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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Guest Chaplain, Bishop Larry Lawrence Brandon, Praise Temple, Shreveport, Louisiana, offered the following prayer:

Almighty and compassionate God, we humbly gather our hearts in solemn prayer for the United States of America.

Grant us, O guiding light, the serenity that breeds peace, embracing our land from coast to coast.

May justice, impartial and unwavering love flow through the veins of society, uniting us in the pursuit of equality for all.

Bestow upon the United States House of Representatives the wisdom to navigate complexities, fostering unity and understanding in their decisions. Lord, please, illuminate their minds to serve with integrity for the betterment of our diverse yet United States of America.

May the spirit of collaboration prevail over discord, and may the collective aspirations of liberty and justice be the compass that guides this great Nation toward a future of harmony, where all voices are heard and the flame of democracy continues to burn bright.

God bless America and help us, America, to bless You.

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 gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. DEAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING BISHOP LARRY LAWRENCE BRANDON

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KEAN of New Jersey). Without objection, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to introduce my longtime friend, Bishop Larry Lawrence Brandon, who I have the honor of hosting as our guest chaplain in the House today.

Bishop Brandon is the senior pastor of Praise Temple Missionary Baptist Church, which has faithfully served the people of the Shreveport-Bossier area for over three decades.

In 1992, Bishop Brandon and six others founded Praise Temple. They met in the homes of local church leaders for prayer offerings and Bible study until they eventually moved into a worship space in Shreveport.

Under his dutiful stewardship, the church flourished. They have built the "church where the doors swing on the hinges of love," as their motto states.

Last year, he moved back to his hometown of Oakland, California, to expand his ministry, but he holds deep ties to our area back home and is a beloved member of our community.

Bishop Brandon has been a trusted leader in the Shreveport-Bossier area. He has served in leadership roles in local nonprofits, civic organizations,

faith-based ministries, and still serves as president of the Northwest Louisiana Community Development Corporation.

Bishop Brandon has been a great advocate for the sanctity of human life, and his work in the community and in biblical scholarship has served as an important reminder of the eternal hope that we have in Christ.

I am grateful that he is joining us as our guest chaplain.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

PROFOUND IMPACT OF DR. ROBERTO E. GARCIA

(Ms. DE LA CRUZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the profound impact of Roberto E. Garcia from south Texas.

Born in the humblest of circumstances in Alice, Texas, he embraced the values of faith, family, and hard work. From serving our Nation bravely in the Navy during the Vietnam war to transforming the educational landscape in school districts like San Diego ISD and Robstown ISD, Dr. Garcia's dedication is unparalleled.

He is not only an educator, but a cornerstone in our community, establishing the Alice soccer program, supporting the church, and advocating for veterans.

I commend Dr. Garcia for his unwavering commitment to service, his resilience in the face of adversity, and his enduring contributions to the Lone Star State and our Nation.

The people's House salutes Dr. Garcia.

□ 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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BUILDING A STRONG ECONOMY

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

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in just a few years we have had a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic, a worldwide energy crisis, and as a result, the fastest inflation in 40 years.

The cost of living is too high, and the financial strain on American families is real.

Americans just needed help; so last Congress, Democrats took action:

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is creating 600,000 good-paying union jobs next year alone, with many more to follow.

The Chips and Science Act is bringing manufacturing back to the United States.

The Inflation Reduction Act is reducing the deficit and lowering household costs from energy to prescription drugs.

While we acted, Republicans parroted misleading talking points, falsely claiming that this legislation somehow hurts Americans.

Instead, America sees progress. Annual inflation fell to its lowest in more than 2½ years. Gas prices have declined nearly 40 percent. The IRS collected \$122 million from wealthy tax evaders.

As we end this year better than we started, I urge House Republicans to reject the politics of disinformation and tearing down. Instead, join us and build this strong economy.

CONGRATULATING CORPORAL RON SLAGLE ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mrs. HINSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor U.S. Air Force veteran and Marion police officer, Corporal Ron Slagle for his 25 years spent protecting our Iowa communities.

Last month, Corporal Slagle signed off on his last shift with the Marion Police Department, my hometown, with a final 10-42 alongside his family and friends.

From his time in the Air Force to his dedication to the Marion Police Department, and his advocacy to ensure that law enforcement officers, first responders, and veterans have access to mental health care resources, Corporal Slagle embodies what it means to be a public servant.

It is no surprise that he has instilled the value of service in his children, who have also embraced careers to help others.

He has a true servant's heart, and I wish him all the best in his retirement. I congratulate Ron.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN BIG TEN CHAMPIONS

(Mrs. McCLAIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the University of Michigan football team for winning the Big Ten championship.

This past weekend, the Wolverines capped off their dominant regular season with a Big Ten title, earning themselves the number one rank in the country and a trip to the coveted football playoffs.

However, this season for the Wolverines has been characterized by more than just victories on the field. This program has a saying: "Those who stay will be champions."

The team may be champions and are champions on the field, but they will also be champions off the field and forever in their personal lives.

This team faced challenges at every level with national ridicule of their program and their coach, Coach Harbaugh, yet they persisted. The young men of Team 144 took every bump in stride and held onto the words of former head coach, Bo Schembechler, and they took those words to heart: The team, the team, the team.

Team 144 is an embodiment of what it means to work as a team and overcome adversity both on and off the field. We are so proud of these young men and Coach Harbaugh and look forward to cheering them on in the playoffs. Congratulations, Team 144, and Go Blue.

HONORING GEORGE JOSEPH HIGGINS

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

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, silence your heart and look into the eyes of this young American. Tomorrow he would have been 101 years old.

On December 8, 1941, for his 19th birthday, he got World War II. Like millions of other young men across the country, when the attack on Pearl Harbor was announced the following day after that fateful morning on December 7, this young man stood up, went and joined the Navy.

The Navy sent him to flight school. He served his country as a pilot in World War II. He died many years later as I held his hand. This man is my father, George Joseph Higgins.

Happy birthday, Dad.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RELATING TO "IMPROVING INCOME DRIVEN REPAYMENT FOR THE WILLIAM D. FORD FEDERAL DIRECT LOAN PROGRAM AND THE FEDERAL FAMILY EDUCATION LOAN (FFEL) PROGRAM"

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 906, I call up the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 88) providing

for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to "Improving Income Driven Repayment for the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program and the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program", and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 906, the joint resolution is considered read.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES. 88

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress disapproves the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to "Improving Income Driven Repayment for the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program and the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program" (88 Fed. Reg. 43820 (July 10, 2023)), and such rule shall have no force or effect.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The joint resolution shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce or their respective designees.

The gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 30 minutes. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.J. Res. 88, a Congressional Review Act resolution authored by Representative McCLAIN of Michigan, that would bar the Biden administration from spending hundreds of billions of dollars by executive fiat.

On June 30 of this year, mere hours after the Supreme Court decapitated the administration's previous student loan scheme, the Department of Education unveiled its so-called Savings on a Valuable Education (SAVE) plan. Despite its deceptive name, this is without question the most expensive regulation in our Nation's history.

Mr. Speaker, how bad will the damage be? The Congressional Budget Office estimates this new IDR program will actually cost over \$260 billion over the next 10 years, over \$100 billion more than what the Department was telling the American people.

□ 0915

But wait. There is more. Outside experts estimate the cost to be as much as \$559 billion.

Clearly, this is not a repayment plan, and Democrats have not been shy about their intentions for reshaping postsecondary education.

Indeed, Democrats couldn't get their socialist free college fantasy through Congress, so they are attempting to shove it down the throats of Americans through the loan program by executive fiat.

Mr. Speaker, millions of Americans are grasping their wallets at this news—and rightfully so. They have already been pummeled by inflation for months on end, and now they are staring down an avalanche of debt this country cannot afford that will surely bury them if Congress doesn't put an end to this madness.

H.J. Res. 88 offers us the opportunity to send a clear signal to this administration that we will no longer tolerate a dictator in chief.

Here is the simple truth: Money cannot be printed out of thin air without consequences. We should pass H.J. Res. 88 and put an end to this reckless use of taxpayer dollars.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.J. Res. 88, the Congressional Review Act on Saving on a Valuable Education plan.

Last August, the Department of Education launched the SAVE plan, a new, generous, income-driven repayment, IDR, plan to significantly lower payments for many low-and moderate-income borrowers.

Additionally, if borrowers make their full payment but their full required payment is not enough to cover the accrued interest, the government covers the rest of the interest. This means that the SAVE plan eliminates the indignity of balances growing due to unpaid interest.

The improved application allows borrowers to have their income securely assessed through the Internal Revenue Service so that they don't have to recertify their incomes every year.

Finally, repealing the SAVE plan would be extremely disruptive for millions of Americans enrolled in this program.

In fact, the Department reported last month that 5.5 million borrowers have already enrolled in the program, including nearly 18,000 borrowers in my district and about 8,600 in the district represented by the gentlewoman from North Carolina. They are already enjoying the improvements in the plan and the lower payments.

Mr. Speaker, we are responsible for strengthening support for those seeking a college degree, not just because everyone should be forced to get one, but because those who want a college

degree should have access to that opportunity.

As President Johnson noted when he signed the Higher Education Act into law in 1965, he said that it meant that a high school senior anywhere in this great land of ours can apply to any college or university in any of the 50 States and not be turned away because the family is poor.

Repealing the SAVE plan does nothing to make higher education more affordable or accessible, and for that reason, Mr. Speaker, I oppose the bill.

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. McCLAIN).

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman Foxx for yielding time.

I want to remind the American people that every time someone says the government pays, the government will pay, it is not the government because the government doesn't produce anything.

When they refer to the government, they refer to you, the American taxpayer, will pay. The government doesn't pay. The American taxpayer pays.

I want to clear that up just to make sure every time we hear the government will pay, that is really the hardworking American people. The government is just choosing how they spend the American taxpayers' money.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this H.J. Res. 88, a Congressional Review Act resolution of disapproval I introduced to block President Biden's extreme student loan giveaway.

This new regulation, ironically dubbed the SAVE plan, is the most expensive regulation in our Nation's history and is a backdoor attempt to ram the administration's socialist free college fantasy down the throats of hardworking taxpayers. It is their money.

According to the Penn Wharton Budget Model, this plan will cost as much as \$559 billion over the next decade, far exceeding the price tag of the President's illegal student loan bailout ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.

Further, the Biden administration's plan would completely ruin our postsecondary education financing system, putting higher costs on taxpayers who never attended college in the first place.

I can't buy a house. I choose not to buy a house, but my neighbor chooses to buy a house, and then I get to foot the bill. That is what this administration is asking us to sign up for unconstitutionally.

Experts from across the political spectrum agree that Biden's income-driven repayment plan makes repayment the exception instead of the norm.

Just 2 in 10 undergraduate borrowers will fully repay their loans, and the average student will pay roughly half of what is borrowed from taxpayers in the first place.

Not only does this plan shift the cost of loans from the borrower, the person who actually took out the loan, it shifts the cost to the person who never took the loan out to begin with, the hardworking taxpayer.

It also will make college more expensive. Under the President's plan, colleges will continue to increase prices and force students to actually have to borrow more that they don't need to repay, knowing that this is ultimately the hardworking taxpayers who will foot the bill.

The Congressional Budget Office even estimates that the SAVE plan will increase student borrowing by \$100 billion over the next decade. Increasing costs by \$100 billion—I am not sure what is saved.

In other words, the President is forcing through the most expensive regulation in history, increasing prices to attend college—well, that doesn't make any sense—and then telling taxpayers, many of them who didn't attend college, or if they already did attend college, they get to pay off their loans and somebody else's loans. They need to subsidize the ones who went to college even if they didn't go to college. This is unfair and unconstitutional.

The Biden administration is more concerned with scoring political points with his base through executive rule than actually fixing the student loan issue.

Republicans actually have a plan, one that is fiscally responsible like the FAIR Act that I introduced with Representative OWENS and Chairman FOXX, that would actually fix the Democrat-created problems with our loan repayment system.

President Biden has attempted to write off as much as \$1 trillion of student loans since taking office without congressional approval.

It is clear that President Biden and the unelected bureaucrats he has put in power have no respect for the hardworking taxpayers that he is forcing to foot the bill time and time again.

This administration has ignored the will of Congress and the Supreme Court, I might add, in his radical free college approach.

The Supreme Court said enough. The Education and Workforce Committee said enough. Now it's time for the House to say enough.

