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No. 195

## House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
November 28, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MARIANNETTE MILLER-MEEKS 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.

### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate insist upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 2670) "An Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes," disagreed to by the House of Representatives and agrees to the conference asked by the House on the dis-

agreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. REED, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINÉ, Mr. KING, Ms. WARREN, Mr. PETERS, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. KELLY, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. COTTON, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. ERNST, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. SCOTT (FL), Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. BUDD, and Mr. SCHMITT, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate, with instructions.

### SANCTIONED FUNDS TO BE ACCESSED BY THE IRANIAN REGIME IN EXCHANGE FOR THE RETURN OF AMERICAN HOSTAGES

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, this September, the Biden administration paved the way for \$6 billion in sanctioned funds to be accessed by the Iranian regime in exchange for the return of American hostages.

Authorizing this transfer puts us in an incredibly dangerous position and will only encourage Iran and other state sponsors of terrorism to kidnap more hostages in the future.

What we saw in the disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan and what we are seeing, once again, is that President Biden has failed to manage our Nation's foreign policy.

This deal gives Iran access to more money to fund more terrorist activities, including support for regional proxies like Hamas and Hezbollah.

We know that the Iranian regime is highly skilled in sanctions evasion, and they will do everything they can to hide the true use of these funds.

One thing is for certain, this money would not be used for humanitarian purposes, as the Biden administration has claimed.

It is time to pass the No Funds for Iranian Terrorism Act and freeze this money in Qatari banks where it is currently being held.

We cannot allow the Iranian regime to enrich itself and continue to funnel money into the hands of known terrorists.

### PUBLIC LANDS SHOULDN'T BE USED TO HOUSE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, in the past week, the Tucson, Arizona, sector of our southern border has encountered over 2,000 illegal immigrants each and every day.

This crisis has pulled in Border Patrol resources, including highly trained BORTAC units to confront the surge of illegal immigrants from across the southwest.

This has left dangerous gaps in our border security for cartels to exploit, smuggling deadly drugs like cocaine, heroin, and fentanyl into the United States.

Now, after repealing Trump's remain in Mexico policy, the Biden administration is attempting to use public lands and national parks to house illegal immigrants.

This policy shift is a failure, and it is a failure that will continue to have immediate and negative consequences for so many American communities.

Places like the Gateway National Recreational area in New Jersey should not be used to house illegal immigrants who have been allowed by President Biden to remain in America for far too long.

Our communities cannot afford to continue down this treacherous path.

It is time for Congress to pass legislation that prevents our public lands from being used to support the crisis that President Biden has failed to address with our failed ability to maintain the sovereignty of our country by making sure that all of our borders are secure.

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

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



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### CONGRESS NEEDS TO REGULATE THE SALE OF AMMUNITION

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

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Madam Speaker, it is undeniable that we have a gun problem in our country and that too many people lose their lives to gun violence every single day.

We can't take on the issue of gun violence without also addressing ammunition access for criminals and for those who are choosing to harm others across our country.

This means holding people and institutions accountable for their role in the public commercial ammunition sales that can get into the wrong hands.

Just a few weeks ago, The New York Times released a report indicating that ammunition produced at the Lake City Army Ammunition Plant has also been sold widely in the civilian marketplace. Ammo from Lake City has been seized from drug dealers, violent felons, and even rioters from January 6.

Ammo from the plant has been tied to at least a dozen mass shootings, including at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh and at the Robb Elementary School in Uvalde.

Let me be clear: This is completely unacceptable.

We are demanding oversight, not just over this plant, but the commercial sales of ammunition that is subsidized by the U.S. Government and then is turned around and used in mass shootings across the country.

We also need to pass my bill, along with Senator ELIZABETH WARREN's bill, the AMMO Act to regulate ammunition sales across the country. This is a serious challenge. People are losing their lives.

### MISSISSIPPI RIVER BRIDGE WON FIRST PLACE IN THE ACI EXCELLENCE IN CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION AWARDS

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, the American Concrete Institute recognizes and awards construction projects across the world every year.

During the 2023 ACI Excellence in Concrete Construction Awards, the I-74 Mississippi River Bridge, located in Bettendorf, Iowa, took home first place in the infrastructure category.

This regional project was started with the intention of improving access across the Mississippi River. The bridge was recently updated to include interchange ramp reconfigurations and interstate and local roadways improvements.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the architects, engineers, contractors, and suppliers that worked so diligently to improve this vital link within the Quad Cities across the Mississippi River.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO SAM RAYMOND, CARSON GUZMAN, AND RYAN PETERS

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize three very impressive Norwalk High School students and their recent achievements.

I congratulate Sam Raymond, Carson Guzman, and Ryan Peters for receiving the National Speech and Debate Association's 2022-2023 Speaking and Service Award.

Every year the National Speech and Debate Association recognizes students who go above and beyond in their service to their teams, schools, and communities with the Speaking and Debate Service Award.

From more than 140,000 members, fewer than 140 students receive this recognition and reached the maximum number of service points in the student honor society.

These three individuals earned distinction through their impressive record for speech and debate competition, as well as community service, public speaking, and leadership activities.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I congratulate Sam Raymond, Carson Guzman, and Ryan Peters for their award.

### RECOGNIZING ZACH GRAHAM, THE 2023 PAT TILLMAN SCHOLAR

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Zach Graham, the 2023 Pat Tillman Scholar.

This award is inspired by the legacy of Pat Tillman who left the NFL to serve as a U.S. Army Ranger and ultimately gave his life in service.

Zach Graham is a dedicated Army veteran and a third-year graduate student at the University of Iowa College of Dentistry.

In 2014, Zach graduated from Iowa State University with a double major in anthropology and international studies and a minor in military science. Zach commissioned as an intelligence officer in the Army and he was stationed in Germany as the lead intelligence officer for the Army's aviation unit in Europe.

Zach transitioned from the military to dentistry when he found his calling, a profession that allows him to make a tangible impact with precision and artistry.

Zach Graham's dedication to service above self is truly commendable, and we eagerly anticipate the remarkable contributions he will continue to make.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Zach on receiving this incredible honor and award.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO MRS. SUZI JONES AS THEATRE EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to congratulate a passionate and impressive educator from Iowa's very own Pella High School, Mrs. Suzi Jones.

Mrs. Jones was recently recognized by the Iowa High School Speech Association as their Theatre Educator of the Year.

Every year, IHSSA selects the winner for this award based on community and

statewide impact. Mrs. Jones was surprised with this award in front of the entire Pella High School student body.

As a parent, I am grateful to all educators and teachers dedicated to shaping the lives of our future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I thank them for their exceptional effort and, once again, I congratulate Mrs. Jones for her award.

### LET'S DO THE RIGHT THING

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

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, how often do we have a chance to do the right thing, defeat Communism, grow the economy, create jobs, reduce the deficit, and secure the southern border all at the same time?

It would be all good for America. It would be all good no matter what party you are from and no matter what part of the country you are from. This is a rare thing indeed.

I suggest we support the Make Putin Pay Act. I suggest we combine it with securing the southern border. How many opportunities are we going to have to do the right thing and use the right assets to do the mission?

We can right now use over \$100 billion in frozen assets from Russia to pay for the military support required to defeat an invading Communist country into Europe.

We can secure 70 percent of Europe's grain stores so it is not sold to a foreign national government that is unfriendly, but to sustain a bigger, stronger, more friendly Europe. Meanwhile, that money is going to be spent back in the United States to support our defense industry, to create jobs, and through taxes, created by those jobs, to reduce the deficit, all while defeating our biggest adversary in the European theater.

If we can combine that with H.R. 2 and secure our southern border, even better. Let's just get this straight: We win for the economy; we win for reducing debt; we win for defeating Communism; and we win by securing our southern border. This is what we are working with right now with the Senate.

How many opportunities do we have to combine a Senate and a House resolution to actually do these things? We win, win, win, and win some more.

Mr. Speaker, I highly suggest that my comrades here in the House support the Make Putin Pay Act. It will use over \$100 billion in frozen assets from Russia to support our economy, pay down debt, and secure our southern border.

### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS). 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 14 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:

Receive us, O Lord, this day into Your presence. Receive, too, these lawmakers as they return to the Capitol, having spent much-needed time with their families and friends, constituents, and communities. Receive us all into Your gracious plan for this day and equip us for the tests and rigors of this week.

Refreshed and renewed from the Thanksgiving holiday, we have opened our eyes and shown our gratitude for the many blessings You have bestowed on us. Remind us, then, that we have been so blessed that we, in turn, should be a blessing, that the country we serve and the people and concerns these Members have been elected to represent would be blessed by the words that are spoken and the decisions that are made here in these Chambers.

Restore us to the honor of bearing the responsibilities You have placed on our shoulders. Transform our hearts and minds so that we will discern and desire to return to You what is good, acceptable, and perfect in Your sight.

We give thanks that You would want to enfold us in grace this day and every day, and we offer our prayers in Your most holy name.

Amen.

## THE JOURNAL

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

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

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. VAN ORDEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. VAN ORDEN 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. ROBERT GARCIA of California. 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. 114. Resolved, that, pursuant to Article I, Section 5, Clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States, Representative GEORGE SANTOS be, and he hereby is, expelled from the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VAN ORDEN). 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 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.

## 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 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. EZELL) at 4 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.

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

## REPORT ON FRAUD RELATING TO CERTAIN COVID-19 LOANS

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4666) to require the Inspector General of the Small Business Administration to submit a quarterly report on fraud relating to certain COVID-19 loans, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H. R. 4666

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

## SECTION 1. REPORT ON FRAUD RELATING TO CERTAIN COVID-19 LOANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 3 months thereafter, the Inspector

General of the Small Business Administration shall submit to the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate a report on the number of borrowers engaged in fraud with respect to a covered loan.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under subsection (a) shall include, with respect to the period covered by such report—

(1) the number and total dollar amount of all covered loans made;

(2) the number of new cases of fraud and suspected fraud;

(3) the number of fraud cases resolved; and

(4) the types of fraud cases described in paragraphs (2) and (3).

(c) COVERED LOAN DEFINED.—In this section, the term "covered loan" means—

(1) a loan made under paragraphs (36) or (37) of section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)); or

(2) a loan made under section 7(b) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) in response to COVID-19 during the covered period (as defined in section 1110(a) of the CARES Act (15 U.S.C. 9009)).

(d) TERMINATION.—This Act and the requirements of this Act shall terminate on the date that is two years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

## SEC. 2. COMPLIANCE WITH CUTGO.

No additional amounts are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the gentleman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. 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 the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, first, I say I am anxious for this to happen. I think we are going to show America that we have some bipartisan legislation that we can pass from both sides of the aisle. I am thankful that we have some good legislation, and we will see that that may happen, too.

I rise today in support of H.R. 4666 introduced by my friend from Florida (Mr. BEAN). For any small business owner, once a problem is identified, they need to get periodic updates until the problem is fixed. The Small Business Administration's pandemic lending programs should be held to the same standard.

The PPP and the EIDL Fraud Report Act of 2023 requires the Inspector General of the SBA to submit quarterly reports to Congress that keep Congress updated on the ongoing fraud investigations in the Paycheck Protection Program and the Economic Injury Disaster Loans.

It is estimated that \$200 billion in potentially fraudulent COVID-19 EIDL and PPP loans were disbursed by the SBA. This massive loss of taxpayer dollars is unacceptable. The American people need to know what the status is of recouping these stolen funds as the SBA's Office of the Inspector General works through their investigations.

The report will provide Congress the most recent vital information on the number of both new fraud cases opened, the type of fraud suspected, and the number of investigations resolved to date.

Tracking the progress of the OIG's actions will be vital for Congress as we look to piece together the complete picture of how much fraud truly flowed through the SBA and how many of these funds were able to be recovered on the back end. This information will be vital to evaluate the role the SBA should play in future emergencies.

I urge full support from my colleagues on this commonsense bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in support of the six bills we are considering today. America's 33 million small businesses are the foundation of our Nation's economy and account for two-thirds of new jobs. The Small Business Committee has a long tradition of working together on behalf of our Nation's small businesses. I am pleased we are coming together yet again.

Let me start off by thanking Representatives BEAN and MFUME for their bipartisan work on H.R. 4666, which will help the committee fulfill its oversight responsibilities.

SBA was a lifeline to millions of small businesses throughout the pandemic. More than \$1.2 trillion in economic aid was distributed to help businesses keep their doors open.

During these unprecedented times, the SBA, under the Trump administration, weakened and removed these internal controls in an effort to disburse funds swiftly.

This resulted in roughly 87 percent of likely fraud originating in the first 9 months of the pandemic, largely due to organized criminal syndicates and transnational gangs exploiting the weakened controls and stealing billions of dollars from the American people.

Upon taking office, Administrator Guzman strengthened internal controls, and they remain in place to this day, but the damage was done.

In order to improve our understanding and prevent future fraud, H.R. 4666 requires the OIG to send periodic reports over the next 2 years to provide the Committee with detailed information that it needs to conduct robust oversight.

Let me take a minute to commend our IG and their commitment to rooting out fraud and abuse. I also highlight the need to fully meet their budget request rather than make any cuts.

Doing so harms their ability to hold fraudsters accountable.

As of this October, their work has resulted in nearly 1,200 indictments, almost 950 arrests, and over 600 convictions. Almost \$400 million in seized or forfeited assets and more than \$500 million in restitution orders have been returned to the American taxpayers.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4666, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from the great State of Florida (Mr. BEAN).

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, the COVID pandemic is behind us, and with that, a lot of the problems associated with COVID have also managed to go away, but fraud remains. The bill to the American people associated with that COVID relief fraud is here. We have to deal with it.

Pandemic relief opened the door to wide-scale fraud. Due to the lack of guardrails within the SBA and the borrowing structure, over \$200 billion of pandemic loan programs were potentially fraudulent.

Did you catch that, Mr. Speaker? \$200 billion. That is not me. That is not AARON BEAN. That is the Inspector General of the United States overseeing the SBA.

He has identified more than 90,000 fraud cases, over one in five, which represents more than 100 years of investigative casework.

Mr. Speaker, one of the most disturbing stories to come out of the Inspector General's investigation is the Barbie doll face scam.

Do you know about this? This scam wasn't perpetrated by America's favorite Barbie such as Malibu Barbie, Presidential Barbie, Lawyer Barbie, or even Live Action Barbie.

No, no, no, Mr. Speaker. This was perpetrated—this was the job of swindler Barbie. Swindler Barbie's face was used as identification for fake identities who went on to collect millions in fraudulent loans when facial recognition software used at SBA verified the identities as real people.

Behind me, this poster shows real faces, real corrupt Barbie dolls that were used to collect fraudulent PPP and EIDL loans. Yes, it is absurd, Mr. Speaker, but what do you expect? This is crazy town.

That is why I rise today to speak in favor of my bill, H.R. 4666, the PPP/EIDL Fraud Report Act of 2023, but you know it, Mr. Speaker, as the we want our money back act.

The bill requires the Inspector General of the SBA to report to Congress every quarter with detailed updates on the ongoing fraud investigations of the PPP and EIDL loan programs.

Most importantly, we are not going to let it go. This will hopefully ensure that the pandemic loan fraud will not be swept under the rug. The American people want oversight over a runaway,

unaccountable bureaucracy. We just don't like cheats. We don't like skip-pers. Somebody has to be held accountable.

As the Inspector General continues to uncover the abuse of taxpayer dollars, it is important for Congress to know the full extent of the fraud, and most importantly, the progress of getting our money back.

To the fraudsters: You can run, but you can't hide. We will find you, and we will prosecute you to the fullest extent of the law. We will never tolerate stealing from hardworking taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, as the chairman said, it has been a delight working together, both within the committee and even on the other side of the aisle.

To the gentleman from Maryland, Mr. MFUME, what a treat it is to work with him as we come together to get our money back because that is what the American people want. We want our money back.

Get ready, Mr. Speaker, and get ready, America, accountability is coming. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this important piece of legislation because the American people have made it clear: We want our money back.

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. MFUME), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Regulations.

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELAZQUEZ) and the chairman of the committee, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS), as well as the cosponsor of this bill, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BEAN) for their work on this measure.

I rise today in full support, obviously, of this bill, which requires the Inspector General of the Small Business Administration to submit a quarterly report on the fraud that has occurred and is being uncovered in the small business pandemic relief programs. We do want our money back, and this is about the first step in doing that.

On June 27 of this year, the SBA's Office of the Inspector General issued a white paper that the Small Business Administration disbursed more than \$200 billion in potentially fraudulent pandemic relief aid in the form of loans and in the form of grants. It was all done through the COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan program and the Paycheck Protection Program.

The Small Business Administration also issued another report. It was titled: "Protecting the Integrity of the Pandemic Relief Programs."

In that report, they estimated that \$36 billion of the \$1.2 trillion in small business pandemic relief money was obtained fraudulently. The criminals and the fraudsters had a payday on the American public.

That level of fraud, highly significant in these programs, is absolutely astonishing. It also absolutely reflects the

years-long repercussion of the 2020 decision that the ranking member spoke about earlier to loosen the antifraud protections in an effort to fast-track pandemic relief. Well, I hope we are learning from our mistakes.

It is clear that we have to do all that we can to return all of the money stolen from the Federal Government and bring the fraudsters and the criminals to justice.

This bill, which I am proud to co-lead with my colleague from Florida (Mr. BEAN), ensures consistent reporting, regular reporting on progress toward the goal by requiring the Inspector General of the SBA, who has come before our committee on a number of occasions, to issue a report to Congress every 3 months, every 90 days, which includes the total dollar amount of small business pandemic relief funds that were made and the number and the type of fraud in both the new fraud cases and the suspected fraud cases, as well as the number of fraud cases that have been resolved to date at the conclusion of that 90-day period. We wanted to make sure we were regular in finding the money and reporting the money.

Again, I thank Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ, Chair WILLIAMS, and my colleague, Mr. BEAN, for their work on this measure. We do want our money back, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

□ 1615

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, while much of the focus today has been about pandemic fraud, we must also be mindful of the stellar work that the SBA did to help small businesses stay afloat throughout the pandemic. Distributing more than a trillion dollars in economic aid was a tall order for a small agency.

Today, we are seeing the fruits of their labor. Small businesses have been recovering with unprecedented speed and success, and more Americans are launching small businesses than ever before, with more than 14 million new starts since January 2021.

Once again, I thank Representative BEAN and Representative MFUME, and I urge my colleagues to support this measure, as amended.

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, with an estimated \$200 billion outstanding in potentially fraudulent COVID-19 EIDL and PPP loans, there has never been a more critical time for legislation like H.R. 4666.

I thank Representative BEAN for his work on this bill, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join our committee in demanding answers to where this money is and how to rightfully return it to the American taxpayers.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4666, 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. WILLIAMS of Texas. 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.

#### RETURNING ERRONEOUS COVID LOANS ADDRESSING ILLEGAL AND MISAPPROPRIATED TAXPAYER FUNDS ACT

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4667) to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to issue guidance and rules for lenders and the Small Business Administration on handling amounts of Paycheck Protection Loans returned by borrowers, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4667

*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 “Returning Erroneous COVID Loans Addressing Illegal and Misappropriated Taxpayer Funds Act” or the “RECLAIM Taxpayer Funds Act”.

#### SEC. 2. PAYCHECK PROTECTION LOAN RETURN GUIDANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall issue guidance for borrowers and lenders on returning any unused amounts of PPP loans made to the borrower.

(b) GUIDANCE REQUIREMENTS.—The guidance required by subsection (a) shall include—

(1) detailed guidance for borrowers on how to return to the lender that made a PPP loan to the borrower the unused amounts of such PPP loan;

(2) detailed guidance for lenders regarding the responsibilities of lenders, including that a lender must—

(A) accept the return of any unused amounts of any PPP loan from a borrower or any other source (including law enforcement) if the lender made such PPP loan;

(B) document the reason for the return of such unused amounts, the identification number of the PPP loan, the name of the borrower of the PPP loan, and the name of the person returning such unused amounts if different than the borrower;

(C) remit such unused amounts to the Administration;

(D) make the guidance described in paragraph (1) available to borrowers described in such paragraph; and

(E) if the lender made a PPP loan, periodically certify that the lender has reported and

returned to the Administration all unused amounts of PPP loans returned to the lender;

(3) detailed guidance for financial institutions holding funds from a PPP loan on the procedure for returning such funds to the Administration if the financial institution suspects the borrower may be committing fraud with respect to the PPP loan or any other issue for which the financial institution should return the funds the Administration; and

(4) detailed guidance for borrowers and lenders of PPP loans, financial institutions described in paragraph (3), and other relevant individuals and entities on complying with the requirement to report to the Office of the Inspector General for the Small Business Administration any information indicating the occurrence of fraud with respect to a PPP loan.

#### SEC. 3. RETURNS HANDLING PROCESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall issue guidance establishing a process for the Small Business Administration to track amounts of PPP loans returned to mitigate the risk of financial loss to the Federal Government.

(b) RETURNS HANDLING PROCESS REQUIREMENTS.—The process established under subsection (a) shall require—

(1) the Administration to accept returns of unused amounts of PPP loans; and

(2) the Administrator to deposit in the general fund of the Treasury the unused amounts of PPP loans returned to the Administration.

#### SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATION.—The term “Administration” means the Small Business Administration.

(2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administration of the Small Business Administration.

(3) PPP LOAN.—The term “PPP loan” means a loan made under paragraph (36) or (37) of section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)).

#### SEC. 5. COMPLIANCE WITH CUTGO.

No additional amounts are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the gentleman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. 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 the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I rise today in full support of H.R. 4667, better known as the RECLAIM Taxpayer Funds Act, introduced by Representative SALAZAR of the great State of Florida. During the COVID-19 pandemic, banks and credit unions stepped up to administer the Paycheck Protection Program, or PPP.

