repression or serious human rights abuse continue to constitute unusual and extraordinary threats, which have their source in whole or substantial part outside the United States, to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States.

Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13959, expanded in scope by Executive Order 14032, with respect to the threat from securities investments that finance certain companies of the PRC.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *November 3, 2023.*

IT IS TIME TO PUBLISH SHOOTER MANIFESTOS

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am going to address today a news story that has not received probably as much publicity as it should have. Nevertheless, it goes a little bit more to the wokization of all levels of government including local government, apparently including even what you would consider to be a conservative city of Nashville, Tennessee.

Mr. Speaker, you will recall last March there was a Nashville shooter, Aiden Hale, who killed six people in The Covenant School in Nashville.

At the time we were told that nobody knew what his motivation was, that he just had a rambling manifesto, and us little people didn't have to know anything more about it. It recently came out on the internet that this murderer of six people was a transgender who was motivated in part by Christian hatred and apparently a negative on blind hatred, too. In other words, he was a superwoke person who decided to kill six people.

As scary as that is, it is just as scary that the authorities in Nashville are now investigating who leaked what motivated the shooter. In other words, our new government is scared to death of any narrative that intervenes with the overall woke agenda.

Mr. Speaker, I hope in the future the press corps does not say that it is a problem when this is exposed but encourages local police to expose manifestos of multiple shooters so we know what really motivates them even if it is something like transgenderism.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, November 7, 2023, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC–2321. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-287, ''Industrial Safety Act Clarification 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–2322. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-286, ''Rayford Logan Way Designation Act of 2023'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC–2323. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-285, ''Sterling A. Brown Way Designation Act of 2023'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC–2324. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-284, ''William R. Spaulding Way Designation Act of 2023'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC–2325. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-283, ''Alexander Crummell Way Designation Act of 2023'', pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC–2326. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-282, ''Public Health Emergency Credit Alert 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–2327. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-289, ''Office of Administration Hearing Jurisdiction 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–2328. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-262, ''Tenant Payment Plan Phasing Continuation 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–2329. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-263, ''Voluntary Agreement Moratorium 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–2330. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-264, ''Buzzard Point Park and Trails National Park Service Grant 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–2331. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-288, ''River East at Grandview Condominium Assistance Tax Exemption 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–2332. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-261, ''District of Columbia Housing Authority Stabilization and Reform 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–2333. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-290, ''Sign Regulations 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–2334. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1493; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01105-T; Amendment 39-22569; AD 2023-20-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 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–2335. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1056; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00179-T; Amendment 39-22563; AD 2023-20-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 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–2336. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Canada Limited Partnership (Type Certificate Previously Held by C Series Aircraft Limited Partnership (CSALP); Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1501; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00647-T; Amendment 39-22560; AD 2023-20-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 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–2337. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1988; Project Identifier AD-2023-00991-E; Amendment 39-22567; AD 2023-20-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 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–2338. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault

Aviation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1495; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00492-T; Amendment 39-22564; AD 2023-20-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 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–2339. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1222; Project Identifier AD-2023-00574-T; Amendment 39-22547; AD 2023-18-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 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–2340. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney Division Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0940; Project Identifier AD-2022-01521-E; Amendment 39-22552; AD 2023-19-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 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–2341. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1402; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00324-T; Amendment 39-22549; AD 2023-18-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 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–2342. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Viking Air Limited (Type Certificate Previously Held by Bombardier Inc. and de Havilland Inc.) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0190; Project Identifier 2019-CE-048-AD; Amendment 39-22556; AD 2023-19-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 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–2343. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-0674; Project Identifier AD-2021-00373-T; Amendment 39-22559; AD 2023-19-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 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–2344. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule- Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1220; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00478-T; Amendment 39-22553; AD 2023-19-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 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–2345. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-0026; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01210-T; Amendment 39-22443; AD 2023-10-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 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–2346. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1998; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-01045-R; Amendment 39-22572; AD 2023-20-51] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 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–2347. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1492; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00195-T; Amendment 39-22571; AD 2023-20-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 24, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mrs. HOUCHIN: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 847. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4664) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes (Rept. 118–269). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. IVEY (for himself, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. EZELL):

H.R. 6231. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require a prioritized policy issuance review process for the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Ms. MCCLELLAN (for herself and Mr. LAWLER):

H.R. 6232. A bill to establish an interagency committee on soil carbon sequestration research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LAHOOD:

H.R. 6233. A bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to authorize partnerships between States and nongovernmental entities for the purpose of reclaiming and restoring land and water resources adversely affected by coal mining activities before August 3, 1977, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 6234. A bill to reauthorize the Tsunami Warning and Education Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself and Mr. JOYCE of Ohio):

H.R. 6235. A bill to amend the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 to address harmful algal blooms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ALLEN:

H.R. 6236. A bill to streamline nuclear technology regulatory permitting and licensing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BAIRD:

H.R. 6237. A bill to allow Federal State Department employees to file a confidential or open report on any fiscal waste that they come across and establishes an award program for exemplary employees who file nonconfidential reports on wasteful spending; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BAIRD:

H.R. 6238. A bill to require the Secretary of State to report a Government Accountability Office High Risk List for weaknesses in the department's information technology acquisitions and operations, human capital management, Federal real property, and personal security clearance of the United States; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CLYBURN:

H.R. 6239. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 250 Edward Street in Branchville, South Carolina, as the ''Betty W. Henderson Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. CUELLAR:

H.R. 6240. A bill to modify a certain commercial zone in Texas to include Zapata County, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. EDWARDS (for himself and Ms. PEREZ):

H.R. 6241. A bill to require certain data collection and reporting on space utilization, occupancy, and availability of office space leased by an Executive agency; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. FROST:

H.R. 6242. A bill to amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to expand coverage of the definition of absent uniformed services voter, under such Act; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. GALLEGO (for himself and Mr. NUNN of Iowa):

H.R. 6243. A bill to direct the Secretary of Labor to issue an occupational safety and health standard that requires employers to keep opioid overdose reversal drugs onsite and develop and implement training plans to respond to drug overdose emergencies and to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to expand the grants authorized under the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Grant Program; 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 Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas:

H.R. 6244. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1535 East Los Ebanos Boulevard in Brownsville, Texas, as the ''1st Lieutenant Andres Zermeno Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. HILL (for himself and Mr. VARGAS):

H.R. 6245. 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.

By Mrs. MCBATH (for herself, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. IVEY, Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, and Mrs. WAGNER):

H.R. 6246. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to require a provider of a report to the CyberTipline related to online sexual exploitation of children to preserve the contents of such report for one year, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MILLS (for himself and Mr. ISSA):

H.R. 6247. A bill to modify the scope of the Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MOLINARO (for himself, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. NEHLS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. CARSON, and Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN):

H.R. 6248. A bill to require Amtrak to report to Congress information on Amtrak compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 with respect to trains and stations; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MOLINARO (for himself, Ms. TITUS, Mr. CARBAJAL, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 6249. A bill to provide for a review and report on the assistance and resources that the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency provides to individuals with disabilities and the families of such individuals that are impacted by major disasters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MOLINARO (for himself, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. VAN DREW, and Mr. LAWLER):

H.R. 6250. A bill to require the heads of certain Federal agencies to report to Congress ties of agency employees to Hamas or the display of support for Hamas, and for other purpose; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, the Judiciary, Homeland Security, and Intelligence (Permanent Select), 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. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. KUSTER, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. TRONE, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 6251. A bill to establish a grant program to provide schools with opioid overdose reversal drugs, to direct schools receiving Federal funds to report to certain Federal information systems any distribution of an opioid overdose reversal drug, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WEBER of Texas (for himself, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. PFLUGER, and Mr. LATTA):

H.R. 6252. A bill to direct the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to submit a report and conduct a rulemaking on facilitating efficient, timely environmental reviews of nuclear reactor applications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MCCORMICK (for himself, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. ISSA, and Mr. VAN DREW):

H. Res. 845. A resolution censuring Representative Rashida Tlaib for promoting false narratives regarding the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack on Israel and for calling for the destruction of the state of Israel; to the Committee on Ethics.

By Ms. JACOBS:

H. Res. 846. A resolution censuring Representative Brian Mast; to the Committee on Ethics.

By Mr. VAN ORDEN (for himself, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. HUDSON, and Mr. LEVIN):

H. Res. 848. A resolution encouraging the connecting of members of the Armed Forces in the United States to support structures necessary to transition from the battlefield; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. IVEY:

H.R. 6231.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require a prioritized policy issuance review process for the Department of Homeland Security.

By Ms. MCCLELLAN:

H.R. 6232.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Soil Carbon Research

By Mr. LAHOOD:

H.R. 6233.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: Congress has the power ''to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof.''

The single subject of this legislation is:

The bill authorizes partnerships between States and nongovernmental entities for the purpose of reclaiming and restoring land and water resources adversely affected by coal mining activities before August 3, 1977.

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 6234.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Earth science research

By Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 6235.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Environment

By Mr. ALLEN:

H.R. 6236.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18, section 8, Article 1 of the Constitution

The singe subject of this legislation is:

To advance nuclear energy by improving the licensing review process

By Mr. BAIRD:

H.R. 6237.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

''Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution in that the legislation exercises legislative powers granted to Congress by that clause ''to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States or any Department or Office thereof.''

The single subject of this legislation is:

To allow Federal State Department employees to file a confidential or open report on any fiscal waste that they come across and establishes an award program for exemplary employees who file non-confidential reports on wasteful spending and for other purposes.

By Mr. BAIRD:

H.R. 6238.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

''Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution in that the legislation exercises legislative powers granted to Congress by that clause ''to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States or any Department or Office thereof.''

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require the Secretary of State to report a Government Accountability Office High Risk List for weaknesses in the department's information technology acquisitions and operations, human capital management, Federal real property, and personal security clearance of the United States and for other purposes.

By Mr. CLYBURN:

H.R. 6239.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Post Office Naming

By Mr. CUELLAR:

H.R. 6240.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To modify a certain commercial zone in Texas to include Zapata County, and for other purposes.

By Mr. EDWARDS:

H.R. 6241.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, clause 2

''The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States''

The single subject of this legislation is:

Requires certain data collection and reporting on space utilization, occupancy, and availability of office space leased by an executive agency.

By Mr. FROST:

H.R. 6242.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and 18 of the U.S. Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:
To amend the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to expand coverage of the definition of absent uniformed services voter.

By Mr. GALLEGO:
H.R. 6243.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The Constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
The single subject of this legislation is:
To require the Secretary of Labor to issue an occupational safety and health standard regarding opioid overdose reversal medication and employee training.

By Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas:
H.R. 6244.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article IV, Section III, The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this constitution shall be so construed as to Prejudice any Claims of the United States, or of any particular state.
The single subject of this legislation is:
Renaming Post Office

By Mr. HILL:
H.R. 6245.
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.

By Mrs. MCBATH:
H.R. 6246.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3—Interstate Commerce Clause
The single subject of this legislation is:
to modify the reporting requirements for electronic communication service providers and remote computing service providers (providers) that report information to the CyberTipline of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children on crimes involving the sexual exploitation of children

By Mr. MILLS:
H.R. 6247.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.
The single subject of this legislation is:
This bill modifies the scope of the Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction.

By Mr. MOLINARO:
H.R. 6248.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
Transportation

By Mr. MOLINARO:
H.R. 6249.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
National Security

By Mr. MOLINARO:
H.R. 6250.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
National Security

By Mr. SCHIFF:
H.R. 6251.
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:
Healthcare

By Mr. WEBER of Texas:
H.R. 6252.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8
The single subject of this legislation is:
To advance nuclear energy by requiring the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to report to Congress on how the Commission will increase efficiency in the environmental review process.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 16: Ms. BALINT and Ms. SCHOLTEN.
H.R. 39: Mr. COSTA, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. GARAMENDI, and Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 45: Mr. DUNCAN and Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 82: Ms. BOEBERT.
H.R. 235: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.
H.R. 253: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 431: Mr. EZELL.
H.R. 529: Mr. GAETZ, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. PANETTA, and Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana.
H.R. 537: Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 620: Mr. BERA and Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK.
H.R. 661: Mr. CISCOMANI and Mr. ADERHOLT.
H.R. 681: Mrs. RADEWAGEN and Ms. PEREZ.
H.R. 724: Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 807: Mr. CISCOMANI and Mr. LYNCH.
H.R. 866: Mr. CASTEN.
H.R. 882: Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. CASTEN.
H.R. 884: Mr. SORENSEN and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 974: Ms. SCANLON.
H.R. 1050: Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 1102: Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana.
H.R. 1247: Mr. TAKANO, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 1342: Mr. COHEN and Ms. ADAMS.
H.R. 1477: Mr. MEUSER and Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 1492: Mr. ARMSTRONG.
H.R. 1503: Mr. CISCOMANI.
H.R. 1516: Mr. MCCAUL.
H.R. 1526: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN and Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 1623: Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 1624: Mrs. FOUSHEE.
H.R. 1627: Mr. MOORE of Alabama.
H.R. 1634: Mr. FERGUSON.
H.R. 1637: Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK.
H.R. 1698: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 1784: Mr. MULLIN.
H.R. 1785: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.
H.R. 1794: Mrs. BICE.
H.R. 1818: Mr. CARL, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. CRANE, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, and Mr. MEUSER.
H.R. 1833: Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. CROW, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. MENENDEZ.
H.R. 2365: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania and Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 2389: Mr. SCHNEIDER and Mr. ESPAILLAT.
H.R. 2403: Mr. LIEU and Ms. CARAVEO.
H.R. 2439: Ms. BARRAGÁN and Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 2534: Mr. STANTON.
H.R. 2548: Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 2583: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 2604: Mr. MORELLE.
H.R. 2614: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
H.R. 2666: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.
H.R. 2693: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
H.R. 2706: Mr. MEUSER.
H.R. 2763: Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 2766: Mr. KILMER, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, and Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 2798: Mr. HUNT.
H.R. 2809: Mr. HUDSON, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. VAN ORDEN, and Mr. MURPHY.
H.R. 2827: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 2830: Mr. MOYLAN.
H.R. 2854: Ms. PEREZ.
H.R. 2891: Ms. SHERRILL.
H.R. 2957: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. LESKO, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. LYNCH, and Ms. DELBENE.
H.R. 2966: Ms. SHERRILL.
H.R. 2974: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 3056: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 3063: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania and Mr. MEUSER.
H.R. 3065: Ms. SALINAS.
H.R. 3104: Mr. PAPPAS.
H.R. 3106: Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 3176: Ms. LEE of Florida.
H.R. 3183: Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK.
H.R. 3263: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 3312: Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 3347: Mr. COHEN, Mr. CARSON, Mr. EVANS, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 3350: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia and Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 3357: Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 3420: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
H.R. 3433: Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 3473: Mr. RASKIN.
H.R. 3475: Mr. RYAN, Mr. KILMER, Mrs. FOUSHEE, and Mr. ALLRED.
H.R. 3510: Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 3635: Mr. ROSE.
H.R. 3656: Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 3662: Ms. NORTON, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LYNCH, and Ms. BROWN.
H.R. 3693: Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 3713: Ms. SPANBERGER and Ms. BUDZINSKI.
H.R. 3749: Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 3792: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. MOULTON, and Mr. CISCOMANI.
H.R. 3847: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 3850: Mr. CASE, Mr. CROW, Ms. SHERRILL, and Ms. MENG.
H.R. 3970: Mr. DELUZIO, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BEYER, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. BUSH, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, and Mr. FROST.
H.R. 3982: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 4035: Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 4099: Ms. SALINAS.
H.R. 4104: Mr. FERGUSON.
H.R. 4121: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania and Ms. DEGETTE.
H.R. 4122: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 4166: Mr. BEYER.
H.R. 4170: Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 4172: Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 4175: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. KEATING, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. GUTHRIE, and Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
H.R. 4221: Ms. SHERRILL.
H.R. 4238: Mr. DONALDS and Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 4261: Mr. BARR and Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 4263: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 4275: Mr. DUNCAN.
H.R. 4325: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
H.R. 4333: Ms. SHERRILL.
H.R. 4363: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 4391: Ms. CARAVEO.
H.R. 4541: Ms. BUDZINSKI.
H.R. 4550: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 4610: Ms. VAN DUYNE and Mr. ALLRED.
H.R. 4681: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina and Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 4705: Ms. LEE of Florida.
H.R. 4721: Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, and Mr. MCCORMICK.
H.R. 4723: Mr. KEATING and Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 4726: Mr. MOOLENAAR.
H.R. 4728: Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 4745: Mr. PAPPAS and Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 4758: Mr. BANKS, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. PHILLIPS, and Mr. CROW.
H.R. 4771: Mr. CÁRDENAS and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 4840: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.
H.R. 4933: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 5030: Ms. SPANBERGER and Ms. BUDZINSKI.
H.R. 5041: Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. KILMER, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. MEEKS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. RASKIN, and Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 5075: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. STANSBURY, and Ms. MCCLELLAN.
H.R. 5077: Ms. ROSS, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. SHERRILL, and Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 5097: Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 5134: Mr. SORENSEN.
H.R. 5142: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H.R. 5143: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
H.R. 5182: Mr. LANGWORTHY.
H.R. 5203: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 5244: Ms. SHERRILL.
H.R. 5399: Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. MEEKS.
H.R. 5477: Mrs. RAMIREZ and Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 5486: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 5589: Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 5610: Mr. MRVAN and Mrs. TORRES of California.
H.R. 5633: Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.
H.R. 5646: Ms. WEXTON and Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 5683: Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 5685: Ms. BALINT, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. BUSH, Mr. TRONE, and Mr. SORENSEN.
H.R. 5693: Mr. COLE.
H.R. 5748: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 5790: Mr. FINSTAD and Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana.
H.R. 5797: Mrs. RAMIREZ and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 5817: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 5822: Mr. CASTEN.
H.R. 5854: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 5856: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 5863: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, and Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 5920: Mr. MCCORMICK and Ms. HAGEMAN.
H.R. 5933: Mr. KILEY, Mr. BARR, and Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER.
H.R. 5987: Mrs. RAMIREZ.
H.R. 5988: Ms. SHERRILL.
H.R. 5995: Mr. LAWLER, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, and Ms. STEFANIK.
H.R. 6031: Mr. SORENSEN, Mr. BEYER, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. SARBANES.
H.R. 6046: Mr. WALTZ.
H.R. 6055: Ms. STEFANIK.
H.R. 6063: Mr. MCGOVERN and Ms. CHU.
H.R. 6077: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
H.R. 6079: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, and Ms. CHU.
H.R. 6090: Ms. LEE of Florida and Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
H.R. 6093: Mr. MORAN and Mr. CRAWFORD.
H.R. 6111: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 6119: Mr. NEHLS and Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 6133: Mr. ADERHOLT.
H.R. 6144: Mr. OBERNOLTE.
H.R. 6155: Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.
H.R. 6180: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 6199: Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 6204: Mr. GRIJALVA and Ms. CARAVEO.
H.R. 6211: Ms. TENNEY, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, and Mr. ROSENDALE.
H.R. 6216: Ms. TITUS.
H. Con. Res. 28: Mr. FOSTER.
H. Res. 77: Mr. LIEU.
H. Res. 149: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. MANNING, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
H. Res. 430: Ms. LEE of California.
H. Res. 561: Mr. GREEN of Texas.
H. Res. 596: Mr. CARSON.
H. Res. 627: Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK and Ms. KAPTUR.
H. Res. 677: Mr. VARGAS and Ms. OMAR.
H. Res. 683: Mr. CASTRO of Texas.
H. Res. 697: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H. Res. 735: Ms. OMAR.
H. Res. 750: Ms. CRAIG, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. CROW, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Ms. TENNEY, and Mr. HIGGINS of New York.
H. Res. 774: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.
H. Res. 793: Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. LAWLER, Mrs. HOUCHIN, and Mrs. BICE.
H. Res. 802: Mr. DONALDS.
H. Res. 803: Mr. DUNN of Florida and Mr. WEBER of Texas.
H. Res. 830: Mr. OBERNOLTE.
H. Res. 837: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Ms. MACE, Mr. BACON, and Mr. SABLAN.
H. Res. 839: Mr. BUCHANAN, Ms. Velázquez, Mr. BAIRD, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. FROST, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. WATERS, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Mr. TAKANO.

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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TAMMY DUCKWORTH, a Senator from the State of Illinois.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Here we are again, Lord, a people in need of Your presence and power in order to meet life with courage, faith, and perseverance. Today, strengthen the Members of this body with a faith that will ever choose the harder right over the easy expedient.

Lord, give our Senators wisdom to follow Your example of sacrificial service, infusing them with the courage to do right as You give them the light to see it. Lift from our world the burdens of loss and sorrow when forces beyond our control invade our lives and seek to rob us of Your peace.

Lord, bless the people of our world with the assurance that they are never alone, for You have promised never to forsake them.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The senior assistant executive clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 6, 2023.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TAMMY DUCKWORTH, a Senator from the State of Illinois, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. DUCKWORTH 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.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair lays before the Senate a communication of the Secretary of the Senate regarding a message from the President received during the adjournment of the Senate.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: On Friday, November 3, 2023, the President of the United States sent by messenger the attached sealed envelopes addressed to the President of the Senate dated November 3, 2023, said to contain messages regarding the President's notification to the Congress consistent with section 8 of the Fisherman's Protective Act of 1967, as amended, and regarding the continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to the Threat From Securities Investments That Finance Certain Companies of the People's Republic of China. The Senate not being in session on the day which the President delivered this message, I accepted the message at 3 p.m., and I now present to you the President's message, with the accompanying papers, for disposition by the Senate.

Respectfully,

SONCERIA A. BERRY,
Secretary of the Senate.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 Monica M. Bertagnolli, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the National Institutes of Health.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

ISRAEL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, as Israel continues to root out the Hamas terrorists who savaged innocent civilians on October 7, the political left here in America appears to be engaged in a loud public debate with itself over how, exactly, to differentiate indiscriminate slaughter and lawful self-defense.

Last week, an especially radical House Democrat repeated to her followers a call to eliminate the Jewish State ''from the river to the sea.'' Then she attempted to explain away the undeniably genocidal connotation of this longstanding anti-Israel slogan as ''peaceful coexistence.''

Apparently, Jews can live in peace with Palestinians as long as they vacate Israel.

Unfortunately, the shameful moral equivalence that has been creeping across elite and influential corners of the left has now been embraced by a former Commander in Chief. Just a few

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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days ago, President Obama used the same breath to express his horror at both Hamas violence and a supposed Israeli ''occupation'' of Gaza. In reality, the only force that has occupied Gaza since 2007 is Hamas, not Israel.

The former President also said ''all of us are complicit to some degree.'' That is simply false. Responsibility lies with the terrorists.

So perhaps President Obama has forgotten the bloody campaign to defeat ISIS over which he presided or the destruction of cities like Mosul and Raqqa in pursuit of medieval Islamic tyrants who terrorized innocent civilians.

I don't recall President Obama doubting the righteousness of American efforts to support local partners in rooting out terrorists in Iraq and Syria. Where is that moral clarity in the face of Hamas?

Unfortunately, that brings me to the growing number of many of our Senate colleagues who have called for a ceasefire in today's terrorist war. I would remind our colleagues that Israel had negotiated a ceasefire with Hamas over the summer, and we all saw where that led on October 7. Returning to any such arrangement right now would be amnesty for these butchers—the butchers of innocent Israelis and Gazans alike.

Once again, let's remember who the aggressor is. Hamas is blocking citizens from leaving Gaza City. Hamas has intentionally put its weapons caches inside schools, hospitals, and mosques, and its firing positions in the midst of civilian populations. Hamas has poured countless billions of dollars in humanitarian assistance into its terror tunnels.

These people are not freedom fighters. They do not want peaceful coexistence. They are savages—savages—cut from the same cloth as ISIS and al-Qaida. There is no room for moral equivalency. The distinction between good and evil here is blindingly obvious.

Fortunately, some do recognize this. The Vice Chancellor of Germany, a member of his country's Green Party, didn't have any trouble finding the moral clarity this moment requires. In an address to the nation last week, he said:

> Hamas does not want reconciliation with Israel, but the extermination of Israel. And this is why it is pivotal to make it clear that Israel's right to exist must not be relativized. Israel's security is our obligation.

American politicians who cannot bring themselves to acknowledge the same should really be ashamed of themselves.

This weekend marked 44 years since Iranian revolutionaries overran the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and took 66 Americans hostage. Today, Americans are once again held hostage by forces aligned with Iranian tyranny. Many more Israelis are held alongside them, and Israel deserves the time and space and support it needs to bring these terrorist captors to justice.

In the days immediately following October 7, I warned that President Biden would be pressured to withhold this support, and that familiar and morally bankrupt calls for ceasefire would threaten Israel's ability to see its defensive operations through. And so here we are, nearly a month later, watching the movement to grant Hamas amnesty reach the highest levels of our government.

War is a bloody business. That is the reality Israel faces. We should be careful before second-guessing their efforts to get innocent Israelis—and Americans—home safely and to destroy Hamas's ability to wage war.

CRIME

Madam President, on another matter, while the United States and our allies face terrorist and authoritarian violence abroad, the American people continue to face waves of unchecked violence here at home.

Just last month, a member of our colleague Senator BRITT's staff was robbed at gunpoint right outside of her apartment building. Thankfully, this young woman was not injured.

But stories like hers have become all too common in our Nation's Capital. According to Washington Metropolitan Police, robbery in the city has increased by 70 percent this year—70 percent. Motor vehicle theft is up 101 percent.

And, in the midst of rising violent crime, a particularly alarming spate of anti-Semitic violence has come to a head in the wake of October 7. In New York City, authorities have recorded 66 anti-Semitic hate crimes in just the last month.

On October 14, exactly 1 week after Hamas's deadly attack, a 29-year-old woman was beaten on the subway in Manhattan. The attacker reportedly told the victim that the reason for his attack was because ''you are Jewish.''

A Jewish deli in the city was vandalized with multiple images of the swastika symbol.

And, of course, murderous threats against Jewish students at Cornell University have prompted an FBI investigation.

In just the first 2 weeks after October 7, the threat of anti-Semitic violence against American Jews nearly quadrupled. The American left has gone out of its way to downplay the threats they face with everything from ''both sides'' statements to outright incitement.

All Americans deserve to feel safe in their homes and in their communities. It is long past time for Democrats to take the historic waves of violence in America seriously.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The senior Senator from Illinois.

UKRAINE

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, 7 weeks ago, on September 21, the U.S. Senate, on a bipartisan basis, gathered with Ukrainian President Zelenskyy in the Old Senate Chamber. We don't often use that Chamber. It is often used for incidents that become embedded in history, and this was one of them. It was a historic moment.