I strongly urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.J. Res. 88, reaffirm Congress' constitutional power of the purse, and defend taxpayers across the country.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH).

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member SCOTT and his staff for their work on this issue.

I rise today on behalf of the thousands of working families in my district who are struggling under the burden of seemingly endless student loan debt.

A college credential continues to be the surest path to economic security, and we must help to make sure that every student, regardless of their background or their ZIP Code, has the resources necessary to achieve their dreams through education.

That means setting our students up for success, not confining them to a lifetime of making payments that barely cover the interest on their loans.

The American people who stand to be harmed by this bill are more than just numbers. They are not just statistics. These are real live human beings with real life experiences.

I would remind my colleague, Mrs. McCLAIN of Michigan, that in her district, there are at least 9,900 borrowers enrolled in the SAVE plan, which will significantly lower their monthly payments.

If Republicans succeed and this bill undoes the income-driven repayment plan, more than 5 million student loan borrowers enrolled in the plan will see their monthly payments go up.

These are real people. They are nurses. They are engineers. They are teachers with families and mortgages and groceries that they need to buy who are going to lose the opportunity to pay off their loans in a way that really fits their budgets.

The American people are tired of these empty and broken promises. They are tired of being asked to give more and more of themselves while it gets increasingly expensive to acquire the skills necessary just to make a decent living.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to oppose this bill.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

I think Mrs. MCBATH just made my argument for me. She said the American people are tired of being asked to give more, more, more.

Well, in her district, she has almost 300,000 people without a bachelor's degree, and the cost per person for what the Biden administration is doing is \$3,768.

In Representative SCOTT's district, 355,000 have no bachelor's degree. They are being forced to cough up \$3,768 for people who don't want to pay their bills.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD).

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairwoman for the time this morning.

I rise today in support of H.J. Res. 88, a resolution that will nullify President Biden's irresponsible student loan repayment plan.

It is no secret that President Biden wants to borrow and spend taxpayer dollars to force you and your children to pay for other people's education.

Earlier this year, Biden vetoed my bipartisan resolution that nullified his student loan transfer scheme.

Thankfully, the Supreme Court agreed with Congress that unilateral

Federal spending for outright forgiveness by the President is unconstitutional.

However, the administration lost no time in devising yet another scheme to transfer loan debt to taxpayers, this time under the guise of repayment.

The Biden administration's new repayment scheme would permit even more graduates to contribute even less money to loan payments.

These borrowers, who voluntarily took taxpayer money, will contribute just 5 percent of their monthly income to the loan.

They can also be exempt from paying interest, and if enough time passes, the loan will be forgiven altogether or actually paid for by other Americans.

The Biden administration sells this scheme by promising it will reduce many borrowers' loan payments to zero. However, the American taxpayer will foot the bill.

I am reminded of October of 2020, the vote-buying scheme that was the previous student loan transfer scheme, transferring that debt to other Americans.

Policies like this undermine personal responsibility and teach a generation to have little regard for the value of money.

Thanks to Bidenflation, the dollar has far less buying power today than when he took office. Americans feel this at the grocery store, the gas pump, and when paying their rent and utility bills.

Yet, this new scheme means that at least \$276 billion in loans paid out to students will never be returned to the Treasury as promised.

□ 0930

As he overspends by \$200 billion a month and drives us to \$34 trillion in debt, the President may personally be insulated from the impact of his reckless, wasteful borrowing and spending, but the American people are certainly suffering from his harmful policies.

Many of my constituents paid their way through college or didn't go to college because they couldn't afford it, and they should not have to cover Biden's \$276 billion in student loans.

As Dr. FOXX said just a moment ago, my district also has an example. I have 293,000 individuals in my district who don't have a college degree, and they should not have to pay their share, \$3,800 each, for this latest student loan transfer scheme by the President.

Over the last 3 years, our government has nearly destroyed the student loan system by freezing payments, promising forgiveness, and changing loan terms. It has to stop. Americans cannot afford it.

Mr. Speaker, we can help today by voting in favor of this legislation.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I remind my colleagues that in my colleague from Virginia's district, there are over 11,000 borrowers

already enrolled in the SAVE Plan, which significantly lowered their monthly payments.

I will quote from a letter that we received from the AFT, the American Federation of Teachers, which says, in part: "For decades, students have been told that a college education is one of the most important vehicles to get ahead, but years of disinvestment and the actions of predatory loan servicers drastically tightened the shackles of debt, destroying students' budgets. And COVID-19 made that predicament far worse. Fortunately, the Biden administration stepped up with a plan to help student loan borrowers."

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD this letter from AFT and another letter from the National Education Association.

AFT,
December 4, 2023.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the 1.7 million members of the American Federation of Teachers, I strongly urge you to reject H.J. Res. 88, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the Saving on a Valuable Education student loan repayment plan, the Biden administration's improvement to income-driven repayment plans.

The SAVE plan is the most affordable student loan repayment plan ever—and is sorely needed.

For decades, students have been told that a college education is one of the most important vehicles to get ahead, but years of disinvestment and the actions of predatory loan servicers drastically tightened the shackles of debt, destroying students' budgets. And COVID-19 made that predicament far worse. Fortunately, the Biden administration stepped up with a plan to help student loan borrowers.

Even as some members of Congress and outside groups have moved to undermine efforts to achieve a more permanent solution for the broken student loan system and its wide-ranging impacts, and have refused to move forward on bold solutions to make college more affordable on the front end, like free college, the president has recognized that there must be a relief valve for those drowning in student loan debt. We fully support the administration doing what is in its power and building on the tool of income-driven repayment to create the SAVE plan.

This plan is the result of a thorough negotiated rulemaking process and of the administration's commitment to helping student loan borrowers who've had their lives derailed by overwhelming student debt. Congress should be building on the Biden administration's actions to make student loans affordable, not undermining those actions.

The SAVE plan will ensure that borrowers never see their balance grow because of accruing interest, as long as they keep up with their required payments; this is particularly significant for public service workers, who all too often nervously watch their balance balloon while working toward Public Service Loan Forgiveness, even as they work hard to make their monthly payments.

The plan also cuts payments on undergraduate loans in half (from 10 percent to 5 percent of a borrower's discretionary income), updates the formula for determining a borrower's discretionary income (to 225 percent of the federal poverty guidelines based on family size), and provides a shorter time to earn forgiveness (10-24 years) for those borrowers who've carried low-balance loans for at least a decade.