They were able to disburse over \$800 billion to small businesses in need.

I have said that what these financial institutions did in the early days of the pandemic was a reminder of the car manufacturers in World War II. They dedicated all their efforts to help support our Nation in its time of need.

Unfortunately, as we have seen in all the pandemic lending programs, some opportunistic criminals took advantage of these aid efforts. Fraudsters were able to steal an estimated \$84 billion in these PPP funds.

While the SBA OIG continues to investigate many of these cases, lenders themselves have become aware of some of those stolen dollars sitting at their institutions. However, the OIG and some of these lenders have said there isn't any clarity on what they need to do to turn over these ill-gotten funds back to the government.

This bill fixes this problem. It requires the SBA to post guidance to lenders on how to return fraudulent PPP funds. The SBA would also be required to work with the Department of Treasury to see that these funds are returned promptly to the taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill to take a common-sense step forward in returning stolen PPP funds to the taxpayers.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4667, as amended, which will ensure any unused PPP funds are properly returned to the American taxpayers.

The legislation requires SBA to issue guidance for financial institutions on how to return PPP funds.

In May, the IG released a management advisory that said SBA's lack of guidance, regulations, and ability to account for returned PPP funds is an obstacle for anyone who opts to return unused PPP funds.

Unfortunately, this has led to confusion for borrowers and lenders, leading some lenders to even inform borrowers that the SBA could not accept funds. This bill will resolve the problem by requiring SBA to establish clear and detailed guidance for returning PPP funds to the SBA.

The legislation will also require the SBA to establish a process on how to deposit unused PPP funds in the Treasury Department's general fund.

I thank Ms. SALAZAR and Mr. MCGARVEY for introducing this bill to enhance the PPP recovery process. The Federal Government needs to be a good steward of taxpayers' dollars, and this bill goes a long way to improve the Nation's fiscal health by ensuring the SBA has processes in place to account for returned PPP funds.

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. SALAZAR).

Ms. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding his time and for supporting my bill.

Mr. Speaker, 3 years ago Congress created the Paycheck Protection Program in the CARES Act in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

What was the goal of this program? To keep small businesses open and to keep employees on payroll.

The intention of the PPP program was clear, and it was very good. Unfortunately, bad actors took advantage of it and used it to steal billions of dollars from all of us.

The Small Business Administration Inspector General has reported that there are potentially \$200 billion worth of fraudulent loans. That is nearly 20 percent of all COVID pandemic loans. That is appalling and unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, a time of reckoning is now coming for those who stole those billions of dollars from the taxpayers' funds.

My bipartisan bill, called the RECLAIM Taxpayer Funds Act, would require the Small Business Administration, the SBA, to create detailed rules and guidance for borrowers and lenders to return those stolen funds back to the United States Treasury Department.

My district, the city of Miami, is home to thousands and thousands of small businesses, including some of the best restaurants in this country. Let's continue to support hardworking small businesses while punishing those bad actors. We can definitely do both.

H.R. 4667 is the right step to regain government accountability in a bipartisan effort.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my Democrat friend from Kentucky, Mr. MCGARVEY, for introducing this bill with me, and I encourage my colleagues to vote in support of H.R. 4667, which puts Americans first by ensuring that criminals are not stealing our constituents' money.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MCGARVEY), the ranking member of the Innovation Entrepreneurship and Workforce Development Subcommittee.

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4667, the RECLAIM Taxpayer Funds Act, which I am proud to co-lead alongside Representative SALAZAR. I am grateful for her partnership on this bipartisan bill, and I am glad to see it come to the floor today.

Small businesses are the backbone of the American economy. That is definitely true in my hometown of Louisville, Kentucky, and was on full display this past weekend as Louisvillians were encouraged to shop local and go and see our wonderful small business community.

As I visited small businesses from Saint Matthews to NuLu to West Louisville, I reflected on where we were, where these small businesses were just

a few short years ago. I was reminded of earlier this year when we had Small Business Administrator Guzman come to Louisville and meet with small business owners from across my district.

We had listening sessions, and we heard the same message over and over again. That is what these businessowners told us. They told us they wouldn't be here today because they wouldn't have survived the pandemic if it weren't for the Paycheck Protection Program and other COVID relief programs.

PPP worked. It worked. It was a success. It is the reason we still have towns across this country full of vibrant, independent, local business. Nevertheless, in order to get that money out the door as quickly as possible, the previous administration loosened the guardrails designed to prevent fraud. That opened the door for bad actors to take advantage of the program.

There were people who flatout lied to obtain PPP loans. There were others who received more than they deserved; some who received more even through good-faith errors.

Mr. Speaker, we need to get that money back. That is why the Department of Justice and the SBA are working to prosecute those who took advantage of the program and recover stolen funds.

To date, there have been hundreds of arrests and convictions related to COVID relief fraud, and they have recovered billions of dollars.

We must have clear processes in place as this money comes back to lenders and to the SBA. That is why this bill requires the SBA to issue guidance and rules for lenders, for borrowers, and for the SBA itself on handling PPP loans that are returned.

H.R. 4667 is a commonsense bill that will establish these clear rules for the road and ensure that taxpayer dollars do not go to waste. It is a necessary step in the right direction as we continue our recovery from the pandemic.

I thank Chairman WILLIAMS, Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ, and Congresswoman SALAZAR for their leadership and support of this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4667.

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, the RECLAIM Taxpayer Funds Act requires SBA to establish clear guidance for borrowers, lenders, and financial institutions on how to return PPP funds. It will ensure best practices are in place in the event of another global catastrophe.

I thank Representative SALAZAR and Mr. MCGARVEY for their effort, and I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, as amended.

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the COVID-19 pandemic broke the SBA, and as a result, American taxpayers and our Nation's

small businesses have had to foot the bill for the hundreds of billions of dollars in stolen funds.

I thank Representative SALAZAR for introducing H.R. 4667 as it creates a much-needed accountability and transparency with the SBA as we work to retrieve the taxpayer dollars wrongfully lost.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join us in our fight to reclaim these stolen funds and unanimously support H.R. 4667.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4667, 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. WILLIAMS of Texas. 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.

□ 1630

#### PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES TO SHOW TRANSPARENCY VIA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 2023

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4668) to amend the Small Business Act to require the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman to publish guidance documents for certain rules, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4668

*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 “Providing Opportunities to Show Transparency via Information Technology Act of 2023” or the “POST IT Act of 2023”.

##### SEC. 2. INCLUSION OF GUIDANCE ON OMBUDSMAN WEBSITE.

(a) WEBSITE REQUIREMENT.—Section 30 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657) is amended—

(1) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) to the extent practicable, hyperlinks for such guidance that is designed to set forth policy on a statutory, regulatory, or technical issue, or an interpretation of such

issue, for any rule for which an agency produces a small entity compliance guide.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(g) PROTECTION OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.—Subsection (e) does not require the public availability of information that is exempt from public disclosure under section 552(b) of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Freedom of Information Act’).”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—Paragraph (3) of section 30(e) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657), as added by this section, shall apply with respect to guidance on, or interpretation of, a rule for which an agency produces a small entity compliance guide described under section 212(a)(1) of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (5 U.S.C. 601 note) on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

##### SEC. 3. COMPLIANCE WITH CUTGO.

No additional amounts are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act or the amendments made by this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. 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 the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in full support of H.R. 4668, also known as the POST IT Act, introduced by Representative MOLINARO of the great State of New York.

Small business owners face some of the biggest challenges in understanding how to comply with Federal regulations. Oftentimes, small businesses are hiring compliance officers, which are a drag on their bottom lines, rather than focusing on their core business model and looking for growth opportunities.

This legislation would make it easier for small businesses to track the ever-changing agency guidelines on how to comply with any given regulation. The POST IT Act requires agencies to post their guidance, and all subsequent changes on how to comply, in a centralized location on the SBA’s Office of the National Ombudsman’s website.

Businesses should not have to search through many different websites to try to find all the latest information on how to comply with any given requirement. If an agency updates a regulation or puts out more information, it should be easily accessible for any business to look up.

I hope this bill is just the first step in much-needed regulation modernization efforts in the committee. We have seen

far too many new requirements coming from government agencies that are hurting our Nation’s job creators. As businesses continue to deal with high interest rates and elevated inflation, we should not be adding additional costs in the form of new regulations.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman MOLINARO for leading this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I lend my support to H.R. 4668, as amended, which requires the Office of the National Ombudsman to publish links to guidance documents for rules that have been certified to have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

Guidance documents help inform small businesses of regulations, but they can be difficult to find. Having a centralized website with hyperlinks to these documents will save entrepreneurs time and resources.

This legislation builds off the One Stop Shop Act, which was enacted into law last Congress. The new law requires the Office of the National Ombudsman to create and maintain a centralized website with hyperlinks to small business compliance guides.

I am pleased the SBA has their website up and running. H.R. 4668 will add more useful links for small firms and give them tools to make it easier for them to comply with Federal rules and regulations.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Mr. MOLINARO and Ms. SCHOLTEN for working together on the POST IT Act.

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO).

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his leadership and yielding for this important bill. I also extend my appreciation to the ranking member, my colleague from the great State of New York, for her ongoing support. I am proud to speak to this bill this afternoon.

Small businesses know that, all too often, more than perhaps any other in this country, when it comes to Federal regulations and the Federal Government, the left hand not only doesn’t know what the right hand is doing but the left hand doesn’t know there is a right hand. Because of that, it creates a great deal of burden and confusion for small businesses.

My bill, H.R. 4668, the POST IT Act, is an important step to make it easier for small business owners to comply with Federal regulations that might otherwise be difficult for them to locate in the first place and then to understand.

I am grateful to Ms. SCHOLTEN for working together with me on this bill.

This bipartisan legislation simply requires Federal agencies to post follow-up guidance on the SBA's Office of the National Ombudsman's website for any regulation that will have a significant impact on small businesses.

While there are official guidance documents that are released when rules are initially finalized, over time, agencies often release additional materials related to compliance. This leads to updated policy statements and technical clarifications that ultimately lead to a labyrinth of regulatory confusion and oversight by enforcement.

The POST IT Act ensures these updates will be housed in a centralized location so small business owners can worry less about abiding by government regulations and focus more on running their businesses, employing our neighbors, and investing in our communities.

There are over 33 million small businesses in the United States of America, which, as we all know and celebrate often, serve as the backbone of the American economy.

The thousands of small businesses I represent in upstate New York are vitally important to our communities, supporting local services through their taxes paid, supporting employees and their families, and making an honest living for themselves.

If Federal agencies are going to create new regulations for small businesses to comply with, we should seek to make it easier for them to understand and follow those rules, to relieve them of that burden so they are not further burdened with confusing requirements. This commonsense bipartisan legislation will help small businesses avoid unnecessary headaches.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Ms. SCHOLTEN, for her leadership on this bill. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SCHOLTEN), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Contracting and Infrastructure.

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4668, the Providing Opportunities to Show Transparency via Information Technology Act, also known simply as the POST IT Act.

It has been an honor to co-lead this bill with Congressman MOLINARO to increase transparency in the small business space. Most Americans want more transparency from our government. This is an easy, straightforward, and bipartisan bill.

It is critical that Federal agencies produce smart, well-crafted regulations. I hear all the time from small business owners across different sectors in west Michigan that they want to comply and follow rules and regulations, but they need clear guidance. Far too often, it is hard to find.

Federal regulations can be a nightmare to navigate for small businesses

who often serve as founder, CEO, president, store clerk, janitor, CPA, and attorney all in the same day. Most small businesses don't have attorneys, accountants, or compliance departments to learn and track all Federal regulations to make sure that they remain in compliance. That is why it is imperative on the agencies themselves that are setting the regulations to make sure that these regulations are open, available, and as easy as possible to follow and understand.

I am proud to cosponsor this bill with Congressman MOLINARO. This bill will help small businesses stay in compliance with Federal regulations by making compliance information from the Federal agencies easier to locate.

Specifically, this bill requires that Federal agencies post guidance on the Small Business Administration's Office of the National Ombudsman's website for any rule that has a significant impact on a small business. It seems pretty easy, doesn't it?

Now more than ever, as our Nation's small businesses are recovering from a global pandemic and are dealing with widespread worker shortages and rising inflation, it is our duty as lawmakers to take unnecessary hurdles for small business owners out of the way, whether that is increasing access to capital, ensuring access to technical assistance for SBA programs, or making sure that Federal regulations are easy to understand.

I am working hard in the Small Business Committee to keep Main Street alive and thriving. It is great to partner with Congressman MOLINARO in that effort.

Before I close, let me say a few words about another bill on suspension today, H.R. 4670, the Small Business Contracting Transparency Act, by Representative HOULAHAN, of which I am an original cosponsor and have been proud to help usher through the Small Business Committee, where I serve as the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Contracting and Infrastructure.

This bill would ensure that the SBA is acquiring up-to-date data on where Federal procurement dollars are going. In addition, this data will inform my committee's work to ensure that all small businesses are able to compete in the Federal procurement space.

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

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for closing.

I understand that complying with Federal, State, and local regulations can be onerous for small business owners. Small businesses do not always have the resources that larger companies do to monitor regulatory actions. That is why having a centralized website for them to access Federal guidance and learn more about their responsibilities under a rule is vitally important.

We shouldn't be fooled by antiregulation rhetoric. Federal regu-

lations can and do benefit small businesses and boost our economy.

Our jobs reports over the past 2 years attest to that. The Biden administration is building an economy that is delivering for Americans, adding more than 14 million new jobs since taking office. The U.S. economy is experiencing a record small business boom, with more Americans launching a business than ever before.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. MOLINARO and Ms. SCHOLTEN for their bipartisan work in crafting a bill that we can all support.

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

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

H.R. 4668 is a step in the right direction to lessening the regulatory burden placed on our Nation's small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative MOLINARO for his work on this crucial piece of legislation, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join us in creating a regulatory environment that allows Main Street America to thrive.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4668, 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.

#### SMALL BUSINESS CONTRACTING TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2023

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4670) to amend the Small Business Act to require reporting on additional information with respect to small business concerns owned and controlled by women, qualified HUBZone small business concerns, and small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4670

*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 "Small Business Contracting Transparency Act of 2023".

#### SEC. 2. REPORT ON SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY WOMEN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8(m) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(m)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(9) REPORT.—Not later than May 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Small

Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate a report on small business concerns owned and controlled by women. Such report shall include, for the fiscal year preceding the date of the report, the following:

“(A) The number of applications for certification as a small business concern owned and controlled by women that have sufficient information for the Administrator to make a certification determination, disaggregated by—

“(i) the number of applications certified; and  
“(ii) the number of applications denied;

“(iii) the number of applications for which a determination has not been made.

“(B) The number of concerns certified as small business concerns owned and controlled by women by a national certifying entity approved by the Administrator.

“(C) The amount of fees, if any, charged by each national certifying entity for such certification.

“(D) The total dollar amount and total percentage of prime contracts awarded to small business concerns owned and controlled by women pursuant to paragraph (2) or pursuant to a waiver granted under paragraph (3).

“(E) The total dollar amount and total percentage of prime contracts awarded to small business concerns owned and controlled by women pursuant to paragraphs (7) and (8).

“(F) With respect to a contract incorrectly awarded pursuant to this subsection because it was awarded based on an industry in which small business concerns owned and controlled by women are not underrepresented—

“(i) the number of such contracts; and  
“(ii) the Federal agencies that issued such contracts; and

“(iii) any steps taken by Administrator to train the personnel of such Federal agency on the use of the authority provided under this subsection.

“(G) With respect to an examination described in paragraph (5)(B)—

“(i) the number of examinations due because of recertification requirements and the actual number of such examinations conducted; and

“(ii) the number of examinations conducted for any other reason.

“(H) The number of small business concerns owned and controlled by women that were found to be ineligible to be awarded a contract under this subsection as a result of an examination conducted pursuant to paragraph (5)(B) or failure to request an examination pursuant to section 127.400 of title 13, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor rule).

“(I) The number of small business concerns owned and controlled by women that were decertified.

“(J) The total number of small business concerns owned and controlled by women.

“(K) Any other information the Administrator determines necessary.”.

(b) **TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.**—Section 8(m)(2)(C) of the Small Business Act is amended by striking “paragraph (3)” and inserting “paragraph (4)”.

**SEC. 3. REPORT ON SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY QUALIFIED HUBZONE SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.**

Section 31 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657a) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (e) the following new subsection:

“(f) **REPORT.**—Not later than May 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Small

Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate a report on HUBZone small business concerns. Such report shall include, for the fiscal year preceding the date of the report, the following:

“(1) The number of applications for certification as a qualified HUBZone small business concern that have sufficient information for the Administrator to make a certification determination, disaggregated by—

“(A) the number of applications certified; and  
“(B) the number of applications denied;

“(C) the number of applications for which a determination has not been made.

“(2) The total dollar amount and total percentage of prime contracts awarded to qualified HUBZone small business concerns pursuant to this section.

“(3) The total dollar amount and percent of sole source contracts awarded to qualified HUBZone small business concerns under subsection (c)(2)(A).

“(4) With respect to an examination described in subsection (d)(5)—

“(A) the number of examinations due because of recertification requirements and the actual number of such examinations conducted; and

“(B) the number of examinations conducted for any other reason.

“(5) The number of HUBZone small business concerns that were found to be ineligible to be awarded a contract under this subsection as a result of an examination conducted pursuant to subsection (d)(5) or a verification conducted pursuant to subsection (d)(2).

“(6) The number of small business concerns that were decertified as qualified HUBZone small business concerns.

“(7) The number of qualified HUBZone small business concerns.

“(8) Any other information the Administrator determines necessary.”.

**SEC. 4. REPORT ON SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS.**

Section 36 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657f) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(j) **REPORT.**—Not later than May 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate a report on small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans. Such report shall include, for the fiscal year preceding the date of the report, the following:

“(1) The total number of small business concerns certified as small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans.

“(2) The total dollar amount and total percentage of prime contracts awarded to small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans pursuant to this section.

“(3) The total dollar amount and percent of sole source contracts awarded to owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans pursuant to subsection (c).

“(4) With respect to an examination described in subsection (h)(2)—

“(A) the number of examinations due because of recertification requirements and the actual number of such examinations conducted; and

“(B) the number of examinations conducted for any other reason.

“(5) The number of small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans that were found to be ineligible to be awarded a contract under this subsection

as a result of an examination conducted pursuant to subsection (h)(2).

“(6) The number of small business concerns decertified as small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans.

“(7) The total number of small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans.

“(8) Any other information the Administrator determines necessary.”.

**SEC. 5. COMPLIANCE WITH CUTGO.**

No additional amounts are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act or the amendments made by this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. 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 the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I support H.R. 4670, the Small Business Contracting Transparency Act, introduced by Congressman STAUBER from the great State of Minnesota.

The U.S. Government is one of the largest customers in the world. They contract out purchases of things as simple as office supplies to complicated rockets that go into space. Each year, the government sets a contracting goal that they look to hit so that small businesses can help service the various needs of the Federal Government.

To be considered a small business in contracting, there are certain verification procedures to ensure that a small business does, in fact, qualify. It would be problematic if larger corporations were posing as small businesses in order to compete for some of the small business set-aside contracts.

For some of these small business categories, the businessowner simply gets to self-certify that they are who they say the business represents. For others, the Small Business Administration or third-party entities do a more rigorous certification process.

Since there isn't a uniform process to verify the small businesses are who they claim to be, it calls into question the accuracy of the contracting data that we receive. The Small Business Contracting Transparency Act brings much-needed insight into these certification activities and whether the SBA is meeting its requirements.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Congressman STAUBER for introducing this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

□ 1645

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. HOULAHAN, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. STAUBER, and Ms. TENNEY for their work on H.R. 4670 and getting it to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, well over a decade ago, I helped enact and implement the SBA's Women-Owned Small Business program to better serve female entrepreneurs and small businesses contracting with the Federal Government. Unfortunately, setting up this program proved to be a challenge, and it was delayed longer than anticipated. As of now, it is up and running, and women-owned firms are certified by the SBA or a national certifying entity to participate in contracting programs.

This has led to improvements in the program's execution and enhanced its integrity. Most importantly, it has helped thousands of women-owned firms compete in the Federal marketplace.

However, there are some aspects of the program with less visibility, including and especially the operations of the four national certifying entities working with the SBA. That is why additional oversight is warranted, and this bill provides it.

This Small Business Contracting Transparency Act requires annual reports on the WOSB certification process to ensure it is serving female entrepreneurs as we intended.

Having this information is critical to further strengthening and improving the program to meet the needs of both the Federal Government and women-owned small firms.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4670, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER).

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in favor of the Small Business Contracting Transparency Act.

I thank my colleague, Representative HOULAHAN, for bringing this up. It is a very good bill and I am proud to stand in support of it.

In Minnesota, Feeding Our Future, a supposed nonprofit in Minnesota meant to feed children, used \$250 million of COVID-19 Federal funds to buy luxury cars and real estate.

Since COVID-19, fraud has been on the rise. Bad actors are taking advantage of vulnerable government programs and stealing taxpayer dollars for their own benefit and wealth. We must be better stewards of taxpayer dollars and ensure proper safeguards are in place.

The Small Business Administration is charged with ensuring that only eligible firms are participating in its Women-Owned Small Business Federal Contract program, HUBZone programs, and the Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business programs.

The Small Business Contracting Transparency Act would bring much-needed oversight to the certification process, ensure the SBA is only approving appropriate firms, and give Congress the tools to hold the SBA accountable, if necessary.

By supporting the Small Business Contracting Transparency Act, we will not only provide valuable assistance to small businesses but also ensure effectiveness in government contracting.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the Small Business Contracting Transparency Act.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HOULAHAN).

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote for my bipartisan and very much common-sense legislation, the Small Business Contracting Transparency Act, that will help level the playing field for underrepresented entrepreneurs across the country.