Many things were said about the courage of the Ukrainian people and the heroism of the troops fighting Russian President Vladimir Putin's unjust war, but I recall one particular plea made by President Zelenskyy—and he repeated it. So it was clear he wanted us to remember. I will stress here what he said:

> Without the continued financial support of the United States and NATO, we will lose this war.

He was unequivocal.

Secretary of Defense Austin told me clearly at last week's Senate Appropriations Committee hearing that he agreed with Zelenskyy.

Secretary of State Blinken added that such assistance is critical in thwarting not just Putin but aggressors around the world who are watching and gauging our sustained commitment.

I agree completely. Looking at the world today, I do not believe it is a stretch to say that freedom is currently under siege and fighting for its future. Right now, several democracies across the globe are fighting against tyrannical powers—in some cases, autocratic governments; in others, terrorist organizations—that seek to undermine the global order. But this much is clear: Democratic values are under siege, and the United States and our generation have a responsibility to act.

Two weeks ago, President Biden requested $106 billion in supplemental funding for national security. This includes money to help supply Ukraine with weapons to continue its valiant fight against Russian aggression. It includes money to help Israel defend itself against Hamas, which, on October 7, perpetrated the largest attack against Jewish people than on any single day since the Holocaust. And, importantly, it also includes billions of dollars to support humanitarian needs across those conflict zones around the world, including the crisis in Gaza, because, as important as it is to support nations like Ukraine in their struggle against tyranny, it is equally as important to support innocent citizens who so often become collateral damage and bear the brunt of suffering during periods of conflict.

At the Appropriations Committee hearing last week, Secretaries Blinken and Austin underscored the necessity of this funding request. They made clear that it is critical to deliver the urgent national security priorities as laid out in the President's request.

These challenges facing the world are interrelated. So it is important that we deliver aid in one unified package that speaks to America's values abroad.

I asked Secretaries Blinken and Austin about the recent visit by the terrorist organization Hamas leadership to—believe it or not—Putin in Moscow. Secretary Blinken was blunt: Putin is allied with any effort that may distract the United States from the war in

Ukraine or that undermines democracy and the rule of law.

The Secretary added that other malign actors are watching closely to assess America's reaction and resolve. That is why one comprehensive supplemental that can address all of these interconnected global needs is the only way forward.

When asked about the United States' role in the world, President Biden explained that we have not only the financial responsibility but the moral responsibility to support democracies worldwide.

I agree. Right now, the global community faces profound challenges, the outcomes of which will reverberate to every corner of the world for decades to come. As a global superpower, America has an essential role to play in defending freedom. It is not only the right thing to do; it is the smart thing to do.

Last week, the House provided a Republican-led plan to provide billions of dollars only to Israel, tragically ignoring this call for leadership.

Madam President, I just challenge everyone to take a look at how Republicans put together this package—even this package of aid to Israel. The House bill would cynically cut funding from the Internal Revenue Service that is being used to help auditors catch wealthy tax cheaters in America. The House Speaker wants to cut that.

The Presiding Officer and I represent thousands of Illinoisans, good families who know their tax obligations. They are not happy about them, but they face them and deal with them honestly. Only a handful of people are misusing their power and money to avoid tax responsibility. We need to stop that. They need to pay their fair share of taxes, particularly the wealthy among us.

So how does the House Republican leadership pay for aid to Israel? It eliminates auditors from the Internal Revenue Service who are trying to catch these tax cheaters.

What are they thinking?

Incidentally, that means that the auditors are not recovering the money for our Treasury that is owed to it, and they add to the deficit. This bunch of fiscal hawks, given the chance for a first real act of the new Speaker, decide to find a way to avoid holding tax cheaters responsible and adding to the national deficit. They need some work over there. That bill is a nonstarter that Putin must be enjoying.

Protecting our national security interests and defending American values will take a bipartisan effort, not political games. As such, I urge my colleagues to swiftly pass this funding package and help reassure the global community, as long as there is a United States of America, we will be standing for freedom across the world.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam 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.

RECOGNIZING THE DEAN WELSH VFW AUXILIARY POST 4370

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, this week is the week that we honor veterans, on what we call Veterans Day, so in honor of Veterans Day, I would like to spotlight one Iowa community's exemplary support of our veterans and Active-Duty military.

This is a town of 2,000—Britt, IA—in North Central Iowa. This year, Britt's Dean Welsh VFW Auxiliary Post 4370 received the Veterans and Family Support Award. This annual award from the national VFW recognizes select local auxiliaries for their exceptional work for our servicemembers.

This community's now-far-reaching efforts started with a phone call. A volunteer with the Britt VFW auxiliary was talking to her granddaughter, who was serving on the USS *Oscar Austin*. She mentioned that some of her fellow crew members hadn't received care packages. Within 1 week, Britt residents shipped 39 packages to that crew of the USS *Oscar Austin*.

That was 11 years ago. Now, a decade later, the Britt VFW is sending care packages to crew members on the USS *Fitzgerald*, USS *John McCain*, USS *Chafee*, and Iowa National Guard units deployed to Kuwait and to Poland. They are also preparing to send packages to the USS *Carl Vinson*. Volunteers fill these packages with various items, including beaded American flag key chains that they make by hand. Britt VFW members gift thousands of their key chains to veterans they cross paths with throughout the year, whether at community events or even in their daily lives.

Britt VFW's example should be a reminder to all of us of the importance of honoring our veterans and servicemembers, and we will be doing that this weekend.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam 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. CORNYN. Madam President, today, the United States is facing perhaps the greatest range of security threats both here at home and abroad that we have seen in a long time. Here at home, of course, our southern border has become a major security liability that is being exploited by terrorists, drug traffickers, and, of course, human smugglers. In the Middle East, our close ally Israel is defending its right to exist following a brutal and unprovoked attack by the terrorist group Hamas. In Europe, Ukraine continues to defend itself in the wake of Russia's unprovoked invasion, which was nearly 2 years ago. In the Indo-Pacific, China's aggressive, belligerent behavior has threatened the stability of the entire region and the future of Taiwan. So there is a lot at stake, and the eyes of the world are firmly on the United States of America.

You know, I know sometimes people say: Well, we don't want the United States to be the world's policeman. And certainly that is true. But the fact is that there is no other nation that can actually lead the democracies in the world to a greater path of security and safety. We know that when the United States does not lead, then that is perceived as a sign of weakness and a lack of resolution, and that, I think, has contributed to where we find ourselves today with this tremendous array of diverse threats.

So there is a lot at stake, and the eyes of the world are on the United States. Terrorists and dictators, from Kim Jong Un to President Xi in China, to Vladimir Putin, to the Supreme Leader in Iran—all of them are watching to see how the United States responds when our friends and our allies become victims of authoritarian aggression. Will we brush these conflicts aside as meaningless, regional quarrels or will we lock arms with our friends and allies and commit to defeating evil in all its forms?

I am glad that the overwhelming consensus in Congress is that the only possible option is to respond with strength. Last week, the House of Representatives passed a bill to strengthen America's support for Israel while cutting wasteful government spending. That legislation provided $14.3 billion in aid to Israel.

I am disappointed that President Biden, first thing out of the chute, threatened to veto the bill. Senator SCHUMER went so far as to call it a joke. So $14.3 billion for Israel while it is under perhaps an existential threat by Iran and its proxies, and the majority leader of the U.S. Senate calls that $14.3 billion a joke? I don't think there is anything funny about the strong desire that most of us have to support our ally while protecting the long-term financial health of our country.

The Nation's debt has skyrocketed over the last few years and now exceeds $33.6 trillion. The interest on that debt alone will cost American taxpayers more than $677 billion this year alone. Increasingly, we are seeing the amount of money we have to pay to the bondholders that own our debt creep up to approach the amount of spending we provide for the Department of Defense. And we know this is going to get worse and worse until it gets better. Congress simply cannot continue to spend and spend with no regard for the consequences.

Years ago, Admiral Mullen, who was Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff,

said something that at the time I found a little odd. He said our greatest national security threat is our national debt. But, as we have come to see, those are wise words, because as the interest we have to pay to those who own our debt continues to grow with the size of that debt, that means less and less money is available for priorities here at home and for priorities to help prevent wars and aggression around the world.

Nowhere is this more apparent now than with the $677 billion we are paying not for some program that we could agree is important here at home or to provide border security or to help arm Ukrainians in their fight for survival against the Russian invasion; that money is gone to the bondholders, the people who own that debt. We just cannot continue down that path without further endangering, as Admiral Mullen wisely said years ago. This has created a national security threat we cannot ignore as well. We have an obligation to make tough decisions to right the ship, and this is as good an opportunity as any to start making progress.

Despite the majority leader's current refusal to allow a vote on the House bill—that is his current position, one I hope will change—the fact remains, we do need to take action. The Senate must find a path forward to strengthen our support for Israel and Ukraine while making meaningful steps to address the out-of-control crisis at our southern border. Senate Republicans are discussing ways to do this in a thorough and thoughtful manner, and I expect that to remain a focus of our work for the next couple of weeks.

This is an important and long-overdue debate, but it cannot distract from our other fundamental responsibilities to support our Nation's security. We have other longstanding tasks that need to be completed, starting with the National Defense Authorization Act. That bill passed the Senate in July with overwhelming bipartisan support by a vote of 86 to 11.

This year's Defense bill helps replenish our defense stockpiles—something that has been exposed, the inadequacy of our defense industrial base, and our ability to replenish those stockpiles is very much in question and needs to be addressed. This year's National Defense Authorization Act does that. It also supports modernization efforts across the board, from the nuclear triad to next-generation weapons. It will help us regain a credible military deterrent by investing in modernized aircraft, weapons, and facilities. These were the important goals when the National Defense Authorization bill passed the Senate 3 months ago, and they are even more critical now.

Despite the fact that the Senate and the House each passed a version of the NDAA, as it is called, we have yet to formally begin the conference process where those differences can be worked out and where that bill can be signed into law. This legislation should have reached the President's desk earlier, but we are now a month past the due date and watching a new war unfold in the Middle East. So it is absolutely critical that we get the NDAA conference process moving as soon as possible.

As the Senate and the House prepare to iron out the differences between the two bills, there are two items in particular that I have been fighting to include. One is called outbound investment transparency, which was included in the Senate bill but not the House bill.

Senator CASEY from Pennsylvania and I offered our bipartisan bill as an amendment to the Defense authorization bill here in the Senate, and it was adopted by a vote of 91 to 6. The reason this measure receives such strong bipartisan support is because it provides much needed visibility into a looming national security threat.

We know that American investors have been sending capital intellectual property and some of our cutting-edge innovation to China by investing in that country, but unfortunately, as we have learned, the Chinese Communist Party, which controls that country, basically is using that investment from American investors to fuel its economic and military rise.

At the end of 2020, U.S. investments in Chinese companies totaled $2.3 trillion in market value. That includes $21 billion in semiconductors, $54 billion in military companies, and a whopping $221 billion in artificial intelligence. Those are enterprises that are being funded by U.S. investment in China, which is now turning out to be our near-peer competitor and a threat to stability not only in Asia but worldwide. Intentionally or not, American companies are investing in products and capabilities that one day could be turned against us.

A recent investigation by Newsweek uncovered another grave cause for concern. Private U.S. entities aren't the only ones fueling China's rise; taxpayer-funded research is being exploited by the Chinese Communist Party. The scientist who is now at the forefront of China's artificial intelligence development received at least $30 million in Federal grants—U.S. Federal Government grants—through the Pentagon and the National Science Foundation. He received this amount of funding from American taxpayers as he built up a parallel research system in China.

The United States, simply stated, cannot continue to bankroll China's economic and military rise, and that is why this outbound investment transparency provision that Senator CASEY and I have authored and which is included in the Senate version of the NDAA is so important.

This legislation requires U.S. companies to notify the Department of the Treasury of certain investments in China and other countries of concern. This is a targeted measure. It only applies to sensitive technologies like semiconductors, artificial intelligence, hypersonics, and other capabilities that can ultimately be used against the United States.

To be clear, this does not stop investments from happening or interfere with the free market. It is strictly about transparency. It is about visibility. It will help us as policymakers see and understand the threats from China and other countries of concern so we can respond accordingly. I don't care how much American investors want to build a Burger King or Starbucks in China, but I do care if they are investing in cutting-edge technology that is going to be used to compete against the United States, either economically or militarily.

The second provision I am fighting to include is an extension of something called lend-lease authority, which expired at the end of September. This provision was created by legislation I introduced with Senator CARDIN from Maryland which is modeled after a similarly named program in World War II. But this is called the Ukraine Democracy Defense Lend-Lease Act, and it was signed into law in May of last year. It was rooted in the same principle as the World War II provision, which allowed the United States to supply Great Britain and other allies with military resources during World War II. President Roosevelt at the time vowed to transform the United States into the arsenal of democracy, as he called it, and the Lend-Lease Act is how he did it.

As I said, Senator CARDIN and I introduced this bipartisan legislation to remove some of the big bureaucratic hurdles that prevent us or slow us down from providing Ukrainian forces with the weapons they need, when they need them. Given the level of aid being provided by Congress for Ukraine, the Biden administration hasn't explicitly used that authority granted under that bill, but it doesn't mean it is not needed now.

Ukraine has committed to doing what it needs to do to defeat this invasion by Russia, but it will need additional assistance from the United States and our other allies in order to succeed. We all know that Ukraine's arsenal is shrinking, and it has asked the United States and other democracies around the world for additional aid, but the path forward, as we all know, is extremely muddy.

There is broad bipartisan support for the fact that America should support Ukraine, but there is growing concern over the cost of that assistance. That is why this legislation is so important. Lend-Lease is not a blank check. It gives the administration the option to lease or rent defense articles to Ukraine, just like we did Great Britain in World War II. This legislation will allow us to answer Ukraine's call to provide more of what they need and ensure it is done in a fiscally responsible way.

Over the last several months, the United States has provided Ukraine with unprecedented defense aid—Javelins, Stingers, grenade launchers, small arms, tanks, ammunition, and much more. These weapons have allowed the brave Ukrainians to punch above their weight against the Russian Army, which was once thought to be among the strongest in the world.

Additional American and allied assistance is vital to Ukraine's ultimate success, and we need to reauthorize the Lend-Lease authority as part of the Defense Authorization Act. This provision was included also in the House's NDAA, and I urge my colleagues in the Senate to fight for its inclusion in the final version of the bill.

Given the threats democracies are facing around the world, there could not be a more important time to prioritize America's defense. The National Defense Authorization Act, which I believe has been signed into law for 60-plus years in a row, should have already been signed into law before the end of September. Given the threats we face around the world, it is absolutely crucial that we finish the job as soon as possible.

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.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam 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.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Last week, the Senate Judiciary Committee considered several of President Biden's recent judicial appointments.

I would have thought that they would have figured out by now that they hit rock bottom a few months ago with some of these nominees that are not out of the mainstream, but they really are far left.

Here are some examples: Nancy Abudu, she endorsed political violence against conservatives; Todd Edelman used his authority to release a known criminal who then went on to participate in the murder of a child; Marian Gaston opposed residence restrictions for convicted child sex offenders; and DeAndrea Benjamin released violent criminals on bond, only to watch them offend again.

But not to be outdone, the White House has continued this trend with Seth Aframe's nomination to the First Circuit. The White House and Senate Democrats don't have a great track record when it comes to putting a nominee forward for this seat.

Back in February, I came to the floor to oppose Michael Delaney's nomination to the First Circuit bench. You will remember that Mr. Delaney threatened to expose a 15-year-old sexual assault survivor if she came forward with her story. That is right—he threatened to expose a 15-year-old sexual assault survivor if she went public.

Well, that was a shameful debacle. Everyone saw it. You would think the President's team would have learned their lessons. But I think we were wrong on that, because out of all the talented attorneys and judges that are in the State of New Hampshire, the President has nominated Seth Aframe, who is disturbingly similar to Mr. Delaney in his disregard for victims.

I want to walk you through two of the cases that Mr. Aframe prosecuted. And these cases are things that should disqualify him from ever having a seat on the Federal bench.

Now, the first case that we will go to is U.S. v. Carpentino. This involved a criminal defendant guilty of extreme sexual violence against a 14-year-old girl with a hearing impairment.

Now, this defendant kidnapped this precious child and took her to an abandoned motel in Vermont, and he raped her. This defendant had just been released from a 13-year prison sentence for sexually assaulting minors in particularly violent ways. In one case, he smothered a little girl with a pillow while he raped her. This is a violent repeat offender.

There was no doubt this person was a clear and present danger to the community. Despite all of this, Mr. Aframe, as the prosecutor in this case, recommended a sentence far below the probation officer's suggested guidelines. Can you even imagine hearing this? And then saying: Let's go light on this guy. Let's go light. Let's go easy on him.

Now, what we have learned is that it is clear that Mr. Aframe wanted the low sentence. And I will tell you why, and I am going to use his own words.

And I think when the Presiding Officer hears this, you will see, this is someone who is not qualified for the Federal bench. He wanted the low sentence. He wrote he wanted the low sentence.

And I quote, he said he felt the low sentence will ''incapacitate the defendant until he is in his 60s. Hopefully, by that time, the danger that the defendant presents will have subsided.''

Now, think about this. He wants the low sentence because at the end of that low sentence, the guy would be in his sixties and, you know, hopefully, by then he won't be such a danger. I tell you, imagine this: ''hopefully,'' using that. Can you imagine telling this little girl's family that, hopefully, this rapist won't do it again? Bear in mind, he had already been in prison for 13 years. He gets out, and he does it again. And Mr. Aframe is the prosecutor. What does he do? He wants a low sentence because the guy is going to be in his sixties and maybe he won't do it. Hopefully, he won't do it again. Hopefully, he won't be a danger. Hopefully, he will be too old and frail to go rape little girls. Unbelievable.

This is sickening. And this case alone should disqualify Mr. Aframe. But there is more. And let's go to this second case.

Mr. Aframe was the prosecutor in United States v. Smith. And this case, reading this made me absolutely sick to my stomach. It is repulsive.

Mr. Smith was found guilty of conduct connected to the manufacturing of child pornography. He created not one or two, but six videos of himself sexually abusing a 3-year-old girl. Six videos. The details of the case are far too disgusting to repeat aloud. But to be clear: He raped a 3-year-old girl on camera.

As prosecutor in this case, Mr. Aframe said the most poignant evidence of the harm this defendant caused was—and I quote—''the look of fear in the young victim's eyes.''

Poignant evidence, the look of fear in a toddler's eyes while somebody is raping her.

Despite this, Mr. Aframe recommended a 60-year sentence, nowhere near what this sick and depraved and disgusting human being deserved. Mr. Aframe noted that the perpetrator was a close friend of the victim's family. He worked to gain their trust for years just to commit these heinous acts, but Mr. Aframe still recommended a lenient sentence.

But what did the sentencing guidelines recommend? Life in prison. Mr. Aframe himself noted this in his sentencing memo, but when I pressed him under oath on why he refused to follow the guideline, he misrepresented the facts.

So let me set the record straight. The sentencing memo, that Mr. Aframe wrote himself, stated that the guidelines recommended a sentence of life in prison. That is what he should have gotten.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that a portion of that sentencing memo be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA V. BRAD SMITH

Crim. No. 1:16-cr-00091-JL

UNITED STATES' SENTENCING MEMORANDUM AND OBJECTION TO DEFENDANT'S MOTION FOR A DOWNWARD VARIANCE

I. Background

On May 26, 2015, defendant Brad Smith created six videos of himself sexually abusing a three-year-old girl. From 12:42 p.m. to 1:47 p.m., the defendant instructed his victim to perform various sexual acts on him and ultimately placed her on her back, pulled her diaper around her ankles, and raped her. The defendant wore Google glasses while he did so in order to surreptitiously film the abuse.

On April 7, 2017, a jury found the defendant guilty of six counts of manufacturing child pornography in violation of 18 U.S.C. §2251(a), for which the Sentencing Guidelines recommend a sentence of life imprisonment (Total Offense Level 43, Criminal History Category V). For the reasons set forth in greater detail below, the government proposes an incarcerative sentence of sixty years (720 months) to be followed by lifetime

supervised release, a sentence which meets the objectives described in 18 U.S.C. §3553(a) and accounts for the many aggravating circumstances in this case.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I think it is so important that we include that in this. This should have been a life in prison sentence for what was done.

You know, I will say to my Democratic colleagues what I said about Michael Delaney's nomination: For the sake of men, women, and children around this country who are victims of sexual assault, join me in opposing this nomination if the President refuses to withdraw this nomination.

Someone who has gone light on sentences that affect these children. Someone who has committed crimes against these children and then they have sought to get lesser sentences against these pedophiles and predators, they have no place on the Federal bench.

Now, this week, my Democratic colleagues will have two opportunities to oppose individuals that I feel are unfit judicial nominees. The Judiciary Committee will mark up Mustafa Kasubhai to serve on the district court in Oregon. Now, there is a reason that, in my opinion, Mr. Kasubhai is not fit.

He has displayed a disturbing affinity for Marxism. This is something that we found in his records. Someone who is displaying an affinity for Marxism has no place on our Federal bench. So I would ask that our colleagues vote no on him.

NOMINATION OF KENLY KIYA KATO

Madam President, likewise, the Senate will vote on the nomination of Kenly Kato to serve as a district judge in California. You will remember that in her nomination hearing, she refused to condemn racial discrimination. That should be an easy ''no'' vote for every Senator.

And you know when we talk about the Federal judiciary, when we look at these nominations—and the Senate's job is to provide advice and consent. What we need to do is make certain that people are going to abide by the Constitution; that they are going to abide by the rule of law; that they have that judicial philosophy; that they are going to stand for equal justice for all.

And when you have individuals with records and writings that are in opposition to that, they are unfit to serve on the Federal bench.

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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). The majority whip.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 373.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of 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. (Reappointment).

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 373, 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. (Reappointment)

Bernard Sanders, Catherine Cortez Masto, Jack Reed, Richard J. Durbin, Ben Ray Luján, Peter Welch, Alex Padilla, Brian Schatz, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tina Smith, Tammy Baldwin, Jeanne Shaheen, Christopher A. Coons, Patty Murray, Benjamin L. Cardin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tammy Duckworth.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 310.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Brandy R. McMillion, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 310, Brandy R. McMillion, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Richard J. Durbin, Tammy Duckworth, Mazie K. Hirono, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Alex Padilla, Patty Murray, Sheldon Whitehouse, Debbie Stabenow, Tina Smith, Benjamin L. Cardin, Chris Van Hollen, Tim Kaine, Brian Schatz, Christopher Murphy, Peter Welch.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 126.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Monica Ramirez Almadani, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 126, Monica Ramirez Almadani, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, John W. Hickenlooper, Margaret Wood Hassan, Gary C. Peters, Mark Kelly, Jack Reed, Tammy Duckworth, Christopher Murphy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Catherine Cortez Masto, Mazie K. Hirono, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jeanne Shaheen, Tammy Baldwin, Angus S. King, Jr., Alex Padilla, Robert Menendez, Michael F. Bennet.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 222.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Ana de Alba, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 222, Ana de Alba, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Richard J. Durbin, Tammy Baldwin, Alex Padilla, Mark Kelly, Jeanne Shaheen, Jack Reed, Mazie K. Hirono, Brian Schatz, Elizabeth Warren, Sherrod Brown, Ron Wyden, Tim Kaine, Raphael G. Warnock, Benjamin L. Cardin, John W. Hickenlooper, Amy Klobuchar, Tammy Duckworth.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, November 6, be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, there has been a lot of conversation about this body—quite frankly, around the Nation—about border security. Rightfully so. It has been top of mind for a lot of cities, States, for a lot of families, school districts, businesses, especially along the border States as they have had a disproportionately large number of people who have come, many of them from all over the world, many of them non-Spanish speakers, not from Central America and South America but literally from everywhere.

The Wall Street Journal had a piece just this weekend where it detailed how hundreds of thousands of migrants from all over the world are making their way to the southwest border which is causing a surge in apprehensions, but it is especially people from Asia and Africa.

Human smuggling networks, it says, are widening their reach around the globe.

Arrests at the Southwest border of migrants from China, India and other distant countries, including Mauritania and Senegal, tripled to 214,000 during the fiscal year that ended in September.

That was up from 70,000 just the year before. That is tripling that number.

What is happening is on our southern border, the cartels are finding it more profitable to be able to move people in from farther. So they are organizing flights for people to go through seven or eight countries to be able to then arrive in Mexico, and they are moving them through in what they affectionately call ''donkey flights'' to be able to reach farther for the cartels to be able to make more and to exploit our laws.

America has always been open to people and immigration. We are a nation of legal immigrants, but we are also a nation of laws. And what we are finding at this stage is those laws are being exploited and being exploited dramatically. Let me give you just an example. There has been no change in the asylum law since 2010, but, in 2010, we had 21,000 people request asylum on our southern border for the year—21,000 the entire year of 2010. That wasn't an anomaly. That was about a normal amount of people requesting asylum on our southwest border. Now, we have that many requests of asylum on our southwest border every 3 days. So it has gone from 21,000 in a year to now every 3 days.

Everyone knows this is an issue. Last week, Secretary Mayorkas was in front of the Homeland Security Committee, and I asked him about this in a public hearing. I asked him whether there were policy changes that were needed.

His answer was very direct. He said:

Yes, policy changes are needed.

I asked him specifically on reforming the asylum system, knowing that it has been exploited. His exact answer was:

The asylum system needs to be reformed from top to bottom.

I asked him about the issue of withholding of removal, which now about 55 percent of the people who were released into the country were actually released under something called withholding of removal. I asked him about that. His response was:

[Withholding of removal and] the companion element is the convention against torture our system needs to be able to work efficiently and expeditiously while not compromising due process.

I asked him about repatriating individuals in difficult countries that are called recalcitrants. He said:

Our ability to repatriate individuals to the countries of origin when they do not qualify for relief under our laws is of vital importance.

Why am I bringing this up? Because it is not just me saying we need to reform the asylum process. The head of Homeland Security is saying we need to reform this process. And it is just not the head of Homeland Security saying we need to reform the asylum process. It is the administration.

Two weeks ago, the administration requested additional dollars for the border to be able to put in the supplemental. They asked for funding for Israel, for Ukraine, for Taiwan, and for border security. But then, after they put that request out, Homeland Security released an op-ed in the Washington Post, which said this:

To be clear, this supplemental funding is like a tourniquet—urgently needed and critical in the short-term, but not a long-term solution to a deep-seated problem. Our national immigration laws, having gone through major revisions by Congress in 1996, are severely out-of-date, and our system is completely broken. On this, everyone agrees.