Tens of millions of families are struggling under the yoke of \$1.7 trillion in student debt, and Congress and the administration must do all they can to provide a lifeline to those drowning in student loans. The SAVE plan is an important piece of that relief, which we fully support. This resolution will show Americans which members of Congress are going out of their way to support loading them up with additional student debt. I urge you to reject this callous resolution.

Sincerely,

Randi Weingarten,
President, American Federation of Teachers.

DECEMBER 5, 2023.

Hon. ROBERT C. SCOTT,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN SCOTT: On behalf of the National Education Association's 3 million members and the 50 million students they teach and support in public schools and colleges, we urge you to vote NO on H.J. Res. 88, as the Senate has already done. The resolution would use the Congressional Review Act to overturn the Biden-Harris Administration's new rule implementing the Saving on a Valuable Education (SAVE) Plan for federal student loan borrowers. Votes on this issue may be included in the NEA Report Card for the 118th Congress.

Millions of borrowers—many of whom are facing significant financial struggles—are coping with their first student bills since the COVID-19 pandemic. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau found that about 1 in 5 borrowers has risk factors that suggest they will struggle with the resumption of payments. Income-driven repayment (IDR) plans are a key safety net; borrowers enrolled in IDR plans default at much lower rates than those in non-IDR plans. However, for too many borrowers, these plans were not working well enough to protect them from hardship. Many borrowers struggled to navigate the bureaucratic hurdles of enrolling in and staying enrolled in a plan. Even for those who were enrolled, their monthly payments were often too high. In addition, due to interest accrual, many borrowers watched their balances balloon despite making on-time payments for years.

NEA's 2021 report on student loan debt found that no segment of the educator workforce is spared the burden of student loan debt. Four out of 10 educators said struggling to pay off their loans and financial worries about the loans were negatively affecting their physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

The Biden-Harris administration created the SAVE Plan to provide meaningful financial relief to borrowers and help ease their transition back to repayment. More than 4 million borrowers are already enrolled and tens of millions more, including educators, are eligible. The SAVE Plan is crucial for educators and other public sector workers, because being enrolled in an IDR is an essential requirement for those seeking Public Service Loan Forgiveness.

The SAVE Plan targets benefits to low- and moderate-income borrowers by lowering their monthly loan payments and protecting more of their income—up to 225 percent of the federal poverty level—to enable them to better cover basic needs such as food, housing, and child care. It also ensures that borrowers never see their balance grow as long as they keep up with their required payments. The White House estimates this change will mean that 85 percent of community college borrowers will be debt-free within 10 years. That would not only improve the lives and financial future of the borrowers themselves; it has the potential to change the trajectory for their entire families.

Most Americans—even those without student loans—understand the severity of the student debt crisis and how it affects those

they love. Please vote NO on H.J. Res. 88 and support the administration's efforts to protect millions of current and future borrowers from financial harm.

Sincerely,

MARC EGAN,
Director of Government Relations,
National Education Association.

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS).

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.J. Res. 88, which I am a cosponsor of.

This Congressional Review Act would stop President Biden's radical SAVE Plan that alters the income-driven repayment program to redefine the vast majority of borrowers as financially distressed.

It saves nothing. In fact, in my business, it is called false advertising, and costing the taxpayer an estimated \$559 billion is effectively a loan cancellation program in disguise.

Who is talking about the lenders? Who is talking about the people who loaned the money, the people of America?

In June, President Biden's unconstitutional plan to cancel outstanding loan debt was struck down by the Supreme Court, which stated that the authority to cancel student loans lies with Congress and Congress only, not with President Biden.

This latest plan by President Biden is yet another attempt to ignore the Supreme Court and sidestep Congress even after members of his own party have admitted the executive branch lacks the authority to do so.

Yesterday, the President announced that his administration approved another \$4.8 billion in student loan cancellation, bringing the current total to over \$130 billion, basically sponsoring deadbeats.

This is a slap in the face to the taxpayer, forcing the 87 percent of Americans who do not hold any Federal student loan debt and who have made sound financial decisions to foot the bill for those unwilling to pay off the debt they chose to rack up.

What this administration refuses to admit to the American people is that this is not debt cancellation or debt forgiveness but a shift in responsibility from the borrowers to the pocketbooks of hardworking families.

In Texas, where I come from, a deal is a deal. You pay your debt back, and a handshake still works.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.J. Res. 88 and put a stop to this administration's unlawful attack on the American taxpayer. In God We Trust.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I remind my colleagues that in the gentleman from Texas' district, there are over 8,000 borrowers already enrolled in the SAVE Plan. They are already saving money, and the passage of this resolution would increase their monthly payments.

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER).

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairwoman for her leadership on this.

I rise in strong support of H.J. Res. 88 to block President Biden's taxpayer-funded student loan bailout.

Here we go again. If you don't succeed, and the Supreme Court says it is not constitutional, well, let's find another way, find another mechanism.

That is exactly what we are facing today.

We are standing in the gap, Mr. Speaker. This rule unjustly imposes an excessive burden on hardworking American taxpayers, who should not be forced to shoulder the responsibility for student debt that is not their own.

It is not a coincidence that on the same day the Supreme Court found the Biden administration's first attempt at loan forgiveness unconstitutional, the Department of Education announced this final rule to allow a majority of bachelor's degree student loan borrowers to avoid paying back even the principal on their loans.

Let me be clear: This rule does not offer genuine debt forgiveness. Instead, it shifts the weight of \$559 billion in Federal student loans onto the shoulders of almost 90 percent of Americans who don't have those student loans. This includes individuals who may earn significantly less than those who took out the loans in the first place.

Rather than addressing the root causes of a student loan debt crisis, the administration would rather transfer the financial burden onto taxpayers, exacerbating our ongoing issues with inflation and contributing further to our staggering \$33 trillion of national debt. This approach is not only flawed but fundamentally unfair to those who opted not to attend college, who diligently paid their own way through school, or who have already successfully paid off their own student loans.

This is what the White House is pushing. By the way, they are also pushing dollars into institutions like Harvard, Penn, and other schools where, as we found out this week, the presidents can't even admit there are anti-Semitic, anti-Jewish hatred messages in their own institutions happening. They can't even admit it.