I thank my Republican colleague, Representative PETE STAUBER, for his partnership on this legislation. Furthermore, I thank Chairman WILLIAMS and Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ for their leadership in advancing this legislation through the Small Business Committee on a unanimous basis. I thank them for me being able to stand on their shoulders on this.

As a former entrepreneur myself, I understand the many challenges that come with running and scaling a business. Every day brings a unique challenge. I regularly hear from businessowners in my own community, in Pennsylvania's Sixth District, who are navigating inflation, supply chain challenges, workforce needs, and so much more.

One way that our Federal Government can help protect entrepreneurs is to address these issues and ultimately succeed. One way they can do that is by providing contracting opportunities for small business owners. For entrepreneurs who are seeking to do business with our Federal Government, I know that every single contract secured or lost can be the difference in keeping Americans on their payroll or losing them, expanding or scaling back their operations, or beating or missing their projections.

That is why the Federal small business contracting programs are so very important. Through these programs, the Federal Government maintains its various statutory goals that ensure equitable participation by small businesses, and importantly, by underrepresented small businesses in Federal contracting.

Across various agencies, the Federal Government aims to provide 5 percent of Federal prime contracts to women-owned small businesses, 3 percent to service-disabled veteran-owned businesses, and 3 percent to the Historically Underutilized Business Zone, otherwise known as HUBZone, small businesses, as well.

While figures like 5 percent or 3 percent may not sound a whole lot like large targets, our Federal Government, unfortunately, struggles regularly to meet them.

Indeed, in fiscal year 2022, the Federal Government failed to reach its target goals for both women-owned businesses and HUBZone small businesses, as well. Even more troubling, the Federal Government has only met the statutory goal of awarding 5 percent of contracts to women-owned businesses twice in the last 23 years.

In addition, the Government Accountability Office, or GAO, has cited deficiencies in the Small Business Administration's oversight of the program.

It is clear that disadvantaged entrepreneurs continue to be underrepresented when it comes to Federal contract funding, and that is hurting the economy, both at a micro level and at a macro or national level. It is well past time that Congress is able to act to ensure that these programs are working as they were designed and intended to do.

That is why I introduced my bill, H.R. 4670, the bipartisan Small Business Contracting Transparency Act. My legislation will increase transparency, oversight, and will increase accountability of the Small Business Administration's Women-Owned, Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned, and HUBZone Small Business Contracting programs.

Notably, this bill requires the SBA to submit to Congress annual reports that benchmark critical data, including: the number of small businesses that are certified, the total dollar amount of contracts awarded to qualifying businesses, and the number of contracts that are incorrectly awarded to ineligible recipients, among other figures, as well.

Simply put, my bill, the Small Business Contracting Transparency Act, will allow Congress and the SBA to improve these Federal contracting programs to ensure that these programs run efficiently and to ultimately benefit disadvantaged entrepreneurs in their pursuit of securing government contracts. In turn, we will strengthen our economy, we will support Main Streets all over in every ZIP Code, and we will grow the middle class.

The time to act is now, especially as the Federal Government works to award additional contracts through this historic implementation of the bipartisan Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act, the bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act, as well.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my Republican colleague, Representative PETE STAUBER, for his partnership in this really important legislation. Once again, I thank Chairman WILLIAMS and Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ for their leadership in this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for this Small Business Contracting Transparency Act that will

help level the playing field for entrepreneurs in Pennsylvania, and indeed, across the Nation, as well.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government routinely fails to meet the goals of awarding 5 percent of contract dollars to women-owned small businesses. While this administration has prioritized meeting these goals and last year awarded over \$28 billion to women-owned firms, more can be done.

H.R. 4670, as amended, is an important step in that direction. It ensures that we have the necessary information to conduct proper oversight of the SBA's programs designed to assist women who start and grow government contracting firms.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the sponsors of this bill and appreciate the bipartisan work of the committee to build in the HUBZone and SDVOSB programs. They face issues as well and could benefit from the additional reporting.

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4670 provides a necessary check on the SBA as it brings much needed insight into certification activities verifying small business contractors and provides further transparency.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representatives STAUBER and HOULAHAN for leading this bill. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to take a page out of our playbook and put politics aside to unanimously pass H.R. 4670.

I also thank the Democrats I missed earlier for their participation, specifically Representatives MFUME, MCGARVEY, and SCHOLTEN.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4670, 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.

#### PROHIBITING INDIVIDUALS CONVICTED OF DEFRAUDING THE GOVERNMENT FROM RECEIVING ANY ASSISTANCE FROM THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5427) to prohibit individuals convicted of defrauding the Government from receiving any assistance from the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5427

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

#### SECTION 1. ASSISTANCE PROHIBITED AFTER FRAUD CONVICTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 16 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 645) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(h) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROHIBITION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An associate of a small business concern who is finally convicted of any crime involving or relating to financial misconduct or a false statement with respect to a covered loan or grant shall be ineligible to receive any financial assistance from the Administrator, other than financial assistance under section 7(b).

“(2) BUSINESS CONCERNS.—A small business concern that has as an associate an individual subject to paragraph (1) shall be ineligible to receive any financial assistance from the Administrator, other than financial assistance under section 7(b).

“(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) ASSOCIATE.—The term ‘associate’ means, with respect to a small business concern—

“(i) an officer, director, or owner of more than 20 percent of the equity of, or a key employee of, such small business concern;

“(ii) any entity not less than 20 percent owned or controlled by one or more individuals referred to in clause (i); and

“(iii) any other individual or entity in control of or controlled by such small business concern, except for a licensed small business investment company (as defined in section 103(3) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 662(3)).

“(B) COVERED LOAN OR GRANT.—The term ‘covered loan or grant’ means—

“(i) a loan made under—

“(I) paragraph (36) or (37) of subsection (a) of section 7 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636); or

“(II) subsection (b) of such section in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; or

“(ii) a grant made under—

“(I) section 5003 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (15 U.S.C. 9009c); or

“(II) section 324 of the Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Nonprofits, and Venues Act (15 U.S.C. 9009a).

“(C) FINALLY CONVICTED.—The term ‘finally convicted’ means, with respect to an individual or entity, that such individual or entity has been convicted of an offense and such conviction—

“(i) has not been appealed and is no longer appealable because the time for taking an appeal has expired; or

“(ii) has been appealed and the appeals process for such conviction is completed.”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—Subsection (h) of section 16 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 645), as added by subsection (a) of this Act, shall not apply to any contract or other agreement entered into by the Government prior to the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the gentleman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 5427. This legislation prohibits any individuals convicted of defrauding the government's COVID-19 lending programs from ever receiving future financial assistance from the SBA.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit America, the SBA took on an outsized role in helping small businesses. They partnered with banks and credit unions to set up the Paycheck Protection Program that ultimately got over \$800 billion to Main Street to keep businesses from laying off employees. Additionally, the SBA ran the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program, better known as the COVID EIDL program, that gave out close to \$480 billion in low interest loans.

While both of these programs were successful in keeping businesses afloat during the pandemic, we have seen some very troubling data come out in recent months.

□ 1700

SBA's Office of Inspector General has estimated over \$200 billion of these relief funds were given to fraudulent actors. This means that roughly 20 percent of all the money that was supposed to help businesses went to the wrong people, and, unfortunately, we have seen some estimates show that this 20 percent figure might be on the low end.

The committee is working to find creative ways to get this money back to the taxpayers, but in the meantime, we also cannot let those who committed these crimes off easy. That is where my legislation comes in. This bill prevents anyone who was convicted of defrauding the SBA's lending programs from receiving any future financial assistance from the agency. If someone saw the pandemic as an opportunity to enrich themselves, then they should never be given the opportunity to utilize any of these financial programs again.

These criminals took money away from businesses across the country that were in desperate need of assistance. This bill provides an additional layer of security for government programs so people who have taken advantage of past programs cannot commit a similar crime in the future.

A lot will need to be done to correct all of the issues within the SBA that allowed these unacceptable levels of fraud to occur, but as those internal issues are corrected, this bill will help rebuild confidence in the agency.

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I rise in support of H.R. 5427, which puts into statute current rules

which prohibit anyone convicted of defrauding the government from receiving an SBA loan.

Over the course of the pandemic, the SBA disbursed approximately \$1.2 trillion in economic aid. The vast majority of this aid was a lifeline to keep small businesses afloat during troubling and uncertain economic times. Unfortunately, bad actors took advantage of the program early in the pandemic when SBA removed or weakened internal controls. To that end, the Biden administration reinstated longstanding antifraud controls and put new safeguards into place to curb the flow of pandemic dollars to fraudsters, and they remain in place today.

Before issuing a loan, SBA screens applicants on the government's Do Not Pay list and then checks its internal database for any fraudulent flags or holds. While borrowers have an opportunity to clear their names, the SBA will not move forward until the holds are cleared.

The bill we are considering today is closely aligned with the actions taken by the Biden administration, and it will send a strong message that SBA will not do business with anyone who defrauded the government. With that said, the single most important action Congress can take to recover fraudulent pandemic funds is to fully fund the SBA Inspector General and give the office the resources it needs to go after bad actors. In the last Congress, Representative LUETKEMEYER and I sponsored two laws to extend the statute of limitations for fraud in the PPP and EIDL program to 10 years. Without additional resources, the OIG will not be able to capitalize on these new laws.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the bipartisan work of Chairman WILLIAMS and Representatives MFUME and BEAN, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from the great State of Missouri (Mr. ALFORD).

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman and the ranking member for their leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today because the Small Business Administration and the Biden administration have continuously failed to take action to prevent this type of fraud that happened during COVID-19, ripping off you, ripping off me, ripping off everyone in this room, and ripping off the American taxpayer.

The SBA's Office of the Inspector General has estimated that at least \$200 billion in COVID relief money given by the SBA ended up in the wrong hands of fraudulent actors. We believe it could be well up over \$600 billion. Roughly 20 percent of that money intended to help small businesses went to the wrong people, and SBA Administrator Guzman refuses to testify before our very committee about these losses.

These losses must never happen again, Mr. Speaker, and Chairman WIL-

LIAMS' bill addresses this by doing what the SBA is not willing to do right now, and that is to hold these fraudsters accountable and make sure they are unable to steal from us again.

I proudly support Chairman WILLIAMS' bill, H.R. 5427, which prevents anyone who is convicted of defrauding the SBA's lending programs from getting any future financial assistance from that agency.

We cannot live in an America that allows criminals to defraud taxpayers and hardworking small business owners especially during a time of need.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5427.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. MFUME), who is the ranking member of the Oversight, Investigations, and Regulations Subcommittee.

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Speaker, my thanks to Chairman WILLIAMS and to the ranking member, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ of New York for their leadership. She and I were having a conversation reminding ourselves that 84 percent of all of the loosening of the guardrails that created the problems occurred while the previous administration was in office. It is important for the facts to be noted in that regard. It is not in an effort to cast aspersions, but it is in an effort to make sure we tell the truth.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today like the gentleman from Texas and the gentlewoman from New York in support of H.R. 5427 which prohibits, as you have heard, individuals convicted of defrauding small business pandemic relief programs from receiving future non-disaster financial aid assistance from the administration.

It sounds like it is common sense to me. If you put your hand in the cookie jar and you steal the cookies, why should you be rewarded later for that?

To this day, our Nation has to reckon with the fact that the consequences of that decision in 2020 to fast-track the allocation of the pandemic relief funds by weakening and removing the internal controls really caused the problems. It was a recipe for disaster.

Are we even astonished that something like this would happen?

This is why so many of us argued against this in 2020.

While many of these antifraud controls are being reinstated by the Small Business Administration, fraud in these programs has run rampant. We let the horse out of the barn and are wasting time looking at it instead of trying to find a way to get it back in. So that is what this measure does in many respects.

As the ranking member of the Small Business Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Regulations, I have been, like many of my colleagues on the committee, incredibly concerned by the misuse and the abuse of pandemic relief funds.

Why?

It is a very simple answer: These funds could have been used to protect

jobs. They could have been used to lift small businesses out of financial distress as they should have, and they could have created a circular flow of income in so many communities, urban and rural, throughout this country.

Instead, they lined the pockets of thieves and fraudsters. So that is why I am pleased to be the Democratic co-leader on this along with Mr. WILLIAMS.

This bill amends section 16 of the SBA Act to prohibit, as we said before, anyone convicted of crimes related to financial misconduct or making false statements with respect to small business pandemic relief moneys from not being able to receive nondisaster financial assistance in the future. It is kind of common sense. It really is.

So this bill ensures that those who knowingly and willfully stole Federal funds are not given a similar opportunity in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I, again, thank the ranking member, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ of New York; the chair, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas; Mr. BEAN of Florida; and others on both sides of the aisle for working to make sure that this bill has the support it needs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues later today to be able to stand up and to vote for it.

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, this bill prohibits anyone convicted of defrauding the government with respect to the SBA's pandemic programs from receiving loan disaster financial assistance from the SBA.

While there may be disagreement on the actual estimates of fraud in the pandemic programs, it is clear we need to work together to protect their integrity.

Administrator Guzman has taken steps to put strong controls into place that would prohibit anyone convicted of fraud from receiving financial assistance, and this bill will ensure those controls remain in place with future administrations.

I thank Chairman WILLIAMS, Mr. MFUME, and Mr. BEAN for their efforts, and I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 5427, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5427 is simple. It needs to be passed.

I also want to thank my colleague from Maryland (Mr. MFUME) for all his support working on this bill. I thank him for his support.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5427.

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.

### SUCCESSFUL ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR RESERVISTS AND VETERANS ACT

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4480) to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to report on the veterans interagency task force, to require the Comptroller General of the United States to report on access to credit for small business concerns owned and controlled by covered individuals, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4480

*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 "Successful Entrepreneurship for Reservists and Veterans Act" or the "SERV Act".

#### SEC. 2. REPORTING REQUIREMENT FOR VETERANS INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE.

Section 32(c) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657b(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(4) REPORT.—Along with the budget justification documents for the Small Business Administration submitted to Congress in connection with the budget for a fiscal year submitted under section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, the Administrator shall submit a report—

"(A) discussing the appointments made to and activities of the task force; and

"(B) identifying and outlining a plan for outreach and promotion of the programs and services for veterans, including Veteran Business Outreach Centers, Boots to Business, Boots to Business Reboot, Service-Disabled Entrepreneurship Development Training Program, Veteran Institute for Procurement, Women Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Program, and Veteran Women Igniting the Spirit of Entrepreneurship."

#### SEC. 3. GAO REPORT ON ACCESS TO CREDIT.

(a) REPORT ON ACCESS TO CREDIT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report on the ability of small business concerns owned and controlled by covered individuals to access credit to—

(A) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include, to the extent practicable, an analysis of—

(A) the sources of credit used by small business concerns owned and controlled by covered individuals and the average percentage of the credit obtained from each source by such concerns;

(B) the default rate for small business concerns owned and controlled by covered individuals, disaggregated by each source of credit described in subparagraph (A), as compared to the default rate for the source of credit for small business concerns generally;

(C) the Federal lending programs available to provide credit to small business concerns owned and controlled by covered individuals;

(D) gaps, if any, in the availability of credit for small business concerns owned and controlled by covered individuals that are not being filled by the Federal Government or private sources;

(E) obstacles faced by covered individuals in trying to access credit;

(F) the extent to which deployment and other military responsibilities affect the credit history of veterans and Reservists; and

(G) the extent to which covered individuals are aware of Federal programs targeted towards helping covered individuals access credit.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

(1) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term "covered individual" means—

(A) a veteran;

(B) a service-disabled veteran;

(C) a Reservist;

(D) the spouse of an individual described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C); or

(E) the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces.

(2) RESERVIST.—The term "Reservist" means a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces, as described in section 10101 of title 10, United States Code.

(3) SMALL BUSINESS ACT DEFINITIONS.—The terms "service-disabled veteran", "small business concern", and "veteran" have the meanings given those terms, respectively, under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

#### SEC. 4. COMPLIANCE WITH CUTGO.

No additional amounts are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act or the amendments made by this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. 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 the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in full support of H.R. 4480, also known as the SERV Act, introduced by Representatives DAVIDS of Kansas and ALFORD of Missouri.

Our Nation's veterans have an incredible impact on our small business community. The skills veterans gained in the military make them leaders uniquely positioned to start and grow successful businesses. Unfortunately, veterans often face barriers when starting or growing their businesses which can feel insurmountable. In May, the Committee on Small Business heard directly from veterans on how access to capital as well as awareness of available resources are major barriers to them.

The SERV Act seeks to identify these barriers and directs the Inter-

agency Task Force on Veterans Small Business Development to create an action plan to improve outreach to veterans informing them of available resources to address their unique needs. If we are spending taxpayer dollars to help these individuals, then we must ensure they are making the greatest impact possible.

Mr. Speaker, I, once again, thank the sponsors of this legislation, I urge my colleagues to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support H.R. 4480, the Successful Entrepreneurship for Reservists and Veterans Act, also known as the SERV Act, as amended.

Veteran entrepreneurs are powerful economic engines and job creators. More than 2.4 million veteran businessowners employ more than 5.7 million Americans and contribute approximately \$1.2 trillion annually to our GDP.

With that said, one of the biggest challenges facing veteran-owned small businesses is access to capital. Servicemembers report that it can be difficult to build credit while serving in the military, and studies have shown that a higher percentage of veterans are turned down for loans.

The SERV Act requires GAO to conduct a study on the availability of credit to veteran-owned, service-disabled-, and reservist-owned small businesses. The study would provide a report on the obstacles facing veterans, including the extent to which deployment and other military responsibilities affect their credit histories.

Most importantly, it requires the SBA Interagency Task Force on Veterans Small Business Development to create an outreach plan to promote the many valuable programs available to help veteran small business owners.

Representative DAVIDS has been a staunch supporter of efforts to aid veteran entrepreneurs. She first introduced this legislation in the 116th Congress, and it passed the House with broad bipartisan support.

As the chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access in the 117th Congress, she led efforts to make capital more affordable for all small firms.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this bill to ensure Congress is working to address the challenges veteran small employers face, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1715

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD).

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in favor of H.R. 4480 because, as Members of Congress, it is our duty to protect and support our Nation's veterans.

Earlier this year, it was my distinct pleasure to have Lieutenant Commander Taylor Burks of Missouri's Fourth Congressional District and a former opponent of mine in the primary for this very congressional seat, testify at a Small Business Committee hearing on veteran entrepreneurship.

We learned not only about the unique skill set veterans can bring to the small business environment, but also the obstacles they face when trying to open small businesses and live out the American Dream and the challenge of even finding the programs available through the Small Business Administration.

It was very important for all Members to hear how the committee and the Small Business Administration can better serve those who have served our great Nation.

As a result, my colleague Representative SHARICE DAVIDS of Kansas and I introduced the Successful Entrepreneurship for Reservists and Veterans, or SERV Act.

This bipartisan legislation, which passed through the Small Business Committee unanimously, will help veteran small business owners and entrepreneurs succeed by studying the barriers when starting a business.

This bill will commission a report on the outreach and promotion of existing veteran-focused small business programs to make sure that veterans can access all available resources, capital, and credit.

There are programs out there, but a lot of veterans have never heard of them, such as the Veterans Business Outreach Centers, the Boots to Business program, and service-disabled veteran-owned small business contracting programs.

This legislation also mandates the Interagency Task Force on Veterans Small Business Development to devise an outreach and promotion strategy for these programs and many others available to veterans transitioning into the business world.

Veterans' service to our Nation should not end with difficulties in accessing capital and resources. With transparency and increased reporting, we can better ensure that they receive the support that they deserve.

I am proud to co-lead the SERV Act with my neighboring district Representative and colleague, Congresswoman SHARICE DAVIDS of Kansas, to promote veteran entrepreneurship in our great Nation.

This bill is a win for our districts. It is a win for veterans. It is a win for our Nation.

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. DAVIDS).

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in strong support of the Successful Entrepreneurship for Reservists and Veterans Act, or the SERV Act, which I introduced alongside my friend and colleague from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD).

The SERV Act not only honors our veterans; it honors their service. It empowers our veterans to embark on a new chapter as entrepreneurs and small business owners.

My mom served in the Army for 20 years. My grandfather served, as well. Through them, I learned so much about service, about leadership, and certainly about the dedication to country.

Our veterans have defended our freedoms from so many things and with unwavering commitment. We absolutely owe it to them to provide the support that they need to achieve personal and professional success as they return home.

The SERV Act is a testament to that commitment that we have to the brave veterans that have served, and it is necessary because veterans do face distinct barriers when transitioning to civilian life, specifically when starting a business.

Those challenges can include overcoming stigmas around physical disability or post-traumatic stress disorder, as well as difficulty accessing credit. It forces small businesses to sometimes turn to alternative lenders, which can be predatory or more expensive than traditional sources. While those challenges exist for all potential entrepreneurs and our small business owners, it can be especially difficult for our veterans who often have trouble accruing credit necessary to attract and attain capital.

These barriers have led to a 35 percent decrease in veterans starting small businesses since World War II, and the U.S. Small Business Administration currently works closely with the VA and the Department of Defense on several excellent programs that we heard about from my colleague, Mr. ALFORD, specifically designed to help our veterans transition to civilian life and entrepreneurship, but those programs are not always as easy to find as they should be.

The SERV Act recognizes those unique challenges and works to address them directly, fostering economic growth at the local level and harnessing the immense potential that our veteran communities have.

One key provision of this legislation is the commission of a Government Accountability Office report on the ability of veterans and reservists to access capital and credit, which are crucial building blocks to opening a business.

This report would include analysis on common sources of credit and how deployment of credit impacts our service-members and their individual credit.

Moreover, the bill requires an Interagency Task Force at the SBA to develop an action plan for greater outreach of programs that already exist for veterans transitioning into the

business world. That task force would report its findings annually to Congress on how the SBA can better support veterans, service-disabled veterans, reservists, and their families.