The administration itself, just this past March, put out a release dealing with what they call ''circumvention of lawful pathways.'' In it, they did a Q&A back and forth to ask people questions on how it would function. This is one of the answers from the administration talking about what is happening currently at our border. They said:

[Such a high rate of migration] risks overwhelming the Department's ability to effectively process, detain, and remove, as appropriate, the migrants encountered. This would put an enormous strain on already strained resources, risk overcrowding in already crowded [U.S. Border Patrol] stations and border [ports of entry] in ways that pose significant health and safety concerns, and create a situation in which large numbers of migrants—only a small portion of whom are likely to be granted asylum—are subject to extreme exploitation . . . by the networks that support their movements north.

I would be glad to have written that myself.

The administration sees the same thing that everyone else who looks at the border sees. If you take an honest assessment of what is happening, our system is being exploited by cartels, and people from around the world are answering ads that are on TikTok and messaging services saying: I can get you into the United States if you pay me enough money.

That is why 45,000 people from India came last year requesting asylum in the United States—because it is easier to get in and to pay the cartels than it is to go through the legal process. We are incentivizing illegal activity, and this body knows it.

We are a nation of laws. We should prioritize the law. We should be open to legal immigration, but we should be opposed to illegal immigration and what is happening to enrich deadly, dangerous criminal cartels in northern Mexico.

Again, the administration in their public statement made this statement just a few months ago:

The current asylum system—in which most migrants who are initially deemed eligible to pursue their claims ultimately are not granted asylum in the subsequent [immigration court] proceedings—has contributed to a growing backlog of cases awaiting review by asylum officers and immigration judges.

What are they saying? The system is broken because it is packed with people who do not actually qualify for asylum coming in to flood the system and request asylum.

We all see the challenge. Now the question is, Are we going to do something about it?

Republicans in the Senate, this past weekend, released a very simple proposal to deal with what we all know are the problems—closing the loopholes in the law that have been exploited. And, yes, it deals with asylum, and, yes, it deals with withholding because those are the areas that are being exploited. We see it. The administration sees it. The question is, Do Democrat Senators see it? That is really the issue now. Everyone else seems to see it and admit to it.

So what did we propose? We proposed some pretty straightforward things. One is what is called ''safe third country'' transit. These are individuals like the 45,000 people who came from India last year. They fly through four or five countries—including dangerous countries like France—to be able to land here and to be able to cross the border and say: I need to find asylum.

Almost everyone sees that as an exploitation, and it is not just us. There is almost no other country that does what we do. This whole issue about picking and choosing where I want to request asylum is not how asylum really works. You see, asylum under international law—and most people in this body know it—''asylum'' and ''refugee'' have the same definition under international law. A refugee doesn't pick nine different countries and then pick the one that they want. They flee to the next safe place. That is the same international rule for asylum.

If you were to request asylum right now in Canada—cross the border into Canada and request asylum—do you know what is the first question they would ask you? The first question they would ask you is: Did you just cross from the United States?

If you answered yes, they would then say: Did you request asylum there, and were you denied?

If they say, ''I didn't request asylum,'' Canada will turn you right back around.

And that is not just Canada. That is most of the EU. If you went to Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Slovenia, the UK—if you went to any of them, they would ask: What country did you transit through before you got here, and did you request and were you denied asylum before you came in? If you said, ''I didn't request asylum in the places I transited from,'' they would turn you around because that is not an unreasonable thing.

When you go through five other countries and then request asylum in the last one, you are actually trying to emigrate to that country, not requesting asylum under international law. You are trying to pick the place.

And, by the way, I don't blame them for picking America. It is the greatest country in the world. But that is economic opportunity, that is not asylum.

So the question is, Can we incentivize those individuals to not try to run a loophole through our system but to actually go through the legal process and request to come here as a legal immigrant?

We love to see people from all over the world, as we always have, come into the United States legally, just not exploiting a loophole in the asylum law. That is the wrong way to be able to do it.

The bill that Republicans have proposed also deals with streamlining the process. Right now, it can take up to 10 years just to get a hearing with an immigration judge under a standard that most people know, and the administration has admitted, people won't qualify for asylum at the end.

Why is that? Because, when you come across the border, you encounter Border Patrol or CBP or an asylum officer. They do an initial screening, and the screening is far lower than the actual standard. So you may qualify under the screening standard, but everyone knows you are not going to actually qualify for the actual standard for asylum.

So there are two simple things that can be done here. One is to make the screening standard equal to the actual standard—to say: We all know this is what you have got to achieve. So screen for that. Is it reasonable? Is it even a 51-percent chance that you are going to get to that standard? If it is, then you come in. If you are not, then you are screened out.

The second is that we actually have three different screenings. Many people don't know this. We screen for asylum, and then we separately screen for what is called withholding, and we separately screen for Convention against Torture. Those three different screenings are made at three different times—sometimes across a decade of time. Everyone knows, if you don't qualify for the first one, you are likely not going to qualify for the other two, either. But you can request it, and you can run that loophole, and then you are in the United States. And the cartels literally teach people exactly what to say in their last step so that they can exploit that loophole.

So let's actually have a screening standard that is the same standard you have to get to, and let's screen for all three of those things at the same time. That actually sounds like government efficiency. I know we are not good at that as a nation, but, if we screen all three of those things at the same time, it allows somebody to have due process. We don't want someone not to have due process. If someone is a victim of torture, we want to make sure they have an opportunity to go through that process. But why wouldn't we go through all three of those at the same time, rather than across 10 years, waiting for multiple different hearings?

Republicans also proposed something pretty simple. Right now, the law says that if you committed a felony, then you are not eligible for asylum. But the problem with that is, there are some crimes that are not considered a felony at the earliest days, and we are still allowing them in.

Let me give you a for instance. What if you had three DUIs? What if you are dealing meth? What if you are a member of a gang and you show it? What if you have a domestic violence conviction?

If you have a domestic violence conviction, you can't own a firearm in America, but you could get asylum in America. We literally invite people to be able to come in whom we already know have domestic violence convictions.

So we are making it pretty simple. We are saying: Hey, listen, let's keep the standard where it is for a felony, but let's actually prevent the loopholes.

Why would we invite someone into the country whom we know has had multiple DUI convictions? Why would we do that? It is not safe for our streets.

Do any one of you want to sit down with a dad and say: Your daughter was killed in a DUI because we were loose on our asylum rules? I would assume not.

We are not asking for something extreme. Again, it is typical for many places around the world that this is how it would be done. All we are trying to do is to be able to fix the loopholes and to be able to secure our Nation.

This proposal we put forward keeps families together. I know there is going to be an immediate thing that this is about separating families at the border. Actually, no, it is very explicit that if families travel together, families stay together for their hearing, to be able to make sure that we are protecting that family. But we are also raising a simple question. We all know and we have all seen the stories, and for those of us who have gone to the border, we have seen it with our own eyes: children traveling with adults that—we are all parents, and we can see clear enough that is not really your child—where children are literally used as a free pass to be able to get into the country and to be able to expedite.

We would like to be able to protect those children and make sure children are actually not used to be a free pass into the country. There is a way to be able to prevent that and to be able to protect those families that are actually real families at the same time.

We do a couple other things. We also raise just a very simple statement about the Border Patrol. Many people here may or may not know, but the Border Patrol can't actually get overtime if you are at a certain level. If

you are other Federal law enforcement, you do get overtime. But if you are Border Patrol, you do not.

So these guys may work 100 hours for 2 weeks, but for the additional hours they are working, they don't actually get overtime pay. That is not right.

So what happens is, Border Patrol has a hard time with retention, not just because the job is incredibly difficult but, once they get to a certain level, their families encourage them and say: Why don't we do another Federal law enforcement somewhere else—still stay in Federal law enforcement, but we can actually earn overtime pay at that point rather than actually being punished for staying in the Border Patrol and trying to be able to serve?

Why don't we fix that?

Why don't we fix some of the training issues that have come up?

Why don't we actually try to respond to those things?

Why don't we provide the opportunity for the Biden administration to be able to lay out a strategy for how to secure the border? We are not writing it. Just give them the opportunity to be able to do it.

And here is one thing that has been interesting that I have already heard pushback from. We have a section where we talk about the border wall. What is interesting is, what we have actually proposed is we actually fulfill the border wall portion that President Biden has already said he is going to do. We actually just want to put it in writing so the President can't just say orally, ''I want to do this.'' We have to actually put it in writing to be able to do it. That is a reasonable thing to be able to do.

Listen, we are not asking for crazy stuff. We are asking for what Americans are asking for: Just secure the border. We want to be a nation that welcomes immigrants, but we also want to be a nation that honors the law. We can do both. That is what we are setting in front of this body—to say: When we are talking about the supplemental, let's actually talk about not just securing Israel and securing Ukraine and securing Taiwan; let's also secure the United States of America.

With that, I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 372, Monica M. Bertagnolli, of Massachusetts, to be Director of National Institutes of Health.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Debbie Stabenow, Tammy Duckworth, Mark Kelly, Tina Smith, Tammy Baldwin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Christopher A. Coons, Tim Kaine, Christopher Murphy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jeanne Shaheen, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Chris Van Hollen, Catherine Cortez Masto.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Monica M. Bertagnolli, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the National Institutes of Health, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) would have voted ''nay.''

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 59, nays 32, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 292 Ex.]

YEAS—59

Baldwin	Hassan	Peters
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Romney
Booker	Hirono	Rosen
Boozman	Kaine	Rounds
Brown	Kelly	Schatz
Butler	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Sinema
Capito	Luján	Smith
Cardin	Lummis	Stabenow
Carper	Manchin	Tester
Casey	Markey	Tillis
Cassidy	Marshall	Van Hollen
Collins	Menendez	Warner
Coons	Merkley	Warnock
Cortez Masto	Moran	Warren
Duckworth	Murkowski	Welch
Durbin	Murphy	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murray	Wyden
Graham	Padilla	

NAYS—32

Blackburn	Hagerty	Rubio
Budd	Hawley	Sanders
Cornyn	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cotton	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cramer	Kennedy	Sullivan
Crapo	Lankford	Thune
Cruz	Lee	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Vance
Ernst	Mullin	Wicker
Fischer	Paul	Young
Grassley	Ricketts	

NOT VOTING—9

Barrasso	Fetterman	Risch
Braun	Hoeven	Schumer
Britt	Ossoff	Scott (SC)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). On this vote, the yeas are 59, the nays are 32.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

TRIBUTE TO DAN MAHR

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, the great American labor organizer Delores Huerta said:

Every moment is an organizing opportunity, every person [is a] potential activist, [and] every minute [is] a chance to change the world.

In that spirit, I rise to bid farewell to a member of my team, Dan Mahr.

Dan sees every constituent as an opportunity to connect and every townhall meeting as a chance to change someone's world.

I host a lot of townhall meetings in Oregon—one in every one of our 36 counties every year. One time, Dan and I were hosting a townhall meeting in rural eastern Oregon, where an older, conservative rancher was waiting in line to talk to me and had that look on his face where he just knew he was pretty unhappy and wanted to let me know why. Well, Dan noticed him too. He started chatting with him, and pretty soon, that stony expression began to crack, and the conversation began to warm up. By the time that stern rancher had made it to me, he was chuckling and patting Dan on the back.

As we left that meeting, everyone, including our church ladies and our ranchers and our farmers—everyone—to our rural hippies, was giving Dan extra handshakes on the way out the door. That is how it was in townhalls where Dan was staffing.

He joined my team in 2016, 7 years ago, after a decade of fighting for unions and working families across America. As my senior labor adviser, he has stood up to the powerful on behalf of the working people all across our State. He has been one of my field representatives, serving folks in North Central Oregon, in Clackamas County and Wasco and Hood River and Sherman and Gilliam Counties. But he didn't just get the job done in those counties; he was always the first person to volunteer to staff a townhall meeting for his teammates no matter how far away it is across the State. He just loves being out on the road in Oregon. He has driven thousands of miles, set up thousands of chairs, met thousands of Oregonians. Whenever a new field representative joined our team, he was the first to welcome that individual to Team Merkley, to go with him or her to their first townhall, to lend a helping hand at the events.

Our work is important to him because if folks are taking their time out of busy lives to come to a townhall meeting, he wants to give them the respect that goes with feeling welcome and feeling heard. And, of course, that is exactly the attitude I take to those meetings.

Well, Dan's dedication to constituents' services is renowned on the team, not just for his personal touch but also for his personal tenacity. There is a saying—a saying I like a lot—that tenacity is a superpower. I experienced that a few times in my life. I certainly believe it is true.

Ever since I was first elected to the Senate in 2008, I have been hearing about funding for economic development in the Columbia River Gorge.

That funding had been authorized when the Columbia River National Scenic Area was established in 1986. In that scenic area, every community had restrictions on what additional buildings they could create, so they felt for sure the Federal Government would hold up its side of the deal and deliver that money for economic development in compensation. They did get some of that money in the 1990s but not the full amount. They were millions of dollars short. It came up at meeting after meeting after meeting: Where is that money the Federal Government promised us? It was an issue folks were not going to let go of.

Of course, I wanted to deliver that funding, but I had to have a key staff member work on it, and that key staff member was Dan—working on it for 5 years, finding strategies in which we could get additional pieces of funding delivered until every single dollar had made it through tricky local politics, bistate politics, to help the stakeholders who live throughout the Columbia Gorge. There was no silver-bullet moment; it was just year after year of planning and pushing and seizing key opportunities to fulfill promises to ordinary Oregonians. In the end, fulfill they did. Dan secured those millions of dollars in economic development for the Columbia Gorge.

He was just as tenacious about protecting local services, too, like when he kept open the West Linn Post Office. After 2 years of searching for a permanent site, one day in August, we heard that the U.S. Postal Service had decided to just close the doors on the post office in September, right before the November election. Just 6 weeks before the 2020 Presidential election, in a State where we vote by mail, in the midst of COVID, right before the holidays, the post office is going to close the doors on that post office. They had just given up on finding a new location. That post office serves a city of 26,000 people.

Dan went immediately to work, organizing our delegation, our local officials, working with the Postal Service to find a better solution, insisting that no way those doors could be closed, making sure that everyone felt the urgency, and ultimately secured the extension of that post office and kept it open. At the election, people could cast their ballots. People could receive their medications, and they could mail their gifts to their loved ones during the holidays.

But there is more to the story because the post office continued to insist on closing. Well, again, Dan helped organize. He helped carry the message that that was unacceptable, and eventually the U.S. Postal Service got the message, found a suitable location, and the people of West Linn, OR, were overjoyed. But it took tenacity, and that is what Dan brought to the ballot.

He is also tenacious, by the way, when he is trying to win a game of table tennis. I can neither confirm nor deny that he ripped a pair of suit pants in a table tennis match with an unnamed U.S. Senator.

He has been tenacious as my labor adviser. Whether working with bakers, the building trades, nurses, teachers, timber workers, public employees, everyone knows that Dan is a partner they can trust. He has navigated countless labor issues to ensure the working families of Oregon get the pay and benefits they earned.

A few years ago, there was a difficult discussion about a major project in Oregon. It would have created a lot of construction jobs, but it also would have done a lot of damage to the climate. In that situation, with this benefit and this problem, Dan was a supreme professional, the supreme diplomat, ensuring that full and accurate information was brought to bear and that everyone's perspectives was carefully considered and weighed. In the end, of course, not everyone agreed with the ultimate outcome, but so many were impressed by the thorough and transparent process that Dan facilitated.

Dan is the kind of guy who brings a positive angle to every situation. One time, my team members, after driving 8 hours across Oregon—big State; I know that is hard to envision here on the east coast—they were driving 8 hours to host an event and discovered the local motel rooms were out of commission, so they would have to drive after the event an additional 3 hours to find accommodation. The team really was exhausted and just wanted to climb in bed and go to sleep, but they couldn't. But Dan said:

Hey, let's use this as an opportunity to see Oregon's only geyser.

The water table had come up, and the geyser was back in action. So they went in search of the geyser before hitting the road, and they found it, and they were thrilled to see it because few in Oregon ever have. It was an effective pivot for an exhausted and quite cranky crew. As one of them said afterward:

It was very, very cool. I'm so grateful that Dan made us slow down a bit. He always encourages us to enjoy the trip, enjoy the sights, and enjoy each other's company.

I know he has done that for me. I remember a day after many miles and many events when we had a little bit of time before our next stop. We went by his house in Hood River, sat on his porch—sat on his rocking chairs on his porch—hung out, laughed, relaxed, and played with his dog. It was just what we all needed, and Dan knew it.

I began these remarks quoting Dolores Huerta, who said that ''every minute is a chance to change the world.'' She also said:

I think the importance of doing activist work is to engage people and give them hope. Hope for a better world, hope for a better tomorrow. Hope that change is possible, and that they can be part of that transformation.

Dan has engaged and given hope to so many ordinary people—hope for a better Oregon, hope for a better community, hope for a better tomorrow. Most importantly, he has shown folks that, working together, change is possible and that they can be part of that transformation.

So many people I met have a great story about Dan and some way he has helped them or helped their town or just that they have enjoyed knowing him. He embodies the best spirit of Team Merkley. So it is with deep gratitude that Team Merkley and I thank Dan Mahr for his service to the people of Oregon, and we wish him all the best in his next chapter.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING DONNA LEE NELSON

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, throughout my years of public service, I have had the honor to meet citizens from all walks of life across my home State. As Iowa's senior U.S. Senator, today I pay tribute to a dynamic civic and business leader who passed away earlier this year.

Donna Lee Nelson was an indomitable pillar in her community who leaves behind a legacy of leadership, service, and entrepreneurial spirit for which the city of Waterloo and the Cedar Valley will benefit for generations to come. She also was the family matriarch, lovingly recalled as a ''force of nature,'' and her long list of achievements and traveling adventures will be fondly remembered by her family and friends for years to come.

Donna and her husband Verner D. Nelson, Sr., celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary in January. That was a remarkable milestone and testimony to their faith-filled partnership. They were high school sweethearts who together launched a business enterprise that started with insurance and ventured into many others, including construction, trucking, and real estate.

Looking back at her 89 years of life, Donna certainly didn't let any grass grow beneath her feet. She traveled all over the world but never lost sight of home. The city of Waterloo benefited from what you might call her Midas Touch with her tireless, decades-long efforts to preserve the vitality, culture, heritage and history of downtown, including the Black's Building and the old YMCA.

Her selfless approach to leadership and ability to mobilize others carried

over from business and industry to philanthropy, as well. Donna was recognized by more than 20 achievement awards, including being named Citizen of the Year in 1985 and Eight over Eighty in 2015. Donna chaired and served on numerous boards, from the United Way to the American Heart Association and the Salvation Army.

Barbara and I extend our condolences to Donna's family and friends, particularly to her beloved husband Vern. We were blessed by her friendship and thank the Nelson family for their support over many years.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CARDIN. Madam 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. 23–63, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Iraq for defense articles and services estimated to cost $300 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.

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(l) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Iraq.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment * $ 0.

Other $300 million.

Total $300 million.

Funding Source: Foreign Military Financing.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: Foreign Military Sales (FMS) case IQ–B–AQJ was below the congressional notification threshold at $28 million ($0 in MDE) and included a Bell Contracted Logistics Support (CLS) and Field Service Representative (FSR) contract in support of the following types of Bell aircraft: three (3) 407 variants, 206B3, OH–58A/C Kiowa, and Huey II. The Government of Iraq has requested the case be amended to include additional option years on the current contract and to add contract support for Bell 505 aircraft as indicated below. This amendment will push the current case above the total case value notification threshold and thus requires notification of the entire case.

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None

Non-MDE: Bell Contracted Logistics Support (CLS) and Field Service Representative (FSR) maintenance in support of the following Bell aircraft: three (3) 407 variants, 206B3, OH–58A/C Kiowa, Huey II and 505. Also included is U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; studies and surveys; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (IQ–B–AQJ).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: IQ–B–UDZ, IQ–B–ADQ.

(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: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: November 2, 2023.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Iraq—Bell Helicopter Contracted Logistics Support (CLS)

The Government of Iraq has requested to buy additional services, as indicated below, that will be added to a previously implemented case whose value was under the congressional notification threshold. The original FMS case, valued at $28 million, included a Bell Contracted Logistics Support (CLS) and Field Service Representative (FSR) contract. This notification is for the combined CLS and FSR maintenance support for the following Bell aircraft: three (3) 407 variants, 206B3, OH–58A/C Kiowa, Huey II and 505. Also included is U.S. Government and Contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; studies and surveys; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is $300 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a strategic partner.

The proposed sale will improve the Republic of Iraq's capability to meet current and future threats by enhancing the strength of its homeland defense. The Republic of Iraq will have ho difficulty absorbing these services 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 Bell Helicopter Company, Fort Worth, TX. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the assignment of four (4) additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Iraq for a duration of one (1) year to support CLS for Bell 505 aircraft. There are currently seven (7) U.S. Government or contractor representatives in Iraq that will stay an additional two (2) years to provide support for the contract option years for CLS and FSR service support for the three (3) 407 variants, 206B3, OH–58A/C and Huey II aircraft.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, I was necessarily absent, but had I been present, I would have voted yes on rollcall vote No. 291, confirmation of Lt. Gen. Christopher J. Mahoney for appointment as Asst. Commandant of the Marine Corps, and to be General.

HONORING THE SOLDIERS OF BRAVO COMPANY, 3RD BATTALION, 124TH INFANTRY REGIMENT, FLORIDA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madam President, I rise today to honor the soldiers of Bravo Company (Wolfpack), 3rd Battalion (Warrior), 124th Infantry Regiment Florida Army National Guard. This year marks the 20th anniversary since Bravo Company was deployed to the Middle East. The 137 soldiers were the first Florida Guardsmen deployed to war since World War II.

These brave soldiers conducted thousands of patrols, hundreds of checkpoints, performed raids, and participated in countless supporting operations. Most importantly, all soldiers returned home. These soldiers earned their Combat Infantryman Badge and their Presidential Unit Citation.

I want to welcome them to Pensacola, FL, 20 years after being downrange protecting our great Nation. As a Navy veteran and the son of a World War II veteran, I know firsthand the sacrifices made by our military members and their families. Thank you for your service; your courage and dedication to our country will never be forgotten.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING BRANNON MONUMENT COMPANY

● Ms. ERNST. Madam President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Brannon Monument Company of Dubuque, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Brannon Monument Company was founded by Henry Kies in 1926 as Kies Monument in Dubuque, IA. In 1961, Vince and Mary Lou Brannon bought Kies Monument and shortly thereafter changed the name to Brannon Monument Company. In 1991, Vince and Mary Lou's son Michael Brannon started working at the company. Michael purchased the family business from his parents in 1993 with his wife Stasia and moved the company in 1996 to a larger location. Brannon Monument Company

moved again in 2021 to a new location and now includes Novak and Brannon Monuments in Marion, IA, and Manchester Monument Company in Manchester, IA. Vince Brannon passed away in 2004, leaving behind a legacy of hard work, service, and dedication to the Dubuque community.

Brannon Monument Company has been instrumental in building memorials to honor our Nation's veterans. They were a key partner in the construction of the Dubuque Veterans Memorial Plaza, which honors Dubuque veterans who fought in major military conflicts. On July 4, 2019, the Buchanan County Veterans Memorial opened with members of the Brannon family in attendance for the dedication. Brannon Monument Company has been involved in building veteran memorials in Central City and Kolona, IA, as well as Platteville, WI.

In addition to providing memorials, Brannon Monument Company is also actively involved in the Dubuque community. Michael and Stasia Brannon are famous in the Dubuque community for their yearly Halloween decorations that were covered by the local newspaper. Michael is a member of the Monument Builders of North America, where he served as president from 1999 until 2000. He has also been a member and served as the president of the Monument Builders of Iowa. Brannon Monument Company has been involved with local philanthropic efforts in the Dubuque community, including Rotary International, Mercy Service Club, Alzheimer's Association, Oldorf Hospice House, and the Boys and Girls Club. In 2023, Brannon Monument Company celebrated its 97th business anniversary.

Brannon Monument Company's commitment to providing high-quality memorials in northeast Iowa is clear. I want to congratulate Michael and Stasia Brannon, Mary Lou Brannon, and the entire team at Brannon Monument Company for their dedication to the Dubuque community. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES C. OWEN, JR.

● Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, today I recognize Charlie Owen, as he concludes his remarkable tenure as president of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees—AFSCME—Council 93.

Charles C. Owen, Jr., was born on January 29, 1950, a son of the tightly knit Irish community in South Boston, MA. In 1968, he joined the U.S. Army and was stationed in Germany before heading to Vietnam, where he fought for his country. He returned to the United States with an honorable discharge in 1971. In 1975, he went into the public service, securing a job working as a mechanic in the city of Boston Police Department, repairing police cars. He went on to serve the city of Boston for 46 years.

Charlie almost never worked just one job. Like many people in this country, he had to work multiple jobs to support his family. He worked as an emergency medical technician, and for 20 years, he was a day-of-game employee for his beloved Boston Red Sox. He was a part of the Red Sox operation not just for the storied—and curse-breaking—2004 championship season, but also for the 2007, 2013, and 2018 World Series winning seasons. And, typical of Charlie, he didn't just work the games. For over a decade, he ran his own charitable golf tournament, raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for the Jimmy Fund, the Red Sox charitable foundation that fights both childhood and adult cancer.

But it was as a city of Boston employee that Charlie really found his niche as a union activist. He got involved in his local and eventually became the president of AFSCME Local 804, which represents supervisors and managers across the city of Boston. To this day, he remains a loyal, dues-paying member of Local 804. Across decades of union activism, Charlie learned to negotiate contracts, to stand up for his members at work, to work with management to solve complicated workplace problems, to figure out which political candidates would stand up for workers, to help elect those candidates to office, and to persuade elected officials to pass laws that would help working families. In 2011, he ran for the vice presidency of AFSCME Council 93, the umbrella organization for all AFSCME Locals in Northern New England. He won his election and, in 2012, ascended to the presidency of the council.

He has travelled all over New England, and indeed all over the country, talking to workers in Tennessee, Texas, Colorado, and elsewhere about standing together to have a voice at work. He has spoken with elected officials at every level about the concerns of workers—the need for a living wage, decent health insurance, and a dignified retirement. This includes three American Presidents—President Bill Clinton, President Barack Obama, and President Joe Biden—as well as any number of Presidential candidates.

In short, Charlie Owen is a great American. He has served his country from almost the moment he turned 18, as a member of the armed services, in public service, and as a union activist. Everywhere he went, everything he did, he looked for ways to serve others, whether those others be his coworkers, children with cancer, or simply his fellow Americans.