As a Texan, I can confidently tell you that no hardworking constituent in my district wants to pay for any degree at Harvard using taxpayer money, certainly not ours. By the way, until the presidents of those universities acknowledge the anti-Jewish messages and hatred that has occurred on their college campuses, I urge Congress not to send another dollar of Federal money to any of those institutions.

House Republicans are blocking the Biden administration's illogical and

unreasonable student bailout program, and I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort.

Let's be clear: It is not fair and not American, and the Supreme Court has said it is unconstitutional that Americans should bear the burden of student loans that they did not incur themselves.

Mr. Speaker, for that reason, I urge a strong stance on this, and I urge my colleagues to protect the hard-earned dollars of American taxpayers and prevent further financial strain.

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

Mr. Speaker, I remind my colleagues that in the gentleman from Texas' district, over 6,600 borrowers have already enrolled in the SAVE Plan. They are already saving money, and the passage of this legislation would significantly increase their payments.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, my Republican colleagues clamored and complained about President Biden's plan to provide debt relief for millions of borrowers. Now, House Republicans are trying to saddle millions of Americans and future borrowers with more debt by repealing the SAVE Plan, which has already significantly lowered monthly payments for many low- and middle-income borrowers.

Repealing the SAVE Plan would cause significant disruption, but that seems to be the theme for my colleagues in this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, it is imperative and important to know how we got into the student loan crisis. It was created because the buying power of the Pell grant has fallen dramatically over the years. Originally, it covered about 80 percent of the cost of the tuition, room and board at a State college. Now, it covers less than 30 percent. All of that cost has been shifted over to the students.

The people who are debating today went to college when the Pell grant covered 80 percent, and you didn't have to take out a student loan. Now that we have shifted the cost to students, that is where the student loan problem comes from.

The States are supporting a significantly lower portion, covering a lower portion of the cost of the college—again, putting more of the burden on students.

We should be covering more of a percentage for students, and this is one of the ways to do that. By helping them pay their student loans, we can help pay their way through college.

We should pass proposals to make college more affordable for current and future students, not less. That is what the Biden administration has been doing.

We have heard complaints about the shift of this burden onto the taxpayer. I will tell you that we didn't hear any of that during the debate on the PPP loans, where businessmen got millions of dollars of PPP loans with handshakes and everything else and didn't

have to pay them back. We didn't hear any complaints about that, about the people who didn't own businesses. Yet, when a student tries to get an education, all of a sudden, we can't help them pay their loans.

We should be passing proposals to make college more affordable for these students and future students, yet here we are, wasting our time with passing this resolution. Everybody knows this isn't going anywhere.

In fact, the Senate last month took up a similar proposal, and it didn't pass. Whatever happens here, it is not going to pass the Senate, and the President is going to veto it anyway.

Again, the bottom line is that we are responsible for strengthening the support for those seeking a college degree, not because everybody should be forced to get one but because those who want a college education and to move up in life should be able to have access to that opportunity, not just the privileged few that can write the \$50,000 a year checks.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose H.J. Res. 88, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Biden administration knows that its so-called SAVE Plan is illegal, yet it has no problem putting its foot on the gas pedal.

As my colleague has admitted, this is helping them pay their way through college, which is what we have been saying. This is a radical plan by the Biden administration to pay for college expenses.

Let's make one thing perfectly clear: The so-called SAVE Plan is the administration's game of ruling by executive decree and pinning the tab on the taxpayer. The Biden administration is transferring debt from those who willingly took it out to those who didn't have a chance to go to college. This is unfair.

America's student loan system is broken, and this reckless, inflationary, and illegal expansion of executive authority will all but ensure it is doomed beyond repair.

This plan isn't about helping borrowers, and it sure isn't protecting taxpayers. It is about an upcoming election and an administration dead set on using the executive pen to reshape our country. That is the stone-cold truth of this matter.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.J. Res. 88, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Pursuant to House Resolution 906, the previous question is ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the joint resolution.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on passage of the joint resolution.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 45 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1015

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FLOOD) at 10 o'clock and 15 minutes a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

Passage of H.J. Res. 88; and

Adoption of H. Res. 914.

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

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RELATING TO "IMPROVING INCOME DRIVEN REPAYMENT FOR THE WILLIAM D. FORD FEDERAL DIRECT LOAN PROGRAM AND THE FEDERAL FAMILY EDUCATION LOAN (FFEL) PROGRAM"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the passage of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 88) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to "Improving Income Driven Repayment for the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program and the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program" on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the joint resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 210, nays 189, not voting 34, as follows:

[Roll No. 705]

YEAS—210

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

NAYS—189

Adams Cartwright DeLauro
Aguilar Casar DeiBene
Allred Case Deluzio
Auchincloss Casten Dingell
Balint Castor (FL) Doggett
Barragán Castro (TX) Eshoo
Beatty Cherfilus-Espaillat
Bera McCormick Evans
Beyer Chu Foster
Bishop (GA) Clark (MA) Foushee
Blumenauer Clarke (NY) Frankel, Lois
Blunt Rochester Clyburn Frost
Bonamici Cohen Gallego
Bowman Connolly Garamendi
Boyle (PA) Correa Garcia (IL)
Brown Costa Goldman (NY)
Brownley Courtney Gomez
Budzinski Crockett Gonzalez,
Bush Crow Vicente
Caraveo Cuellar Gottheimer
Carbajal Davids (KS) Green, Al (TX)
Cárdenas Grijalva Grijalva
Carson Dean (PA) Harder (CA)
Carter (LA) DeGette Hayes

Higgins (NY) Himes
Houlihan Moulton
Hoyle (OR) Mrvan
Ivey Mullin
Jackson (IL) Nadler
Jackson (NC) Napolitano
Neal Neguse
Jayapal Nickel
Jeffries Norcross
Johnson (GA) Ocasio-Cortez
Kaptur Pallone
Keating Panetta
Kelly (IL) Pappas
Khanna Pascarell
Kildee Payne
Kilmer Pelosi
Kim (NJ) Peltola
Krishnamoorthi Peters
Kuster Pettersen
Landsman Pingree
Larsen (WA) Pocan
Larson (CT) Pressley
Lee (CA) Quigley
Lee (PA) Ramirez
Levin Raskin
Lieu Ross
Lynch Ruiz
Magaziner Ruppersberger
Manning Ryan
Matsui Salinas
McBath Sánchez
McClellan Sarbanes
McCollum Scanlon
McGarvey Schakowsky
McGovern Schiff
Meeks Schneider
Menendez Scholten
Meng Schrler
Mfume Scott (VA)
Morelle

NOT VOTING—34

Amo Garcia, Robert
Buck Horsford
Cleaver Hoyer
Craig Huffman
Curtis Jackson Lee
Curtis Jacobs
Davis (NC) Kamlager-Dove
De La Cruz Lee (NV)
DeSaunier Leger Fernandez
Edwards Lofgren
Escobar McCarthy
Fletcher Miller (OH)
Garcia (TX)

□ 1043

Ms. SCHRIER and Mr. CARSON changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the joint resolution was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from today's vote series. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 705.