The district I represent in Kansas includes a large rural population, and we know that businesses with fewer than 500 employees account for a majority of our rural establishments and employers.

By supporting our veteran entrepreneurs and making it easier for them to start small businesses, we are boosting local economies in both urban and rural settings. I often say that due to the specialized training and learned skill set, there are few people that are as well suited to start and operate a small business as our veterans.

The SERV Act is going to help those folks who served in uniform do just that. By providing enhanced access to SBA resources and programs, we are investing in the entrepreneurial spirit of our veterans. We are fostering economic growth. We are strengthening our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues, alongside my friend, Mr. ALFORD, on both sides of the aisle to stand united in support of this crucial legislation which did pass the House in a largely bipartisan way in the last Congress.

Let us send a powerful message to our veterans that we appreciate their service, their sacrifice, and that we are dedicated to helping them succeed in their endeavors, both while serving and after they hang up their uniform.

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

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, our country is experiencing a small business boom and veteran entrepreneurship is helping to lead the way.

SBA offers a number of counseling and training programs that can help them either launch or grow a small business. It is vitally important that we increase the awareness of SBA programs and services, particularly among veterans.

I applaud Ms. DAVIDS and Mr. ALFORD for their commitment to our Nation's veterans, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4480, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I thank Chairman WILLIAMS for bringing these six bills to the floor and for working in a bipartisan manner. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4480 is a step in the right direction. It is about our veterans, and what is more important than our veterans. Congressman ALFORD and Congresswoman DAVIDS have it right. It needs to be passed. We need to pass it tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ for her support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the

rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4480, 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.

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**CALLING ON HAMAS TO IMMEDIATELY RELEASE HOSTAGES TAKEN DURING OCTOBER 2023 ATTACK ON ISRAEL**

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 793) calling on Hamas to immediately release hostages taken during October 2023 attack on Israel.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 793

Whereas, on October 7, 2023, Hamas launched a brutal terrorist attack from Gaza into Israel and against the Israeli people;

Whereas, on October 16, 2023, the Israeli military confirmed that Hamas killed more than 1,400 people in the attack;

Whereas, on October 15, 2023, the United States Department of State confirmed that at least 30 Americans were killed in the attack;

Whereas, on October 16, 2023, the Israeli military confirmed that Hamas was holding 199 hostages in Gaza who were abducted during the attack;

Whereas Common Article 3 of the 1949 Geneva Conventions states that the taking of hostages is and shall remain prohibited at any time and in any place whatsoever;

Whereas, on October 10, 2023, President Joe Biden confirmed that Americans are known to be among the hostages;

Whereas it is reported that children and senior citizens are among the hostages; and

Whereas Hamas has threatened to execute hostages and videotape the killings: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns Hamas for its brutal attack on Israel;

(2) condemns Hamas for the taking of hostages;

(3) condemns Hamas for threats made against hostages;

(4) demands that Hamas immediately release all hostages and return them to safety;

(5) recognizes that the taking of hostages is a violation of international humanitarian law; and

(6) expresses sympathy to the hostages, wounded, deceased, and their families for this travesty to justice and personal hardship.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HILL. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, on October 7, Israel suffered one of the worst days in its history as it came under attack by the Hamas terror group. These terrorists stormed across the border at Gaza and murdered 1,200 people and took 240 innocent people hostage, dragging them against their will into Gaza.

From elderly Holocaust survivors to young babies, Hamas did not discriminate in its cruelty.

Mr. Speaker, American citizens are still among the hostages. Many of us in this House have met with these hostage families. The pain and suffering that these families are enduring is beyond what any human should have to go through.

Young children forced to be witness to their parents' murder right in front of them, babies ripped from their mothers arms, teenagers at a music festival gunned down.

The atrocities that were committed that day and the glee with which the terrorists acted is unimaginable, Mr. Speaker, and it is the height of human depravity.

Hamas filmed and broadcast these atrocities. This savage, sick terrorist group wanted to brag to the world about the massacre at their hands.

These terrorists, Mr. Speaker, are monsters, and we have not seen this type of violence and cruelty since ISIS was running rampant in the Levant. The Jewish people have not witnessed this much diabolical death in one day since the Holocaust.

After holding these hostages for 7 long weeks, Hamas has agreed to release some of these innocent women and children in an exchange for Israel temporarily pausing its military campaign and releasing Palestinians in jail.

All of us on this House floor are grateful for those hostage releases, and we are grateful for the leadership of the United States, Qatar, and the Government of Israel to achieve that modicum of peace and help for those families.

However, listen to the deal, Mr. Speaker. It was three jailed criminals for each innocent person captured and drug across the Gaza fence line on October 7. Despite the good news that we have witnessed in the last few days, Hamas is still holding over 150 innocent people.

Hamas must release all the remaining hostages. The United States continues to stand alongside our ally Israel in their fight to secure that safe release of all the hostages unconditionally and safely.

It was an honor and privilege working together with Congresswoman HALEY STEVENS, and I am so proud to be on the House floor tonight alongside Congresswoman HALEY STEVENS to introduce this resolution.

With this resolution, the House of Representatives strongly condemns Hamas' attack. It calls on Hamas to immediately and unconditionally release all the hostages taken on October 7.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee has marked up this legislation earlier in the month, and it received unanimous support. I expect it will receive that today on this House floor.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to stand with the hostages, with their families, and support this measure.

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

□ 1730

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 793, calling on Hamas to immediately release hostages taken during the October 7 gruesome and savage attack on Israel. I am grateful for my dear friend and colleague from Michigan, Representative HALEY STEVENS, for introducing the resolution together with my friend, Representative FRENCH HILL.

Representative STEVENS' extraordinary leadership on hostage and wrongful detention issues has given a voice to families of hostages and detainees and helped ensure that we never relent in our pursuit of bringing wrongfully detained Americans home.

The Hamas terror attack on October 7 resulted in the abduction of more than 240 innocent civilians and the heinous murder of more than 1,200 people.

In specifically targeting a civilian population, Hamas' abductions are among the greatest crimes against humanity. The sheer scale of the casualties and murder is the greatest attack against the Jewish people since the Holocaust.

Hamas has compounded the unimaginable human suffering it has caused through the use of its own people and the hostages as human shields, something we should never forget.

The hostages abducted by Hamas include civilians, soldiers, women, children, grandparents, and Holocaust survivors. Many are Israeli. Some are foreign or dual nationals, including American citizens.

Dozens of hostages have finally been released, thanks to the painstaking, difficult, and necessary negotiations assisted by the United States, including President Biden, and Qatar. I hope that, after this latest round of releases, we will continue to work to bring home all the remaining hostages.

This resolution calls attention to these abductions perpetrated by Hamas. Hamas specifically captured these innocent people so they could be used as bargaining chips and human shields while Hamas attempts to wipe Israel off the map.

Yet, while the situation is dire, there is hope. There are experienced public servants across the United States Government who have already helped secure the release of some Americans and dozens of other hostages from Hamas'

clutches. These dedicated officials in the White House, the Office of the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs, the Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell, and elsewhere across our government continue their tireless work to bring all the remaining American hostages and all the hostages home.

This resolution is simple and straightforward. It condemns the horrific actions of Hamas, correctly notes that hostage taking is a violation of international humanitarian law, expresses solidarity with the victims, and demands Hamas release all hostages immediately.

It is incredibly important that we give it our full support to send a clear message about the need to bring them home. We must stand with the hostages and their families in Israel and all over the world until they come home.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues and, in particular, Representative STEVENS for her tireless efforts on behalf of these Americans and their families and all Americans taken hostage or wrongfully detained overseas.

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAWLER), a very passionate supporter of our ally Israel and a senior member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks ago, I was in Israel with Chairman MCCAUL, Ranking Member MEEKS, and a bipartisan delegation. We met with Prime Minister Netanyahu, and we watched 21 minutes of unedited, raw footage of the October 7 terrorist attack. We watched Hamas terrorists indiscriminately kill women, children, and babies. We watched them take innocent civilians hostage, including Doron Katz Asher and her two daughters, Raz and Aviv. Doron's uncle is a constituent of mine in the 17th Congressional District of New York.

We met with families of the hostages, including the brother of Emily Hand. I sat next to him as he tearfully told his sister's story, bringing the rest of us to tears as he talked about the fact that his 8-year-old sister would spend her ninth birthday—the Friday after our meeting—alone, held captive by Hamas terrorists.

A few weeks ago, in New York City, I met with the mother of Or Yaakov and Yagil Yaakov, 13- and 16-year-old young men who were held captive. All of them have since been released.

I thank the administration for negotiating to get their release, but let's be clear: Hamas is a vile, barbaric terrorist organization.

We hear Members calling for a cease-fire. There was a cease-fire on October 6. In fact, there have been eight cease-fires in 15 years, each time violated by Hamas. In this most recent one, the biggest slaughtering of Jews since the Holocaust, 240 innocents were taken away from their families.

While they are releasing hostages, it is not enough. I have a simple way for this to end. If people want a cease-fire, Hamas must surrender. It is that simple. We want these hostages home, and we want to make sure that the innocent lives lost are not in vain.

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, we saw news reports that Hamas would not release a 10-month-old baby and, in fact, was turning that baby over to another terrorist organization. That is the type of people, if you can even call them that, who you are dealing with.

The United States must do everything it can to stand by its greatest ally in the Middle East and, indeed, across the world, the State of Israel. We will vote on a resolution that makes it clear that not only does Israel have a right to exist, but they have a right to defend themselves, and the only way that this ends peacefully is for Hamas to surrender.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from the great State of Michigan (Ms. STEVENS).

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for yielding. She is a true leader in this country on Middle East issues. I also thank the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. MCCAUL, for his steady hand and dedication to leading the Foreign Affairs Committee during this pivotal moment in world history and for moving this resolution forward alongside the ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, the indefatigable former Chairman MEEKS.

Congressman FRENCH HILL and I chair the Congressional Task Force on American Hostages and Americans Wrongfully Detained Abroad, and I thank him for being my lead sponsor on this bill. It is an honor to work with him in that capacity. This resolution speaks to our collaboration and dedication to the hostages taken by Hamas on October 7.

On October 7, a day that will live in infamy, 1,200 were killed in a surprise attack during a Jewish holiday. The attack didn't stop there because over 200 were taken hostage in one of the greatest hostage takings in world history.

We are now in a moment when the House of Representatives is called to speak, to demand on behalf of our government the return of all the hostages held in Gaza.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the hundreds of cosponsors and supporters of this resolution. It is worth noting that fellow Members of Congress who span the country and the political spectrum have joined together to call out Hamas.

Mr. Speaker, the time is more than now. We have seen some hostages in the last handful of days being returned, and now we have learned of their

harrowing time held in tunnels, nearly starved, with no beds. Right now, too many are left in those tunnels injured, uncared for, and victimized at the hands of those who killed their fellow countrymen and -women.

Introduced on October 17, a week-and-a-half into this hostage nightmare, this resolution, H. Res. 793, called out Hamas and demanded the return of the innocents—women, elderly, children, infants. Over the weekend, Israel and her allies secured the release of 58 hostages at 7 weeks into captivity. On Monday, 11 more hostages were released. Just moments ago, we have learned of more, for a total of 85. Among those are Aviv Asher, age 2; her sister Raz, age 4; Emma Cunio, age 3; Yuli Cunio, age 3; Avigail Idan, age 4; and Oria Brodutch, age 4—toddlers, children, preschoolers, the most innocent people on planet Earth. Those freed also included senior citizens: Yafa Adar, age 85; Elma Avraham, age 84; and Channa Peri, age 79.

Why on Earth did Hamas take these people? Why did they force them to watch the murder of their loved ones? This is absolutely unconscionable, and it is an attack on all humanity.

These people have been used as pawns. We are relieved that some are home, but we must condemn those who have kidnapped. We must condemn the terrorists who seek to attack the Jewish state. They have brutally killed relatives, neighbors, and fellow Israelis. We must continue to push to return the remaining hostages.

Let us not forget that over 150 remain in Gaza, and many of those released still have family members held—nearly 200 people held for 52 days at gunpoint. Nine Americans continue to be held.

Hundreds of families are waiting with bated breath for the return of their precious loved ones, waiting for relief and joy or the worst pain known to humankind. We cannot even imagine their anguish. It is unfathomable. What Hamas did was evil, and it was an attack on the Jewish state.

□ 1745

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

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS).

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I cannot in my allotted time name those who are remaining in Gaza, but we are making progress, and we will come together united as a House of Representatives to condemn this evil.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Michigan for her passionate words and her outstanding work in crafting this H. Res. 793, which calls on Hamas to release everyone unconditionally to return to their families.

Ms. STEVENS has done a great thing. Between us, we come to this House

floor with some 236 cosponsors for this resolution, Mr. Speaker.

I would certainly hope that on both sides of this aisle that we have a unanimous vote on this important statement of the American people, representing the American people, calling out against the atrocities that have been committed against the innocent people in Israel.

I thank my friend from Michigan, too, for our work together and partnership and co-chairing the Congressional Task Force on American Hostages and Americans Wrongly Detained Abroad.

This is important work. It has been truly tested in these past 7 weeks. Our congressional family is grieving with our Israeli families and other nationalities who have someone as a murder victim of these terrorists or someone who remains a hostage of these terrorists.

It is our goal to be a resource to our fellow Members through that task force to try to help them work with our State Department and make sure those families understand what information they can have and how they can be helped through this challenge. We want to bring all these Americans home.

Before I conclude, Mr. Speaker, I just would say we were all on the front steps of the Capitol together, Democrats and Republicans, and we stood as Americans that night with our new Speaker, MIKE JOHNSON; our minority leader, HAKEEM JEFFRIES; Ms. STEVENS, myself, our colleagues; our committee chairs, Mr. MEEKS of New York as our ranking member of Foreign Affairs; and our committee chairman, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, in solidarity against the atrocities in Gaza and in Israel.

That night, I had the opportunity to have the most wonderful visit with the most hopeful mother, Adi Marciano—a beautiful woman.

We hugged and talked, and we had in the candlelight of that moment on the House steps a moment of hope, but just a few hours later, she learned that her daughter, Noa, 19 years old, Mr. Speaker, a soldier in the Israel Defense Forces, was among the murdered, not among the hostages.

We don't want to forget those who have been killed in this process as we pray for the release of the hostages, and we call politically on this House floor for the release of the hostages.

We lift up these families, and we lift up all those who are grieving over the loss and tragedy on both sides of the fence in Gaza.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support H. Res. 793. I reserve the balance of my time, and I have no additional speakers.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, I have spent the past 6 weeks meeting with families of innocent civilians who were taken hostage by Hamas.

Just like the stories of Holocaust survivors, each story is unique. Each

story is heartbreaking because each of these hostages has loving family members whose lives have been torn apart, who are living with the agony of not knowing what has become of their loved ones. Are they okay? Are they healthy? Are they injured? Are they alive? Will they ever see them again?

I have heard stories that have brought me to tears, that haunt my dreams, that should make all of us redouble our efforts to bring those hostages home.

Mr. Speaker, the past few days have seen significant breakthroughs in attempts to bring the hostages held by Hamas home to their families. Dozens of hostages, including a few Americans, have been released, especially over the past few days.

I applaud the efforts of this administration, Israel, Qatar, and others who have worked to ensure that the temporary cease-fire holds and that the agreed-upon hostages are released, but there is much more work to be done.

Even after these last rounds of releases, dozens of hostages still remain imprisoned by Hamas. This is unacceptable.

We cannot afford to go back to the status quo. It is imperative that the United States, Israel, and our other allies and partners continue to press forward with efforts to secure the release of all the remaining hostages, including Keith Siegel from my State of North Carolina, including Yarden Roman who made the excruciating decision to hand her daughter, Geffen, to her husband, Alon, because he could run faster to escape the terrorists and save their daughter.

Yarden herself is the granddaughter of a Holocaust survivor whose great-grandparents made the same excruciating decision to sacrifice themselves for their daughter.

There are more than 150 more young people, mothers, fathers, civilians, soldiers, Americans, Israelis, Thai, and others. We must continue to work so that they can be brought home and reunited with their families.

I strongly support this resolution. Again, I thank Representative STEVENS for all her work on this issue and on this resolution, and I urge all my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for leading the discussion on our House floor today on the gentlewoman from Michigan's excellent resolution, H. Res. 793.

I am proud to be a cosponsor, proud to stand with 236 Members on both sides of the aisle to demand an unconditional release of those still held hostage by the terrorists in Gaza and their coconspirators.

I urge a "yes" vote, Mr. Speaker, 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.

HILL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 793.

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. HILL. 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.

#### REAFFIRMING THE STATE OF ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 888) reaffirming the State of Israel's right to exist.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 888

Whereas the Jewish people are native to the Land of Israel;

Whereas throughout history and across the reign of multiple kingdoms, the Jewish people were persecuted and expelled from the Land of Israel, forced to live as minority diaspora communities in other lands;

Whereas Jewish diaspora communities were historically violently persecuted in, and in some cases expelled from, other countries throughout the Middle East, Europe, Africa, and Asia due to their religion;

Whereas the Nazis attempted to annihilate the entire Jewish population of Europe during the Holocaust, murdering 6,000,000 Jews during this time;

Whereas this genocide provided new urgency to re-establish a Jewish homeland for the Jewish people following the Holocaust, where they would not be a vulnerable minority, where they could freely practice their faith, and where something like the Holocaust could never happen again;

Whereas the modern State of Israel was established on May 14, 1948;

Whereas even after the establishment of the State of Israel, other countries and terrorist entities continued to attack Israel, reject its right to exist, and call for its destruction; and

Whereas Israel is the only Jewish State, and therefore, despite persistent external threats, the existence of Israel provides Jews a place to live free from persecution and discrimination: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) reaffirms the State of Israel's right to exist;

(2) recognizes that denying Israel's right to exist is a form of antisemitism;

(3) rejects calls for Israel's destruction and the elimination of the only Jewish State; and

(4) condemns the Hamas-led terrorist attack on Israel.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAWLER) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LAWLER. 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to urge the House to agree to my resolution that reaffirms Israel's fundamental right to exist.

This is a pretty simple and straightforward resolution. Israel has a right to exist. You either believe that or you don't. The American people should see very clearly whether or not the Members of Congress affirm Israel's right to exist.

President Harry Truman recognized Israel 11 minutes after its founding. America was the first country to recognize the State of Israel, and for good reason.

Over the last 75 years, Israel has become the greatest ally of the United States—our shared values, shared heritage. The relationship between our two Nations is unbreakable.

I fundamentally believe that the terrorist attacks of October 7 perpetrated by Hamas are about one thing: Hamas does not believe Israel has the right to exist. Hamas wants to eradicate the Jewish people from the face of the Earth. They say so.

Other bad actors like Hezbollah share that perspective. Iran, the greatest state sponsor of terrorism in the world, the backer and funder of Hamas, has been calling for the eradication of the State of Israel for millennia. They don't believe they have the right to exist.

This resolution seeks to reaffirm the commitment made by President Truman upon Israel's founding. We not only recognize Israel, we reaffirm Israel's fundamental right to exist.

In the wake of the horrific October 7 attacks on Israel, we saw Members of this body and other opponents of Israel call for the elimination of Israel. When they chant: "From the river to the sea, Palestine shall be free," they mean that Israel will not exist.

I want Palestinians to be free. I want them to be free from their oppressors: Hamas and the Palestinian authority.

Hamas has used Palestinians as human shields even until today. As Israel prosecutes this war against this terrorist organization, Hamas uses Palestinians as human shields, camping out in hospitals and schools, launching missiles, shooting innocent civilians.

I watched in horror the 21-minute unedited, raw footage of the October 7 terrorist attack. Every Member of Congress was offered the opportunity to watch a 45-minute viewing of that attack.

Nearly half of Congress chose not to come, including some of the Members who have made it clear that they don't support Israel's right to exist.

□ 1800

On college campuses and city streets, we see people calling for an intifada, actively promoting the destruction of the Jewish state. Everyone has a right to say what they want about a foreign government, to say what they want about war, but they don't have the right to delegitimize the very existence of the Jewish state to justify terror.

The State of Israel was created 75 years ago to reestablish the native homeland of the Jewish people. For centuries, Jews were discriminated against and persecuted wherever they went. This culminated in the attempted genocide of European Jews during the Holocaust; 6 million Jews slaughtered.

This most recent genocide provides new urgency to reestablish the Jewish homeland where the Jewish people were displaced, and we wanted to create a homeland where they weren't a vulnerable minority, where they could freely practice their faith, and where something like the Holocaust could never happen again.

Yet, on October 7, we saw the largest slaughtering of Jews since the Holocaust. Yet, still today, many Jews view Israel as the safest place for them to live, even as rockets and missiles come from all sides.

Denying Israel's right to exist is denying the Jewish people the right to self-determination. It is denying the Jewish people's historic ties to the land. It is justifying war crimes against babies, and let's call it what it is, it is anti-Semitic.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this commonsense resolution that makes one thing fundamentally clear: Israel has a right to exist. Congress must never stop pushing back against Israel's opponents, and we must reject biased attempts to destroy our greatest ally.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 888 introduced by my friends, Representatives MIKE LAWLER and JARED MOSKOWITZ.

Mr. Speaker, on many occasions this House of Representatives has reaffirmed Israel's right to exist, and it is important that we do so again today. It is incomprehensible to me that after Hamas' horrific terrorist attack on October 7, the largest attack on the Jewish people since the Holocaust, we are seeing a growing wave of anti-Semitism rear its ugly head at home and around the world.

Since Israel's independence in 1948 and its admission into the United Nations the following year, international law has mandated Israel's right to exist. Yet, as of this year, 28 of the 193 United Nation member states still do not recognize Israeli sovereignty.