In January 2021, Charlie retired from his job at the city of Boston, and in November of this year, his term as president of AFSCME Council 93 will end. He has dedicated over 40 years of his life in service to his coworkers. As he ends his professional career and steps down from decades of service to his union, we salute him. He will spend time with his seven children, his many grandchildren, and great-grandchild, and he will continue to travel around the country talking to people seeking a voice at work. I thank Charlie for his unending dedication and look forward to seeing what great things he will do next.●

REMEMBERING KELLY AND NOAH ROSEBERRY

● Ms. WARREN. Madam President, I would like to offer my deepest sympathies to the family of Kelly M. Roseberry and Noah Ryan Roseberry, who tragically passed away on October 28, 2023.

Born and raised in a military family, Kelly touched countless lives with her bright, infectious personality and appreciation for service and sacrifice. After earning her doctorate of physical therapy, Kelly underwent training at Quantico Officers Candidate School, Landstuhl Hospital in Germany, and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, where she specialized in care for injured servicemembers, often providing care within 24 hours of their lifechanging injuries.

Kelly then worked for 7 years as a physical therapist and amputee specialist at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and Walter Reed National Medical Center. She accompanied a countless number of people through devastating injury and helped them to walk, run, and pick up their children again. Kelly devoted her life to helping those who needed it most. We need more people like Kelly. I know that her memory will live on in the colleagues she worked alongside, the patients whose lives she changed, and in people she has never met that are inspired by her selfless years of service.

Kelly leaves behind her husband Chris, and their beautiful daughter Emma Grace. Their second child Noah Ryan passed on with Kelly.

I once again offer my sincerest sympathies to the Roseberry and McGaughey families.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Stringer, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES

REPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE THREAT FROM SECURITIES INVESTMENTS THAT FINANCE CERTAIN COMPANIES OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC) THAT WAS DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13959 OF NOVEMBER 12, 2020, RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE ON NOVEMBER 3, 2023—PM 28

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

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 threat from securities investments that finance certain companies of the People's Republic of China (PRC) that was declared in Executive Order 13959 of November 12, 2020, and expanded in scope in Executive Order 14032 of June 3, 2021, is to continue in effect beyond November 12, 2023.

The PRC exploits United States capital to resource and to enable the development and modernization of its military, intelligence, and other security apparatuses, which continues to allow the PRC to directly threaten the United States homeland and United States forces overseas. Through the national strategy of Military-Civil Fusion, the PRC increases the size of the country's military-industrial complex by compelling civilian Chinese companies to support its military and intelligence activities. Those companies, though remaining ostensibly private and civilian, directly support the PRC's military, intelligence, and security apparatuses. At the same time, those companies raise capital by selling securities to United States investors that trade on public exchanges both here and abroad, lobbying United States index providers and funds to include these securities in market offerings, and engaging in other acts to ensure access to United States capital.

The PRC military-industrial complex, by directly supporting the efforts of the PRC's military, intelligence, and other security apparatuses, continues to constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat, which has its source in whole or substantial part outside the United States, to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. In addition, the use of Chinese surveillance technology outside the PRC and the development or use of Chinese surveillance technology to facilitate repression or serious human rights abuse continue to constitute unusual and extraordinary threats, which have their source in whole or substantial part outside the United States, to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States.

Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13959, expanded in scope by Executive Order 14032, with respect to the threat from securities investments that finance certain companies of the PRC.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *November 3, 2023.*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO CONGRESS RELATIVE TO THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR'S CERTIFICATION UNDER SECTION 8 OF THE FISHERMAN'S PROTECTIVE ACT OF 1967, AS AMENDED (THE ''PELLY AMENDMENT'') (22 U.S.C. 1978) THAT NATIONALS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC) ARE ENGAGING IN TRADE OR TAKING OF EIGHT SPECIES OF PANGOLIN THAT DIMINISHES THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA (CITES), RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE ON NOVEMBER 3, 2023—PM 29

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

To the Congress of the United States:

On August 24, 2023, the Secretary of the Interior certified under section 8 of the Fishermen's Protective Act of 1967, as amended (the ''Pelly Amendment'') (22 U.S.C. 1978), that nationals of the People's Republic of China (PRC) are engaging in trade or taking of eight species of pangolin that diminishes the effectiveness of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). This letter constitutes my notification to the Congress consistent with subsection (b) of the Pelly Amendment.

Pangolins, the world's only scaly mammal, are captured and trafficked at a higher rate annually than rhinoceroses, elephants, and tigers combined. Consumer demand for pangolin scales for traditional medicinal practices has pushed all eight pangolin species, originating from across Africa and Asia, toward extinction. Effective January 2, 2017, all species of pangolin were included in CITES Appendix I, which prohibits international trade for primarily commercial purposes. Despite this prohibition, the PRC remains the largest destination country for pangolin scales.

The PRC has taken some steps to curtail pangolin trafficking at its international ports and has uplisted pangolins under its Wildlife Protection Law. Yet the PRC maintains a system that allows for the legal commercial trade of pangolin scales for medicinal use from its national stockpiles, thereby indirectly providing commercial avenues for selling illegal pangolin specimens through its domestic pangolin market. Provincial governments within the PRC are allowed to issue permits to designated pharmaceutical companies and other entities to acquire pangolin specimens from the PRC's national stockpiles for medicinal use.

According to the United Nations, pangolin seizures have increased tenfold since 2014; moreover, based on data collected between 2007 and 2018, 71 percent of seizures were destined for the PRC. The size of individual seizures has also increased; for example, in 2019 Malaysian authorities reported seizing a record-setting 30 tons of pangolin products. My Administration therefore remains concerned that, despite assurances from the PRC regarding its antitrafficking efforts, demand for pangolin scales appears to be growing. The PRC must do more to close domestic markets for pangolins and pangolin specimens that provide cover for the illegal market. Without these actions, it is likely that pangolin populations will continue to decline, bringing the species closer to extinction.

Since the Secretary of the Interior's certification on August 24, 2023, executive departments and agencies have outlined conservation and anti-trafficking conditions that must be met by the PRC to ameliorate United States concerns that the PRC is undermining pangolin conservation under CITES. Necessary actions by the PRC that would demonstrate its commitment to pangolin conservation and compliance with CITES directives include completely closing its domestic market for pangolins and pangolin parts, transparent accounting of domestic stockpiles, and fully removing pangolins and pangolin parts from the national list of approved medicines. The PRC has made some progress towards its international commitments, but given the complexity of the PRC's domestic pangolin market and its overlapping jurisdictions, more time is needed to ensure that the appropriate agencies from the PRC are implementing the necessary steps to protect pangolin species from possible extinction.

That is why I have directed the Department of State and the Department of the Interior to continue their ongoing efforts and to report back to me on

the outcome of the ongoing negotiations at the CITES Standing Committee meeting taking place in Geneva from November 6–10, 2023. If significant commitments by the PRC to implement CITES-directed measures to protect pangolin species have not been made by December 31, 2023, I plan to direct certain prohibitions on the importation of, and impose trade measures on, certain products from the PRC.

The United States will take the steps necessary to end illegal trade in order to save pangolins from extinction, with the goal of demonstrating progress by the end of this year.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, *November 3, 2023*.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:04 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3774. An act to impose additional sanctions with respect to the importation or facilitation of the importation of petroleum products from Iran, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6126. An act making emergency supplemental appropriations to respond to the attacks in Israel for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 340. AN ACT TO IMPOSE SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN SUPPORT FOR TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING HAMAS AND THE PALESTINIAN ISLAMIC JIHAD.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 3774. An act to impose additional sanctions with respect to the importation or facilitation of the importation of petroleum products from Iran, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6126. An act making emergency supplemental appropriations to respond to the attacks in Israel for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

BY MR. SCHATZ, FROM THE COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS, WITHOUT AMENDMENT:

S. 306. A BILL TO APPROVE THE SETTLEMENT OF THE WATER RIGHT CLAIMS OF THE TULE RIVER TRIBE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES (REPT. NO. 118–110).

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. THUNE (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. YOUNG, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 3227. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an alternative manner of furnishing certain health insurance coverage statements to individuals; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KELLY (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. HEINRICH, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 3228. A bill to prohibit certain members and former members of the Armed Forces from accepting employment with government entities of the People's Republic of China or the Russian Federation; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BUDD:

S. 3229. A bill to prohibit Federal agencies from restricting the use of convertible virtual currency by a person to purchase goods or services for the person's own use, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. RICKETTS):

S. 3230. A bill to transfer administrative jurisdiction of certain Federal lands from the Army Corps of Engineers to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to take such lands into trust for the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. REED, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BENNET, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 3231. A bill to enable the people of Puerto Rico to choose a permanent, nonterritorial, fully self-governing political status for Puerto Rico and to provide for a transition to and the implementation of that permanent, nonterritorial, fully self-governing political status, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. WARREN):

S. Res. 450. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that paraprofessionals and education support staff should have fair compensation, benefits, and working conditions; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. Res. 451. A resolution permitting the collection of clothing, toys, food, and housewares during the holiday season for charitable purposes in Senate buildings; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. BROWN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. LUJAN):

S. Res. 452. A resolution designating October 30, 2023, as a national day of remembrance for the workers of the nuclear weapons program of the United States; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 26

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) 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 Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) 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. 140

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 140, a bill to combat organized crime involving the illegal acquisition of retail goods for the purpose of selling those illegally obtained goods through physical and online retail marketplaces.

S. 537

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 537, a bill to preserve open competition and Federal Government neutrality towards the labor relations of Federal Government contractors on Federal and federally funded construction projects, and for other purposes.

S. 954

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 954, a bill to provide for appropriate cost-sharing for insulin products covered under private health plans, and to establish a program to support health care providers and pharmacies in providing discounted insulin products to uninsured individuals.

S. 960

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 960, a bill to replace the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases with 3 separate national research institutes.

S. 1300

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1300, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of the late Prime Minister Golda Meir and the 75th anniversary of the United States-Israel relationship.

S. 1706

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1706, a bill to amend the Internal

Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction for qualified business income.

S. 1829

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1829, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to persons engaged in the import of petroleum from the Islamic Republic of Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 1842

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 1842, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the regulation of zootechnical animal food substances.

S. 2372

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2372, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to streamline enrollment under the Medicaid program of certain providers across State lines, and for other purposes.

S. 2460

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) 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. 2555

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2555, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to expand and improve the enforcement capabilities of the Attorney General, and for other purposes.

S. 2700

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2700, a bill to amend the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 to require investment advisers for passively managed funds to arrange for pass-through voting of proxies for certain securities, and for other purposes.

S. 2917

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2917, a bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to establish an emergency preparedness and response technical assistance program to assist entities that operate rural water or wastewater systems in preparing for and responding to natural or man-made disasters.

S. 3119

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 3119, a bill to prohibit the Federal Communications Commission from reclassifying broadband internet access service as a telecommunications service and from imposing certain regulations on providers of such service.

S. 3168

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3168, 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.

S. 3200

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3200, a bill to reauthorize the loan repayment program for the substance use disorder treatment workforce.

S. RES. 20

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 20, a resolution condemning the coup that took place on February 1, 2021, in Burma and the Burmese military's detention of civilian leaders, calling for an immediate and unconditional release of all those detained, promoting accountability and justice for those killed by the Burmese military, and calling for those elected to serve in parliament to resume their duties without impediment, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 408

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 408, a resolution condemning Hamas for its premeditated, coordinated, and brutal terrorist attacks on Israel and demanding that Hamas immediately release all hostages and return them to safety, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. YOUNG, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 3227. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an alternative manner of furnishing certain health insurance coverage statements to individuals; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. THUNE. 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. 3227

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Paperwork Burden Reduction Act''.

SEC. 2. ALTERNATIVE MANNER OF FURNISHING CERTAIN HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE STATEMENTS TO INDIVIDUALS.

(a) REPORTING OF HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE.—Section 6055(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) ALTERNATIVE MANNER OF FURNISHING STATEMENTS.—For purposes of this subsection, any person required to make a return under subsection (a) shall be treated as timely furnishing the written statement required under paragraph (1) if—

''(A) such person provides clear, conspicuous, and accessible notice (at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may provide) that any individual to whom a statement would otherwise be required to be furnished under paragraph (1) may request a copy of such statement, and

''(B) such person, on request of any such individual, furnishes a copy of such statement to such individual not later than the later of—

''(i) January 31 of the year following the calendar year for which the return under subsection (a) was required to be made, or

''(ii) 30 days after the date of such request.''.

(b) CERTAIN EMPLOYERS REQUIRED TO REPORT ON HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE.—Section 6056(c) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) ALTERNATIVE MANNER OF FURNISHING STATEMENTS.—For purposes of this subsection, any person required to make a return under subsection (a) shall be treated as timely furnishing the written statement required under paragraph (1) if—

''(A) such person provides clear, conspicuous, and accessible notice (at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may provide) that any individual to whom a statement would otherwise be required to be furnished under paragraph (1) may request a copy of such statement, and

''(B) such person, on request of any such individual, furnishes a copy of such statement to such individual not later than the later of—

''(i) January 31 of the year following the calendar year for which the return under subsection (a) was required to be made, or

''(ii) 30 days after the date of such request.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to statements with respect to returns for calendar years after 2023.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 450—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT PARAPROFESSIONALS AND EDUCATION SUPPORT STAFF SHOULD HAVE FAIR COMPENSATION, BENEFITS, AND WORKING CONDITIONS

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 450

Whereas paraprofessionals (also sometimes known as ''paraeducators'') include education assistants and instructional assistants who work in elementary schools, secondary schools, or public institutions of higher education;

Whereas education support staff (also sometimes known as ''classified school employees'' or ''education support professionals'') include professionals who work in elementary schools, secondary schools, or public institutions of higher education in clerical and administrative services, transportation services, food and nutrition services, custodial and maintenance services, health and student services, technical services, and skilled trades;

Whereas more than 3,000,000 paraprofessionals and education support staff are the frontline workers who transform schools in the United States from brick and mortar buildings to places of learning and support for more than 49,000,000 students across the United States;

Whereas, since the onset of the COVID–19 pandemic, school staff employment has fallen across positions and there are still 331,000 fewer school staff than before the COVID–19 pandemic, leaving schools without the necessary staff in almost every position;

Whereas, since the onset of the COVID–19 pandemic, a shortage of teachers has resulted in some paraprofessionals and education support staff being expected to assume the duties of teachers without commensurate compensation or benefits;

Whereas many paraprofessionals and education support staff are undercompensated for their work, and do not receive a living wage, much less a competitive, family-sustaining living wage;

Whereas many paraprofessionals and education support staff are, as a matter of practice, laid off at the end of each school year and rehired annually, and lack job security;

Whereas, unlike most school employees, many paraprofessionals and education support staff are not full-time employees because their services, including those of bus drivers and food service workers, are time delimited;

Whereas many paraprofessionals and education support staff lack access to high-quality, affordable health care because they are intentionally hired for insufficient hours to receive health and retirement benefits, or otherwise are charged exorbitant employee premiums for health insurance;

Whereas, while paraprofessionals and education support staff are often the most diverse subset of school employees, are more likely to have grown up in the communities they serve, and are the trusted school community members for many students and parents, the voices of paraprofessionals and education support staff are not always valued in forming school policies;

Whereas paraprofessionals and education support staff often serve students facing systemic barriers, but are often excluded from professional growth and development opportunities;

Whereas, like many school employees, paraprofessionals and education support staff are too often subject to workplace violence and other safety hazards, including contaminants and extreme temperatures;

Whereas paraprofessionals and education support staff deserve real solutions that would empower them to—

(1) work in a stable, safe environment;

(2) have multi-year job security;

(3) receive livable and competitive wages, access to sufficient hours, and fair compensation for their work; and

(4) have a voice on the job and meaningful input in school policy;

Whereas respecting paraprofessionals and education support staff is essential to creating and maintaining safe and supportive school environments that are conducive to students learning and thriving; and

Whereas Congress seeks to recognize the rights, respect, and dignity that paraprofessionals and education support staff deserve as they continue to care for and educate the next generation: Now, therefore, be it:

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) paraprofessionals and education support staff—

(A) should be compensated at a rate that is a livable, competitive wage;

(B) should have access to high quality, affordable healthcare and healthcare benefits at a de minimus personal cost;

(C) should be considered to be eligible employees under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.);

(D) should be entitled to 16 weeks of paid family and medical leave;

(E) should have paid leave for all planned and unforeseen school closures, including weather-related closures, professional development days, and other short-term closures;

(F) should have access to meaningful and free or affordable professional growth and development opportunities during regular paid working hours that provide a path to career advancement;

(G) should have sufficient resources and supplies to enable them to do their job effectively and efficiently, including up-to-date technology;

(H) should have access to training and appropriate personal protective equipment;

(I) should have representation in organizations that determine policies that may affect the working conditions of paraprofessionals and education support staff;

(J) should receive notification and the opportunity to provide significant input about the implementation of electronic monitoring, data, algorithms, and artificial intelligence technology in the applicable school and should receive high-quality professional development as new technologies are introduced;

(K) should have adequate notice and opportunity to participate, when appropriate, in individualized education program meetings, behavior intervention team meetings, and other similar meetings relating to the students the paraprofessionals and education support staff support, to the extent permitted by law;

(L) should experience a safe and healthy working environment free from recognized hazards that cause or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm;

(M) should experience appropriate staffing levels to ensure that students have adequate support and that paraprofessionals and education support staff can complete their jobs effectively, efficiently, and safely;

(N) should receive adequate notification regarding the duration of their employment;

(O) should have an employment contract that includes a provision for the automatic renewal of the contract at the expiration of the contract, rather than the automatic termination of the contract at such expiration, and a provision for termination of employment for just cause, rather than termination of employment at will; and

(P) should have a process for reporting workplace issues and concerns to their employer in a manner that protects paraprofessionals and education support staff and other employees from retaliation;

(2) in recognition of the importance of collective bargaining in maintaining good working conditions, employers of paraprofessionals and education support staff should—

(A) engage in good faith negotiations;

(B) strive to reach timely and just contracts that fairly compensate and protect paraprofessionals and education support staff;

(C) refrain from replacing paraprofessionals or education support staff who engage in a strike; and

(D) refrain from locking out such workers; and

(3) nothing in this resolving clause should be interpreted to supersede, or as an expression of the Senate's support for any law that would supersede, employment terms or conditions agreed upon in collective bargaining agreements that are more beneficial to paraprofessionals and education support staff than those described in this resolving clause.

SENATE RESOLUTION 451—PERMITTING THE COLLECTION OF CLOTHING, TOYS, FOOD, AND HOUSEWARES DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES IN SENATE BUILDINGS

Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. MORAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 451

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. COLLECTION OF CLOTHING, TOYS, FOOD, AND HOUSEWARES DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES IN SENATE BUILDINGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of the rules or regulations of the Senate—

(1) a Senator, officer of the Senate, or employee of the Senate may collect from another Senator, officer of the Senate, or employee of the Senate within a Senate building or other office secured for a Senator nonmonetary donations of clothing, toys, food, and housewares for charitable purposes related to serving persons in need or members of the Armed Forces and the families of those members during the holiday season, if the charitable purposes do not otherwise violate any rule or regulation of the Senate or Federal law; and

(2) a Senator, officer of the Senate, or employee of the Senate may work with a nonprofit organization with respect to the delivery of donations described under paragraph (1).

(b) EXPIRATION.—The authority provided by this resolution shall expire at the end of the first session of the 118th Congress.

SENATE RESOLUTION 452—DESIGNATING OCTOBER 30, 2023, AS A NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR THE WORKERS OF THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. BROWN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. LUJÁN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 452

Whereas, since World War II, hundreds of thousands of patriotic men and women, including uranium miners, millers, and haulers, plutonium processors, and onsite participants at atmospheric nuclear weapons tests, have served the United States by building nuclear weapons for the defense of the United States;

Whereas dedicated workers paid a high price for advancing a nuclear weapons program at the service and for the benefit of the

United States, including by developing disabling or fatal illnesses;

Whereas the Senate recognized the contributions, services, and sacrifices that those patriotic men and women made for the defense of the United States in—

(1) Senate Resolution 151, 111th Congress, agreed to May 20, 2009;

(2) Senate Resolution 653, 111th Congress, agreed to September 28, 2010;

(3) Senate Resolution 275, 112th Congress, agreed to September 26, 2011;

(4) Senate Resolution 519, 112th Congress, agreed to August 1, 2012;

(5) Senate Resolution 164, 113th Congress, agreed to September 18, 2013;

(6) Senate Resolution 417, 113th Congress, agreed to July 9, 2014;

(7) Senate Resolution 213, 114th Congress, agreed to September 25, 2015;

(8) Senate Resolution 560, 114th Congress, agreed to November 16, 2016;

(9) Senate Resolution 314, 115th Congress, agreed to October 30, 2017;

(10) Senate Resolution 682, 115th Congress, agreed to October 11, 2018;

(11) Senate Resolution 377, 116th Congress, agreed to October 30, 2019;

(12) Senate Resolution 741, 116th Congress, agreed to September 30, 2020;

(13) Senate Resolution 438, 117th Congress, agreed to February 25, 2022; and

(14) Senate Resolution 785, 117th Congress, agreed to December 22, 2022; and

Whereas those patriotic men and women deserve to be recognized for the contributions, services, and sacrifices they made for the defense of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates October 30, 2023, as a national day of remembrance for the workers of the nuclear weapons program of the United States, including the uranium miners, millers, and haulers, plutonium processors, and onsite participants at atmospheric nuclear weapons tests; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to support and participate in appropriate ceremonies, programs, and other activities to commemorate October 30, 2023, as a national day of remembrance for past and present workers of the nuclear weapons program of the United States.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1362. Mr. MERKLEY proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 126, recognizing the vital importance of the Mekong River to Southeast Asia and the role of the Mekong-United States Partnership in supporting the prosperity of the region.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1362. Mr. MERKLEY proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 126, recognizing the vital importance of the Mekong River to Southeast Asia and the role of the Mekong-United States Partnership in supporting the prosperity of the region; as follows:

Beginning on page 12, line 20, strike ''to support'' and all that follows through ''to contribute to'' on page 13, line 3, and insert ''to encourage''.

Beginning on page 13, strike line 23 and all that follows through page 14, line 2.

On page 15, line 1, strike ''to support'' and insert ''to encourage''.

In paragraph (2), redesignate subparagraphs (D) through (Q) as subparagraphs (C) through (P), respectively.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 340

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 340) to impose sanctions with respect to foreign support for terrorist organizations, including Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

Mr. MERKLEY. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 3774 and H.R. 6126

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I understand there are two bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3774) to impose additional sanctions with respect to the importation or facilitation of the importation of petroleum products from Iran, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 6126) making emergency supplemental appropriations to respond to the attacks in Israel for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

Mr. MERKLEY. I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bills will receive their second reading on the next legislative day.

READ ACT REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2023

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of S. 41 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 41) to reauthorize the READ Act.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MERKLEY. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. MERKLEY. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate on the bill, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 41) was passed, as follows:

S. 41

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''READ Act Reauthorization Act of 2023''.

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 4(a) of the Reinforcing Education Accountability in Development Act (division A of Public Law 115–56; 22 U.S.C. 2151c note) is amended by striking ''during the following five fiscal years'' and inserting ''during the following ten fiscal years''.