Stated against:

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 705.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unable to make the following vote. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 705.

Mr. AMO. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for one rollcall vote. Had I been present, I would have voted “no” on rollcall vote 705, H.J. Res. 88—Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to “Improving Income Driven Repayment for the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program and the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program.”

CENSURING REPRESENTATIVE JAMAAL BOWMAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on agreeing to the resolution (H. Res. 914) censuring Representative JAMAAL BOWMAN, 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 resolution.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 214, nays 191, answered “present” 5, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 706]

YEAS—214

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

NAYS—191

Adams	Goldman (NY)	Pascarell
Aguilar	Gomez	Payne
Allred	Gonzalez,	Pelosi
Amo	Vicente	Peltola
Auchincloss	Gottheimer	Peters
Balint	Green, Al (TX)	Pettersen
Barragan	Grijalva	Pingree
Beatty	Harder (CA)	Pocan
Bera	Higgins (NY)	Pressley
Beyer	Himes	Quigley
Bishop (GA)	Hoyer	Ramirez
Blumenauer	Hoyle (OR)	Raskin
Blunt Rochester	Huffman	Ruiz
Bonamici	Jackson (IL)	Ruppersberger
Bowman	Jackson (NC)	Ryan
Boyle (PA)	Jayapal	Salinas
Brown	Jeffries	Sanchez
Brownley	Johnson (GA)	Sarbanes
Budzinski	Kammlager-Dove	Scanlon
Bush	Kaptur	Schakowsky
Caraveo	Keating	Schiff
Carbajal	Kelly (IL)	Schneider
Cardenas	Khanna	Scholten
Carson	Kildee	Schrier
Carter (LA)	Kilmer	Scott (VA)
Cartwright	Kim (NJ)	Scott, David
Casas	Krishnamoorthi	Sewell
Case	Kuster	Sherman
Casten	Landsman	Sherrill
Castor (FL)	Larsen (WA)	Slotkin
Castro (TX)	Larson (CT)	Smith (WA)
Cherfilus-	Lee (CA)	Sorensen
McCormick	Lee (PA)	Soto
Chu	Leger Fernandez	Spanberger
Clark (MA)	Levin	Stansbury
Clarke (NY)	Lieu	Stanton
Clyburn	Lynch	Stevens
Cohen	Magaziner	Strickland
Connolly	Manning	Swalwell
Correa	Matsui	Sykes
Costa	McBath	Takano
Courtney	McClellan	Thanedar
Crockett	McCollum	Thompson (CA)
Crow	McGarvey	Thompson (MS)
Cuellar	McGovern	Titus
Davids (KS)	Meeks	Tlaib
Davis (IL)	Menendez	Tokuda
Dean (PA)	Meng	Tonko
DeGette	Mfume	Torres (CA)
DeLauro	Moore (WI)	Torres (NY)
DeBene	Morelle	Trahan
Deluzio	Moskowitz	Trone
Dingell	Moulton	Underwood
Doggett	Mrvan	Vargas
Eshoo	Mullin	Vasquez
Espallat	Nadler	Veasey
Evans	Napolitano	Velázquez
Foster	Neal	Wasserman
Foushee	Neguse	Schultz
Frankel, Lois	Nickel	Waters
Frost	Norcross	Watson Coleman
Gallego	Ocasio-Cortez	Wexton
Garamendi	Omar	Williams (GA)
Garcia (IL)	Pallone	Wilson (FL)
Golden (ME)	Panetta	

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—5

Harris	Ivey	Wild
Houlahan	Ross	

NOT VOTING—23

Cleaver	Garcia, Robert	Miller (WV)
Craig	Horsford	Norman
Davis (NC)	Jackson Lee	Phillips
DeSaulnier	Jacobs	Porter
Edwards	Lee (NV)	Rodgers (WA)
Escobar	Lofgren	Salazar
Fletcher	McCarthy	Spartz
Garcia (TX)	Miller (OH)	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1051

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 705 and "yea" on rollcall No. 706.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unable to vote today. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 705, passage of H.J. Res. 88, and "present" on rollcall No. 706, adoption of H. Res. 914.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes due to testing positive for Covid. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 705 and "nay" on rollcall No. 706.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote today. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 705 and "nay" on rollcall No. 706.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present to cast my vote today. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 705 and "nay" on rollcall No. 706.

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOWMAN) present himself in the well.

By its adoption of H. Res. 914, the House has resolved that the House of Representatives censures JAMAAL BOWMAN, Representative from the 16th Congressional District of New York; that Representative JAMAAL BOWMAN forthwith present himself in the well of the House of Representatives for the pronouncement of censure; and that Representative JAMAAL BOWMAN be censured with the public reading of this resolution by the Speaker.

ADJOURNMENT FROM THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023, TO MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet on Monday next, when it shall convene at noon for morning-hour debate and 2 p.m. for legislative business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUARTE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri? There was no objection.

□ 1100

NATIONAL PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize an important day in American history.

On December 7, 1941, our great Nation was suddenly attacked by the Imperial Japanese Navy, leading to the death of 2,043 American servicemembers and civilians.

Mr. Speaker, 82 years later, we remember these brave souls who lost their lives that day defending our very freedoms. On August 23, 1994, Congress created National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day to honor the lives lost each year.

Now, on December 7, 2023, we once again recognize and remember every man and woman who laid down their life for the United States that day. We are forever indebted for their sacrifices.

In the time of war, our great Nation was able to persevere. Let this day be a reminder to us that our freedom should never be taken for granted.