The terrorist organization, Hamas, has declared that Israel has no right to exist and for decades has targeted

Israel for destruction with suicide bombs, with missiles and rockets, and most recently, with gruesome and savage terror attacks targeting civilians.

The destruction of Israel and the killing of Jews is Hamas' sole focus. They have murdered babies, raped women, executed parents in front of their children, and massacred 260 young people at a music festival. They have taken 250 innocent civilians, including American citizens, hostage.

They are not working to help the Palestinian people who elected them. Indeed, the Palestinian people are shamelessly used and abused by Hamas as human shields.

As a proud, lifelong supporter of a two-state solution, I know that with Hamas in control of 2 million Palestinians in Gaza, real progress on a two-state solution cannot be achieved. Hamas has always only ever played spoiler. The same is true of Iran's other regional proxies, Hezbollah, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and others, who also exist only to destabilize and destroy Israel, not to strive for a two-state solution.

There cannot be peace when a party to a conflict doesn't recognize the other parties' right to exist. With recognition comes peace and mutual prosperity, security, and innovation. That is why efforts to facilitate and expand the Abraham Accords are so historic and important. The Abraham Accords countries, along with Egypt and Jordan, all recognize this fact and are advancing their nations in the spirit of regional cooperation and peace.

Here at home, whether it is on public streets, on college campuses, or online, we have seen a deeply disturbing and aggressive increase and despicable call for Israel to cease existing as a Jewish State.

The phrase, "from the river to the sea," a sickening call for the destruction of the State of Israel and the genocide of the Jewish people, has become a rallying cry for those hoping for Israel's destruction. Calling for total Palestinian control of all Israeli territory from the River Jordan to the Mediterranean Sea is a call to eliminate the Jewish State of Israel.

This resolution states that denying Israel's right to exist is a form of anti-Semitism. I wholeheartedly agree with this statement. To be clear, it is not necessarily anti-Semitic to criticize the State of Israel or its leaders for particular policies. That is free speech, and no country is above criticism for its policies, including our own. It is absolutely anti-Semitic to treat Israel as a pariah based on the claim that Jews alone should be denied the right to define themselves as a people and to exercise any form of national self-determination.

This is the crucial difference. It is anti-Semitism, and we must totally reject it.

In 2015, former President Barack Obama stated the following in an interview: I think it would be a moral failing for me as President of the United

States, a moral failing for America, and a moral failing for the world if we did not protect Israel and stand up for its right to exist, because that would negate not just the history of the 20th century, it would negate the history of the past millennium.

Mr. Speaker, I totally agree with that statement. For thousands of years, Jews have suffered persecution and lack the safety and stability of a homeland. Today, the modern Jewish State of Israel thrives in the ancient Jewish Holy Land where it is a robust democracy and productive and treasured member of the international community of nations.

Israel has signed peace treaties with two of its most important neighbors and has come to the table for many rounds of peace negotiations with the Palestinians. Israel is a country that wants peace, whereas Hamas and its Iranian patron do not.

Israel is the homeland of the Jewish people and will always remain a place of refuge where Jews can be truly safe and control their own destiny. Israel is certainly worthy of the support of this House and the United States of America.

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

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), chairman of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 888 reaffirming the State of Israel's right to exist.

I thank my good friend from New York, MIKE LAWLER, for introducing this timely, extremely important, and ever-necessary resolution.

Mr. Speaker, Israel is the only state in the world whose fundamental right to exist is openly denied by other states. Some of them, including Iran, even call for Israel's complete destruction and support transnational terrorist organizations to work toward its demise.

It is also the only state in the world whose fundamental right to exist is constantly undermined and challenged by intergovernmental organizations, such as and most shamefully of all, the United Nations.

The anti-Semitism motivating those who deny Israel's right to exist is apparent, but it is important to connect, as this resolution does, the denial of Israel's right to exist, to anti-Semitism, and to connect them both as enabling causes to the monstrous crimes Hamas has unleashed on Israel.

Make no mistake, Mr. Speaker, anti-Semitic bigotry is at the root of the U.N.'s hostility toward Israel, which is ugly, evil, and manifests itself at almost every U.N. entity.

On November 8, I chaired a hearing of my subcommittee, and we called it

United Nations' Bigotry Towards Israel.

We heard expert testimony from Hillel Neuer, the executive director of U.N. Watch; and Jonathan Schanzer, the senior vice president for research at the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies.

Hillel Neuer testified: "Teachers and schools at the U.N. Relief and Works Agency, which runs education and social services for Palestinians, regularly call to murder Jews, and create teaching materials that glorify terrorism, encourage martyrdom, demonize Israelis, and incite anti-Semitism."

He further said: "In 2022 alone, UNRWA received \$344 million in U.S. funding. Yet, a March 2023 report by U.N. Watch and Impact-SE identified 133 UNRWA educators and staff who were found to promote hate and violence on social media, and an additional 82 teachers and other staff affiliated with 30 UNRWA schools who were involved in drafting and distributing hateful content to their students."

That is just the tip of the iceberg.

Jonathan Schanzer testified that: "The U.N. doesn't recognize Hamas as a terrorist organization. Nor does it recognize Hezbollah either. That means U.N. resources can be and regularly are provided to members of those terrorist groups."

Mr. Speaker, according to the great human rights defender, Nathan Sharansky's famous 3-D test for anti-Semitism, which he articulated at a hearing that I chaired way back in 2004, criticism of Israel is nothing less than anti-Semitic when it passes over into the demonization of Jews and Israel, delegitimizes the Jewish state, or applies double standards; that is, one standard for Israel, and another for every other country on Earth.

That is what many U.N. entities and agencies do every single day.

Yesterday, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, the JTA, reported on the latest example of the double standard and said: "Nearly 50 days after Hamas' attack on Israel left 1,200 dead, and after weeks of criticism over its silence about allegations of sexual violence during the attack, the women's rights group, U.N. Women, issued a statement condemning the terror group on Friday.

Then it deleted the post."

Here is what it said originally:

"We condemn the brutal attack by Hamas on October 7 and continue to call for the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages," read the initial statement posted on U.N. Women's Instagram page.

It was soon replaced with a statement that dropped the condemnation of Hamas and only called for the release of hostages."

Mr. Speaker, there are so many examples.

In 2022, the U.N. General Assembly targeted Israel in a total of 15 harshly critical resolutions, compared to 13 country-specific resolutions for the en-

tire world: China, North Korea, Iran; 13 for all of them combined, 15 for Israel.

In large measure, it is because of the U.N., which unquestionably is the world's foremost legitimizer of anti-Semitism, that it remains necessary, 75 years after the founding of the great State of Israel, to reaffirm its right to exist.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend and colleague from New York, and my friend from Florida, for authoring this important resolution.

□ 1815

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MOSKOWITZ).

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, Israel has a right to exist. There are only two ways to vote on this. Either you vote "yes" or you vote "no." "No" means you do not believe Israel should be a country. "No" means you believe a country should be wiped off the face of the Earth. A "present" vote means you do not believe Israel should be a country. Hanging out in the cloakroom, having a hot dog, or missing the vote means Israel shouldn't be a country.

This is a moment for people in this body, on a bipartisan basis, to stand together and say they believe Israel has a right to exist.

Hamas doesn't think Israel has a right to exist. Hezbollah doesn't think Israel has a right to exist. Iran doesn't think Israel has a right to exist. People who vote "no" or vote "present" side with them. They pick a side with Hamas, Hezbollah, and Iran.

I don't want to hear excuses. "Oh, I didn't like this 'whereas' clause," or, "Oh, there was a period or a comma out of place," as if somehow we always vote on perfect resolutions around here. Again, it is an opportunity to show the world that we believe Israel has a right to exist.

We see anti-Semitism in the streets and at rallies. At cease-fire rallies, which is a foreign policy position, we see people holding signs that say: "Gas the Jews," "Kill the Jews," and "Cleanse the Jews." That is not a foreign policy. If it is, it is a foreign policy of Germany in the early 1940s.

This is a moment for people in this body, some of whom sit in the rows behind me, to show they believe Israel has a right to exist.

I am for a two-state solution, Mr. Speaker. I think it is important that the Palestinian people get a state. But rest assured, in that two-state solution, one of those states is going to be Israel.

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

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Mr. Speaker, I conclude with this: Anyone who believes that Israel doesn't have a right to exist is calling for genocide. We hear that word thrown around a lot now on

social media, “genocide.” We have a war in the Middle East. We don’t have genocide.

If you believe a country should not exist, the millions of people in that country should also not exist, which means you are calling for genocide.

Mr. Speaker, I urge everyone to vote “yes” on this resolution. Israel has a right to exist.

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

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. AMO), the newest member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. AMO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to affirm our ally Israel’s right to exist.

The unprovoked October 7 attack by Hamas has left a deep wound. Israel has a right to defend itself against this barbarism consistent with international humanitarian law, including the protection of civilians.

Far too many Israeli families do not know the fate of their loved ones at the hands of Hamas. While some have relief, there are still many who need to be reunited with their families. My hope is that the success President Biden has had will secure the release of all the hostages.

Importantly, the extended pause has meant additional humanitarian assistance to alleviate the suffering of the innocent Palestinian families in Gaza for whom Hamas has no regard. There must be sustained and safe access to food, water, and medical care.

Paramount is the prevention of this conflict from spreading, preserving stability in the Middle East, and working toward a durable peace.

These events have brought forward a rise in anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. Anti-Semitic incidents have involved violent assaults on Jewish students on college campuses and protesters extolling terrorist organizations.

Close to home, I was especially horrified that this past weekend, three students of Palestinian descent, one a Brown University student, were shot. I pray for their recovery and that the assailant be brought to justice.

This crisis of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia demands an urgent and collective response. There is no place for violence or hate in America.

In recognition of Israel’s right to exist and for the immediate release of hostages taken during the October 7 attack, I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 888 and H. Res. 793.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, the Jewish people have connections to the State of Israel that go back thousands of years. Indeed, the Jewish people are indigenous to that land.

Yes, Israel has a right to exist. This multicultural, multiethnic, multireligious nation, a nation of laws, a nation with free speech and free press, a na-

tion of innovation, and a vibrant, thriving democracy, an incredible country, has much to teach the world and will continue to do so. This country, our only democratic ally in the Middle East, is here to stay.

This resolution puts the House of Representatives on record as affirming the State of Israel’s right to exist. It recognizes that denying Israel’s right to exist is a form of anti-Semitism. It rejects calls for Israel’s destruction and the elimination of the only Jewish state and condemns the October 7 Hamas-led terrorist attack on the State of Israel and its people.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this resolution, and I urge all my colleagues to do the same. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for closing.

It should be clear by now to each and every Member of this body on both sides of the aisle and every American that Israel has a right to exist. This sentiment is unequivocal and is a critical point to unequivocally voice now in our ally’s time of need.

Harry Truman recognized the State of Israel 11 minutes after its founding. For 75 years, the United States and Israel have had a special bond. Israel is the only multiracial, multiethnic, multireligious democracy in the Middle East. It is a beacon of hope, of freedom, and of opportunity.

If anyone in this body believes that they do not have the right to exist, please explain to us and the American people what nation does.

This is a simple vote, and every Member should be on record in support of Israel’s right to exist. If they cannot muster the courage to support Israel’s right to exist at this moment, they don’t belong in Congress, period.

This is a simple vote, and I encourage all of my colleagues to stand with Israel, to defend and reaffirm their very right to exist, and to defend the right of the Jewish people to practice their faith.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAWLER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 888.

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. LAWLER. 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.

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

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (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.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 683

Whereas the treaty between the United States and Mexico regarding the utilization of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande, signed at Washington, February 1944 (59 Stat. 1219), commits the Government of Mexico to send an average of not less than 350,000 acre-feet of water annually over a 5-year cycle to the United States;

Whereas Mexico repeatedly waits until the end of this 5-year cycle to fulfill such water commitment; and

Whereas each year, farmers in south Texas are experiencing water shortages: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports 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, signed at Washington, February 1944 (59 Stat. 1219);

(2) encourages Mexico to fulfill such commitments on an annual basis;

(3) acknowledges that farmers in south Texas are experiencing water shortages;

(4) supports negotiations on a Minute that will ensure more predictable and reliable water deliveries to users in the United States; and

(5) encourages new commitments to ensure that the United States receives annual deliveries of at least 350,000 acre-feet of water under such treaty.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAWLER) and the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YAKYM). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, stretching from the mountains of Colorado to the Gulf of Mexico, the Rio Grande River also forms over 1,200 miles of the international border between the United States and Mexico.

The Treaty on Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande, signed in 1944, secures consistent and dependable water supplies for both countries, which is critically important in our desert Southwest.

The treaty obligates Mexico to make available to the U.S. not less than 350,000 acre-feet of water per year from the main channel of the Rio Grande, averaged over a consecutive 5-year period. However, since 1994, Mexico has, on multiple occasions, failed to fulfill its Rio Grande water delivery commitments.

The latest data indicates that we have now moved into year 4 of the 5-year cycle, and Mexico is in arrears of over 680,000 acre-feet of water, nearly two full years' worth. Mexico's recurring failure has reached real-world repercussions, especially for American farmers and ranchers, who have suffered devastating crop and cattle losses.

U.S. diplomats and officials must urge Mexico to honor its commitments and establish regulations to regularize water deliveries.

With this resolution, the House of Representatives affirms its support for the United States to use its resources to secure compliance by the Mexican Government.

I thank my colleague from Texas, Congresswoman MONICA DE LA CRUZ, for introducing this bipartisan measure, which received unanimous support in the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

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

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time. I rise in strong support of H. Res. 683, introduced by my colleague, Representative MONICA DE LA CRUZ.

I had the opportunity to support this resolution as it made its way through the House Foreign Affairs Committee earlier this month, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting its passage here.

Mr. Speaker, climate change has led to more prevalent and severe climate events across North America and has affected us all. Lack of rain, for example, has caused severe drought, impacting farming communities and businesses that provide critical crops and jobs. Rising temperatures have affected the volume and distribution of rainfall and snowfall over time. Without water, farmers have had to make difficult choices about whether to plant their crops, resulting in major losses all around.

In these challenging times, I recognize the importance of engaging constructively with our neighbors to re-

solve issues that may seem local but have broad global implications and downstream effects. One instance where we must improve our international cooperation concerns the share of water between the United States and Mexico from the Colorado and the Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande.

□ 1830

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 683 recognizes that, as farmers in south Texas experience greater water shortages, we must work with the Government of Mexico to ensure its deliveries of water to the U.S. are made more consistent and timely and encourages new commitments to be made for that purpose.

I am particularly impressed by the International Boundary and Water Commission's engagement this year to advance the goals of the 1944 treaty relating to the utilization of the waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and the Rio Grande.

The Commission's work to ensure that commitments made to distribute water are upheld in a timely manner and in the right quantities have not gone unnoticed. No doubt these changes in regular access to water will have a positive impact on those who grow the food and livestock we depend on.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the dialogue and diplomacy necessary to confront this urgent issue.

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

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. DE LA CRUZ), the author of this resolution.

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Res. 683. This is a matter of utmost importance that impacts the lives and livelihoods of families in south Texas and across all of America.

The ongoing drought and resulting water scarcity in the Rio Grande Valley represents a crisis for our farmers and our communities. Under the 1944 water treaty, our neighbors in Mexico have pledged to supply the United States of America with an average of 350,000 acre-feet of water annually over a 5-year cycle.

Unfortunately, there have been consistent delays in meeting these obligations that have severely affected American agriculture.

The absence of adequate water threatens to drastically reduce their yields, potentially cutting their usual production in half. This situation poses a threat not only to local communities but also to our national food security, escalating the costs for American families, and increasing our reliance on imported produce.

This shortfall is also leading to stringent water restrictions in our community, further burdening families and businesses. It is, therefore, incumbent

upon the Mexican Government to fulfill their treaty obligations. It is not fair for American families, American farmers, and ranchers to be penalized due to noncompliance by Mexico.

In response to this pressing issue, I introduced this bipartisan House resolution that expresses support for the diplomatic relations necessary to ensure Mexico adheres to the 1944 water treaty.

This resolution emphasizes the need for consistent water delivery to the United States and encourages renewed commitments to uphold the annual water deliveries.

Mr. Speaker, I express my sincere thanks to the bipartisan coalition of House Members, including my esteemed colleague, HENRY CUELLAR, for their support in bringing the resolution to the House floor. Additionally, I thank the chairman, my fellow Texan (Mr. McCAUL), for his efforts with this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bipartisan House resolution. It is crucial that the 1944 water treaty be honored as it provides vital support for American farmers who are pivotal in sustaining our Nation's food supply.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my community and all of south Texas, we are thankful for the attention given to this urgent matter.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution recognizes that, as farmers in south Texas are suffering from water shortages, dialogue and diplomacy will be critical to ensuring that water deliveries from the Government of Mexico, per the 1944 treaty, are made in a timely and consistent manner.

H. Res. 683 supports the negotiations being undertaken to secure water deliveries on an annual basis that would allow farmers to have predictable quantities of water for their crops and their livestock.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this resolution and urge all of my colleagues to do the same.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAWLER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 683.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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 agree to:

- H. Res. 793; and
- H. Res. 888.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote.

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

CALLING ON HAMAS TO IMMEDIATELY RELEASE HOSTAGES TAKEN DURING OCTOBER 2023 ATTACK ON ISRAEL

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 agree to the resolution (H. Res. 793) calling on Hamas to immediately release hostages taken during October 2023 attack on Israel, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 414, nays 0, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 676]

YEAS—414

Adams  
Aderholt  
Aguilar  
Alford  
Allen  
Allred  
Amo  
Amodei  
Armstrong  
Arrington  
Auchincloss  
Babin  
Bacon  
Baird  
Balderson  
Balint  
Banks  
Barr  
Barragán  
Bean (FL)  
Beatty  
Bentz  
Bera  
Bergman  
Beyer  
Bice  
Biggs  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (NC)  
Blumenauer  
Blunt Rochester  
Boebert  
Bonamici  
Bost  
Bowman  
Boyle (PA)  
Brecheen  
Brown  
Brownley  
Buchanan  
Buck  
Bucshon  
Budzinski  
Burchett

Burgess  
Burlison  
Calvert  
Cammack  
Caraveo  
Carbajal  
Cárdenas  
Carey  
Carl  
Carson  
Carter (GA)  
Carter (LA)  
Carter (TX)  
Cartwright  
Casar  
Case  
Casten  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Chavez-DeRemer  
Cherfilus-  
McCormick  
Chu  
Ciscomani  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Cleaver  
Cline  
Cloud  
Clyburn  
Clyde  
Cohen  
Cole  
Collins  
Comer  
Connolly  
Correa  
Costa  
Courtney  
Craig  
Crane  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Crockett

Crow  
Cuellar  
Curtis  
D'Esposito  
Davids (KS)  
Davidson  
Davis (IL)  
Davis (NC)  
De La Cruz  
Dean (PA)  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
Deluzio  
DeSaulnier  
Diaz-Balart  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Donalds  
Duarte  
Duncan  
Dunn (FL)  
Edwards  
Ellzey  
Emmer  
Escobar  
Eshoo  
Españalat  
Estes  
Ezell  
Fallon  
Feenstra  
Ferguson  
Finstad  
Comer  
Fitzgerald  
Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Fletcher  
Flood  
Foster  
Foushee  
Foxy  
Frankel, Lois

Franklin, Scott  
Frost  
Fry  
Fulcher  
Gallagher  
Gallego  
Garamendi  
Garbarino  
Garcia (IL)  
Garcia (TX)  
Garcia, Mike  
Garcia, Robert  
Gimenez  
Golden (ME)  
Goldman (NY)  
Gomez  
Gonzales, Tony  
Gonzalez,  
Vicente  
Good (VA)  
Gooden (TX)  
Gosar  
Gottheimer  
Granger  
Graves (LA)  
Graves (MO)  
Green (TN)  
Green, Al (TX)  
Greene (GA)  
Griffith  
Grijalva  
Grothman  
Guest  
Guthrie  
Hageman  
Harder (CA)  
Harris  
Harshbarger  
Hayes  
Hern  
Higgins (LA)  
Higgins (NY)  
Hill  
Himes  
Hinson  
Horsford  
Houchin  
Houlahan  
Hoyer  
Hoyle (OR)  
Hudson  
Huffman  
Huizenga  
Hunt  
Issa  
Ivey  
Jackson (IL)  
Jackson (NC)  
Jackson (TX)  
Jacobs  
James  
Jayapal  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Johnson (LA)  
Johnson (OH)  
Johnson (SD)  
Jordan  
Joyce (OH)  
Joyce (PA)  
Kamlager-Dove  
Kaptur  
Kean (NJ)  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kelly (MS)  
Khanna  
Kiggans (VA)  
Kildee  
Kiley  
Kilmer  
Kim (CA)  
Kim (NJ)  
Krishnamoorthi  
Kuster  
Kustoff  
LaHood  
LaLota  
LaMalfa  
Lamborn  
Landsman  
Langworthy  
Larsen (WA)  
Larsen (CT)  
Latta

LaTurner  
Lawler  
Lee (FL)  
Lee (PA)  
Leger Fernandez  
Lesko  
Letlow  
Levin  
Lieu  
Lofgren  
Loudermilk  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Luna  
Luttrell  
Lynch  
Mace  
Magaziner  
Malliotakis  
Mann  
Manning  
Massie  
Mast  
Matsui  
McBath  
McCaul  
McClain  
McClellan  
McClintock  
McCollum  
McCormick  
McGarvey  
McGovern  
Meeks  
Menendez  
Meng  
Meuser  
Mfume  
Miller (IL)  
Miller (OH)  
Miller (WV)  
Miller-Meeks  
Mills  
Molinaro  
Moolenaar  
Mooney  
Moore (AL)  
Moore (UT)  
Moore (WI)  
Moran  
Morelle  
Moskowitz  
Moulton  
Mrvan  
Mullin  
Murphy  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Neguse  
Newhouse  
Nickel  
Norcross  
Norman  
Nunn (IA)  
Obernolte  
Ocasio-Cortez  
Ogles  
Omar  
Owens  
Pallone  
Palmer  
Panetta  
Pappas  
Pascrell  
Payne  
Peltola  
Pence  
Perez  
Perry  
Peters  
Petterson  
Pfluger  
Pingree  
Pocan  
Porter  
Pressley  
Quigley  
Ramirez  
Raskin  
Reschenthaler  
Rodgers (WA)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rose

Rosendale  
Ross  
Rouzer  
Roy  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Rutherford  
Ryan  
Salazar  
Salinas  
Sánchez  
Santos  
Sarbanes  
Scalise  
Scanlon  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schneider  
Scholten  
Schrier  
Schweikert  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, 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  
Trone  
Turner  
Underwood  
Valadao  
Van Drew  
Van Dune  
Van Orden  
Vargas  
Vasquez  
Velazquez  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Waltz  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters  
Watson Coleman  
Webster (FL)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Wexton  
Wild  
Williams (GA)  
Williams (NY)  
Williams (TX)  
Wilson (FL)  
Wilson (SC)  
Witman  
Womack  
Yakym  
Zinke

Kelly (PA)  
Lee (CA)  
Lee (NV)  
McCarthy  
McHenry  
Nehls  
Pelosi  
Phillips  
Posey  
Scott, Austin  
Steel  
Swalwell  
Veasey  
Weber (TX)

□ 1905

Mr. COHEN changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE  
CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER 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 28, 2023.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a letter received from Mr. Ryan Cowley, Director of Elections, Office of the Lieutenant Governor, State of Utah, containing unofficial results of the Special Election for Representative to Congress for the Second Congressional District of Utah held on November 21, 2023.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,  
KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,  
Acting Clerk.