Mr. MERKLEY. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF THE MEKONG RIVER TO SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE ROLE OF THE MEKONG-UNITED STATES PARTNERSHIP IN SUPPORTING THE PROSPERITY OF THE REGION

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 95, S. Res. 126.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 126) recognizing the vital importance of the Mekong River to Southeast Asia and the role of the Mekong-United States Partnership in supporting the prosperity of the region.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Affairs with an amendment to strike all after the resolving clause and insert the part printed in italic, and with an amendment to the preamble to strike the preamble and insert the part printed in italic, as follows:

S. RES. 126

Whereas the Mekong River supports the livelihoods of approximately 60,000,000 people, making it the most important river in Southeast Asia and one of the most important rivers in the world;

Whereas the Mekong-United States Partnership, comprising the United States, Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam, and the predecessor of that partnership, the Lower Mekong Initiative, have contributed greatly to the economic, social, and human resources development of the countries in the Mekong River Basin and the protection of the Mekong River;

Whereas the United States has longstanding diplomatic relations with the countries in the Mekong River Basin, including a nearly 200-year-old relationship with treaty ally Thailand;

[Whereas the development of the countries in the Mekong River Basin is critical for the unity, economic strength, and institutional development of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, a strategic partner of the United States;

[Whereas the Mekong River is increasingly imperiled by the threats from worsening and extreme changes in the environment, coupled with the construction of upstream dams that have altered the natural flow of the river and vital ecological processes supported by natural flow;

[Whereas, since 2019, the flow of water in the Mekong River during the wet season has been abnormally low;

[Whereas the Nuozhadu and Xiaowan Dams in China account for more than 50 percent of the water storage of all dams in the Mekong River Basin and can restrict up to 10 percent of the total wet season flow of the Mekong River, exacerbating drought conditions downstream;

[Whereas the Mekong River Commission is an integral partner in ensuring the long-term health of the Mekong River;

[Whereas the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy can be a leader in supporting river development and protection;

[Whereas the Mekong Dam Monitor, funded partly by the Mekong-United States Partnership, has provided essential data and information about the impacts of hydropower dams along the Mekong River to the people and governments of the Mekong River Basin to allow them to prepare for irregular water flows and mitigate the economic and environmental impacts of those flows;

[Whereas the Mekong River has become a hub for criminal elements to traffic in drugs, people, and wildlife, undermining the rule of law in the countries in the Mekong River Basin and impacting the world through the proliferation of illegal drugs and fauna that can cause spillover of zoonotic diseases;

[Whereas the international community has committed to support the development of countries along the Mekong River through internationally recognized development goals;

[Whereas the Friends of the Mekong, which includes the countries in the Mekong River Basin, the United States, Australia, the European Union, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the Asian Development Bank, the Mekong River Commission Secretariat, and the World Bank, is committed to supporting the shared principles that have underpinned peace and prosperity across the Indo-Pacific for decades;

[Whereas close coordination and collaboration with civil society groups throughout the Mekong River Basin is essential to the protection of the Mekong River;

[Whereas, among the countries in the Mekong River Basin, there has been a negative trend toward the detention and detainment of civil society actors and journalists and an increase in violations of human rights;

[Whereas the February 1, 2021, military coup in Burma was illegal and unjustified and has resulted in more than 2,000 deaths, more than 1,000,000 people displaced, and tens of thousands of people in detention, and continued violence threatens the stability of the entire region, especially those countries along the borders of Burma; and

[Whereas diaspora communities from countries in the Mekong River Basin are a vital part of the United States and help build thriving people-to-people ties between those countries and the United States that lead to strong commercial, civil society, and cultural ties: Now, therefore, be it]

Whereas the Mekong River supports the livelihoods of approximately 60,000,000 people, making it the most important river in Southeast Asia and one of the most important rivers in the world;

Whereas the Mekong-United States Partnership, comprising the United States, Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam, and the predecessor of that partnership, the Lower Mekong Initiative, have contributed greatly to the economic, social, and human resources development of the countries in the Mekong River Basin and the protection of the Mekong River;

Whereas the United States has longstanding diplomatic relations with the countries in the Mekong River Basin, including a nearly 200-year-old relationship with treaty ally Thailand;

Whereas the development of the countries in the Mekong River Basin is critical for the unity, economic strength, and institutional development of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, a strategic partner of the United States;

Whereas the Mekong River continues to be affected by environmental changes, coupled with the construction of upstream dams that have altered the natural flow of the river and vital ecological processes supported by natural flow;

Whereas, since 2019, the flow of water in the Mekong River during the wet season has been abnormally low;

Whereas the Nuozhadu and Xiaowan Dams in China account for more than 50 percent of the water storage of all dams in the Mekong River Basin and can restrict up to 10 percent of the total wet season flow of the Mekong River, exacerbating drought conditions downstream;

Whereas the Mekong River Commission is an integral partner in ensuring the long-term health of the Mekong River;

Whereas the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy can be a leader in supporting river development and protection;

Whereas the Mekong Dam Monitor, funded partly by the Mekong-United States Partnership, has provided essential data and information about the impacts of hydropower dams along the Mekong River to the people and governments of the Mekong River Basin to allow them to prepare for irregular water flows and mitigate the economic and environmental impacts of those flows;

Whereas the Mekong River has become a hub for criminal elements to traffic in drugs, people, and wildlife, undermining the rule of law in the countries in the Mekong River Basin and impacting the world through the proliferation of illegal drugs and fauna that can cause spillover of zoonotic diseases;

Whereas the international community has committed to support the development of countries along the Mekong River through internationally recognized development goals;

Whereas the Friends of the Mekong, which includes the countries in the Mekong River Basin, the United States, Australia, the European Union, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the Asian Development Bank, the Mekong River Commission Secretariat, and the World Bank, is committed to supporting the shared principles that have underpinned peace and prosperity across the Indo-Pacific for decades;

Whereas close coordination and collaboration with civil society groups throughout the Mekong River Basin is essential to the protection of the Mekong River;

Whereas, among the countries in the Mekong River Basin, there has been a negative trend toward the detention and detainment of civil society actors and journalists and an increase in violations of human rights;

Whereas the February 1, 2021, military coup in Burma was illegal and unjustified and has resulted in more than 2,000 deaths, more than 1,000,000 people displaced, and tens of thousands of people in detention, and continued violence threatens the stability of the entire region, especially those countries along the borders of Burma; and

Whereas diaspora communities from countries in the Mekong River Basin are a vital part of the United States and help build thriving people-to-people ties between those countries and the United States that lead to strong commercial, civil society, and cultural ties: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, [That the Senate—

[(1) expresses sincere concern over the environmental, economic, and humanitarian threats to the Mekong River and the communities of the Mekong River and continued support to counter those threats; and

[(2) declares it is the policy of the United States Government to—

[(A) through the Mekong-United States Partnership and the Friends of the Mekong, promote the economic and environmental well-being of the people of Mainland Southeast Asia in the 5 countries through which the Mekong River flows, namely, Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam;

[(B) support a whole-of-government approach in providing and coordinating Federal aid and assistance throughout the Mekong River Basin under the Mekong-United States Partnership, including programmatic support provided by the Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development, and other Federal agencies;

[(C) contribute to the development of quality infrastructure, the development of national electricity markets, cross-border energy trade, the facilitation of cross-border transport, clean energy acceleration and deployment, the development of micro, small, and medium enterprises, agriculture, transportation, the facilitation of trade and investment, strengthened subregional production linkages and supply chains, digital infrastructure, and the digital economy in the Mekong River Basin;

[(D) promote engagement and buy-in of the United States private sector to support inclusive economic growth, resilience, global health, education, and long-term development in the region;

[(E) leverage the expertise of the United States, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia, and other partners in high-quality infrastructure to support the economic development needs of the countries in the Mekong River Basin;

[(F) support the development of quality infrastructure, including through projects financed by the United States International Development Finance Corporation, as appropriate, in the countries in the Mekong River Basin;

[(G) encourage all members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to view the environmental, humanitarian, and economic threats to the Mekong River as a danger to the entire region;

[(H) promote effective water use policies, natural resources management, and environmental conservation and protection, including—

[(i) through support for a technically sound, well-coordinated, and consensus-based approach to managing the shared resources of the Mekong River Basin;

[(ii) through support for environmental conservation, protection, and resilience in the Mekong subregion; and

[(iii) by enhancing the capacity of countries in the Mekong River Basin in the sustainable conservation and management of natural resources, including fishery resources, for sustainable food security;

[(I) continue the important work that provides vital data and monitoring to the people and Governments of the Mekong River;

[(J) support the development of the capacity of the region to respond to a variety of threats, including countering transnational crime such as trafficking of drugs, wildlife, timber, and persons, and criminal activity

associated with illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and to improve health security, including emergency preparedness and response for pandemics and epidemics, cybersecurity, and disaster response and preparedness and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief;

[(K) promote the development of human capital through education, medical and public health partnerships, vocational training, youth empowerment, women's economic empowerment, gender equality, university cooperation, and educational and professional exchanges;

[(L) work together with countries in the Mekong River Basin to combat pollution, over fishing, natural resource degradation, and the effects that changes in the global climate systems are having on the Mekong River, and the communities that depend on the river, and to support the abilities of such communities to adapt and build resilience capacities of those countries;

[(M) encourage all countries in the Mekong River Basin to provide timely early warning for natural and unnatural operations of the river;

[(N) support freedom of expression in the countries in the Mekong River Basin through promoting independent journalism and the freedom to access information;

[(O) continue to call for the cessation of violence in Burma and support the return of Burma to a path of inclusive democracy, so that it can fully contribute to regional development;

[(P) prioritize the strengthening of people-to-people ties through United States exchange programs such as the Fulbright Program, the Peace Corps, the International Visitors Leadership Program, and the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative Program, including the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative Academy at Fulbright University Vietnam; and

[(Q) recognize that strong democratic institutions, the promotion and protection of fundamental freedoms, independent civil society, and free and fair elections are central to implementing the shared vision of a Mekong River region, and an Indo-Pacific region, that is free, open, secure, and prosperous.]

That the Senate—

(1) expresses sincere concern over the environmental, economic, and humanitarian threats to the Mekong River and the communities of the Mekong River and continued support to counter those threats; and

(2) declares it is the policy of the United States Government—

(A) to, through the Mekong-United States Partnership and the Friends of the Mekong, promote the economic and environmental well-being of the people of Mainland Southeast Asia in the 5 countries through which the Mekong River flows, namely, Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam;

(B) to support providing and coordinating Federal aid and assistance throughout the Mekong River Basin under the Mekong-United States Partnership, including programmatic support provided by the Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development, and other Federal agencies;

(C) to contribute to the development of quality infrastructure, national electricity markets, cross-border energy trade, cross-border transport, greater energy access, the development of micro, small, and medium enterprises, agriculture, transportation, the facilitation of trade and investment, strengthened subregional production linkages and supply chains, digital infrastructure, and the digital economy in the Mekong River Basin;

(D) to promote engagement and buy-in of the United States private sector to support inclusive economic growth, resilience, global health, education, and long-term development in the region;

(E) to leverage the expertise of the United States, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia, and other partners in high-quality infrastructure to support the economic development needs of the countries in the Mekong River Basin;

(F) to support the development of quality infrastructure, including through projects financed by the United States International Development Finance Corporation, as appropriate, in the countries in the Mekong River Basin;

(G) to encourage all members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to view the environmental, humanitarian, and economic threats to the Mekong River as a danger to the entire region;

(H) to promote effective water use policies, natural resources management, and environmental conservation and protection, including—

(i) through support for a technically sound, well-coordinated, and consensus-based approach to managing the shared resources of the Mekong River Basin;

(ii) through support for environmental conservation, protection, and resilience in the Mekong subregion; and

(iii) by enhancing the capacity of countries in the Mekong River Basin on conservation and management of natural resources, including fishery resources, for long-term food security;

(I) to continue the important work that provides vital data and monitoring to the people and Governments of the Mekong River;

(J) to support the development of the capacity of the region to respond to a variety of threats, including countering transnational crime such as trafficking of drugs, wildlife, timber, and persons, and criminal activity associated with illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and to improve health security, including emergency preparedness and response for pandemics and epidemics, cybersecurity, and disaster response and preparedness and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief;

(K) to promote the development of human capital through education, medical and public health partnerships, vocational training, youth empowerment, women's economic empowerment, gender equality, university cooperation, and educational and professional exchanges;

(L) to work together with countries in the Mekong River Basin to combat pollution, over fishing, natural resource degradation, and the effects that environmental changes are having on the Mekong River, and the communities that depend on the river, and to support the abilities of such communities to adapt and build resilience capacities of those countries;

(M) to encourage all countries in the Mekong River Basin to provide timely early warning for natural and unnatural operations of the river;

(N) to support freedom of expression in the countries in the Mekong River Basin through promoting independent journalism and the freedom to access information;

(O) to continue to call for the cessation of violence in Burma and support the return of Burma to a path of inclusive democracy, so that it can fully contribute to regional development;

(P) to prioritize the strengthening of people-to-people ties through United States exchange programs such as the Fulbright Program, the Peace Corps, the International Visitors Leadership Program, and the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative Program, including the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative Academy at Fulbright University Vietnam; and

(Q) to recognize that strong democratic institutions, the promotion and protection of fundamental freedoms, independent civil society, and free and fair elections are central to implementing the shared vision of a Mekong River region, and an Indo-Pacific region, that is free, open, secure, and prosperous.

Mr. MERKLEY. I ask unanimous consent that the Merkley amendment at the desk to the committee-reported substitute amendment to the resolution be agreed to; the committee-reported substitute amendment to the resolution be agreed to; the resolution, as amended, be agreed to; the committee-reported substitute amendment to the preamble be agreed to; the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 1362) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To make technical amendments)

Beginning on page 12, line 20, strike ''to support'' and all that follows through ''to contribute to'' on page 13, line 3, and insert ''to encourage''.

Beginning on page 13, strike line 23 and all that follows through page 14, line 2.

On page 15, line 1, strike ''to support'' and insert ''to encourage''.

In paragraph (2), redesignate subparagraphs (D) through (Q) as subparagraphs (C) through (P), respectively.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 126), as amended, was agreed to.

The amendment to the preamble in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 126

Whereas the Mekong River supports the livelihoods of approximately 60,000,000 people, making it the most important river in Southeast Asia and one of the most important rivers in the world;

Whereas the Mekong-United States Partnership, comprising the United States, Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam, and the predecessor of that partnership, the Lower Mekong Initiative, have contributed greatly to the economic, social, and human resources development of the countries in the Mekong River Basin and the protection of the Mekong River;

Whereas the United States has long-standing diplomatic relations with the countries in the Mekong River Basin, including a nearly 200-year-old relationship with treaty ally Thailand;

Whereas the development of the countries in the Mekong River Basin is critical for the unity, economic strength, and institutional development of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, a strategic partner of the United States;

Whereas the Mekong River continues to be affected by environmental changes, coupled with the construction of upstream dams that have altered the natural flow of the river and vital ecological processes supported by natural flow;

Whereas, since 2019, the flow of water in the Mekong River during the wet season has been abnormally low;

Whereas the Nuozhadu and Xiaowan Dams in China account for more than 50 percent of the water storage of all dams in the Mekong River Basin and can restrict up to 10 percent of the total wet season flow of the Mekong River, exacerbating drought conditions downstream;

Whereas the Mekong River Commission is an integral partner in ensuring the long-term health of the Mekong River;

Whereas the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy can be a leader in supporting river development and protection;

Whereas the Mekong Dam Monitor, funded partly by the Mekong-United States Partnership, has provided essential data and information about the impacts of hydropower dams along the Mekong River to the people and governments of the Mekong River Basin to allow them to prepare for irregular water flows and mitigate the economic and environmental impacts of those flows;

Whereas the Mekong River has become a hub for criminal elements to traffic in drugs, people, and wildlife, undermining the rule of law in the countries in the Mekong River Basin and impacting the world through the proliferation of illegal drugs and fauna that can cause spillover of zoonotic diseases;

Whereas the international community has committed to support the development of countries along the Mekong River through internationally recognized development goals;

Whereas the Friends of the Mekong, which includes the countries in the Mekong River Basin, the United States, Australia, the European Union, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the Asian Development Bank, the Mekong River Commission Secretariat, and the World Bank, is committed to supporting the shared principles that have underpinned peace and prosperity across the Indo-Pacific for decades;

Whereas close coordination and collaboration with civil society groups throughout the Mekong River Basin is essential to the protection of the Mekong River;

Whereas, among the countries in the Mekong River Basin, there has been a negative trend toward the detention and detainment of civil society actors and journalists and an increase in violations of human rights;

Whereas the February 1, 2021, military coup in Burma was illegal and unjustified and has resulted in more than 2,000 deaths, more than 1,000,000 people displaced, and tens of thousands of people in detention, and continued violence threatens the stability of the entire region, especially those countries along the borders of Burma; and

Whereas diaspora communities from countries in the Mekong River Basin are a vital part of the United States and help build thriving people-to-people ties between those countries and the United States that lead to strong commercial, civil society, and cultural ties: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses sincere concern over the environmental, economic, and humanitarian threats to the Mekong River and the communities of the Mekong River and continued support to counter those threats; and

(2) declares it is the policy of the United States Government—

(A) to, through the Mekong-United States Partnership and the Friends of the Mekong, promote the economic and environmental well-being of the people of Mainland Southeast Asia in the 5 countries through which the Mekong River flows, namely, Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam;

(B) to encourage the development of quality infrastructure, national electricity markets, cross-border energy trade, cross-border transport, greater energy access, the development of micro, small, and medium enterprises, agriculture, transportation, the facilitation of trade and investment, strengthened subregional production linkages and supply chains, digital infrastructure, and the digital economy in the Mekong River Basin;

(C) to promote engagement and buy-in of the United States private sector to support inclusive economic growth, resilience, global health, education, and long-term development in the region;

(D) to leverage the expertise of the United States, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia, and other partners in high-quality infrastructure to support the economic development needs of the countries in the Mekong River Basin;

(E) to encourage all members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to view the environmental, humanitarian, and economic threats to the Mekong River as a danger to the entire region;

(F) to promote effective water use policies, natural resources management, and environmental conservation and protection, including—

(i) through support for a technically sound, well-coordinated, and consensus-based approach to managing the shared resources of the Mekong River Basin;

(ii) through support for environmental conservation, protection, and resilience in the Mekong subregion; and

(iii) by enhancing the capacity of countries in the Mekong River Basin on conservation and management of natural resources, including fishery resources, for long-term food security;

(G) to continue the important work that provides vital data and monitoring to the people and Governments of the Mekong River;

(H) to encourage the development of the capacity of the region to respond to a variety of threats, including countering transnational crime such as trafficking of drugs, wildlife, timber, and persons, and criminal activity associated with illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and to improve health security, including emergency preparedness and response for pandemics and epidemics, cybersecurity, and disaster response and preparedness and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief;

(I) to promote the development of human capital through education, medical and public health partnerships, vocational training, youth empowerment, women's economic empowerment, gender equality, university cooperation, and educational and professional exchanges;

(J) to work together with countries in the Mekong River Basin to combat pollution, over fishing, natural resource degradation, and the effects that environmental changes are having on the Mekong River, and the communities that depend on the river, and to support the abilities of such communities to adapt and build resilience capacities of those countries;

(K) to encourage all countries in the Mekong River Basin to provide timely early warning for natural and unnatural operations of the river;

(L) to support freedom of expression in the countries in the Mekong River Basin through promoting independent journalism and the freedom to access information;

(M) to continue to call for the cessation of violence in Burma and support the return of Burma to a path of inclusive democracy, so that it can fully contribute to regional development;

(N) to prioritize the strengthening of people-to-people ties through United States exchange programs such as the Fulbright Program, the Peace Corps, the International Visitors Leadership Program, and the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative Program, including the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative Academy at Fulbright University Vietnam; and

(O) to recognize that strong democratic institutions, the promotion and protection of fundamental freedoms, independent civil society, and free and fair elections are central to implementing the shared vision of a Mekong River region, and an Indo-Pacific region, that is free, open, secure, and prosperous.

PERMITTING THE COLLECTION OF CLOTHING, TOYS, FOOD, AND HOUSEWARES DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON FOR CHARITABLE PURPOSES IN SENATE BUILDINGS

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 451, 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. 451) permitting the collection of clothing, toys, food, and housewares during the holiday season for charitable purposes in Senate buildings.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MERKLEY. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 451) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR THE WORKERS OF THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to consideration of S. Res. 452, which was 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. 452) designating October 30, 2023, as a national day of remembrance for the workers of the nuclear weapons program of the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MERKLEY. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 452) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEK

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Committee

on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to consideration of S. Res. 396.

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. 396) designating the week beginning on October 8, 2023, as ''National Wildlife Refuge Week''.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MERKLEY. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 396) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of October 4, 2023, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, November 7; 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 proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Bertagnolli nomination, post-cloture; further, that all time on the nomination be considered expired at 11:45 a.m., and that following the cloture vote on the Kato nomination, the Senate stand in recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for weekly caucus meetings; further, that if cloture has been invoked on the Kato nomination, all time be considered expired at 2:15 p.m.; and that if cloture has been invoked on the Kobick nomination, all time be considered expired at 5:30 p.m.; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam 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 6:43 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, November 7, 2023, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

THE JUDICIARY

JACQUELYN D. AUSTIN, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA, VICE J. MICHELLE CHILDS, ELEVATED.

JACQUELINE BECERRA, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA, VICE MARCIA G. COOKE, RETIRED.

MELISSA DAMIAN, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA, VICE URSULA NAMCUSI UNGARO, RETIRED.

DAVID SEYMOUR LEIBOWITZ, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA, VICE FREDERICO A. MORENO, RETIRED.

JULIE SIMONE SNEED, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA, VICE ROY BALE DALTON, JR., RETIRED.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. PATTI L. FRIES

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be brigadier general

COL. TOMMY F. TILLMAN, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12212:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. STEVEN J. BUTOW

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

MICHAEL D. MCCARTHY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

MAURICIO DE CASTRO PRETELT

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

BENJAMIN T. FEDELES

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

ASHLY C. RUF

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

BRANDON L. SANDERS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

LI ZHAO MUECKAY
ALEXANDER T. PARMATER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

ZARI N. COFIELD
JOSHUA D. FORSYTH

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

AGUR S. ADAMS
BENJAMIN S. ADAMS
BRIAN A. ADAMS
STEVEN C. ALLSHOUSE
CHARLES E. ANKLAM III
ROBERT C. ARBEGAST
PHILLIP T. ASH
AARON M. AWTRY
ANTHONY P. BARILETTI
PAUL T. BARTOK
SCOTT E. BEATTY
RICHARD A. BEHRMANN
LYNN W. BERENDSEN
MICHAEL A. BLEJSKI
CHRISTOPHER G. BLOSSER
STEPHEN J. BOADA
NICOLE M. BOHANNON
BRETT A. BOHNE
THOMAS E. BOLEN, JR.
ANNE M. BRADEN
BARRET F. BRADSTREET
JOSHUA H. BRINGHURST
ARTHUR Q. BRUGGEMAN
CARIN O. CALVIN
JULIET H. CALVIN
JARRAD S. CAOLA
DANIEL W. CAROFFINO
BRYCE W. CARTER
ALLAN S. CHIU
MICHAEL P. CICCHI
VANESSA M. CLARK
RYAN B. COHEN
WILLIAM E. DELEAL II
STEPHEN E. DETRINIS
JARROD A. DEVORE
SETH E. DEWEY
GABRIEL L. DIANA
PHILLIP D. DIBELLA
JOHN D. DIRK
AIXA R. DONES
BRIAN J. DONLON
TIMOTHY R. DRIESLEIN
JASON T. DUKE
HAROLD J. EVERHART
NATASHA M. EVERLY
ROBERT A. FAIRLEY
ALEXANDER FARSAAD
TREVOR J. FELTER
BENJAMIN J. FIALA
NATHAN A. FLEISCHAKER
GEORGE E. FLEMING
GEORGE J. FLYNN III
JONATHON T. FRERICHS
BRADLEY N. FULTZ
THOMAS D. FUSS
KENDRICK L. GAINES
TIMOTHY K. GALLAGHER, JR.
ALEXANDRA V. GERBRACHT
ROBERT P. GERBRACHT
ROBERT A. GIBSON
CRAIG A. GIORGIS
FRED GLENCAMP III
JONATHAN C. GLOVER
JASON R. GOODALE
ALEXANDER E. GOODNO
RYAN R. GORDINIER
DAVID J. GRABOW
MATTHEW J. GRABOWSKI
ROBERT C. GRASS
JEROME C. GRECO
CHAD R. GRIMMETT
EDWARD V. HOLTON
TIMOTHY G. HUDSON
ROBERT P. HURST
JONATHAN A. HUTCHISON
BRIAN P. HUYSMAN
BROGAN C. ISSITT
JASON R. JOHNSTON
ROBERT M. JONES, JR.
DANIEL W. KAISER
DENNIS W. KATOLIN
MEGHAN A. KENNERLY
DAVID L. KLINGENSMITH
MARK A. KOVAL
AARON R. KRUKOW
SASHA J. KUHLOW
BRIAN D. LAPOINTE
KENNETH A. LARETTO
THOMAS B. LEE
ROE S. LEMONS, JR.
MATHEW K. LESNOWICZ
KEVAN D. LEWIS
CLARENCE E. LOOMIS, JR.
MICHAEL R. LUPIENT
TRACY A. MAESE
ROBERT F. MAY
FRANK P. MEASE, JR.
ANTHONY M. MERCADO
DAVID A. MERLES
BENJAMIN M. MIDDENDORF
DANIEL R. MYERS
CHARLES C. NASH
RICHARD P. NEIKIRK
RANDALL L. NICKEL, JR.
EDWARD J. OCONNELL IV
MICHAEL P. PAVIS
JASON P. PELLERIN
MICHAEL T. PERROTTET
DOUGLAS K. PETERSON
ELIZABETH PHAM
PETER F. PRIESTER
ERIK C. QUIST
TERRANCE J. REESE
MATTHEW T. RITCHIE
MASTIN M. ROBESON, JR.
KENNETH K. ROSSMAN
HEATH E. RUPPERT
ADAM R. SACCHETTI
BRIAN W. SCHWEERS
ARUN SHANKAR
THOMAS F. SHORT
ROBERT E. SHUFORD
ARLON D. SMITH
JOHN F. SOTO, JR.
WILLIAM R. SOUCIE
KEVIN J. STEPP
RICHARD J. STINNETT, JR.
NATHAN J. STORM

RUSSELL A. STRANGE
ERIC P. TEE
ANDREW E. TERRELL
BJORN E. THOREEN
DANIEL L. THUNEN
DAVID P. TUMANJAN
JEFFERY VANBOURGONDIEN
KATHRYN E. WAGNER
WILLIAM R. WALLACE
DANIEL A. WEBER
RANDALL D. WHITE
BRAD E. WHITED
RYAN D. WHITTY
ROBERT E. WILLIAMSON
ARON K. WISHERD
CHRISTINA F. ZIMMERMAN

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 605:

To be commander

JOHN R. BARACHIE
KYLE O. KENDALL
SARA A. ZANITSCH

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 605:

To be lieutenant commander

MICHAEL W. BARBER, JR.
HALEY E. BONNER
DYLAN R. BULL
CHARLES B. CASTIGLIONE
GEORGE M. DAVROS
MATTHEW G. FINLEY
NATHAN T. FOURATT
LUKE G. FRIZZELL
SAMUEL L. GARGIS
THOMAS M. GENITO
THOMAS F. GRUEBL
JAMES E. HANSEN
KEVIN L. HAWXHURST
PAUL F. JACKSON
CONNAR M. KROB
BARRETT W. LARWIN
ERIK M. MARTIN
WILLIAM T. MCSHANE
KEITH L. MONIA
PADRAIG R. OBRIEN
NATHANIEL K. ROESLER
JODY L. STUCKEY
LUKE T. SULLIVAN
NICHOLAS A. WESTMORELAND
WILLIAM L. WHARTON II
MATTHEW P. WITTE
ERIC J. YOUNG

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14 U.S.C., SECTION 2121(E), INCLUDING THOSE RESERVE OFFICERS WHO ARE TO BE APPOINTED AS PERMANENT COMMISSIONED OFFICERS PURSUANT TO TITLE 14 U.S.C., SECTION 2101:

To be lieutenant commander

DANTE ADAMS
KATHARINE F. ADAMS
RACHEL ADAMS
STEPHANIE M. ALVAREZ
DOUGLAS E. ANNA
THOMAS J. ASHLEY
RACHEL G. AULT
ISAAC T. BABCOCK
KENDRA H. BACON SMITH
COURTNEY N. BAILEY
BRADLEY K. BAKER
MAREN E. BALKE
GEORGE J. BANNON
JIAH G. BARNETT
NICHOLAS R. BARTOLOZZI
ALEXANDRIA M. BASS
CHRISTINA M. BATCHELDER
ETHAN T. BEARD
DOMINIK P. BENEDETTO
JOHN D. BENEDICT
NATALIE Y. BERNADT
BRIANA L. B. BIAGAS
SAMUEL T. BIRCH
EMILY A. BOGDAN
MATTHEW F. BOGDAN
CHRISTOPHER W. BOOTH
OMAR BORGES
MALATONE A. BOUASYM
THOMAS R. P. BOWER
GEORGE W. BOWLES
RICHARD C. BRADY
ANDREW P. BRATMAN
KATELYN BRAUN
CONOR D. BRECKENRIDGE
MATTHEW M. BRIGHAM
BRADLEY S. BROWN
COLLIS R. BROWN
RYAN M. BROWN
STEVEN J. BROWNING
KUMAR F. BRUNHARTMCBRATNEY
CHELSEA R. BRUNOEHLER
JAMES C. BUSHMAN
RYAN J. BUYS
VIRGINIA M. BUYS
NATHANIEL A. CAJIGAS
MARLON A. CAMEJO
JOHN M. CAMPBELL
JEFFREY CANCEL
RYAN A. CANTU
JASON P. CAPRIOLI
LUKE W. CARANI
DAVID A. CARRIER
MATTHEW W. CARSON
ALEXIS D. CHAVARRIAAGUILAR
NEIL P. CLARKIN
SAMANTHA M. CLAYTON
MADELINE R. COMPAGNONI
AUSTIN L. CONDRA
MICHAEL A. CONELL
ANDREW R. CONNELL
ANDREW S. P. CONSTANT
JONATHAN C. COPLEY
JAMES C. COPPOLA
KATY G. COPPOLA
SCOTT COULL
NICHOLAS E. COUTURE
RYAN J. CUGA
MEGHAN M. DANIELS
SARA L. DANIELS–JACOBS
STEVEN W. DAUER
AARON J. DAVIS
JAMES P. DAVIS
JEFFREY R. DAVIS
LAVERNE H. DEATRICH
JOHN D. DECASTRA, JR
GRIFFIN J. DEITZ
EMILY G. DENN
JOHN L. DISIBIO
JOSHUA J. DODSON
FAYE I. DOHRING
SEAN P. DOLAN
PATRICK J. DREISS
PETER M. DRISCOLL–KWAN
ALEXANDRA R. DUBE
DANIEL J. DUNN, JR
HENRY G. DUNPHY
LINDSAY C. DUPLESSIS
CODY W. EAGER
TIMOTHY J. EARLY
CONLAN D. EDWARDS
ANNIE R. B. ELIS
LANDON K. ELLIOTT
RIAN K. ELLIS
JOHN M. EPPERLY
CARL M. ESCHLER
CHRISTOPHER R. FAIRES
ZACHARY M. FARRELL
KATERINA T. FAYA
DEVIN M. FELLMAN
STEPHANIE A. FIGGINS
JOSHUA FIGUEREDO
JUAN F. FITZPATRICK
CLAYTON G. FLINN
ABEL FLORES
NICHOLAS M. FOSTER
KENNETH M. FUERSTINGER
ALYSSA P. FULLER
PRESCOTT T. FULLER
AUSTIN A. FULLMER
JOHN R. FULLWOOD
JOHN C. GEARY
VAUGHN D. GEHMAN
GARY E. GEORGE
MORIBA H. GEORGE
CAITLYN K. GEVER
LAUREN E. GIANCOLA
NATHANIEL A. GIORGIO
HANNAH C. GIOVANNI
HERMAN C. GREEN
BENJAMIN D. GREENE
ERIK K. GREER
KYLE T. GRELL
SARA E. GRELL
BRIAN P. HAGERTY
MASON G. B. HALL
MATTHEW B. HANKS
BENJAMIN B. HANNON
CAROLYN C. HARBERT
GLENN R. HARGRAVE
CHLOE C. HARMON
SLOANE M. HECIMOVICH
JACOB A. HELLAR
CARL E. HENDRICKSON II
TAMARIS HIDALGO
EDWARD C. HOBAICA
ADAM J. HOBURG
CHRISTOPHER M. HOLDREN
GORDON S. HOLLOWAY
STEPHEN B. HORVATH
ANTWAN O. HUGHES
TIMOTHY D. HULSE
ZACHARY R. HUNTER
VADIM S. ILIN
ERICK D. JACKSON
KIM L. JENISH
BARRETT A. JOHANNSEN
CORY A. JONES
NATHAN T. JONES
ANDRE J. JONESBUTLER
KASTRIOT KASTRATI
CATHERINE E. KAVANAUGH
NICHOLAS J. KEALY
ZACHARY D. KEARNEY
SCOTT N. KELLERMAN
JOSEPH H. KELLY
PATRICK T. KELLY
NICOLE Y. KENNEY
STEPHEN B. KIDWELL
SUN K. KIM
ALEXANDER K. KLOO
SAMUEL A. KRAKOWER
SAMUEL W. KULP
ALEXANDER G. KWOLEK
JENNIFER L. LANE
ALEXANDRA J. LARIVIERE
JONATHAN D. LASH
BRENT N. LAW
JOHN C. LAWRENCE
MARINA A. LAWRENCE
SHANNON M. LEDET
PARKER A. LEE
JOHN H. LERCHBACKER III
DANIEL N. LINDNER
ERIN M. LISKO
JOHN K. LOCKE
CHARLES R. LORTZ
ANDREW K. LUCAK
MATTHEW A. MAGARO
MICHAEL P. MALONEY
AUGUSTUS P. MANZI
MATTHEW C. MARCENELLE
MATTHEW B. MARCHALONIS
RAMON R. MARION
EMILY S. MARKS
GINA K. MARTFELD
WILLIAM C. MARTIN II
JAMES T. MARTIN
JOSHUA A. MARTIN
MATTHEW A. MARTIN
VICTORIA J. MARTUCCI
JAMES R. MASSINGALE
ZACHARY C. MAUSS
ADAM M. MAYERNICK
JAMES M. MCDONOUGH III
JOSHUA T. MCELHANEY
MARIA MCELHANEY
JACKSON L. MCGINNIS
JOSEPH MCGOVERN
JAMES H. MCGUIRE
ALEXANDER M. MEAD
JUSTINO A. MELENDEZ
MEGAN G. MENKE
KARINNE D. MERICAL
JALLE R. MERRITT
JAMES C. MEYERS
ANDREW J. MILLER
MATTHEW G. MILLER
MARY K. MILLS
OWEN R. MIMS
JOSHUA E. MOAN
RYAN G. MONTVYDAS
HOLLY M. MOORE
KAITLYN L. MOORE
ALISON E. MRGAN
JAMES R. MUELLER
SEAN V. MURPHY
STEVEN L. NAYLOR
ANDREW J. NIELSEN
STEPHEN T. NOLAN
ROBERT B. NORCOTT
JOSEPH W. O'CONNELL
RYAN W. O'NEILL
CHRISTOPHER D. ORMES
ANTHONY J. ORR
ISMAEL R. ORTIZ
JASON J. ORTIZ
ALEX J. OSWALD
MICHAEL C. OVERSTREET
NICKOLAS D. PALACIOS
DEAVEN S. PALENZUELA
CHRISTOPHER A. PALMIERI
MATTHEW R. PANCIOCCO
SAMUEL A. PAONE
BRENT B. PEARSON
SARA E. PEPIN
KEVIN M. PETERS
BRIAN J. A. PETERSON
VICTORIA L. PHILLIPS
MAREK A. PILARSKI
WILLIAM T. POTEAT III
RICHARD B. POWELL
MICHAEL B. POWER
RYAN T. QUARRY
RICHARD QUINTANA
LYNNE RAFFERTY
ANDREW G. RATTI
JONATHAN A. RAY
ANDREW M. READY
CONOR C. REGAN
SARAH C. REID
JOHN J. RENDON
JONATHON R. RESCH
STEVEN M. REYNOLDS
TRAVIS A. RHEA
JESSICA L. RICHARDSON
PATRICK J. ROCKWELL
NICOLAS J. ROMERO
MICHAEL ROSSI, JR
EMILY K. ROWAN
LENA A. ROYSTER
SAMUEL B. RUBY
ELIZABETH A. RUNCI
NOLAN K. SALYER
ERIC J. SCHMID
MEAGAN L. L. SCHOLTEN
JACOB C. SCHROEDER
JOHN W. SCHULTZ
WILLIAM M. SEABROOK
SIMON P. SEKITOLEKO
MIRA R. SERRILL–ROBINS
ROBERT J. SHAW
ADAM R. SHERER
JUSTIN P. SHERMAN
VICTORIA A. SHREFFLER
NOEL T. SHRINER
DANIEL W. SIDERS
LISA M. SIEBERT
JEREMY E. SILVA
ELIZABETH M. F. SIMIONE

LOUIS J. SIMIONE
KEITH D. SIMMONS
LILLIAN J. SIMON
JENNIFER M. SIMPSON
WILLIAM R. SINGLETARY
KELCEY L. SMITH
SHEA S. SMITH
GEORGE W. SOHN
ANTHONY I. SOLARES
MICHAEL V. SPADAFINO
ELIJAH C. SPONSELLER
RICHARD K. SPROUSE
BETHANY C. STAFFORD
LEIGHA A. STEINBECK
NATASHA A. STRICKLAND
ELIZABETH R. SURGENT
KYLE L. SUTSCHEK
KATHLEEN M. SVENSON
LUCAS E. TAYLOR
TRESTON T. TAYLOR
TAYLOR T. TENNYSON
JACOB E. THAYER
GEORGE A. THOMAS IV
BLAKE A. THOMPSON
BRANDY J. THUNBORG
TREY A. THUNBORG
MARCO M. TINARI
CHARLES A. R. TOTTEN
BRIANNA E. TOWNSEND
ROCCO M. TRAMONTANO
CYRUS P. UNVALA
KYLE E. VANDILLEN
PANTELIS N. VASILARAKIS
KATELYN E. WADDLE
CALEB W. WADSWORTH
JESSE D. WALLACE
ALEXANDER E. WALLER IV
HENRY B. WARD
JOHN C. WARE
BRIAN R. WATERS
SAMANTHA A. WATSON
NICOLE M. WEBBER
DEVONTE D. WEEMS
DAVID S. WESTLAND
SIERRA B. WHITAKER–DAVIS
BENJAMIN C. WOLHAUPTER
CORY D. WOODS
KRISTOPHER W. WRIEDEN
CORRINE E. WRIGHT
TYLER L. WRIGHT
JOEL D. WYMAN
MICHAEL A. YOUNG
MATTHEW R. ZANELLA
CHRISTOPHER P. ZINK
BRITTANY L. ZIRULNICK
GEORGE O. ZIWORITIN

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING ROBYN TEPLITZKY, MSW FOR HER INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO
OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2023

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the Jewish Historical Society of Greater New Haven in honoring Robyn Teplitzky, MSW for her invaluable contributions to our community. Robyn has dedicated a lifetime to serving the needs of others and in doing so has left an indelible mark on our community.

Robyn has devoted countless hours to a multitude of Jewish organizations and service agencies. I, like so many who know her, have always found myself in awe of her energy, dedication and ability to devote so much of herself to the community. Robyn grew up in Hamden, Connecticut and even as a young adult exhibited a unique commitment to making a difference in the lives of others. She was an active member of Temple Beth Shalom, United Synagogue Youth, and the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization. It was through this lens that she developed strong leadership skills and found her passion for social work. She spent many hours on community service projects. One particularly impactful experience was providing volunteer assistance at the Jewish Home for the Aged as the organization navigated a work stoppage. She was part of a true community endeavor to support both the residents and staff. Robyn went on to attend the University of Miami Florida where she majored in social services and Jewish studies. After earning her bachelor's degree, she went on to secure her master's degree in social work at the Wurzweiler School of Social Work at Yeshiva University.

Following the completion of her studies, she returned to New Haven to begin her career. Robyn's first job was with the Jewish Community Center and her career has seen her participate in every aspect of the Greater New Haven Jewish Federation, an organization which she continues to work closely with today as the Interim Director for Women's Philanthropy. For more than a decade she served as the Director of Annual Giving and as Diversity Coordinator at Hamden Hall Country Day School and later became the Senior Director of the Mandel Center for Leadership Excellence for the Jewish Federation of America. She is also the founder of RKT Consulting Group and works with nonprofit organizations as a consultant and executive coach. She is also currently serving as the Interim Development Director for inSIGHT Through Education, a Holocaust education program in South Florida.

Robyn has a deep love for and connection to Israel and she has devoted many hours to coordinating trips to Israel on behalf of the Jewish Federation. This past spring, she was instrumental in coordinating a mission to Israel for a group of members from the New Haven and Hartford Jewish Federations. Looking back today, I am sure that those who joined the mission are grateful to have had such a meaningful experience.

Robyn and the work she has undertaken throughout her life are a reflection of her Jewish faith. Service to the community, cultivating giving in others, preserving Jewish history, and expanding educational opportunities not only for Jewish students but for society as a whole. Her efforts and leadership have been recognized with a myriad of honors from organizations like the Anti-Defamation League, Congregation B'nai Jacob, Yale New Haven Children's Hospital, and the Community Foundation of Greater New Haven.

I am honored to have this opportunity to rise today and extending my deepest thanks and heartfelt congratulations to Robyn Teplitzky as she is honored by the Jewish Historical Society of Greater New Haven. She is an extraordinary leader, and we are so fortunate for her continued good work at the Federation and across our community. I wish her and her husband, Jeffrey, all the best on this special occasion. Congratulations (Mazel Tov).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBBIE LESKO
OF ARIZONA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2023

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 598, H.R. 3774.

RECOGNIZING SEPP KUSS'S HISTORIC VICTORY AT THE SPANISH VUELTA

HON. LAUREN BOEBERT
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2023

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mr. Sepp Kuss, a native of Durango, Colorado, and the champion of the 2023 Vuelta a España. Sepp's historic victory made him the first American to win a Grand Tour event since 2013 and earned him the nickname "The Eagle of Durango."

Sepp's journey began in Durango, Colorado, where he initially began cycling as a form of cross-training for his passion of cross-country skiing. He credits his upbringing in Durango with giving him the unique advantage of having so many outdoor opportunities and having a supportive community beside him each step of the way. He entered this race as a support rider for his team, Jumbo-Visma, and emerged as the champion. Sepp's journey from cross-country skiing in the mountains of Colorado to standing atop the podium in Madrid is an inspiration to all Americans. He has shown that with hard work, dedication, and a little Southwestern Colorado grit, anything is possible.

Mr. Speaker, Sepp Kuss's victory is a shining example of American excellence. Sepp has become an outstanding role model for young athletes in Durango and across the United States and has shown them that dreams can come true. I urge all Americans to join me in congratulating Sepp Kuss for his historic victory at the Vuelta a España and for being a beacon of American pride and inspiration for Colorado's Third Congressional District and America.

HONORING O&G INDUSTRIES ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO
OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2023

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to extend my heartfelt congratulations to O&G Industries as they mark their centennial anniversary. For one hundred years, O&G has been a leader in Connecticut's construction industry, and today their expertise covers a wide range of projects from healthcare, where the site must be kept impeccably clean and quiet, to major highway interchanges, where commuter traffic presents a unique variable that must be constantly managed.

Founded in 1923 by Andrew Oneglia and Flaviano Gervasini, O&G Industries is a fourth-generation family-owned company. Its founders set out to build a small business based on the principles of quality service and excellence in craftsmanship. Their company culture was deeply rooted in a dedication to family values—a commitment that still exists today.

For nearly six decades, O&G has consistently ranked as one of the country's top 400 construction companies by Engineering News Record and is one of the Northeast's largest privately-owned construction companies. With a product portfolio that ranges from the distribution of aggregates, concrete, asphalt, and specialty products, O&G utilizes its network of six quarries, eight concrete plants, and nine asphalt plants as well as its comprehensive and well-maintained company-owned equipment inventories to meet the varying needs of its clients.

From building and road construction services to mason products and construction materials, O&G is a recognized and respected industry leader. Yet, O&G's contributions extend far beyond their building and construction projects. From toy drives to supporting the American Cancer Society, their employees engaged in their local communities, contributing thousands of volunteer hours and support for nonprofit and civic organizations each year.

Today, O&G Industries is led by Executive Vice Chairman, Raymond R. (Ray) Oneglia,

● 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.

who I am honored to call a friend. Ray has often hosted me at project sites, where I could see firsthand the impact of federal investments, particularly in transportation. Over the years, we have developed a friendship based on respect and a shared commitment to community. Ray is skillfully leading O&G Industries into a second century of success, and I am so pleased to have this opportunity to congratulate him and his team on this remarkable milestone. As we say in Italian—C'ent Anni.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2023

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to clarify that it was my intent to be recorded as YEA on Rollcall No. 572, on Amendment No. 66 to the Fiscal Year 2024 Interior and related agencies appropriations bill offered by Rep. HARSHBARGER of Tennessee on Thursday, November 2, 2023. I believed that my vote was recorded as YEA at that time, but I apparently did not complete execution of my vote. I wish to make it clear that I intended to vote for the amendment. The amendment would have provided that: ''None of the funds made available by this Act shall be available for the United States Board on Geographic Names.''

HONORING A TRAILBLAZER IN OUR COMMUNITY, REV. DR. FREDERICK D. HAYNES III

HON. JASMINE CROCKETT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2023

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize someone who I not only call a constituent but my pastor and a dear friend—Rev. Dr. Frederick D. Haynes III.

Pastor Haynes, born in Dallas, TX, has committed his life to not only serving within the walls of his Church—Friendship-West Baptist Church—but has made it his mission to stand up for those without a voice. Specifically, his advocacy and commitment to advancing our community can be seen through his strong continued fight for fair lending practices, advocating for just food policies, seeking much-needed criminal justice reform, and much more.

One initiative born from the vision of Dr. Haynes is the successful THRIVE Intern and Leadership Program. During the first year, the Program employed nearly 100 young black males between the ages of 16 through 19. Since its inception, the program has expanded and now employs both young men and women across North Texas. The young people intern with local businesses across the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex as well as Friendship-West and are paid at a rate above minimum wage while receiving intentional mentoring and engaging in community service. This program became so successful that Dr. Haynes received recognition from President Barack Obama for the creation and success of the program.

Celebrating his 40th Pastoral Anniversary earlier this year, Pastor Haynes has remained a dynamic and powerful teacher of God's word who has been a source of hope and encouragement for many. Through his leadership, Friendship. West has grown its ministry and membership from less than 100 members in 1983 to over 13,000.

While there is much to celebrate and commend Pastor Haynes for, I'd be remiss if I didn't extend congratulations and recognition on his recent appointment as the new leader of the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, one of the nation's oldest civil rights organizations. Founded in 1971 by Rev. Jesse Jackson, the Rainbow PUSH Coalition has been on the frontlines of working to make the American Dream a reality for all while advocating for peace and justice around the world. Under his leadership, I know that the organization will only grow and reach new heights in its impact on underserved communities.

It is safe to say that Pastor Haynes is a coalition builder, social activist, eloquent orator, and someone who has never forgotten about the people. He continues to challenge the status quo and redefine what it means to be a Pastor. The Bible reminds us in 1 Corinthians 2:9 KJV that ''But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, Neither have entered into the heart of man, The things which God hath prepared for them that love him''. I'm convinced that the best is truly yet to come for Pastor Haynes, and I look forward to our continued partnership on the issues pressing our neighbors.

HONORING GARY WALL, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE CONNECTICUT ROAD BUILDERS ASSOCIATION AND TILCON CONNECTICUT, INC.

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2023

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the Connecticut Road Builders Association as they not only celebrate their 90th Annual Meeting but also pay tribute to their past president, and my dear friend, Gary Wall.

With its membership including contractors, subcontractors, material suppliers, consulting engineers, and professional service providers operating in the heavy and highway construction industries, the Connecticut Road Builders Association represent hundreds of local businesses of all sizes. For the last nine decades, the CRBA has been a vocal advocate on policies and regulations at all levels of government as well as a critical voice in building strong relationships between its members and the labor unions they work with on projects across the state. As its past president, and president of one of its largest members, Gary Wall played an instrumental role in guiding the organization, advocating for its membership, and strengthening these partnerships.

I have had the good fortune to know and work with Gary for many years. I am honored to call him my friend and am so grateful for the friendship and support he has shown me over the years. Having grown-up in North Branford, Connecticut, it may not be such a surprise when after his graduation from Quinnipiac University with a degree in Business Administration, Gary followed in the footsteps of three generations of his family, joining Tilcon Connecticut and taking a position working in maintenance at the North Branford Quarry. Since 1923, Tilcon Connecticut has been the primary supplier of asphalt, stone, ready-mix concrete, paving, and construction services throughout the region. Throughout his career, Gary worked in each line of the business—the shop, equipment, asphalt, and aggregates. His lifetime career with the company eventually led to his role as President, a position he held for nine years before his retirement earlier this year.

Gary has long been known, not only at Tilcon but across the industry, as someone who cares deeply about the people he works with and is committed to ensuring that they have every opportunity to grow in the industry just as he did. He has demonstrated that same dedication to the communities he has called home over the years. From North Branford to Plainville, New Britain to Durham and Wallingford, and the community of Guilford that he calls home today, Gary has given back, supporting events, fairs and programs throughout them all. His time with Tilcon Connecticut has allowed him to be even more involved. Whether through a donation of money, material, or time, Gary has always ensured the Tilcon team is always there to help. Among his many accolades, Gary may be most proud to have been honored by his hometown with the North Branford Shining Star Award which he received in 2017 for his involvement and commitment to youth programs.

Having retired earlier this year, Gary is enjoying time with his wife of 41 years, Colleen, as well as his four children and four grandchildren; traveling; tending to his garden and, of course, tinkering with his antique tractors. Tonight, as the Connecticut Road Builders Association recognizes him for his many years of service to the organization, I am honored to stand to extend my heartfelt congratulations and deepest thanks to Gary Wall for his good work and invaluable contributions—both to the industry to which he dedicated his professional life as well as the many communities he has helped to enrich.

HONORING U.S. ARMY PRIVATE FIRST CLASS, FRANK J. GAFFNEY

HON. CLAUDIA TENNEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2023

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join Niagara County and the Western New York Community in commending the family of WWI hero and Medal of Honor Recipient, U.S. Army Private First Class, Frank J. Gaffney for preserving his extraordinary military service and achievements during World War I.

On November 10, 2023, the Family of Frank Gaffney presented Niagara County with his medals including the Congressional Medal of Honor for permanent display in the rotunda of Niagara County Courthouse The display of these medals will not only maintain the legacy of Frank Gaffney, but it will provide a reminder that Niagara County is home to some of the bravest service members who have ever lived.

I am proud of all who supported the development of this project, including the Niagara

County Legislature and the Niagara County Historian's Office. This one-of-a-kind display now stands as a symbol and reminder to Niagara County and all of Western New York of the heroic actions that Frank Gaffney took to preserve our freedoms.

On September 29, 1918, near Ronssoy, France, while serving with Company G, 108th Infantry Regiment of the U.S. Army's 27th Division, Frank Gaffney, an automatic rifleman, pushed forward alone, after all the other members of his squad had been killed, he discovered several Germans placing a heavy machine gun in position. He took swift action and eliminated the crew, captured the gun, bombed several dugouts, and, after killing four more of the enemy with his pistol, held the position until reinforcements arrived. Gaffney independently breached a portion of Germany's Hindenburg line helping capture 80 prisoners in the process. Due to his incredible actions, six different countries recognized and honored him including the United States. In 1919 Mr. Gaffney was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

In 2022 a biographical book was published detailing Mr. Gaffney's life titled He Charged Alone by author John Strasburg. According to Strasburg, after WWI, Mr. Gaffney returned to Niagara County, New York, due to a combat injury during his service. Mr. Gaffney had to have his left arm amputated. Despite challenges he faced after the war, he raised a family and continued to advocate for several veteran organizations. He died in 1948 at the age of 62.

We must continue to recognize and commemorate those who sacrificed on behalf of our nation and fought on our country's many historic battlefields. I thank the family of Frank Gaffney and Niagara County, because of their contributions, one of our greatest heroes, Private First Class Frank J. Gaffney will forever be remembered within our local community. It is my honor to represent the community that Mr. Gaffney called home along with the members of our community who crafted this historic display.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF THE FIRST-EVER U.S.-CENTRAL ASIA LEADER'S SUMMIT

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2023

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the successful outcome of the first-ever U.S.-Central Asia Leader's Summit. On September 21, 2023, on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly, President Joseph R. Biden met with the Presidents of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan for the inaugural C5+1 Presidential Summit.

Since its inception in 2015, the C5+1 platform has increased U.S.-Central Asia dialogue and cooperation to advance an independent, prosperous, and secure Central Asia that addresses common concerns in partnership with the United States. The United States and the C5 stand united and committed to activities in the region that enhance security, improve economic resilience, support sustainable development, combat climate change, and promote peace.

Key aspects of the security arrangement discussed at the summit included cooperation on law enforcement through expanded information sharing, cooperation on border security and safe migration, including respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations, and the sharing of best practices on countering terrorism and preventing radicalization. The Parties also agreed to promote the rule of law and improve democratic governance.

To that end, the U.S. and Central Asia are determined to accelerate regional cooperation and connectivity. This includes expanding trade routes such as the Trans-Caspian Trade Route (or the ''Middle Corridor''), advancing efforts to create a more favorable business environment for U.S. private sector trade and investment in Central Asia, and working toward establishing permanent normal trade relations (PNTR).

The Parties remain dedicated to integrating regional energy systems to diversify and expand new energy export routes and reliably supply global markets, integrating energy systems, increasing clean energy production, and developing and securing critical minerals supply chains The Parties are committed to redoubling efforts to increase clean energy production, mitigate methane emissions, develop sustainable hydropower capacity, and increase energy efficiency, particularly by mobilizing public and private financing for a green energy transition.

Through ongoing dialogue and collaborative efforts, the C5+1 can realize its vision for a more resilient, secure, and prosperous Central Asia, and foster closer people-to-people connections between the region and the United States.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DORIS ''DEB'' BIESTERFELD TOWNSHEND

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICCUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2023

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, today, family, friends, and community leaders will gather to remember one of the City of New Haven's greatest treasures, Doris ''Deb'' Biesterfeld Townshend, who we lost in September of 2020. At the age of 98, she had lived a full life and passed peacefully at her cherished, historic Victorian home, known as Raynham, on Townsend Avenue.

The Townshend's family line in New Haven stretches back to 1739, when Jeremiah Townsend of Boston, first settled there. Deb met her husband, Henry ''Harry'' Townshend, while still a student at Mount Holyoke College. In fact, they met on the train—an inspiring meet cute, especially for train lovers like me. Harry and Deb married in 1942 and became the fifth generation of the Townshend family to live in New Haven. Deb loved to tell the story of their homestead, Raynham, which had been in the family since 1798 which it was first established as a farm. The home was used as a summer home by the Townshend family until Deb and Harry made it their year-round, permanent residence. It was there that they raised their five children and celebrated seventy wonderful years together before Harry passed away in 2012.

Deb loved the Elm City and dedicated a lifetime to ensuring its history was both preserved and celebrated. She was not only a member of one of New Haven's longest tenured families, but she was also a historian, and it was her love of history and her strong belief in community that inspired her to work on a litany of local restoration projects and her service as a member of a myriad of boards, committees, and service organizations. She was a Past President of Fort Nathan Hale Restoration Projects and the East Haven Historical Society; a Past Vice President and Honorary Member of the New Haven Preservation Trust, as well as the Chair of New Haven's Historic District Commission for fifteen years and the Historian of the First Church of Christ for twenty-two years—just to name a few. Deb also volunteered her time at the New Haven Historical Society and served as a docent at the Peabody Museum of Natural History.