God bless those who lost their lives that day, and God bless America.

PRESIDENTIAL FRONTRUNNER'S CRIMINAL CONNECTIONS

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the Republican Presidential frontrunner's criminal connections after the latest Republican Presidential debate.

At least 11 key figures in Donald Trump's past administration were indicted or convicted of serious crimes during and after his administration.

Paul Manafort, Trump's campaign manager, was convicted of tax and bank fraud. Michael Flynn, Trump's National Security Advisor, was charged with working with Russia.

Tom Barrack, a Trump fundraiser, was charged with spying for the United Arab Emirates. Steve Bannon, Trump's political adviser, was charged with stealing millions of dollars from border wall investors.

In addition, more than 1,100 people have been charged after Trump encouraged them to overthrow the U.S. Government on January 6, 2021.

An appeals court ruled that Trump could be sued for inciting that insurrection. These are not the associations of someone fit to be a Presidential candidate.

RECOGNIZING VINCE CONSIGLIO

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a legend in the Michigan motorcycle freedom and safety community, Vince Consiglio, who announced his upcoming retirement in January. Vince is the president of ABATE of Michigan, or American Bikers Aiming Toward Education.

Vince, who has served as president for over 30 years, joined ABATE in 1975 and has served in multiple roles, including as Michigan's chief Motorcycle Safety Foundation instructor, teaching many MSF instructors the importance of safe riding practices.

He has been integral in public education about issues impacting motorcyclists, working with State legislators to increase motorcycle awareness and protect the cherished heritage we share.

I have personally known Vince for many years and know him to be a man

of character and passionate about motorcycles, especially his Harley.

I wish Vince a happy and fulfilling retirement and thank him for his service to his fellow riders and ABATE.

PUERTO RICO ACT 22

(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. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to Puerto Rico Act 22 and echo the concerns of many, including my constituents, about this tax loophole.

Because of Act 22, Puerto Rico is the only place in the world where a mainland U.S. citizen can move and not pay a dime in Federal capital gains or income tax without renouncing their citizenship.

Act 22 was sold as an economic boost in the shadow of a recession, but that is not what has happened.

Millionaires and billionaires are flocking to the island to avoid paying taxes. A cottage industry of tax professionals and CPAs has emerged to support these tax evaders.

Crypto magnates, real estate speculators, and internet influencers, like Logan Paul, are part of a new generation of gentrifiers driving up costs and displacing Puerto Ricans.

I am pleased that the IRS is cracking down on related fraud. Thanks to my colleagues' efforts, Federal investigations on the impacts of these policies have begun. Act 22 is part of a larger story, and it should be repealed.

CELEBRATING KEVIN EXLEY

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Kevin Exley, who was recently elected city councilman for the city of Rincon on September 21, 2023.

The city of Rincon opened polls up for a special election to fill an empty council seat after Damon Rahn's departure in June. Now, thanks to Kevin Exley, that seat is occupied.

Exley has made it known that he wants to focus on updating ordinances, adjusting term limits, and adding some neighborhood safety measures.

Rincon's special election was, indeed, special. September 19 started out with only a few voters but quickly grew to hundreds showing up to cast their ballots.

We congratulate Kevin. We know he will serve the city of Rincon well.

HONORING FIRST RESPONDERS

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

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank and honor the brave first responders who risked their lives to save Hudson Valley families after a catastrophic gas explosion in Wappingers Falls injured 15 in our community last month, several severely.

Officer Devin Ludwig, Investigator Andrew Hettinger, and Firefighter John Marko Nuculovic ran back into extreme peril to carry out victims trapped inside the smoldering rubble.

John himself refused medical attention for injuries sustained during the rescue until all others were out safely.

Firefighter Raquan White pulled an injured victim from the scene, and with backup medical personnel still en route, took it upon himself to transport the victim to a nearby hospital for immediate care, saving their life.

Officer Corchado, Wappingers Falls Fire Chief Enson, Detective Sergeant Farrell, Lieutenant Reverri, Deputies Kemlage and Aronow, and contractors from J. Mullen & Sons are among the countless other heroes who displayed exceptional courage that day.

Our Hudson Valley community and those affected in particular owe you a deep debt of gratitude that we will never be able to truly repay.

83RD ANNIVERSARY OF FORT LEONARD WOOD, MISSOURI

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

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a landmark event in our Nation's military history, the 83rd anniversary of the groundbreaking of Fort Leonard Wood in Pulaski County, Missouri.

Fort Leonard Wood stands as a symbol of American excellence and dedication. The base's rich history is marked from its early beginnings where it played a crucial role during World War II, serving as a training facility for more than 300,000 soldiers.

Today, Fort Leonard Wood continues the level of excellence displayed in those beginnings as it has become a cornerstone of our military's infrastructure, training more than 80,000 personnel each year.

This facility's unique capability to train every branch of our military demonstrates its versatility and importance in our national defense.

I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution and to recognize the 83rd anniversary of the groundbreaking of Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

SHILOH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH'S 120TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church's 120th anniversary.

For over 120 years on the north side of Fort Worth near the stockyards, this

church has been a pillar of the community where people of all backgrounds can come and worship and gather.

In 1902, Mrs. Cenie Campbell Stovall, a dedicated Christian woman, organized the church's first Sunday school classes held in the backyard of Mr. and Mrs. John Kennedy on the southwest corner of 24th and Ross Avenue.

For years, this church has been such a pivotal part of the Fort Worth community. They have organized so many different events and activities that benefit the north side and all of Fort Worth.

From 1958 until 2015, they were under the direction of the venerable Reverend Albert E. Chew, Jr. Now, they are under the direction of Kraig Lowell Pullam, and they continue to do great things.

Again, Shiloh, congratulations on 120 years, and here is wishing you a great 120 more.

FOREIGN AID PRIORITIES

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, the United States provides a lot of foreign aid to a lot of countries. It is important that we make sure that money is being spent wisely.

The Biden administration has not taken this responsibility seriously at all, Mr. Speaker. The White House is currently pushing to send billions of dollars to Ukraine, even though we have already allocated over \$110 billion to Ukraine and have no way of knowing where that money really ends up.

We also have sent nearly \$2 billion to Afghanistan since our botched withdrawal in 2021, even though we know a lot of that money ends up in the hands of the Taliban.