Enclosure.

STATE OF UTAH,  
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR,  
November 27, 2023.

KEVIN MCCUMBER,  
Office of the Clerk,  
House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. MCCUMBER: Below are listed the unofficial results from the special Utah Second Congressional District election held November 21, 2023. These results are not official at this time and will not be certified as final until the canvass on December 8, 2023. The counties administering the special congressional election will post updated results as they process and count ballots up through their respective county Board of Canvassers meetings which, under the Utah Election Code, may be held as late as December 6th.

The State Board of Canvassers will convene on December 8, 2023 to canvass the returns and will certify the election results at that meeting. As soon as possible after the canvass, the Lieutenant Governor will send the certified election results and an official Certificate of Election to you, both by email and UPS.

The following link directs you to our website where you may observe unofficial results as they are posted. <https://electionresults.utah.gov/results/public/utah/elections/2023-Nov-General>. I have listed the preliminary vote count below and have attached a screenshot of the website as of the morning of Monday, November 27, 2023.

The following results are unofficial and likely to change up through the canvasses that are performed by the county legislative bodies.

- Perry T. Myers (Unaffiliated): 1.42 percent 2,195 votes.
- Celeste Maloy (Republican): 56.87 percent 87,649 votes.
- Cassie Easley (Constitution): 2.31 percent 3,556 votes.

NOT VOTING—20

Bishop (GA)  
Bush  
DesJarlais  
Evans  
Gaetz  
Jackson Lee

January Walker (United Utah): 1.82 percent 2,808 votes.

Kathleen Riebe (Democratic): 33.90 percent 52,253 votes.

Bradley Garth Green (Libertarian): 2.84 percent 4,374 votes.

Joe Buchman (Unaffiliated): 0.82 percent 1,260 votes.

Write-in: 0.03 percent 39 votes.

As of today we are not aware of any challenges or contests to these election results but note that, per statute, the deadline for an individual to contest the results is 10 days after the canvass, December 18, 2023.

Sincerely,

RYAN COWLEY,  
DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS,  
*Office of the Lieutenant Governor.*

#### SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE CELESTE MALOY, OF UTAH, AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentlewoman from Utah, the Honorable CELESTE MALOY, be permitted to take the oath of office today.

Her certificate of election has not arrived, but there is no contest and no question has been raised with regard to her election.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. Will the Representative-elect Maloy and the Members of the Utah delegation present themselves in the well.

All Members will rise and the Representative-elect will please raise her right hand.

Ms. MALOY appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office, as follows:

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

The SPEAKER. Congratulations, you are now a Member of the 118th Congress.

#### WELCOMING THE HONORABLE CELESTE MALOY TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CURTIS) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, as the dean of the Utah delegation, I have the distinct honor to rise today to introduce the newest Member of the House of Representatives, CELESTE MALOY. CELESTE was born in southern Utah, raised in rural Nevada, and then, as an adult, chose Utah as her home. CELESTE earned an agricultural degree from Southern Utah University in Cedar City which she now calls home.

She began her career in public service as a soil conservationist at the

USDA in Beaver, Utah, also located within her district, where she worked for 10 years.

She left Beaver to go to law school at BYU, where she got her law degree, in my hometown, and she was a law student there, in fact, while I was her mayor.

Since beginning her late career, she has worked as a deputy county attorney, a public lands attorney for the Utah Association of Counties and, most recently, as the chief legal counsel to former Congressman Chris Stewart.

In a special election, CELESTE assembled a coalition of both rural and urban voters. She was unafraid to stand for conservative principles, calling for debate in each of her 13 counties. In her district, she is known to be a hard worker, levelheaded, and consistently conservative.

We were all a little surprised that she won the election since the last thing she won was her 7th grade spelling bee, but the secret to her heart is simple: offer her a Dr. Pepper and her number one food staple, cottage cheese. Better yet, ask her about her 90-year-old grandmother, who is her biggest political fan and best critic, or her other grandmother who was her roommate when she was in high school and they worked at the same truck stop.

She is the fourth of six kids—this is how we do families in Utah—which means that most of her life she has been in a bunk bed.

Finally, my colleagues will remember her predecessor, Chris Stewart. He was known for having several speed records around the world in his plane. Celeste does not have a flight speed record, but I hear, unbeknownst to the Utah Highway Patrol, she has several speed records on I-15 in her district.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to yield to my fellow Utahn, CELESTE MALOY.

□ 1915

Ms. MALOY. Mr. Speaker, it is an absolute honor and privilege to be here right now. It is very humbling. Since this was a special election, they let me have a few friends and family come in the gallery. I want everyone on the floor to notice how many people are up here to support me.

I have talked a lot on the campaign trail, and the media has talked a lot about how I went to college on a scholarship I won in an FFA soil judging contest. I was very involved in FFA in high school. In my freshman year, I memorized the FFA creed and then participated in a creed speaking contest where I totally lost.

I repeated one of the paragraphs three times, but in the first paragraph, which I had down pat, there is a sentence that says, "I believe . . . in the promise of better days through better ways, even as the better things we now enjoy have come to us from the struggles of former years."

I think that perfectly describes how I feel right now about being a Member of the United States House of Representa-

tives. I believe in the promise of better days through better ways. I am excited to be here now, when there are really important conversations happening and when an individual can have a huge impact.

I also acknowledge the struggles of former years and that we live in an absolutely wonderful, great country because of the people who came before us and had important conversations and struggles and inched us ever closer to the ideal, the American Dream, the principles that are embodied in our Constitution and our Declaration of Independence.

Let me humbly say how excited I am to be here and how much it means to me to be representing the people in Utah's Second Congressional District. I don't take that title lightly. I want to make sure my constituents know that I am here to truly represent them and that I am optimistic, that I am excited to serve, and that I understand what a great honor and rare privilege it is to be standing here on the House floor right now giving a speech, so thank you.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath to the gentlewoman from Utah, the whole number of the House is 435.

#### REAFFIRMING THE STATE OF ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 888) reaffirming the State of Israel's right to exist, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAWLER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 412, nays 1, answered "present" 1, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 677]

YEAS—412

Adams	Barr	Bowman
Aderholt	Barragán	Boyle (PA)
Aguilar	Bean (FL)	Brecheen
Alford	Beatty	Brown
Allen	Bentz	Brownley
Allred	Bera	Buchanan
Amo	Bergman	Bucshon
Amodei	Beyer	Budzinski
Armstrong	Bice	Burchett
Arrington	Biggs	Burgess
Auchincloss	Bilirakis	Burlison
Babin	Bishop (NC)	Calvert
Bacon	Blumenauer	Cammack
Baird	Blunt Rochester	Caraveo
Balderson	Boebert	Carbajal
Balint	Bonamici	Cárdenas
Banks	Bost	Carey

Carl  
 Carlson  
 Carter (GA)  
 Carter (LA)  
 Carter (TX)  
 Cartwright  
 Casar  
 Case  
 Casten  
 Castor (FL)  
 Castro (TX)  
 Chavez-DeRemer  
 Cherfilus-McCormick  
 Chu  
 Ciscomani  
 Clark (MA)  
 Clarke (NY)  
 Cleaver  
 Cline  
 Cloud  
 Clyburn  
 Clyde  
 Cohen  
 Cole  
 Collins  
 Comer  
 Connolly  
 Correa  
 Costa  
 Courtney  
 Craig  
 Crane  
 Crawford  
 Crenshaw  
 Crockett  
 Crow  
 Cuellar  
 Curtis  
 D'Esposito  
 Davids (KS)  
 Davidson  
 Davis (IL)  
 Davis (NC)  
 De La Cruz  
 Dean (PA)  
 DeGette  
 DeLauro  
 DelBene  
 Deluzio  
 DeSaulnier  
 Diaz-Balart  
 Dingell  
 Doggett  
 Donalds  
 Duarte  
 Duncan  
 Dunn (FL)  
 Edwards  
 Ellzey  
 Emmer  
 Escobar  
 Eshoo  
 Espallat  
 Estes  
 Ezell  
 Fallon  
 Feenstra  
 Ferguson  
 Finstad  
 Fischbach  
 Fitzgerald  
 Fitzpatrick  
 Fleischmann  
 Fletcher  
 Flood  
 Foster  
 Foushee  
 Foxx  
 Frankel, Lois  
 Franklin, Scott  
 Frost  
 Fry  
 Fulcher  
 Gallagher  
 Gallego  
 Garamendi  
 Garbarino  
 Garcia (IL)  
 Garcia (TX)  
 Garcia, Mike  
 Garcia, Robert  
 Gimenez  
 Golden (ME)  
 Goldman (NY)  
 Gomez  
 Gonzales, Tony  
 Gonzalez, Vicente

Good (VA)  
 Gooden (TX)  
 Gosar  
 Gottheimer  
 Granger  
 Graves (LA)  
 Casar  
 Green (MO)  
 Green (TN)  
 Green, Al (TX)  
 Greene (GA)  
 Griffith  
 Grijalva  
 Grothman  
 Guest  
 Guthrie  
 Hageman  
 Harder (CA)  
 Harris  
 Harshbarger  
 Hayes  
 Hern  
 Higgins (LA)  
 Higgins (NY)  
 Hill  
 Himes  
 Hinson  
 Horsford  
 Houchin  
 Houlihan  
 Hoyer  
 Hoyle (OR)  
 Hudson  
 Huffman  
 Huizenga  
 Hunt  
 Issa  
 Ivey  
 Jackson (IL)  
 Jackson (NC)  
 Jackson (TX)  
 Jacobs  
 James  
 Jayapal  
 Jeffries  
 Johnson (GA)  
 Johnson (LA)  
 Johnson (OH)  
 Johnson (SD)  
 Jordan  
 Joyce (OH)  
 Joyce (PA)  
 Kamlager-Dove  
 Kaptur  
 Kean (NJ)  
 Keating  
 Kelly (IL)  
 Kelly (MS)  
 Khanna  
 Kiggans (VA)  
 Kildee  
 Kiley  
 Kilmer  
 Kim (CA)  
 Kim (NJ)  
 Krishnamoorthi  
 Kuster  
 Kustoff  
 LaHood  
 LaLota  
 LaMalfa  
 Lamborn  
 Landsman  
 Langworthy  
 Larsen (WA)  
 Larson (CT)  
 Latta  
 LaTurner  
 Lawler  
 Lee (FL)  
 Lee (PA)  
 Leger Fernandez  
 Lesko  
 Letlow  
 Levin  
 Lieu  
 Lofgren  
 Loudermilk  
 Lucas  
 Luetkemeyer  
 Luna  
 Luttrell  
 Lynch  
 Mace  
 Magaziner  
 Malliotakis  
 Maloy  
 Mann  
 Manning  
 Mast

Matsui  
 McBath  
 McCaul  
 McClain  
 McClellan  
 McClintock  
 McCollum  
 McCormick  
 McGarvey  
 McGovern  
 Meeks  
 Menendez  
 Meng  
 Meuser  
 Guthrie  
 Miller (IL)  
 Miller (OH)  
 Miller (WV)  
 Miller-Meeks  
 Mills  
 Molinaro  
 Moonenar  
 Mooney  
 Moore (AL)  
 Moore (UT)  
 Moore (WI)  
 Moran  
 Morelle  
 Moskowitz  
 Moulton  
 Mrvan  
 Mullin  
 Murphy  
 Nadler  
 Napolitano  
 Neal  
 Neguse  
 Newhouse  
 Nickel  
 Norcross  
 Norman  
 Nunn (IA)  
 Obernolte  
 Ocasio-Cortez  
 Ogles  
 Omar  
 Owens  
 Pallone  
 Palmer  
 Panetta  
 Pappas  
 Pascarell  
 Payne  
 Peltola  
 Pence  
 Perez  
 Perry  
 Peters  
 Petterson  
 Pfluger  
 Pingree  
 Pocan  
 Porter  
 Pressley  
 Quigley  
 Ramirez  
 Raskin  
 Reschenthaler  
 Rodgers (WA)  
 Rogers (AL)  
 Rogers (KY)  
 Rose  
 Rosendale  
 Ross  
 Rouzer  
 Roy  
 Ruiz  
 Ruppersberger  
 Rutherford  
 Ryan  
 Salazar  
 Salinas  
 Sanchez  
 Santos  
 Sarbanes  
 Scalise  
 Scanlon  
 Schakowsky  
 Schiff  
 Schneider  
 Scholten  
 Schrier  
 Schweikert  
 Scott (VA)  
 Scott, 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  
 Tokuda  
 Tonko  
 Torres (CA)  
 Torres (NY)  
 Trahan  
 Trone  
 Turner  
 Underwood  
 Valadao  
 Van Drew  
 Van Dwyne  
 Van Orden  
 Vargas  
 Vasquez  
 Velázquez

Wagner  
 Walberg  
 Waltz  
 Wasserman  
 Schultz  
 Waters  
 Watson Coleman  
 Webster (FL)  
 Wenstrup  
 Westerman  
 Weston  
 Wild  
 Williams (GA)  
 Williams (NY)  
 Williams (TX)  
 Wilson (FL)  
 Wilson (SC)  
 Wittman  
 Womack  
 Yakym  
 Zinke

NAYS—1

Massie

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Tlaib

NOT VOTING—21

Bishop (GA)  
 Bush  
 Burch  
 DesJarlais  
 Evans  
 Gaetz  
 Jackson Lee

Kelly (PA)  
 Lee (CA)  
 Lee (NV)  
 McCarthy  
 McHenry  
 Nehls  
 Pelosi

Phillips  
 Posey  
 Scott, Austin  
 Steel  
 Swalwell  
 Veasey  
 Weber (TX)

□ 1930

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and unable to cast my vote on two roll call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 676 and "yea" on rollcall no. 677.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, during roll call votes on H. Res. 793 and H. Res. 888, my vote was not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 676 and "yea" on rollcall No. 677.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, I was not present during today's vote series. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 676 and Present on rollcall No. 677.

□ 1930

#### MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING HERB KLEIN

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

Mr. PASCARELL. Mr. Speaker, I stand with the New Jersey delegation. I rise today to mark the passing of my predecessor and my friend, Congressman Herb Klein. Herb only served one term in this institution, but he was a giant for north Jersey.

Our communities are tight-knit, hardscrabble, fiercely loyal, and Herb embodied those qualities. It was Herb who laid the groundwork for what Passaic County is today. He helped build it.

Herb Klein was a brilliant lawyer and remarkable public servant and a great human being. He was always accessible and always available.

Over the years, I cannot count the number of times I called on Herb for his wisdom. I will miss his counsel, and I will miss his friendship.

We send our love and admiration to Herb's family, Roger, and all the kids and friends, in their time of mourning.

I ask the House to join me in a moment of silence in memory of Herb Klein.

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

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. 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. 878 submitted by Mr. GUEST, providing for the expulsion of Representative GEORGE SANTOS from the United States House of Representatives.

Whereas, Representative GEORGE SANTOS is a Member of the United States House of Representatives;

Whereas, soon after his election in November of 2022, Representative SANTOS' background came under public scrutiny;

Whereas, on February 28, 2023, the Committee on Ethics of the House unanimously voted to impanel an investigative subcommittee (hereinafter in this resolution referred to as the "ISC") to review whether Representative SANTOS may have engaged in unlawful activity with respect to his 2022 congressional campaign, failed to properly disclose required information on statements filed with the House, violated Federal conflict of interest laws in connection with his role in a firm providing fiduciary services, and engaged in sexual misconduct toward an individual seeking employment in his congressional office;

Whereas, the ISC met nine times and, over the course of the investigation, authorized 37 subpoenas and 43 voluntary requests for information (RFIs) leading to its receipt of over 172,000 pages of documents, contacted or interviewed over 40 witnesses, and reviewed materials received from the Office of Congressional Ethics and relevant court records;

Whereas, the ISC determined in its investigation that there was substantial evidence of violations of Federal law, the rules of the House, and other applicable standards related to many of the allegations charged in the indictment and substantial evidence of additional unlawful and unethical contact not charged in the indictment;

Whereas, these additional violations relate to falsely reported loans reportedly received by his 2020 campaign and

leadership political action committee, GADS PAC, improper loan repayments to himself, systemic reporting errors in his 2020 and 2022 campaigns' Federal Election Commission filings, and substantial evidence that campaign funds were converted to personal use;

Whereas, the ISC also identified additional errors and omissions in his 2020 and 2022 Financial Disclosure Statements, as well as violations of Federal law and the rules of the House related to his unfiled 2021 and 2023 Financial Disclosure Statements, which were not charged in the indictment;

Whereas, the ISC also found that Representative SANTOS failed to meet his duty of candor with respect to the ISC's investigation and instead presented the ISC with misrepresentations and delay tactics;

Whereas, on May 10, 2023, Representative SANTOS was charged in Federal court in the Eastern District of New York with wire fraud in connection with a fraudulent political contribution scheme, unlawful monetary transactions in connection with the wire fraud allegations, theft of public money in connection with his alleged receipt of unemployment benefits, fraudulent application for and receipt of unemployment benefits, and false statements in connection with his 2020 and 2022 House of Representatives Financial Disclosure Statements;

Whereas, Nancy Marks, who served as treasurer to Representative SANTOS' campaign, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud, falsifying records, and identity theft in connection with the Santos campaign;

Whereas, a superseding indictment was filed on October 10, 2023, charging Representative SANTOS with additional violations related to his 2022 campaign, including allegations of falsifying Federal Election Commission reports in connection with a \$500,000 personal loan that was never made, falsifying the names of contributors to his campaign, engaging in aggravated identity theft and access device fraud, and enriching himself through a fraudulent contribution scheme;

Whereas, Sam Miele, who served as a fundraiser to Representative SANTOS' campaign, pleaded guilty to a Federal wire fraud charge after impersonating a senior congressional aide for the purposes of soliciting funds;

Whereas, the ISC that was established to review the allegations against Representative SANTOS adopted a report of its findings and submitted the report to the full committee;

Whereas, the Committee on Ethics of the House unanimously voted to adopt the ISC report based upon the investigation providing substantial evidence that Representative SANTOS—

One, knowingly caused his campaign committee to file false or incomplete reports with the Federal Election Commission, used campaign funds for personal purposes, engaged in fraudulent conduct in connection with Redstone Strategies, LLC, and engaged in know-

ing and willful violations of the Ethics in Government Act as it relates to his Financial Disclosure Statements filed with the House;

Two, was a knowing and active participant in the wrongdoing; and

Three, was given an opportunity, pursuant to committee rule 17(b), to submit a signed written statement responding to the allegations raised in a complaint filed by his fellow Members but did not do so;

Whereas, the ISC—

One, requested that Representative SANTOS provide all documents and information responsive to its request for information, but he did not do so;

Two, asked Representative SANTOS to voluntarily testify, but he did not do so, and

Three, provided Representative SANTOS the opportunity pursuant to committee rule 19(b)(3) to provide a statement under oath, but he did not do so;

Whereas, as a Member of the United States House of Representatives, Representative SANTOS must be held accountable to the highest standards of conduct in order to safeguard the public's faith in this institution;

Whereas, the Constitution of the United States of America charges the House with policing the behavior of its own Members, and the House should take action against Representative SANTOS commensurate with his violations of Federal law and the rules of the House, and

Whereas, given his egregious violations, Representative GEORGE SANTOS is not fit to serve as a Member of the United States House of Representatives.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that pursuant to Article I, Section 5, Clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States of America, Representative GEORGE SANTOS, be, and he hereby is expelled from the United States House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YAKYM). 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 New York 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.

□ 1945

RECOGNIZING ASTRONAUT VIRGIL "GUS" GRISSOM

(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 recognize a hero, a trailblazer, and an inspiration to all, astronaut Virgil "Gus" Grissom.

Growing up in Indiana, I am honored to pay tribute to this remarkable man as he is inducted into the Indiana Military Veterans Hall of Fame.

Gus Grissom's contributions to space exploration are tremendous. He was one of America's original astronauts.