Deb was a force of nature, much like my own mother, Luisa DeLauro. They may have come from different sides of the political aisle, but they understood the importance of protecting the community and its New Haven's history. Deb played a critical role in my parent's effort to designate Wooster Square as New Haven's first historic district and she went on to play a key role in supporting historic sites across the City—including Fort Nathan Hale, the Federal Period King's Block in Fair Haven and ensuring the Townshend's ancestral home was placed on the National Historic Registry.

In her obituary, her children recounted a story from Deb's childhood. When she was young girl, Deb was asked what she wanted to be when she grew up and her reply was just one word: ''Kind'' It was a goal well met. Deb was not just kind; she was a reflection of the very best of us.

She loved her family fiercely and cared deeply for the communities she called home—both New Haven and the Madison Valley of Montana. She was an extraordinary woman who leaves a legacy of service to which we should all strive.

I am deeply honored to have this opportunity to stand today to pay tribute to Doris ''Deb'' Biesterfeld Townshend. While I extend my deepest sympathies to her five children, Sharon, Cynthia, Hervey, Nancy, and Timothy and their spouses, as well as her ten grandchildren and seventeen great-grandchildren; I also extend my heartfelt thanks to the Townshend family for so graciously sharing Deb with us all. Like for so many others, her energy, enthusiasm and dedication were an inspiration for me, and her memory will continue to inspire for years to come.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4821, Interior, Environment,

and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024. The overall 35 percent reduction to the top line of this bill is simply irresponsible. With this bill, House Republicans are endangering public health, damaging our public lands and natural resources, and are failing to address the existential threat of climate change.

Communities in Minnesota and across our nation need reliable access to safe drinking water and clean air. The Environmental Protection Agency is tasked with safeguarding the air we breathe and the water we drink, cleaning up harmful pollution, and responding to public health emergencies like the train derailment last February in East Palestine, Ohio, where the EPA is still overseeing the cleanup of toxic contamination today. This bill includes a crippling 39 percent cut to the EPA that will jeopardize our public health. H.R. 4821 eliminates funding for environmental justice grant programs. These programs are designed to ensure disadvantaged communities that have historically suffered from underinvestment have access to clean air and water and climate resilience solutions. Just this October, the EPA issued $3 million in environmental justice grants across the state of Minnesota to address environmental or public health issues and build a healthier future for all Minnesotans. These grants must be protected.

Our public lands and natural resources must be protected not only for today, but for future generations. H.R 4821 threatens our public lands and critical watersheds throughout the nation, and specifically harms conservation efforts in Minnesota with harmful policy riders that would overturn two final decisions by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to protect the watershed that flows through the 1.1-million-acre Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. This wilderness protects a priceless reserve of water so clean that you can drink directly from the lakes. We should not be using a funding bill to ignore settled scientific record and overturn final decisions on mineral leases and mining withdrawals.

As Ranking Member on the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, I am intimately aware that the Department of Defense considers climate change to be a top national security issue. Why are House Republicans harming our country's ability to respond to this threat? The drastic cuts made in this bill will put us at a severe global disadvantage in responding to climate change and helping communities who are directly affected by it.

Mr. Chair, instead of reevaluating their extreme 2024 funding bills and working to find a bipartisan path forward to fund the government beyond November 17th, House Republicans are moving forward with passing bills that have no chance of ever becoming law. With this bill, House Republicans are debilitating essential government agencies, jeopardizing our public lands and natural resources, and abandoning investments made by Democrats last Congress to address the threat of climate change. For all of these reasons, I must vote against H.R. 4821, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

HONORING CAPTAIN CARRIE STEPHENS UPON HER RETIREMENT FOR 33 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY

HON. JOHN S. DUARTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2023

Mr. DUARTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Captain Carrie Stephens upon her retirement for 33 years of dedicated service in the United States Navy.

Captain Carrie M. Stephens was born and raised in Newman, California, attending public school there until college. She received her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of the Pacific in June 1986. After working in the mortgage banking industry for a year, Captain Stephens attended McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento, California. In May 1990, she received her Juris Doctorate. While in law school, she was awarded the American Jurisprudence Award in Criminal Law. In November of 1990, she was commissioned in the United States Navy, Judge Advocate General's Corps. A month later, she was admitted to the California State Bar. Ms. Stephens has served a combined 33 years of active and reserve duty in the Navy, earning the rank of Captain.

From 1991 to 1994, Captain Stephens was stationed at the Naval Legal Service Office Treasure Island. She practiced criminal and civil law and was appointed as Special Assistant United States Attorney, Civil Division. In 1994, Ms. Stephens was transferred to Naval Construction Battalion Center Port Hueneme where she served as the base attorney handling civil and criminal matters and was later appointed Special United States Attorney, Criminal Division.

Upon her discharge from active duty in 1996, Ms. Stephens moved back to her hometown of Newman, and joined the Stanislaus County Public Defender's Office. As a Deputy Public Defender, Ms. Stephens handled all types of complex criminal matters. In 1999, she received a position with the office of Stanislaus County Counsel where for 18 years she represented the county child welfare agency, advocating for the protection of abused and neglected children.

In 2018, Captain Stephens was elected Superior Court Judge for the Stanislaus County Superior Court. She is the current Judge, presiding over the felony criminal department.

Despite leaving active-duty service, Captain Stephens continued her affiliation with the U.S. Navy Reserve. In early 2010, Captain Stephens was selected to become a military judge. After receiving specialized training at the Army Judge Advocate General's School in Charlottesville, Virginia, she was certified as a Special and General courts-martial judge where she presided over courts-martial from June 2010 to November 2015. She was elevated to Chief Judge, Navy and Marine Corps Trial Judiciary, Reserve Component in December 2013 and for two years, commanded a cadre of military judges. Thereafter, she was selected Commanding Officer, NR RLSO Japan for a two-year billet.

Through a competitive selection process, Captain Stephens was designated an appellate judge assigned to the Navy and Marine Court of Criminal Appeals from December 2017 to December 2019. From 2019 to the present, Captain Stephens has been with the Navy Reserve NAMARA Policy conducting legal reviews of courts-martial on behalf of the Judge Advocate General of the Navy and has served as a Special Assistant for the Deputy Advocate General for Reserve Affairs and Operations and Awards Board President.

Captain Carrie Stephens exemplifies the highest standards of duty, honor, and commitment through her 33-year career in the United States Navy. Not only is she an inspiration to her community of Newman, but she has also earned the admiration of California's 13th Congressional District. And this well-deserved retirement marks a new chapter in her life that she can cherish with her loving husband Tim Bazar, and their three amazing children: Olivia, Sydney, and Cameron.

HONORING COLONEL GLEN T. HELBERG

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2023

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize my constituent, Colonel Glen Helberg, whose dedicated service as a military officer for 20 years exemplifies courage and outstanding leadership throughout a distinguished career.

COL Helberg's journey began when he was commissioned as an Infantry Officer after graduating from the United States Military Academy in 1999. His first assignment was with the 2nd Battalion, 187th Infantry, 101st Infantry Division, Ft Campbell, KY, from 2000 to 2002. There, he served as a rifle platoon leader and scout platoon leader and was later deployed to Afghanistan to support Operation Enduring Freedom. He eventually returned to Afghanistan on deployment twice in 2010 and 2012. After his command, COL Helberg's leadership was called on for various Joint Special Operations Task Forces.

Throughout his extensive career, COL Helberg has received numerous prestigious awards, including the Bronze Star Medal (2nd Award), Defense Meritorious Service Medal (3rd Award), Meritorious Service Medal (4th Award), Army Commendation Medal (4th Award), Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, and Valorous Unit Award (4th Award), among others.

In addition to a remarkable career and extensive service to his country, I would also like to recognize COL Helberg as a beloved friend, father, and husband to Colonel Shannon Helberg. For over two decades, the Helbergs have exemplified the sacrifice of what it means to be a military family. Through numerous household moves across the country, changing schools for the Helberg children, and deployments to dangerous places for both Glen and Shannon, the Helbergs have remained steadfast in their dedication to our great nation and to each other.

I wish Glen and the Helberg family good luck in their future endeavors and thank them for their untiring service to this country.

RECOGNIZING BOSQ RESTAURANT'S MICHELIN STAR

HON. LAUREN BOEBERT

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2023

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor Bosq, an exceptional restaurant in Aspen, Colorado, for being awarded the coveted Michelin star. This honor puts Bosq among the finest restaurants not only in Colorado, but in the entire world. Bosq joins the ranks of just over 200 restaurants in America to have this great honor.

The Michelin star represents years of hard work, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to culinary excellence. Michelin stars are a hallmark of fine dining and coveted honor by many of the world's top chefs and restaurant patrons. Not easy to obtain, the stars are awarded to restaurants that are the absolute best in a given city. Restaurants gain immense prestige and exposure as a result of this honor.

An Aspen native, Barclay Dodge and his wife Molly have created a dining experience that is nothing short of exceptional. Bosq offers four, five and nine course menus. Bosq is the only restaurant in Colorado's Third Congressional District to earn the Michelin star.

Bosq is set apart not only by its exceptional cuisine but its commitment to our Colorado community. The restaurant collaborates with local farmers and ranchers to ensure that the food is as fresh as it is delicious. They embody the very best of Colorado excellence and have brought a world-class dining experience to Colorado's Third Congressional District.

Bosq is a beacon of what can be achieved when talent, dedication, and love for one's community come together, and I am incredibly proud to represent this outstanding establishment. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Bosq for being awarded the Michelin star and redefining culinary excellence in Colorado's Third Congressional District.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JAMES THEODORE HERFURTH

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2023

Mr. KELLY of Misissippi Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of James "Jim" Theodore Herfurth, who passed away peacefully in his home November 1, 2023, in Osage Beach, Missouri

Jim was born on July 21, 1937, to parents Theodore and Mathilda Herfurth in Eldon, Missouri. He attended Eldon High School where he played forward for the Mustangs Basketball team. The team ultimately won the State Championship in 1954, and Jim graduated in 1955. He continued his education at the University of Missouri, graduating in 1959 with a BS degree in banking and finance, and commissioning as a second lieutenant in the United States Army Artillery. He was stationed at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, where he served as a Finance Officer and as adjutant for the Target Artillery Department. His passion for his country led him to extend his original tour for an additional year due to the Berlin Crises.

After leaving active duty, Jim began his finance career with IBM in Kansas City, Missouri. In 1964, he began his 35-year banking career with Central Trust Bank in Jefferson City, Missouri while simultaneously joining the 420th Civil Affairs National Guard Reserve Unit. During his career with the Central Bank organization, Jim rose through the operations and loans divisions, as well as the ranks of the Missouri National Guard, until Central Bancompany's acquisition of Bank of Lake of the Ozarks in 1987. Jim was then named President and CEO of the newly named Central Bank of Lake of the Ozarks, and he earned his rank of Colonel in the Missouri National Guard.

Passionate about his community, Jim left a mark wherever he lived. His commitment to his community was evidenced through his involvement in the new construction of roads and bridges, economic development through Central Bank, public schools, YMCA, hospitals, and the Dogwood Animal Shelter. He had a strong sense of community and worked hard to make his home a better place for everyone.

Although a busy man, Jim still found time to enjoy his hobbies. He loved to play golf, spending an equal amount of time playing as he did trying to convince his grandchildren to play. When he wasn't golfing, Jim was snow skiing, visiting Palm Springs, or visiting he and his wife's friends in Tucson, Arizona.

Left to cherish his memory is his wife Marjorie M. Herfurth, his two children from his marriage in 1961 to Barbara A. Silvers: daughter, Kimberly Herfurth Ayscue of Franklinton, North Carolina; son, J. Matthew Herfurth and his wife Jeane Herfurth of Madison, Mississippi; his four grandchildren Michael and Andrew Boyleir; daughter, Grace, of Monet, Missouri. He was preceded in death by his sister, Barbara Herfurth Moffitt.

Jim's life was one of service, grace, and love for his family and community. He will be deeply missed by all whom he encountered.

RECOGNIZING NORMAN G. SANBORN

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2023

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the life and legacy of Norman G. Sanborn, a World War II veteran and active volunteer who was a friend to many in New Hampshire. A native Granite Stater, Norman lived a life of service from his time in uniform through the last several decades as an advocate for his fellow veterans. Today I want to recognize Norman's clear commitment to his community and his country, and extend my sincere condolences to his family, friends, and large network of loved ones.

Born and raised in Rochester, Norman spent his life in service to our state and nation. In 1945, at the age of 16, Norman left high school to join the Merchant Marines, sailing through dangerous waters on cleanup missions as the War came to a close. Upon returning to New Hampshire, Norman met his wife Ruth and together they raised their three children. For many years Norman was an effective and experienced car salesman, working at a number of dealerships in the region. In his retirement Norman became an advocate for veterans, spending his days educating school children on World War II, visiting veterans in local nursing homes, and hosting his very own television broadcast interviewing fellow servicemembers. As a member of many fraternal and veteran organizations, including the American Legion and the Knights of Columbus, Norman deepened his community ties, cultivating lasting relationships with his neighbors. While we can never fully repay our debt of gratitude to Norman, we recognize his commitment to service and immeasurable impact on our state.

Today as we remember Noman's life, we celebrate his commitment to supporting those around him. I commend Norman for his deep sense of duty to our state and country, and I want to once more offer my sincere condolences to his family and loved ones. I enjoyed our conversations and his sense of humor every time I would visit the New Hampshire Veterans Home in Tilton. Norman's compassion and purpose for which he served, to better the lives of those around him, is an inspiration to all who knew him. On behalf of the constituents of New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I thank Norman for his unwavering sense of service.

RECOGNIZING MS. MARIA GAMBOA

HON. MATT GAETZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2023

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Maria Gamboa, an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Interpreter in the Okaloosa County School District. As an employee with more than 25 years of service, Ms. Gamboa worked in Exceptional Student Education (ESE) at Crestview High School for 13 years before spending the past 14 years as an ESOL Interpreter at Pryor Middle School and now Choctawhatchee High School.

At Choctaw, Ms. Gamboa offers academic support both in the classroom and in the afterschool tutoring program. She provides the right level of encouragement while also holding students accountable for attending school and taking advantage of the opportunities which lead to graduation. Ms. Gamboa has also assisted in implementing a monthly English Language Learners (ELL) Parent Information Night to better inform families about high school life. Furthermore, she assisted in creating a weekly language acquisition class for any ELL family that wants to strengthen their English skills.

According to her principal, Michelle Heck, Ms. Gamboa has ''earned the respect, admiration, and love of our Choctaw staff because of her kind-hearted self, always making time to lend an ear to any and all who need someone to listen, bountiful amounts of patience and her endless generosity to our students, parents, and staff members alike.''

Ms. Gamboa is a mother to five Okaloosa County School graduates, all of whom have received college scholarships. She is a firm believer that every family deserves the opportunity to be equipped with the necessary resources to help their child succeed in their

academic life. She expressed her gratitude, saying, ''I am very blessed to be able to help Spanish speaking parents and students be successful in school.'' I, along with all of Northwest Florida, thank Ms. Gamboa for her hard work and dedication to her students and this community.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I am privileged to recognize Ms. Gamboa for her contributions to Northwest Florida.

RECOGNIZING WENDY PATE'S SERVICE TO THE CITY OF TRENTON

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2023

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Wendy Pate, City Councilwoman for the City of Trenton, on the occasion of her retirement. The dedication and love that she has shown to her community during her tenure is worthy of commendation.

Wendy is a lifelong Downriver resident, and she and her husband, Carl, have lived in Trenton for the last 19 years. Together they have two children, Daphne and Carl III. Her family has been volunteering in community activities for years, including working with the local Boy Scouts and events put on by the Trenton Business Association, the Trenton Educational Foundation, and the local Student Council. Wendy is a retired high school math teacher and MEA-retired member. She served as MEA-RA, class congress sponsor, and staff morale committee chair.

Wendy was elected to the Trenton City Council in 2019. She was a member of the City Beautiful Commission and is a member of the Trail Town Advisory Committee. She also co-founded a community action group, the DCC Coal Grant Riverfront Community Group, whose mission is to support the Trenton Coast Resiliency Master Plan and engage residents to support sustainable uses for Trenton's waterfront and revitalize their downtown. Wendy also spearheaded the project to paint murals on West Jefferson Ave in order to beautify a main intersection in Trenton as well as celebrate their 2021 designation as a Pure Michigan Trail Town.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Councilwoman Wendy Pate for all that she has done for the City of Trenton. Both in her position on the city council and in her private life, Wendy has worked tirelessly to make Trenton and the Downriver area healthier and more sustainable for future generations. I thank Wendy.

HONORING BEULAH HEIGHTS FIRST PENTECOSTAL CHURCH ON THE CELEBRATION OF THEIR CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2023

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to join the congregation of the Beulah Heights First Pentecostal Church of New Haven, Connecticut in extending my heartfelt congratulations on the celebration of their 100th Anniversary. Throughout its history, the Church and its congregation have demonstrated a unique commitment to serve the community and ensure that the most vulnerable of our citizens could find comfort and resources in their time of need.

Originally named Beulah Heights Mission, the ministry was founded in a converted storefront on Poplar Street in New Haven during the summer of 1923 under the leadership of the late Elder Walter and Rosa B. Andrews. While their initial membership was modest, just twelve, over the next several decades, under the leadership of Elder Andrews, Mother Andrews, and then Elder Lambert Tolbert, the ministry saw steady growth. In 1943, the Elder George H. Brooks succeeded Elder Tolbert and in 1950 was installed as Pastor of Beulah Heights Church.

The installation of Pastor George Brooks at Beulah Heights Church also marked the beginning of what would be an expansion of the Church's work in the community and generational leadership at Beulah Heights. After serving as junior pastor under his father, Elder Theodore L. Brooks, Sr. was installed as the church's fifth pastor in 1988.

It was the vision and leadership of Bishop Brooks that Beulah Heights became a pillar in the Greater New Haven community. The first outreach ministry under this new administration was the Beulah Land Development Corporation, launching what still today is an ongoing renaissance in New Haven's Dixwell community. The organization's mission focused on transforming severely blighted properties into safe, revitalized affordable homes for working families. Over the last four years, its Back to School Fair has served over 1,500 children and 3,000 families. Children from preschool through high school receiving backpacks filled with all the tools necessary to be prepared on the first day of school and adults and parents in attendance are connected with a network of health and human services resources from around the city. The Beulah Heights Social Integration Program provides outreach to individuals who have experienced substance abuse, dependence and incarceration—equipping them with essential resources to help them obtain employment, housing, and mental health support. And the T.L. Brooks Ministries utilizes new technologies to make the preached word available for the masses on CD and DVD.

Today, while Bishop Brooks remains an active participant in both the Church and its many ministries, his son, Elder Harold Brooks leads Beulah Heights First Pentecostal Church, while his other son, Darrell Brooks serves as the Chief Operating Officer for Beulah Land Development—representing a third generation of invaluable service to our community.

The Beulah Heights First Pentecostal Church has not only been a center for religious worship, but a vehicle through which their members could give back to the community. For the last century, the Beulah Heights First Pentecostal Church has been a fixture in our community, their ministry and outreach efforts leaving an indelible mark on our community. The Beulah Heights First Pentecostal Church gives its members a place to find their spiritual center and to solidify and support their values—a beacon of light and hope for their members and the community. I am proud to stand today and extend my very best wishes to them as they mark this milestone in their history. Happy 100th Anniversary and as we say in Italian, C'ent Anni.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2023

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 578, H. Res. 798, and YEA on Roll Call No. 577, H.R. 6126.

HONORING TEXAS–24 HOMETOWN HERO FREDDY GARRIDO

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2023

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our Texas–24 Hometown Hero, FMC Fort Worth Warden, Freddy Garrido. Warden Garrido has spent almost 30 years in the Bureau of Prisons and is retiring on October 31, 2023. During his impressive career, Warden Freddy Garrido has served selflessly to promote responsibility and lifelong skills for those incarcerated. Through his passion for service, Warden Garrido has used his role to give an underserved community hope and a second chance. Warden Garrido served at various duty stations including, FDC Oakdale, FCI Forrest City, FCC Butner, FMC Lexington, FCC Florence, FCC Victorville, and FCC Beaumont before moving to North Texas at a critical time to provide leadership and direction at FMC Fort Worth. Those who work closely with him say that his attitude and leadership style make them more empathetic and compassionate in fulfilling their own duties. During his time at FMC Fort Worth, Warden Garrido has made leadership development and training a priority. By establishing vocational programs, like a ''second chance cafe'' and HVAC program, the incarcerated have the opportunity to learn valuable life skills to equip them upon their release into society. I want to congratulate Warden Garrido on his retirement and thank him for his outstanding career of service.

RECOGNIZING THE 2023 FARM AND LAND EXPOSITION

HON. BARRY MOORE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2023

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize constituents of Alabama's Second Congressional District and their participation in the 2023 Farm and Land Exposition hosted in Mobile, Alabama on August 10–13, 2023 by the Alabama Farmers Federation.

My constituents, Daniel Free of Elmore County, Sarah Temple of Houston County,

Gracie Woodall of Houston County, and Caleb Connor of Montgomery County, participated in the discussion meet competition. Will Kirkland of Henry County and Nathan Parker of Houston County participated in the Excellence in Agriculture competition.

While remaining good stewards of their land, these folks have also been gracious neighbors by extending their knowledge and expertise to others. The evident dedication to agricultural production by these young producers and families makes me hopeful for the industry's future.

These young farmers have embodied exactly what it means to have a servant's heart while taking care of their land and their communities. 1 Peter 4:10 says, ''As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.'' The Second Congressional District of Alabama is fortunate to have outstanding individuals like them.

I would like to recognize these young producers for their participation in this year's young farmer competitions and their dedication to production agriculture in Alabama's Second Congressional District. The farmers and producers in Alabama's Second Congressional District have created a remarkable legacy of feeding and supporting citizens across the great state of Alabama and the Nation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF THE REVEREND JUAN MARTINEZ

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2023

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to join the New Haven community in mourning the loss of the Reverend Juan Martinez. At the age of 94, Reverend Martinez lived a full life, full of family, faith, and service to our community. His legacy of advocacy and religious leadership has left an indelible mark and will serve as an inspiration to many for generations to come.

Born in Puerto Rico, Reverend Martinez came to New Haven more than six decades ago, eventually making a home in West Haven where he has lived for more than fifty years. He and his first wife, Persida, raised six children, all of whom have mirrored their father's commitment to community. His son, John, was a beloved State Representative for many years before his tragic passing in 2002; Joe a firefighter for the City of New Haven; and Ariel, followed his father in becoming a pastor himself. His daughter, Evelyn, volunteered her time as a supervisor and site coordinator for the Vita Tax Program.

A Pentecostal Minister, Reverend Martinez founded the Door of Salvation Pentecostal Church of New Haven where he led the congregation for more than sixty years. As a spiritual guide, he nourished the souls of many—often providing much needed comfort during the hardest of personal trials. A leader in the Pentecostal ministry and understanding the growing need for Spanish language led houses of worship, Reverend Martinez was also responsible for the establishment of a multitude of Spanish speaking churches across the state.

As a pastor, Reverend Martinez had a unique insight into the needs of his community. With many in his congregation struggling to find financial and economic security, he looked for ways he could make a difference in their lives. This led him to serve on several local service organization boards including the City of New Haven Crossroads Program, the Hill Health Center, and the Latino Youth Development Program. Always seeking to do more for his community, Reverend Martinez founded the New Life Corporation, an organization formed to aid communities and residents with financial and tax assistance; cofounded the Evangelical Spanish Association of New Haven, which assisted the inner city with low-income housing; and was instrumental in the development of Junta for Progressive Action, the oldest Latino, community-based nonprofit organization in New Haven which began as an advocacy hub to address the needs of Greater New Haven first generation of migrants and has grown to offer no-cost social services, legal services, immigration services, adult education, and youth programs to over 2,000 low-income individuals annually.

As a respected leader in his community, local elected officials often sought his advice and counsel. When I first decided to run for Congress, Reverend Martinez was one of my earliest supporters. He introduced me not only to his congregation but also several others across the City. He and his family embraced me, and I have cherished the special friendship we have built over the years. I, like so many others, have and will continue to be inspired by Reverend Martinez—his compassion, advocacy, and commitment to bettering our community and improving the quality of life for all.

Today we mourn the loss of a giant—a spiritual guide, a community leader, a friend, and mentor. Reverend Juan Martinez will be deeply missed by all of those fortunate enough to have known him. I extend my deepest sympathies to his wife and partner, Maria, as well as his children; Ariel, Joe, and Persida; and his four beloved grandchildren, Elias, Alexandra, Jonothan, and Priscilla. His legacy will live on through them and the countless lives he touched.

CONGRATULATING SENIOR PASTOR CHUL LEE ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 6, 2023

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Senior Pastor Chul Lee for his service with the Dallas Central Methodist Church and to congratulate him on his retirement.

Pastor Lee's exceptional leadership at the Dallas Central Methodist Church has brought about remarkable initiatives that have made a significant impact on our community. One of the standout achievements during his tenure has been the church's dedication to providing scholarships to various segments of our community. Over the past 15 years, these scholarships have totaled an impressive $500.000, making it possible for numerous young individuals to pursue their educational aspirations. These segments include students attending university from the Irving Police Department, students from the firefighting community, and students from Irving Senior High School who are seeking higher education.

Pastor Sung Chul Lee's unwavering commitment to our community's welfare serves as a testament to his profound dedication to the well-being of our citizens and his faith. Through his leadership and the contributions of the Dallas Central Methodist Church, they have greatly improved the lives of numerous Irving residents. It is my honor to congratulate Senior Pastor Sung Chul Lee on his successful career and retirement.

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 Tuesday, November 7, 2023 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

NOVEMBER 8

9 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

To hold hearings to examine the President's supplemental request for the Departments of Health and Human Services and Homeland Security.

SD–106

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the philosophy of AI, focusing on learning from history and shaping our future.

SD–562

10 a.m.

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine fairness and fiscal responsibility.

SD–608

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine accessing clean water infrastructure assistance, focusing on small, rural, disadvantaged and underserved communities.

SD–406

Committee on Finance

Business meeting to consider an original bill entitled ''Better Mental Health Care, Lower-Cost Drugs, and Extenders Act''.

SD–215

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine U.S. national security interests in Ukraine.

SD–419

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security
To hold hearings to examine policy considerations for Artificial Intelligence in health care.
SD–430

Committee on Indian Affairs
To hold an oversight hearing to examine fentanyl in Native communities, focusing on Native perspectives on addressing the growing crisis.
SD–628

Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Intellectual Property
To hold hearings to examine reforming the Patent Trial and Appeal Board, focusing on the PREVAIL Act and proposals to promote U.S. innovation leadership.
SD–226

Select Committee on Intelligence
To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.
SH–219

NOVEMBER 9

10 a.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Subcommittee on Aviation Safety, Operations, and Innovation
To hold hearings to examine addressing close calls to improve aviation safety.
SR–253

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the implementation of federal coal mine land reclamation and abandoned coal mine land economic revitalization programs.
SD–366

Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine how the tax code affects high-income individuals and tax planning strategies.
SD–215

Committee on the Judiciary
Business meeting to consider an authorization for subpoenas relating to the Supreme Court ethics investigation, and the nominations of Mustafa Taher Kasubhai, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon, and Eumi K. Lee, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.
SH–216

NOVEMBER 14

2:30 p.m.
Committee on Environment and Public Works
Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife
To hold hearings to examine challenges and opportunities to facilitate wildlife movement and improve migration corridors.
SD–406

2:45 p.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight
To hold hearings to examine Federal COVID-era spending and preventing future fraud.
SD–562

3 p.m.
Committee on Rules and Administration
Business meeting to consider S. Res. 444, providing for the en bloc consideration of military nominations.
SR–301

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

See Résumé of Congressional Activity.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S5347–S5369

Measures Introduced: Five bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3227–3231, and S. Res. 450–452. **Page S5360**

Measures Reported:

S. 306, to approve the settlement of the water right claims of the Tule River Tribe. (S. Rept. No. 118–110) **Page S5360**

Measures Passed:

READ Act Reauthorization Act: Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of S. 41, to reauthorize the READ Act, and the bill was then passed. **Page S5363**

Mekong-United States Partnership: Senate agreed to S. Res. 126, recognizing the vital importance of the Mekong River to Southeast Asia and the role of the Mekong-United States Partnership in supporting the prosperity of the region, after agreeing to the committee reported amendment in the nature of a substitute, the committee reported amendment in the nature of a substitute to the preamble, and the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S5363–66**

Adopted:

Merkley Amendment No. 1362, to make technical amendments. **Page S5363**

Charitable Collections in Senate Buildings: Senate agreed to S. Res. 451, permitting the collection of clothing, toys, food, and housewares during the holiday season for charitable purposes in Senate buildings. **Page S5366**

Nuclear Weapons Program Workers: Senate agreed to S. Res. 452, designating October 30, 2023, as a national day of remembrance for the workers of the nuclear weapons program of the United States. **Page S5366**

National Wildlife Refuge Week: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 396, designating the week beginning on October 8, 2023, as ''National Wildlife Refuge Week'', and the resolution was then agreed to. **Pages S5366–67**

Message from the President: Senate received the following messages from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency with respect to the threat from securities investments that finance certain companies of the People's Republic of China (PRC) that was declared in Executive Order 13959 of November 12, 2020, received during adjournment of the Senate on November 3, 2023; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–28) **Pages S5347, S5359**

Transmitting, pursuant to law, the President's report to Congress relative to the Secretary of the Interior's certification under section 8 of the Fisherman's Protective Act of 1967, as amended (the ''Pelly Amendment'') (22 U.S.C. 1978) that nationals of the People's Republic of China (PRC) are engaging in trade or taking of eight species of pangolin that diminishes the effectiveness of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), received during adjournment of the Senate on November 3, 2023; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. (PM–29) **Pages S5347, S5359–60**

Bertagnolli Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Monica M. Bertagnolli, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the National Institutes of Health. **Pages S5347–52, S5355–56**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 59 yeas to 32 nays (Vote No. EX. 292), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S5355**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Tuesday, November 7, 2023; that all time on the nomination be considered expired at 11:45 a.m.; that if cloture is invoked on the nomination of Kenly Kiya Kato, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, all time be considered expired at 2:15 p.m.; and that if cloture is invoked on the nomination of Julia E. Kobick, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, all time be considered expired at 5:30 p.m. **Page S5367**

Burrows Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Charlotte A. Burrows, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. **Page S5352**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Ramon Ernesto Reyes, Jr., of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York. **Page S5352**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S5352**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S5352**

McMillion Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Brandy R. McMillion, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan. **Page S5352**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Charlotte A. Burrows, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. **Page S5352**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S5352**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S5352**

Almadani Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Monica Ramirez Almadani, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California. **Page S5352**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Brandy R. McMillion, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan. **Page S5352**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S5352**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S5352**

de Alba Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Ana de Alba, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit. **Page S5353**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Monica Ramirez Almadani, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California. **Page S5353**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Pages S5352–53**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S5353**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Jacquelyn D. Austin, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

Jacqueline Becerra, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

Melissa Damian, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

David Seymour Leibowitz, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida.

Julie Simone Sneed, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

3 Air Force nominations in the rank of general.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, and Navy. **Pages S5367–69**

Messages from the House: **Page S5360**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S5360**

Measures Read the First Time: **Pages S5360, S5363**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S5360–61**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S5361–63**

Additional Statements: Pages S5357–58

Amendments Submitted: Page S5363

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—292) Page S5355

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 6:43 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, November 7, 2023. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S5367.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 22 public bills, H.R. 6231–6252; and 3 resolutions, H. Res. 845–846 and 848, were introduced. Pages H5465–66

Additional Cosponsors: Pages H5467–68

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 847, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4664) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–269). Page H5465

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Smith (NE) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. Page H5407

Recess: The House recessed at 12:09 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. Page H5408

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by voice vote. Page H5408

Privileged Resolution—Intent to Offer: Representative McCormick announced his intent to offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 845) censuring Representative Rashida Tlaib for antisemitic activity and sympathizing with terrorist organizations. Page H5408

Privileged Resolution—Intent to Offer: Representative Greene (GA) announced her intent to offer a privileged resolution. Page H5409

Communication from the Clerk: The Clerk notified the House that he had hereby reappointed as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress the following person: Ms. Danna Bell of Washington, D.C. Page H5410

Recess: The House recessed at 2:16 p.m. and reconvened at 3:30 p.m. Page H5410

Recess: The House recessed at 4:40 p.m. and reconvened at 5:29 p.m. Page H5420

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Clarifying jurisdiction with respect to certain Bureau of Reclamation pumped storage development: H.R. 1607, amended, to clarify jurisdiction with respect to certain Bureau of Reclamation pumped storage development, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 384 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 599; Pages H5410, H5426

American Battlefield Protection Program Enhancement Act of 2023: H.R. 3448, amended, to amend chapter 3081 of title 54, United States Code, to enhance the protection and preservation of America's battlefields; Pages H5412–14

Fort San Gerinimo Preservation Act: H.R. 359, to establish Fort San Gerinimo del Boquern in Puerto Rico as an affiliated area of the National Park System, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 359 yeas to 24 nays, Roll No. 600; and Pages H5414–16, H5426–27

Women's Suffrage National Monument Location Act: H.R. 1318, to authorize the location of a monument on the National Mall to commemorate and honor the women's suffrage movement and the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution. Pages H5418–20

Recess: The House recessed at 6:17 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. Page H5425

Privileged Resolution—Intent to Offer: Representative Jacobs announced her intent to offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 846) censuring Representative Brian Mast. Pages H5425–26

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

Grand Ronde Reservation Act Amendment of 2023: H.R. 1722, to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act; and Pages H5411–12

Hershel Woody Williams National Medal of Honor Monument Location Act: H.R. 2717, amended, to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work on the National Mall to honor the extraordinary acts of valor, selfless service, and sacrifice displayed by Medal of Honor recipients. **Pages H5416–18**

Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024: The House considered H.R. 4820, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024. Consideration is expected to resume tomorrow, November 7th.

Pages H5420–23, H5423–25, H5427–51

Agreed to:

Cole amendment en bloc No. 1 consisting of the following amendments printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–261: Fallon (No. 1) that removes $1,000,000 of funding for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration and moves it to the existing $49,000,000 Cyber Security Initiative funding for cyber security initiatives, including necessary upgrades to network and information technology infrastructure, improvement of identity management and authentication capabilities, securing and protecting data, implementation of Federal cyber security initiatives, and implementation of enhanced security controls on agency computers and mobile devices;

Hageman (No. 2) that directs $5 million from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration to the FAA's Research, Engineering, and Development account to support/increase the amount of funding for the aviation maintenance technician development program;

Pfluger (No. 4) that increases funding by $1 million for a program to rehabilitate and modify the homes of disabled or low-income veterans, as authorized under the 2015 NDAA;

Espaillat (No. 7) that increases and decreases the Cyber Security Initiatives account;

Swalwell (No. 8) that increases and decreases funding for FAA aviation safety activities to prioritize the processing of unruly passenger investigations;

Rodgers (No. 9) that increases and decreases funding by $32 million to emphasize the importance of funding NextGen-Aircraft Technologies and Fuels and the FAA Center of Excellence for Alternative Jet Fuel and the Environment;

Swalwell (No. 10) that increases and decreases funding for the Grants-in-Aid for Airports account to highlight the need to prohibit federal funds from being used by FAA to purchase rail cars or buses manufactured by Chinese companies, including airport shuttles and monorails;

Allred (No. 11) that increases and decreases funds by $1,000,000 to express the intent that the Secretary of Transportation shall waive repayment of any Federal-aid highway funds expended on the construction of high occupancy vehicle lanes constructed on US 75 in Dallas County and Collin County, if the State of Texas presents the Secretary with its determination that such high occupancy vehicle lanes are not in the public interest;

Jackson Lee (No. 12) that increases and decreases by $1 million the Federal Rail Administration Safety and Operation's account to emphasize the need to provide dedicated funding to address community engagement on safety issues related railroad crossings in urban areas;

Gottheimer (No. 14) that increases and decreases funding by $1 million for the Department of Transportation to expedite the environmental impact statement review process to expand the Hudson-Bergen Light Rail;

Molinaro (No. 15) that increases and decreases to highlight the importance of the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant program for advancing railroad safety;

Garbarino (No. 16) that increases/decreases Amtrak Northeast Corridor funding by $1,160,769,000 to highlight it's importance for the continued operation, maintenance, and economic success of the NEC;

Lawler (No. 17) that increases and decreases funding for the Amtrak Northeast Corridor (NEC) with the intent of supporting the need for robust rail funding to modernize our passenger rail network;

Lawler (No. 18) that increases and decreases funding for the Amtrak National Network with the intent of supporting the need for robust rail funding to modernize our passenger rail network;

Molinaro (No. 19) that increases and decreases the Amtrak account to emphasis the importance of Amtrak to expeditiously advance ADA compliance at stations and on trains;

Crockett (No. 21) that increases and decreases the funding for the Federal Transit Administration's Transit Infrastructure Grants to emphasize the importance of the FTA undertaking the efforts to protect the safety of transit workers;

Moore (No. 26) that increases funding for housing grants to help survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking;

Mast (No. 27) that removes all funding for modernization and deferred maintenance of the Weaver Building and moves it to the existing $1,000,000 program to rehabilitate and modify the homes of disabled or low-income veterans;

Molinaro (No. 28) that increases funding for Section 811 Housing, which provides affordable housing to persons with disabilities, by $5,000,000; decrease $2,500,000 from both the Administrative Support Offices and Program Offices accounts;

Espaillat (No. 33) that increases and decreases Public Housing Fund account;

Barr (No. 35) that increases funding for the Recovery Housing Program to provide stable, transitional housing for individuals in recovery from a substance-use disorder;

Beatty (No. 38) that increases and decreases funding for the Department of Housing and Urban Development's HOME Investment Partnerships Program to highlight the program's importance in meeting the needs of low-income families across the United States without access to affordable housing;

Molinaro (No. 39) that increases and decreases to show support for Continuum of Care programs;

Molinaro (No. 41) that increases and decreases to encourage OLHCHH to coordinate with USDA and EPA to develop a strategy to address lead paint risks in rural homes; and Espaillat (No. 42) that allows the Healthy Home Initiatives to use funds for fire hazard mitigation; **Pages H5451–53**

Lawler amendment (No. 3 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–261) that increases the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements program (CRISI) account by $10 million to support rail safety with an equal offset to the Office of the Secretary of Transportation; **Page H5453**

Perry amendment (No. 6 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–261) that restores funding for the National Surface Transportation & Innovation Finance Bureau to FY22 funding levels; and **Pages H5454–55**

Ogles amendment (No. 24 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–261) that increases and decreases to emphasize the importance of restoring public safety and rule of law on the DC Metro. **Page H5458**

Rejected:

Perry amendment (No. 22 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–261) that sought to reduce Transit Infrastructure Grant funding to $0; and **Pages H5456–57**

Perry amendment (No. 23 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–261) that sought to eliminate funding for Capital Investment Grants. **Pages H5457–58**

Proceedings Postponed:

Escobar amendment (No. 5 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–261) that seeks to increases and decreases the National Surface Transportation and Innovative Finance Bureau in recognition of the DOT Thriving Communities Program; **Pages H5453–54**

Perry amendment (No. 20 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–261) that seeks to strike National Network Grants; **Pages H5455–56**

Perry amendment (No. 25 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–261) that seeks to eliminate funding for Grants to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority; **Pages H5458–60**

Grothman amendment (No. 29 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–261) that seeks to increase and decrease Office of the Chief Human Capital Officer at the Department of Housing and Urban Development to express concern regarding the inherently divisive nature of the Diversity Council and the associated race, ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation-based Affinity or Employee Resource Groups; and **Pages H5460–61**

Brecheen amendment (No. 30 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–261) that seeks to reduce funding for the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity to FY19 levels. **Pages H5461–62**

H. Res. 838, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 4821) and (H.R. 4820) was agreed to on Thursday, November 2nd.

Presidential Messages: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the Department of State and the Department of the Interior have been directed to report on the outcome of the ongoing negotiations at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Standing Committee meeting in Geneva on November 6–10, 2023 regarding the taking of eight species of pangolin by nationals of the People's Republic of China-referred to the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered printed (H. Doc. 118–77). **Pages H5462–63**

Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the National Emergency With Respect to the Threat From Securities Investments That Finance Certain Companies of the People's Republic of China is to continue in effect beyond November 12, 2023—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered printed (H. Doc. 118–78). **Pages H5463–64**

Senate Referrals: S. Con. Res. 7 was held at the desk. S. 447 was held at the desk. S. 499 was held at the desk. S. 656 was held at the desk. S. 1648 was held at the desk. S. 1973 was held at the desk. S. 3222 was held at the desk. **Page H5423**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H5423.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H5426 and H5427.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 p.m. and adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Committee Meetings

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 4664, the "Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2024". The Committee granted, by a record vote of 9–3, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 4664, the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2024, under a structured rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees. The rule provides that the amendment printed in part A of the Rules Committee report shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in part B of the Rules Committee report, amendments en bloc described in section 3, and pro forma amendments described in section 4. Each amendment 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 the rule, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. All points of order against the amendments printed in part B of the Rules Committee report or amendments en bloc described in section 3 of the resolution are waived. The rule provides that the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or her designee may offer amendments en bloc consisting of amendments printed in part B of the Rules Committee 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 respective designees, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided by section 4 of the rule, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule provides that 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. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit. Testimony was heard from Representatives Womack, Hoyer, Davidson, Waters, Nunn, Rosendale, Bean of Florida, Molinaro, and Spartz.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: business meeting to consider the nominations of Tanya F. Otsuka, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Credit Union Administration Board, Mark Toshiro Uyeda, of California, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Spencer Bachus III, of Alabama, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, Jennifer L. Fain, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and Claudia Slacik, of New York, and William Brodsky, of Illinois, both to be a Director of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation, 11:30 a.m., S–219, Capitol.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Tourism, Trade, and Export Promotion, to hold hearings to examine sustainable tourism for a thriving economy, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of J. Todd Inman, of Kentucky, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board, and Samuel H. Slater, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure, to hold hearings to examine causes of roadway safety challenges and possible interventions, 2:30 p.m., SD–406.

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology, and the Law, to hold hearings to examine social media and the teen mental health crisis, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Monetary Policy, hearing entitled "The Tangled Web of Global Governance: How the Biden Administration is Ceding Authority Over American Financial Regulation", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4175, to authorize the Secretary of State to provide additional assistance to Ukraine using assets confiscated from the Central Bank of the Russian Federation and other sovereign assets of the Russian Federation, and

for other purposes; H.R. 4723, to provide for the imposition of sanctions with respect to foreign persons undermining the Dayton Peace Agreement or threatening the security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and for other purposes; H. Res. 149, condemning the illegal abduction of children from Ukraine to the Russian Federation; H.R. 5856, to reauthorize the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, and for other purposes; H.R. 4681, to provide for the imposition of sanctions with respect to illicit captagon trafficking; H.R. 5961, to freeze certain Iranian funds involved in the 2023 hostage deal between the United States and Iran, and for other purposes; H. Res. 683, expressing support for the diplomatic relations required to encourage the Government of Mexico to fulfill its water deliveries on an annual basis to the United States under the treaty between the United States and Mexico regarding the utilization of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande; H.R. 6119, to require the Secretary of State to notify Congress when the security clearances of certain senior members of the Department of State are suspended or revoked, and for other purposes; H. Res. 793, calling on Hamas to immediately release hostages taken during October 2023 attack on Israel; and H.R. 6087, to establish a comprehensive United States Government initiative to build the capacity of young leaders and entrepreneurs in Africa, and for other purposes, 11:15 a.m., HVC–210.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance, hearing entitled ''Oversight of the Bureau of Prisons'', 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Full Committee, business meeting, 10:30 a.m., 360 Cannon.

Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Veterans Serving Veterans: The Impact of America's Businesses on Veteran Employment and Opportunity'', 10:30 a.m., 360 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''Ensuring that 'Woke' Doesn't Leave American's Broke: Protecting Seniors and Savers from ESG Activism'', 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of November 7 through November 10, 2023

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Monica M. Bertagnolli, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the National Institutes of Health, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation thereon at 11:45 a.m. Following disposition of the nomination of Monica M. Bertagnolli, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Kenly Kiya Kato, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

If cloture is invoked on the nomination of Kenly Kiya Kato, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 2:15 p.m., followed by a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Julia E. Kobick, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

If cloture is invoked on the nomination of Julia E. Kobick, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 5:30 p.m., followed by a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Ramon Ernesto Reyes, Jr., of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Appropriations: November 8, to hold hearings to examine the President's supplemental request for the Departments of Health and Human Services and Homeland Security, 9 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: November 7, business meeting to consider the nominations of Tanya F. Otsuka, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Credit Union Administration Board, Mark Toshiro Uyeda, of California, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Spencer Bachus III, of Alabama, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, Jennifer L. Fain, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and Claudia Slacik, of New York, and William Brodsky, of Illinois, both to be a Director of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation, 11:30 a.m., S–219, Capitol.

Committee on the Budget: November 8, to hold hearings to examine fairness and fiscal responsibility, 10 a.m., SD–608.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: November 7, Subcommittee on Tourism, Trade, and Export Promotion, to hold hearings to examine sustainable tourism for a thriving economy, 10 a.m., SR–253.

November 7, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of J. Todd Inman, of Kentucky, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board, and Samuel H. Slater, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, 2:30 p.m., SR–253.

November 9, Subcommittee on Aviation Safety, Operations, and Innovation, to hold hearings to examine addressing close calls to improve aviation safety, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: November 9, to hold hearings to examine the implementation of federal coal mine land reclamation and abandoned coal mine land economic revitalization programs, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: November 7, Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure, to hold hearings to examine causes of roadway safety challenges and possible interventions, 2:30 p.m., SD–406.

November 8, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine accessing clean water infrastructure assistance, focusing on small, rural, disadvantaged and underserved communities, 10 a.m., SD–406.

Committee on Finance: November 8, business meeting to consider an original bill entitled "Better Mental Health Care, Lower-Cost Drugs, and Extenders Act", 10 a.m., SD–215.

November 9, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine how the tax code affects high-income individuals and tax planning strategies, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: November 8, to hold hearings to examine U.S. national security interests in Ukraine, 10 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: November 8, Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security, to hold hearings to examine policy considerations for Artificial Intelligence in health care, 2:30 p.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: November 8, to hold hearings to examine the philosophy of AI, focusing on learning from history and shaping our future, 9:30 a.m., SD–562.

Committee on Indian Affairs: November 8, to hold an oversight hearing to examine fentanyl in Native communities, focusing on Native perspectives on addressing the growing crisis, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: November 7, Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology, and the Law, to hold hearings to examine social media and the teen mental health crisis, 10 a.m., SD–226.

November 8, Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, to hold hearings to examine reforming the Patent Trial and Appeal Board, focusing on the PREVAIL Act and proposals to promote U.S. innovation leadership, 2:30 p.m., SD–226.

November 9, Full Committee, business meeting to consider an authorization for subpoenas relating to the Supreme Court ethics investigation, and the nominations of Mustafa Taher Kasubhai, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon, and Eumi K. Lee, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Select Committee on Intelligence: November 7, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

November 8, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House Committees

Committee on Education and Workforce, November 8, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 5933, the "DETERRENT Act", 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, November 8, Subcommittee on Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, hearing entitled "United Nations' Bigotry Towards Israel UNRWA Anti-semitism Poisons Palestinian Youth", 10 a.m., 2200 Rayburn.

November 8, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Friend and Ally: U.S. Support for Israel after Hamas' Barbaric Attack", 2 p.m., HVC–210.

Committee on Homeland Security, November 8, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1516, the "DHS Restrictions on Confucius Institutes and Chinese Entities of Concern Act"; H.R. 4403, the "Securing the Cities Improvement Act"; H.R. 5969, the "Improving Travel for Families Act"; H.R. 6174, the "DHS Biodetection Improvement Act"; and legislation on the Department of Homeland Security Policy Issuance Review Act, 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, November 8, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Free Speech on College Campuses", 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, November 8, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1121, the "Protecting American Energy Production Act"; H.R. 4385, the "Drought Preparedness Act"; H.R. 6008, 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; and H.J. Res. 96, the "Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2023", 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Accountability, November 8, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation, hearing entitled "Advances in Deepfake Technology", 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, November 8, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 6093, the "Weather Act Reauthorization", 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, November 8, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Burdensome Regulations: Examining the Effects of Department of Energy Regulations on America's Job Creators", 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, November 8, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, legislative hearing, 12 p.m., 360 Cannon.

Résumé of Congressional Activity

FIRST SESSION OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

The first table gives a comprehensive résumé of all legislative business transacted by the Senate and House. The second table accounts for all nominations submitted to the Senate by the President for Senate confirmation.

DATA ON LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

January 3 through October 31, 2023

	Senate	*House*	*Total*
Days in session	146	150	..
Time in session	667 hrs., 49′	511 hrs, 47′	..
Congressional Record:			
Pages of proceedings	5,268	5,182	..
Extensions of Remarks	..	1,031	..
Public bills enacted into law	37	11	..
Private bills enacted into law	..	..	..
Bills in conference	1	1	..
Measures passed, total	311	246	557
Senate bills	51	8	..
House bills	12	133	..
Senate joint resolutions	6	3	..
House joint resolutions	7	12	..
Senate concurrent resolutions	..	..	..
House concurrent resolutions	6	11	..
Simple resolutions	229	79	..
Measures reported, total	*204	255	459
Senate bills	172	..	..
House bills	..	207	..
Senate joint resolutions	..	..	..
House joint resolutions	..	9	..
Senate concurrent resolutions	2	..	..
House concurrent resolutions	..	5	..
Simple resolutions	30	34	..
Special reports	18	2	..
Conference reports	..	..	..
Measures pending on calendar	193	135	..
Measures introduced, total	3,685	7,113	10,798
Bills	3,171	6,116	..
Joint resolutions	47	95	..
Concurrent resolutions	23	74	..
Simple resolutions	444	828	..
Quorum calls	2	5	..
Yea-and-nay votes	279	219	..
Recorded votes	..	334	..
Bills vetoed	3	5	..
Vetoes overridden	..	..	..

*These figures include all measures reported, even if there was no accompanying report. A total of 108 written reports have been filed in the Senate, 257 reports have been filed in the House.

DISPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

January 3 through October 31, 2023

Civilian nominees, totaling 381, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	127
Unconfirmed	246
Withdrawn	8
Other Civilian nominees, totaling 1,361, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	927
Unconfirmed	434
Air Force nominees, totaling 6,026, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	5,093
Unconfirmed	933
Army nominees, totaling 8,503, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	6,406
Unconfirmed	2,097
Navy nominees, totaling 4,991, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	4,897
Unconfirmed	94
Marine Corps nominees, totaling 1,102, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	1,084
Unconfirmed	18
Space Force nominees, totaling 415, disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	399
Unconfirmed	16

Summary

Total nominees carried over from the First Session	0
Total nominees received this Session	22,779
Total confirmed	18,933
Total unconfirmed	3,838
Total withdrawn	8
Total returned to the White House	0

Next Meeting of the **SENATE**

10 a.m., Tuesday, November 7

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Monica M. Bertagnolli, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the National Institutes of Health, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation thereon at 11:45 a.m. Following disposition of the nomination of Monica M. Bertagnolli, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Kenly Kiya Kato, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

If cloture is invoked on the nomination of Kenly Kiya Kato, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 2:15 p.m., followed by a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Julia E. Kobick, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

If cloture is invoked on the nomination of Julia E. Kobick, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 5:30 p.m., followed by a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Ramon Ernesto Reyes, Jr., of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

(Senate will recess following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Kenly Kiya Kato until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

10 a.m., Tuesday, November 7

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Continue consideration of H.R. 4820—Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Beyer, Donald S., Va., E1062
Boebert, Lauren, Colo., E1059, E1063
Crockett, Jasmine, Tex., E1060
DeLauro, Rosa L., Conn., E1059, E1059, E1060, E1061, E1064, E1065
Dingell, Debbie, Mich., E1064
Duarte, John S., Callif., E1062
Gaetz, Matt, Fla., E1063
Kelly, Trent, Miss., E1063
Lesko, Debbie, Ariz., E1059, E1064
McCollum, Betty, Minn., E1061
Moore, Barry, Ala., E1064
Panetta, Jimmy, Calif., E1061
Pappas, Chris, N.H., E1063
Posey, Bill, Fla., E1060
Van Duyne, Beth, Tex., E1064, E1065
tenney, Claudia, N.Y., E1060

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