In 1961, he made history when he became the second American to travel to space. He later commanded the Gemini 3 mission, paving the way for the Moon landing.

Gus was a man of courage, unwavering dedication, and profound commitment to his country. Gus was a native son of Indiana. Born and raised in Mitchell, he embodied the spirit of the heartland and carried those values into space.

Though his life was tragically cut short during a prelaunch test for the Apollo 1 mission, his legacy continues.

He exemplified the qualities that define our military veterans: bravery, sacrifice, and service to a cause greater than oneself.

Today, we remember Gus Grissom not just for his achievements in space exploration and service to his country, but for the inspiration he continues to provide to countless Americans young and old. His name will forever be etched in the archives of American history.

As we honored him with this induction into the Indiana Military Veterans Hall of Fame this month, let us be reminded of the courageous spirit of exploration and of the bravery of all of our veterans who have made the ultimate sacrifices.

Gus Grissom's legacy lives on, and we are privileged to celebrate his life and achievements. May his memory continue to inspire generations to come.

HONORING WYNONA LIPMAN

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great trailblazer from my district, Wynona Lipman.

Mrs. Lipman was the first African-American woman to be elected to the New Jersey State Senate in 1971, and she was the longest serving senator in New Jersey's history when she passed in 1999.

During her 27 years in the New Jersey State Senate, she fought for the rights of children, minorities, and the LGBT+ community.

She was a crucial member of the Governor's Advisory Council on AIDS and Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect. Her work earned her the induction into New Jersey's Women's Hall of Fame in 1998. Her legacy lives on throughout my district.

There is the Wynona Lipman Ethnic Studies Center at Kean University. There is the Wynona Lipman Child Advocacy Center for abused children; and there is also the future Wynona Lipman Courthouse in Essex County.

Mrs. Wynona Lipman was an exceptional leader, and I am proud to recognize her on the House floor today.

#### CELEBRATING JUDD BURCHFIELD'S 102ND BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a distinguished World War II veteran, Judd Burchfield of Rockland Township in Venango County.

Mr. Burchfield celebrated his 102nd birthday on Sunday, November 19. Mr. Burchfield is believed to be the oldest veteran in Venango County. He grew up in Mt. Joy, and later returned to the area following his service in World War II.

Over the course of the war, Mr. Burchfield was an auto equipment mechanic as part of the Army Air Corps. He spent time in both North Africa and Italy, and eventually rose to the rank of staff sergeant. Because of his courage, he was awarded the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with a Bronze Star, a Good Conduct Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

After returning home to Venango County, Mr. Burchfield started his own farm, raising just about every farm animal. He started his own business, B&M Farm Supply, and worked for Richland Township running a road grader and a backhoe.

We thank Mr. Burchfield for his gallant service to our country and wish him the happiest birthday.

#### RECOGNIZING NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

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

Ms. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional achievements of the Women's Cross Country Team at North Carolina State University.

Go pack.

The Wolfpack women have dominated the NCAA once again, winning their third national championship in a row.

Senior Sam Bush and all-American Katelyn Touhy helped NC State storm to victory in a close finish against Northern Arizona.

With their latest trophy, the NC State women's cross country team has now passed the men's basketball team for the most national titles in the university's history.

In addition, no college team has won three straight women's cross country titles since Stanford in 2007.

Far too often, outstanding women athletes don't get the recognition that they deserve. I am proud to represent the Wolfpack women and congratulate them on their fantastic accomplishment.

#### OSCE FIGHTS CORRUPTION

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I was grateful last weekend as chairman of the Commission for Security and Cooperation in Europe to chair the American delegation for the Fall Meeting in Yerevan, Armenia.

Parliamentarians from nearly 50 countries were present with sessions led by OSCE Parliamentary Assembly president Pia Kauma of Finland.

Armenian Head of Delegation Sargis Khandanyan was a very successful host for the warm Armenian welcome. Sessions featured active participation of many productive points of view on corruption as a fundamental threat and respect for all people affected by conflict.

There was wide recognition the civilized world is sadly in conflict as it did not choose of dictators with rule of gun invading democracies with rule of law as war criminal Putin has invaded Ukraine and Iran puppet Hamas invading Israel.

It was impressive the dynamic economy of Armenia, 9 time zones and 6,441 miles from Washington. It was encouraging to meet National Assembly Deputy Ruben Rubinyan serving as special envoy on a normalization with Turkiye, America's valued NATO ally.

God bless Armenia. God bless America.

#### ABIGAIL EDAN'S RELEASE

(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. Madam Speaker, imagine at the age of 3 being taken out of the arms of your dying father by terrorists, and having a birthday, turning 4 years old as a hostage.

Indeed, this was the case for Abigail Edan, who was taken at the hands of Hamas terrorists.

The story doesn't stop here. Not only did they kill her father, but they also killed her mother.

Abigail, I remind you, Madam Speaker, is an American citizen. Her young life has been forever scarred by this unspeakable tragedy.

At the calls for the release of hostages, Abigail's return brings us relief, but also highlights the urgent need for Hamas terrorists to free all citizens

still held captive immediately. As Abigail returns to her brother and sister, it is time for all hostages to embrace their loved ones.

#### CONGRATULATING ARIEL BROWN, 2023 FIRST TEE NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ariel Brown, a teacher at Savannah Legacy Academy on her recent 2023 First Tee National Teacher of the Year award.

First Tee is a youth development organization that enables children to develop personally, athletically, and socially through golf lessons.

A First Tee alum herself, Ms. BROWN was the first coach at First Tee Savannah when the chapter relaunched in 2021. The organization is making the game more accessible to youth, and it is clearly working as they currently have more than 3 million children in the program nationwide.

Ms. BROWN's involvement in First Tee shows her commitment to students in and out of the classroom. I thank her for her efforts to help guide her students intellectually, socially, and athletically.

Congratulations, Ariel, on this wonderful accomplishment.

#### HONORING POSTAL WORKER ROBERT JONES

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

Mrs. FLETCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and memory of Robert Denzel Jones, Jr., a resident of Texas' Seventh Congressional District, where he served his neighbors and our community as a United States letter carrier.

His commitment to going above and beyond earned him the nickname "Super Postman" as his radiant smile and diligent work impacted people he met on the job.

Tragically, he was killed in a hit-and-run accident while he was working to make sure the U.S. mail was delivered.

The work that Robert and letter carriers like him do in our community is critically important, whether it is connecting loved ones with letters or delivering essential packages.

He was not only an outstanding letter carrier, he was an exceptional father to his daughter, Rylee Love Jones; a loving partner to J'La Anderson; and a beloved son to his proud parents, Robert and Felicia Jones.

That is how he will be remembered, as he should be: a father, a son, a partner, a super postman, and a beloved member of our community.

May his memory be a blessing and may his service be an example to us all.

#### RESTORING BUFFALO HERDS ON INDIAN RESERVATION LANDS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I have introduced the bipartisan Indian Buffalo Management Act to create a permanent buffalo program at the U.S. Department of Interior and help promote and develop Tribal capacity to manage buffalo.

The act provides secure, consistent funding for Tribes, and Tribal organizations to have an established buffalo herd and management program, as well as provide resources for Tribes that would like to establish new herds of buffalo.

This bill passed out of the House last Congress and was led by my dear friend, our late Congressman from Alaska, Mr. Don Young.

This bill will help bolster our Tribal sovereignty, create economic opportunities, and ensure a stable supply of nutritious, locally sourced protein.

Additionally, the American buffalo has a deep historical and cultural connection to many Tribes and has always held great meaning for Indian peoples.

Buffalo has provided the Tribes with everything from clothing, to food, to shelter, to utensils, to pouches, to headdresses, to containers, and much more.

It is impossible to overstate their importance to Native Americans historically and to this day, culturally, as well as all Americans as a symbol of the rugged West.

This program will greatly help with Intertribal Buffalo Council's goal of restoring buffalo herds on Indian reservation lands.

Madam Speaker, I hope we can get the support for that and get it out of the House, out of the Senate, and in front of the President.

#### DEFENSE PRODUCTION ACT AND MEDICINE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, what America makes and grows, makes and grows America and grows our middle class. Thus, let me applaud the Biden administration's decision to utilize the Defense Production Act to reshore the domestic manufacturing of essential medicines critical for our national security.

This move is a strategic response to the challenges America faces, particularly keeping inflation in check and healing the vulnerabilities in our pharmaceutical supply chain.

The book, "China Rx," highlights the growing number of our country's reli-

ance on foreign-made medicines, particularly from China. They pose a significant national security risk to both our military and civilian sectors.

The Defense Production Act offers a vital tool to onshore and increased domestic production of essential medicines. In a world where the availability of essential medicines can be a matter of life and death, our Nation must take strong measures to resecure our domestic pharmaceutical supply chain.

The Defense Production Act is a significant step toward achieving this goal. What America makes and grows, makes and grows a stronger and more secure America.

#### HONORING LIBRERIA GIRON

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Libreria Giron, a family-run Spanish language bookstore in my district that will be closing its doors after 50 years.

At a time when Spanish language books were hard to find in Chicago, Ada Alicia Giron, a former elementary school teacher from Guatemala, and her husband, Julio Giron, opened an electronic shop in 1957.

An educator at heart, Alicia Giron placed a stack of Spanish language books in the shop next to televisions and radios, and to her surprise became the shop's main selling point.

Libreria Giron went on to become a beacon of knowledge to immigrant communities and at its peak expanded to 10 locations in Chicago.

As Libreria Giron prepares to close its doors for good, I would like to thank the Giron family for their service to the Little Village and Pilsen communities and for fostering a love of books spanning generations.

□ 2000

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO ROSALYNN CARTER

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to pay tribute and honor the activities of the great First Lady, the first that I ever had the opportunity to know, and that is First Lady Rosalynn Carter, who was funeralized earlier today.

As a young activist, as we organized and tried to organize community health centers and community mental health centers, along with us was First Lady Rosalynn Carter, who was often at the meetings. Sometimes, she wouldn't say anything. She would take notes.

Not only did we have a friend in the White House in President Carter, but we also had a great friend and advocate

in the person of First Lady Rosalynn Carter.

May she rest in peace.

#### OUR MILITARY HAS NEVER BEEN STRONGER

(Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, today, the junior Senator from Alabama said that our military has never been weaker in his lifetime. Of course, that statement is false. Our military has never been stronger, not just in the history of our country but in the history of any country.

This is just the latest example of what happens when we allow partisan politics to infect everything. We shouldn't let this moment pass without acknowledging how destructive it is for our country when you can just say anything you want without any concern about whether or not it is true.

We also should acknowledge the 2 million servicemembers who have dedicated their lives to defending the right of that Senator to smear them. They are owed an apology, although I assure you none is coming.

#### RECOGNIZING APPOINTEES TO THE SERVICE ACADEMIES FROM THE THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. HOCHIN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from New York (Mr. SANTOS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SANTOS. Madam Speaker, it is a source of immense pride that numerous prospective high school graduates in my district aspire to join a service academy.

Following a rigorous selection process, I have put forth nominations for 29 applicants. Thus far, four of them have received appointments to academies.

Alex Gao from Levittown has been appointed to West Point. David Yoon from Great Neck has been appointed to West Point. Joseph Kim from Little Neck has been appointed to West Point. Tanner Schultz from Northport has been appointed to the Merchant Marine Academy.

Embarking on the journey of attending a service academy is no easy feat. It requires diligent effort to master your chosen major and acquire the necessary knowledge to serve your country upon graduation 4 years later.

I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to nominate all 29 applicants. I anticipate the appointment of many more nominees from New York's Third District to serve in the coming weeks.

CONGRATULATING RICHARD XU

Mr. SANTOS. Madam Speaker, we just hosted the Congressional App

Challenge recently, and this week, we revealed the winner for New York's Third District. Richard Xu emerged victorious with his innovative creation VolunHour, an app designed to streamline the tracking of volunteer hours.

Among the 17 impressive applicants from my district, each contributing fantastic app ideas, Richard Xu's VolunHour stood out as the winning entry.

Richard cited his passion for volunteering and community service as the driving force behind the creation of this app. He started a volunteer organization with a small group of friends, witnessing its expansion from 5 members to 30. Throughout this experience, he recognized the cumbersome and time-consuming nature of tracking volunteer hours, prompting him to develop a solution.

I congratulate Richard and send a big shout-out to all the participants from the Third District of New York who submitted applications to the Congressional App Challenge. Well done.

#### RECOGNIZING DEDICATED STAFF FOR CASEWORK

Mr. SANTOS. Madam Speaker, let me take a moment to discuss my office. Regarding my team, they consistently dedicate substantial effort to handle casework for our constituents.

We operate from three locations, two within the Third District of New York and one in Washington, D.C., ensuring accessibility and a commitment to serving the residents of New York's Third District.

To this day, we have received a total of 1,286 cases. We have successfully resolved 1,149 cases, leaving us with 137 cases currently under the diligent attention of my team.

The completed casework encompasses a variety of matters, including passports, immigration issues, and distinctive cases like securing a Purple Heart medal for the surviving family members of a World War I hero.

The work of my office does not go unnoticed, and I and the constituents of the Third District of New York are extremely grateful. I thank my entire team for all the hard work they have put forward throughout these last couple of months.

#### ON THE MATTER OF EXPULSION

Mr. SANTOS. Madam Speaker, on the matter of expulsion, we are now going down a third attempt for a privileged resolution to expel me from the House of Representatives this week. One was introduced earlier today, and just earlier this evening, we had a second.

Here is the case in point. In history, five Members of Congress have been expelled. All five had suffered convictions in a court. All five had due process.

This expulsion vote simply undermines and underscores the precedent that we have had in this Chamber. It starts and puts us in a new direction, a dangerous one, that sets a very dangerous precedent for the future.

Are we to now assume that one is no longer innocent until proven guilty,

and they are, in fact, guilty until proven innocent? Are we now to simply assume that because somebody doesn't like you, they get to throw you out of your job? Or better more, does the Constitution bear no consequence where a duly elected Member of the House of Representatives is elected by the general public but then a couple of politicians decide that they don't like that person?

These are all matters and questions that can be brought up. I will leave it at this. The process in which the Ethics Committee engaged was incomplete, irresponsible, and littered with hyperbole and littered with biased opinions.

The chairman of the committee himself admitted that it wasn't the full extent of process. Therefore, he couldn't recommend from the committee a punishment or action, therefore cheapening the process of the Ethics Committee, cheapening the process that this country has expected from this Chamber.

It is not a right to be a Member of Congress. The media will always remind me of that every time I talk to them. It is a privilege, a privilege you work hard for. You get elected to Congress as a privilege to represent those who have chosen you.

Madam Speaker, I think we can all agree that due process matters and that we should all be very concerned about the way that we are conducting this process. I ask that all of my colleagues in the House consider and understand what this means for the future.

To set the record straight and put this in the RECORD, I will not be resigning.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. SANTOS. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, November 29, 2023, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

#### OATH OF OFFICE MEMBERS, RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, AND DELEGATES

The oath of office required by the sixth article of the Constitution of the United States, and as provided by section 2 of the act of May 13, 1884 (23 Stat. 22), to be administered to Members, Resident Commissioner, and Delegates of the House of Representatives, the text of which is carried in 5 U.S.C. 3331:

“I, AB, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same;

that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.”

has been subscribed to in person and filed in duplicate with the Clerk of the House of Representatives by the following Member of the 118th Congress, pursuant to the provisions of 2 U.S.C. 25:

CELESTE MALOY, Second District of Utah.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-2407. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, National Organic Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — National Organic Program (NOP); Organic Livestock and Poultry Standards [Doc. No.: AMS-NOP-21-0073] (RIN: 0581-AE06) received November 14, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-2408. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Fair Trade Practices, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Economic Adjustment Assistant for Textile Mills [Doc. No.: AMS-FTPP-21-0055] (RIN: 0581-AE26) received November 8, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-2409. A letter from the Assistant Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Technical Amendments: Special Financial Assistance Withdrawal Liability Condition; SECURE 2.0 Act; and Other Updates (RIN: 1212-AB56) received November 9, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

EC-2410. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Locomotives and Locomotive Engines; Preemption of State and Local Regulations [EPA-HQ-OAR-2022-0985; FRL-8952.1-01-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AW12) received November 8, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2411. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Kentucky; Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference [EPA-R04-OAR-2022-0409; FRL-8790-01-R4] received November 8, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2412. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New York; Elements of the 2008 and 2015 Ozone National Air Quality Standards [EPA-R02-OAR-2022-0648; FRL-11358-02-R2] received November 8, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2413. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Changes to Reporting Requirements for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances and to Supplier Notifications for Chemicals of Special Concern; Community Right-to-Know Toxic Chemical Release Reporting [EPA-HQ-TRI-2022-0270; FRL-8741-04-OCSP] (RIN: 2070-AK97) received October 31, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2414. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Vehicle Miles Traveled Emissions Offset Demonstrations for the 2015 Ozone Standards; California [EPA-R09-OAR-2022-0681; FRL-10386-02-R9] received October 31, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2415. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Disapproval; Colorado; Serious Attainment Plan Elements and Related Revisions for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone Standard for the Denver Metro/North Front Range Nonattainment Area [EPA-R08-OAR-2023-0272; FRL-11237-02-R8] received October 31, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2416. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; North Carolina; Revisions to Miscellaneous Particulate Matter Rules [EPA-R04-OAR-2022-0391; FRL-11368-02-R4] received October 31, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2417. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; FL; Miscellaneous SIP Revision [EPA-R04-OAR-2023-0056; FRL-11369-02-R4] received October 31, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2418. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Revisions; California; Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District; Imperial County Air Pollution Control District; Correcting Amendments [EPA-R09-OAR-2017-0760, EPA-R09-OAR-2020-0476, and EPA-R09-OAR-2021-0176; FRL-11409-01-09] received October 31, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2419. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's interim final determination — Determination to Defer Sanctions; California; California Air Resources Board [EPA-R09-OAR-2023-0479; FRL-11425-02-R9] received October 31, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2420. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Extension of Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions; Multiple

Chemicals [EPA-HQ-OPP-2023-507; FRL-11517-01-OCSP] received October 31, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2421. A letter from the Deputy Division Chief, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Numbering Policies for Modern Communications [WC Docket No.: 13-97]; Telephone Number Requirements for IP-Enabled Service Providers [WC Docket No.: 07-243]; Implementation of TRACED Act Section 6(a)-Knowledge of Customers by Entities with Access to Numbering Resources [WC Docket No.: 20-67]; Process Reform for Executive Branch Review of Certain FCC Applications and Petitions Involving Foreign Ownership [IB Docket No.: 16-155] received November 9, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2422. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Electric Reliability Organization Proposal to Retire Requirements in Reliability Standards Under the NERC Standards Efficiency Review [Docket No.: RM19-17-001; Order No. 902] received November 9, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2423. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule and guidance — Emergency Preparedness for Small Modular Reactors and Other New Technologies [NRC-2015-0225] (RIN: 3150-AJ68) received November 15, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2424. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final safety evaluation — Electric Power Research Institute Technical Report 3002018337, "Use of Data Validation and Reconciliation Methods for Measurement Uncertainty Recapture: Topical Report" [EPID No.: L-2021-TOP-0006] received November 13, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2425. A letter from the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Entity List Additions [Docket No.: 231013-0245] (RIN: 0694-AJ41) received November 9, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2426. A letter from the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Export Controls on Semiconductor Manufacturing Items [Docket No.: 231013-0246] (RIN: 0694-AJ23) received November 9, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2427. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 21-045 Certification of Proposed Issuance of an Export License Pursuant to Sec 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2428. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 22-059 Certification of Proposed Issuance of an Export License Pursuant to

Sec 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2429. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Management, Office for Acquisition and Assistance, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting the Agency's final rule — USAID Grant Regulations: Removing the Program Income Restriction on For-Profit Entities (RIN: 0412-AB01) received November 9, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2430. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau of Management, Office of Human Capital and Talent Management, US Agency for International Development, transmitting the Agency's interim final rule — Implementation of the HAVANA Act of 2021 (RIN: 0412-AB11) received November 9, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2431. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-300, "Ambulatory Surgical Facility 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-2432. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-301, "Prior Authorization Reform 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-2433. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Management, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Implementation of the Freedom of Information Act (RIN: 0412-AA97) received November 9, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2434. A letter from the Biologist, Branch of Recovery and Conservation Planning, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Establishment of a Nonessential Experimental Population of the Gray Wolf in Colorado [Docket No.: FWS-R6-ES-2022-0100; FXES11130600000-223-FF06E00000] (RIN: 1018-BG79) received November 14, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-2435. A letter from the Marine Mammal Specialist, Office of Protected Resources, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Testing and Training Operations in the Eglin Gulf Test and Training Range [Docket No.: 230410-0096] (RIN: 0648-BL77) received November 9, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-2436. A letter from the Chief, Regulatory Development Division, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Incorporation by Reference; North American Standard Out-of-Service Criteria; Hazardous Materials Safety Permits [Docket No.: FMCSA-2023-0122] (RIN: 2126-AC61) received November 9, 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-2437. A letter from the Chief, Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Elimination

of Debit Voucher Interest Accruing Before the Issuance of a Bill (RIN: 1515-AE81) received November 6, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-2438. A letter from the Senior Regulatory and Policy Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Disclosures of Ownership and Additional Disclosable Parties Information for Skilled Nursing Facilities and Nursing Facilities; Medicare Providers' and Suppliers' Disclosure of Private Equity Companies and Real Estate Investment Trusts [CMS-6084-F] (RIN: 0938-AU90) received November 17, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. MCHENRY: Committee on Financial Services. House Joint Resolution 66. Resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau relating to "Small Business Lending Under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (Regulation B)" (Rept. 118-279). Referred to the committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. RESCENTIALER: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 891. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5283) to prohibit the use of Federal funds to provide housing to specified aliens on any land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Federal land management agencies; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5961) to freeze certain Iranian funds involved in the 2023 hostage deal between the United States and Iran, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the joint resolution (S.J. Res 32) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to "Small Business Lending Under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (Regulation B)" (Rept. 118-280). 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 Ms. HAGEMAN:

H.R. 6481. A bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to require the Secretary of the Interior to reimburse the fee for an expression of interest if the expression of interest becomes inactive, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. FULCHER:

H.R. 6482. A bill to amend the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to promote timely exploration for geothermal resources under geothermal leases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HUIZENGA:

H.R. 6483. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to require greater transparency and accountability within the grant-making process of the National Institutes of Health; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE (for herself, Mr. BACON, and Mr. EVANS):

H.R. 6484. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to ensure health insurance coverage continuity for former foster youth; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. RESCENTIALER, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, and Mrs. MILLER of Illinois):

H.R. 6485. A bill to ensure that organizations with religious or moral convictions are allowed to continue to provide services for children; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MCGARVEY (for himself and Mr. ALFORD):

H.R. 6486. A bill to establish the position of Coordinator for Community Financial Institutions within the Small Business Administration to enhance the performance of community financial institutions and support access to capital for small business concerns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. KILMER, Mr. BERA, and Ms. SCHRIER):

H.R. 6487. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to prohibit health plans from imposing fees on health care providers for electronic funds transfers and health care payment and remittance advice transactions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 6488. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain tax benefits related to empowerment zones to the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. PELTOLA:

H.R. 6489. A bill to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide that Village Corporations shall not be required to convey land in trust to the State of Alaska for the establishment of Municipal Corporations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. PORTER (for herself, Mrs. KIM of California, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 6490. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to limit the penalty for late enrollment under part B of the Medicare Program to 15 percent and twice the period of no enrollment, and to exclude periods of COBRA, retiree, and VA coverage from such late enrollment penalty; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina (for himself and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 6491. A bill to authorize the seizure and forfeiture of assets of Russian kleptocrats, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MANN (for himself and Mr. MRVAN):

H. Con. Res. 79. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the rotunda of the Capitol for the National Prayer Breakfast; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H. Res. 892. A resolution expressing support for a whole child approach to education and recognizing the role of parents, educators, and community members in providing a whole child approach to education for each student; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Mr. BACON, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. MCGARVEY, Ms. BUSH, Ms. CARAVEO, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. TRONE, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Ms. TOKUDA):

H. Res. 893. A resolution designating November 2023 as "National Homeless Children and Youth Awareness Month"; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. KUSTOFF (for himself and Mr. MILLER of Ohio):

H. Res. 894. A resolution strongly condemning and denouncing the drastic rise of antisemitism in the United States and around the world; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LANDSMAN (for himself and Mr. GOLDMAN of New York):

H. Res. 895. A resolution condemning calls from Members of Congress for the expulsion of Palestinians from the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. HAGEMAN:

H.R. 6481.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to require the Secretary of the Interior to reimburse the fee for an expression of interest if the expression of interest becomes inactive, and for other purposes.

By Mr. FULCHER:

H.R. 6482.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 allows Congress to make all laws "which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution" any of Congress' enumerated powers, including Congress's power over appropriations.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill revises environmental reviews of certain geothermal energy projects on federal land in order to expedite such projects.

By Mr. HUIZENGA:

H.R. 6483.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article One, Section Eight of the US Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Public Health Service Act to require greater transparency and accountability within the grant-making process of the National Institutes of Health.

By Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE:

H.R. 6484.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is introduced pursuant to the powers granted to Congress under the General Welfare Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 1), the Commerce Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 3), and the Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1 Sec. 8 Cl. 18). Further, this statement of constitutional authority is made for the sole purpose of compliance with clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of

The single subject of this legislation is: to expand Medicaid eligibility for our nation's foster youth

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 6485.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill prohibits the federal government, states, tribal nations, or localities from discriminating or taking adverse action against a child welfare provider that declines to provide services due to the provider's sincerely held religious beliefs or moral convictions. However, government entities may still take adverse action against a provider that declines to provide adoption or foster care services based on race, color or national origin.

By Mr. McGARVEY:

H.R. 6486.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is: Small Business

By Mr. MURPHY:

H.R. 6487.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend title XI of the Social Security Act to prohibit health plans from imposing fees on health care providers for electronic funds transfers and health care payment and remittance advice transactions.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 6488.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is: to designate certain areas of the District of Columbia as empowerment zones.

By Mrs. PELTOLA:

H.R. 6489.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide that Village Corporations shall not be required to convey land in trust to the State of Alaska for the establishment of Municipal Corporations.

By Ms. PORTER:

H.R. 6490.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to limit the penalty for late enrollment under part B of the Medicare Program to 15 percent and twice the period of no en-

rollment, and to exclude periods of COBRA, retiree, and VA coverage from such late enrollment penalty.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:

H.R. 6491.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To expedite administrative forfeiture of oligarch assets connected to Vladimir Putin and allow for proceeds to be transferred to Ukraine.

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 16: Mr. KHANNA.  
 H.R. 40: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.  
 H.R. 152: Mr. ROSENDALE and Mr. BARR.  
 H.R. 239: Mr. KHANNA.  
 H.R. 396: Mr. GARCIA of Illinois.  
 H.R. 443: Ms. SLOTKIN.  
 H.R. 513: Ms. SLOTKIN.  
 H.R. 537: Ms. SEWELL and Mr. BERGMAN.  
 H.R. 594: Mr. DELUZIO.  
 H.R. 595: Mr. DELUZIO.  
 H.R. 613: Mr. KHANNA.  
 H.R. 619: Ms. ADAMS, Mr. SORENSEN, and Ms. PETERSEN.  
 H.R. 681: Ms. SLOTKIN and Mr. PAPPAS.  
 H.R. 683: Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER.  
 H.R. 720: Mr. SELF.  
 H.R. 724: Mr. VASQUEZ.  
 H.R. 807: Mr. AMODEI, Mr. HARDER of California, and Ms. PETERSEN.  
 H.R. 866: Ms. BARRAGÁN.  
 H.R. 884: Mr. TORRES of New York.  
 H.R. 894: Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida.  
 H.R. 895: Ms. PETERSEN, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. CALVERT, and Mr. FEENSTRA.  
 H.R. 936: Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, and Mr. GROTHMAN.  
 H.R. 1015: Mr. GARAMENDI and Mr. FITZGERALD.  
 H.R. 1097: Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. MCGARVEY, and Mr. VAN ORDEN.  
 H.R. 1103: Ms. SALINAS.  
 H.R. 1117: Mr. PETERS and Ms. CRAIG.  
 H.R. 1150: Ms. STEVENS and Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.  
 H.R. 1202: Mr. NADLER, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, and Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.  
 H.R. 1222: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.  
 H.R. 1235: Ms. SPANBERGER.  
 H.R. 1305: Ms. CLARKE of New York and Mr. LATURNER.  
 H.R. 1321: Ms. CARAVEO and Mr. SCHIFF.  
 H.R. 1385: Mr. BENTZ.  
 H.R. 1413: Mr. BAIRD.  
 H.R. 1432: Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
 H.R. 1433: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.  
 H.R. 1458: Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. TONKO, and Ms. PETERSEN.  
 H.R. 1491: Mr. EVANS.  
 H.R. 1492: Mr. GOOD of Virginia.  
 H.R. 1503: Ms. KUSTER.  
 H.R. 1586: Mr. CARBAJAL and Mr. GOSAR.  
 H.R. 1610: Mr. NEHLS.  
 H.R. 1624: Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. KHANNA.  
 H.R. 1694: Mr. BABIN.  
 H.R. 1764: Mrs. PELTOLA.  
 H.R. 1801: Mr. CROW.  
 H.R. 1815: Mr. PASCRELL and Mr. SCHIFF.  
 H.R. 1833: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. RYAN, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. MCGARVEY, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. HORSFORD, and Mr. LANDSMAN.

H.R. 2367: Ms. CARAVEO.  
 H.R. 2377: Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina.  
 H.R. 2385: Ms. PINGREE.  
 H.R. 2400: Mr. LALOTA.  
 H.R. 2403: Mr. MRVAN.  
 H.R. 2407: Mr. TIMMONS and Ms. JACOBS.  
 H.R. 2413: Mr. KEATING.  
 H.R. 2423: Mr. SMUCKER.  
 H.R. 2604: Ms. JAYAPAL and Mr. MOULTON.  
 H.R. 2645: Ms. PETERSEN.  
 H.R. 2666: Ms. PETERSEN.  
 H.R. 2693: Mr. ROUZER.  
 H.R. 2706: Mr. STEUBE, Ms. TENNEY, and Ms. SLOTKIN.  
 H.R. 2713: Mr. QUIGLEY.  
 H.R. 2870: Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. WATERS, and Ms. PRESSLEY.  
 H.R. 2880: Mr. ALLEN.  
 H.R. 2889: Mrs. RAMIREZ.  
 H.R. 2891: Mr. THANEDAR.  
 H.R. 2922: Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEU, and Mr. CARBAJAL.  
 H.R. 2945: Ms. STANSBURY.  
 H.R. 2965: Ms. BUDZINSKI.  
 H.R. 2966: Mr. TONKO.  
 H.R. 3000: Mr. MOLINARO.  
 H.R. 3005: Mr. DELUZIO.  
 H.R. 3029: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.  
 H.R. 3036: Mr. PHILLIPS and Mr. ROUZER.  
 H.R. 3074: Mr. NADLER.  
 H.R. 3086: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.  
 H.R. 3136: Mr. SHERMAN.  
 H.R. 3139: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.  
 H.R. 3183: Ms. PETERSEN.  
 H.R. 3312: Ms. STANSBURY.  
 H.R. 3325: Mr. BACON, Mr. TRONE, Mr. LAWLER, and Mr. LYNCH.  
 H.R. 3380: Ms. PINGREE.  
 H.R. 3382: Ms. SPANBERGER.  
 H.R. 3433: Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. YAKYM, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. COHEN, Ms. TITUS, Ms. BROWN, Mr. VEASEY, and Ms. SLOTKIN.  
 H.R. 3475: Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. FROST, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. KHANNA, and Mr. CASAR.  
 H.R. 3497: Mrs. CAMMACK and Mr. VAN DREW.  
 H.R. 3519: Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mrs. FLETCHER, and Mr. MOYLAN.  
 H.R. 3520: Ms. PETERSEN.  
 H.R. 3530: Ms. KUSTER.  
 H.R. 3539: Ms. CARAVEO.  
 H.R. 3611: Mr. FEENSTRA.  
 H.R. 3639: Ms. CARAVEO.  
 H.R. 3651: Mr. SCHIFF and Mr. VAN ORDEN.  
 H.R. 3662: Mr. SMUCKER.  
 H.R. 3682: Mr. MAGAZINER.  
 H.R. 3719: Ms. CARAVEO.  
 H.R. 3777: Mr. D'ESPOSITO and Ms. PETERSEN.  
 H.R. 3781: Ms. JAYAPAL.  
 H.R. 3847: Mr. GRIJALVA.  
 H.R. 3850: Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. STANTON, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. LIEU, and Ms. OMAR.  
 H.R. 3853: Mr. LIEU.  
 H.R. 3879: Ms. PETERSEN.  
 H.R. 3910: Mr. BUCHSON and Mr. PHILLIPS.  
 H.R. 3970: Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Ms. PORTER, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. CASAR, Mr. LANDSMAN, and Mr. NORCROSS.  
 H.R. 4006: Mr. GUTHRIE.  
 H.R. 4046: Ms. DELBENE.  
 H.R. 4052: Mrs. RAMIREZ.  
 H.R. 4068: Ms. TLAIB, Mr. POCAN, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.  
 H.R. 4144: Mr. D'ESPOSITO.  
 H.R. 4149: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.  
 H.R. 4157: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.  
 H.R. 4212: Ms. DELBENE.  
 H.R. 4261: Mr. MEEKS, Mr. NADLER, Ms. BUSH, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

- H.R. 4274: Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida and Ms. PETERSEN.
- H.R. 4278: Mr. VAN ORDEN.
- H.R. 4289: Mr. BOWMAN and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
- H.R. 4293: Mr. SHERMAN.
- H.R. 4326: Ms. WEXTON, Ms. BROWN, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MAGAZINER, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. PORTER, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. CASTRO of Texas.
- H.R. 4335: Mr. VARGAS and Mr. RASKIN.
- H.R. 4393: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.
- H.R. 4417: Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina.
- H.R. 4422: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WEXTON, Ms. BROWN, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. RYAN, Mr. MAGAZINER, Ms. PORTER, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. COHEN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. NORCROSS, and Mr. PAPPAS.
- H.R. 4438: Mr. VAN DREW.
- H.R. 4442: Mr. GOTTHEIMER and Mr. TRONE.
- H.R. 4524: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.
- H.R. 4541: Ms. DELBENE.
- H.R. 4551: Mr. LAWLER.
- H.R. 4565: Mr. SMUCKER and Ms. KUSTER.
- H.R. 4569: Mr. EVANS, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, and Ms. CHU.
- H.R. 4571: Mr. VASQUEZ.
- H.R. 4576: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
- H.R. 4579: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. DELUZZIO, and Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
- H.R. 4581: Ms. STANSBURY.
- H.R. 4602: Mr. POCAN.
- H.R. 4619: Mr. MOOLENAAR.
- H.R. 4663: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Ms. CRAIG, and Mr. GIMENEZ.
- H.R. 4713: Ms. CARAVEO.
- H.R. 4721: Mr. LUCAS and Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas.
- H.R. 4731: Mr. TRONE.
- H.R. 4736: Mr. SMUCKER, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. VALADAO, and Ms. TOKUDA.
- H.R. 4764: Mr. MOORE of Alabama.
- H.R. 4840: Ms. NORTON.
- H.R. 4856: Mr. SMUCKER.
- H.R. 4867: Mr. LAMALFA.
- H.R. 4893: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Ms. PETERSEN.
- H.R. 4899: Ms. CARAVEO.
- H.R. 4931: Mr. RASKIN and Mr. MOLINARO.
- H.R. 4937: Mr. LAMALFA.
- H.R. 4966: Ms. LEE of California and Ms. NORTON.
- H.R. 5012: Mr. SOTO, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. SPANBERGER, and Mrs. FLETCHER.
- H.R. 5035: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
- H.R. 5075: Ms. LEE of California and Ms. NORTON.
- H.R. 5077: Mr. WILLIAMS of New York.
- H.R. 5099: Mr. VAN ORDEN.
- H.R. 5217: Mr. LIEU.
- H.R. 5246: Mrs. HAYES.
- H.R. 5254: Mr. SCHIFF.
- H.R. 5256: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
- H.R. 5399: Ms. TENNEY, Mr. LANDSMAN, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, and Mr. LIEU.
- H.R. 5401: Mr. VALADAO.
- H.R. 5467: Mr. BEYER.
- H.R. 5487: Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. STRICKLAND, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
- H.R. 5526: Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. BACON, Mr. NEHLS, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. KUSTOFF, and Ms. SPANBERGER.
- H.R. 5530: Mr. BENTZ.
- H.R. 5532: Ms. TITUS.
- H.R. 5535: Mr. GROTHMAN.
- H.R. 5539: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
- H.R. 5555: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia and Mr. BLIRAKIS.
- H.R. 5564: Ms. PORTER and Mr. CONNOLLY.
- H.R. 5577: Mr. MORAN.
- H.R. 5631: Mr. SMUCKER and Mr. ALFORD.
- H.R. 5634: Mr. CRANE.
- H.R. 5646: Ms. WILD, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. BALDERSON, and Ms. BARRAGÁN.
- H.R. 5647: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.
- H.R. 5675: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
- H.R. 5685: Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. STANTON, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. LIEU, Ms. OMAR, Mr. IVEY, and Ms. SPANBERGER.
- H.R. 5790: Mr. MOORE of Alabama and Mr. EZELL.
- H.R. 5796: Mr. TIMMONS.
- H.R. 5806: Mr. BOST.
- H.R. 5807: Ms. ROSS and Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.
- H.R. 5816: Ms. LOFGREN.
- H.R. 5819: Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Ms. PETERSEN, Ms. STANSBURY, and Mr. BACON.
- H.R. 5838: Mrs. HINSON.
- H.R. 5863: Mr. CASE, Mr. LIEU, and Ms. PORTER.
- H.R. 5908: Mr. MOLINARO.
- H.R. 5928: Ms. PINGREE, Mr. CROW, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. TRONE, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Mr. PAPPAS.
- H.R. 5988: Mr. PANETTA, Mr. HERN, and Mr. FINSTAD.
- H.R. 5989: Mr. VASQUEZ.
- H.R. 5995: Ms. BALINT.
- H.R. 6031: Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. CASAR, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. PORTER, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. OMAR, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. COHEN, Mr. STANTON, and Mrs. TORRES of California.
- H.R. 6033: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ and Ms. CARAVEO.
- H.R. 6043: Mr. KILMER.
- H.R. 6045: Ms. PETERSEN.
- H.R. 6049: Mr. HIMES, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
- H.R. 6053: Mr. CASE, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. OMAR, Mr. KILMER, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
- H.R. 6093: Mrs. SYKES and Ms. CARAVEO.
- H.R. 6161: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
- H.R. 6175: Mrs. LESKO, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. NORMAN, and Mr. BIGGS.
- H.R. 6178: Mr. MAGAZINER.
- H.R. 6179: Mr. BAIRD.
- H.R. 6186: Ms. LEE of Florida.
- H.R. 6189: Ms. STEFANIK and Mr. FEENSTRA.
- H.R. 6198: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
- H.R. 6203: Mrs. HAYES, Ms. CARAVEO, Mr. TORRES of New York, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.
- H.R. 6205: Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. BUCHSHON, and Ms. CRAIG.
- H.R. 6244: Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. NEHLS, and Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas.
- H.R. 6246: Ms. SEWELL.
- H.R. 6248: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
- H.R. 6249: Mr. DESAULNIER and Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
- H.R. 6281: Mr. CASE.
- H.R. 6282: Ms. STANSBURY.
- H.R. 6285: Mr. CAREY, Ms. TENNEY, and Mr. BURLISON.
- H.R. 6298: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.
- H.R. 6309: Ms. KUSTER.
- H.R. 6318: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
- H.R. 6319: Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. TONKO, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. CLEAVER.
- H.R. 6341: Ms. BALINT.
- H.R. 6348: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. MFUME, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. CHU, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. TONKO, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. LIEU, and Mr. NEGUSE.
- H.R. 6373: Ms. MACE and Mr. VAN ORDEN.
- H.R. 6377: Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. BUDZINSKI, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
- H.R. 6378: Mr. WOMACK.
- H.R. 6379: Ms. CARAVEO.
- H.R. 6380: Mr. FERGUSON.
- H.R. 6382: Mr. BACON.
- H.R. 6399: Mr. EDWARDS.
- H.R. 6408: Ms. TENNEY, Mr. FERGUSON, and Mr. TORRES of New York.
- H.R. 6416: Mr. NORCROSS and Mr. CROW.
- H.R. 6417: Mr. CROW and Mr. TRONE.
- H.R. 6437: Mr. CÁRDENAS.
- H.R. 6438: Mr. NADLER.
- H.R. 6451: Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. BEYER, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
- H.R. 6456: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
- H.R. 6459: Mr. GOSAR.
- H.R. 6460: Mr. GOSAR.
- H.R. 6470: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. NADLER, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. TITUS, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
- H.R. 6473: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
- H.J. Res. 13: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
- H.J. Res. 66: Mr. DUNN of Florida.
- H.J. Res. 76: Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. BALINT, and Mr. TORRES of New York.
- H.J. Res. 98: Mr. LANGWORTHY and Mr. MEUSER.
- H.J. Res. 99: Mr. AMODEI.
- H. Con. Res. 47: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
- H. Con. Res. 76: Mr. SCHIFF.
- H. Res. 105: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
- H. Res. 149: Mr. DOGGETT.
- H. Res. 317: Ms. SLOTKIN.
- H. Res. 319: Mr. RYAN.
- H. Res. 332: Mr. MENENDEZ.
- H. Res. 485: Ms. PORTER.
- H. Res. 527: Ms. TITUS.
- H. Res. 532: Mr. RASKIN.
- H. Res. 561: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
- H. Res. 627: Mr. BENTZ.
- H. Res. 644: Mr. DESAULNIER.
- H. Res. 677: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
- H. Res. 683: Mr. HUNT.
- H. Res. 685: Ms. DE LA CRUZ.
- H. Res. 697: Mrs. BICE.
- H. Res. 717: Mr. RUIZ.
- H. Res. 720: Mr. LAWLER.
- H. Res. 738: Mrs. DINGELL and Mr. BERGMAN.
- H. Res. 762: Ms. TITUS, Mr. SCHIFF, and Ms. GARCIA of Texas.
- H. Res. 793: Ms. SCANLON, Ms. VAN DUYN, and Mr. HUNT.
- H. Res. 806: Ms. KUSTER, Mrs. LESKO, Ms. ROSS, and Mr. BUCHSHON.
- H. Res. 839: Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. FERGUSON.
- H. Res. 850: Mrs. LESKO, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, and Mr. D'ESPOSITO.
- H. Res. 861: Mr. COSTA.
- H. Res. 867: Ms. CARAVEO.
- H. Res. 874: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. LOFGREN, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. SCANLON, Mrs. FOUSHEE, and Mr. MCGARVEY.
- H. Res. 881: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. HUFFMAN.
- H. Res. 883: Mr. GARBARINO.
- H. Res. 885: Mr. BACON and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
- H. Res. 888: Mr. LALOTA, Mrs. GONZALEZ-COLÓN, Mr. OWENS, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. MANN, Mr. FRY, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. MOLINARO, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. GUEST, Mrs. BICE, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
- H. Res. 889: Mr. LALOTA.