I asked an expert witness in a Foreign Affairs Committee hearing if there is any way the United States can provide aid to Afghanistan without any of it falling in the hands of the Taliban, and he said no.

Yet, when the president of Guatemala specifically requested aid to help block off one of the most popular travel routes for illegal immigrants coming to the United States, the Biden administration refused to help.

It is pretty apparent to me, Mr. Speaker, that this administration has its foreign aid priorities all out of order.

It needs to get serious about addressing issues that affect the American people, like our illegal immigration crisis, instead of trying to send billions of unchecked dollars to Ukraine and the Taliban.

FRA CORRIDOR ID GRANT

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the Federal Railroad Administration's selection of the Cleveland-Sandusky-Toledo-Detroit corridor for a critical passenger rail grant. What a congested corridor it is.

This Federal funding is but the first step toward expanding passenger rail in northern Ohio, which has long suffered from underinvestment in rail infrastructure.

To this day, our region continues to lag daytime passenger service due to congested rail service on the same tracks.

Improving the connection to Detroit will also bolster our region's already strong ties with our Michigan and Canadian neighbors on the other side of the Great Lake we share, Lake Erie.

Still, there is so much more to be done. We must find ways to advance passenger rail improvements in the Cleveland-Toledo to Chicago corridor, which despite the tireless efforts of Grace Gallucci and others at the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, was not awarded Federal planning funds.

For our neglected region to be excellent at this planning opportunity for efficient passenger rail in view of freight congestion, Federal funding is needed to establish a transportation planning center of expertise in northwest Ohio.

Let's not have any more East Palestine or Sandusky accidents. We need real rail planning in our region.

CONDEMNING HAMAS

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

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, 2 months ago on October 7, Hamas launched an unprovoked attack on Israel, killing 1,200 Israelis, subjecting women to barbaric sexual violence, taking hostages, and upending the lives of so many innocent civilians. These attacks are abhorrent.

The images, videos, and stories of the victims have rocked the world and impacted each of us. We must be unequivocal in condemning Hamas.

That is why I led 87 colleagues in a bipartisan letter to U.N. Women after they still have not publicly condemned Hamas for these attacks and sexual violence against women.

They have since reversed course, but their silence for nearly 2 months leaves a stain on their mission as a leader on women's issues.

I will keep working to hold the Iranian regime accountable for their backing of Hamas terrorists behind these attacks, and I stand with Israel and our Jewish community always.

□ 1115

FOUR LEGISLATIVE DAYS LEFT

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, there are 4 legislative days left in 2023.

Yesterday, I spoke from the well about the need to provide critical aid to Ukraine and Israel—just as I did the week before, just as I did the month before, just as I will continue to do until we act.

All Congress has to show for it is a failed vote in the Senate yesterday.

Representative DUSTY JOHNSON recently said that there is “a strong majority of lawmakers in both the House and the Senate that understand this world is a lot more dangerous when America recedes from leadership. Clearly, we want to help our allies like Israel and Ukraine.”

The Speaker should heed the words of his Republican colleague. He refuses to give us a clean vote. The world becomes more dangerous. It must stop.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue until we act.

There are 300 votes on this floor for Ukraine and over 400 votes for Israel, yet we are unable to vote. That is a shame for our country.

CONGRATULATING DEVIN JOHNSON, PLANT CITY FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

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

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Plant City Fire Rescue's Firefighter of the Year, Devin Johnson.

Mr. Johnson has the true heart of a public servant and has selflessly served our Plant City community for the past 5 years as a paramedic and firefighter.

In 2021, Mr. Johnson completed the necessary certification to become a standalone paramedic and provide the highest level of lifesaving care to our community.

This year alone, Mr. Johnson has provided over 1,000 hours as a field training officer in the paramedic internship program, leading and guiding students to better their community. He has also worked more than 500 hours of overtime to keep the fire rescue running operationally.

Mr. Johnson's Plant City Fire Rescue colleagues recognized him for his hard work, reliability, expertise, and continued dedication to the department and to our community.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Firefighter Johnson, and I thank him for his service to our community.

AWARDING MARSHALL “MAJOR” TAYLOR WITH A CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

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

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce the bipar-

tisan Marshall “Major” Taylor Congressional Gold Medal Act, the highest honor this body can bestow upon an American.

Major Taylor was the greatest athlete of his era, America's first sports superstar, and a world champion, but he has been left out of our history books. We need to bring him out of the shadows and recognize his greatness both on and off the track.

Not only did Taylor set world records and dominate his sport, but he did so while facing down racists and bigots in the Jim Crow era.

Race organizers would try to exclude him from events. Other cyclists would viciously insult him and even did physical harm.

Despite it all, the son of a Union soldier rose above it, setting record after record and becoming a world champion.

Even when compared to today's athletes, Major Taylor is among the greatest cyclists of all time. It is time that Congress recognizes his greatness and award him a Congressional Gold Medal.

MARKING 82ND ANNIVERSARY OF PEARL HARBOR

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, today, as you know, marks the 82nd anniversary of the dirty attack on Pearl Harbor, where the U.S. was thrown into war by the Imperial Japanese military.

Indeed, we should never ever forget, and we should always have vigilance and readiness.

At the time right now when our world is in great peril, I worry about the readiness we have in order to do what we need to do to protect ourselves and those allies we care about.

Some of my best memories are with some of the people I knew who were involved in Pearl Harbor, such as my dear friend, Mel Fisher, and his wife, Cathy, on the 69th, when I was able to attend Pearl Harbor ceremonies with them on the USS *Arizona*. That was a great moment for me to be involved. I also think of a great patriot, over 100 years old and still living in Grass Valley, California, my good friend, Lou Conter, the last surviving member of the USS *Arizona*.

I think of people like that, and I think of these brave folks who stand in the gap for us and for our country on this day. We should honor them as we honor them every day, by being good citizens for freedom in this country.

RACISM IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise, and still I rise.

I rise today, as always, when I address persons in this most sacred place in my heart. I rise as a proud American. I am proud to say that I am an American. I am proud to say that I am American because my foreparents made it what it is. Its greatness can be traced back to 240 years of free labor, free sacrifice, and I am proud.

I wear this tie indicating that I am proud. I salute the flag. I say the Pledge of Allegiance. I sing the national anthem.

I am proud to be an American, and why wouldn't I be proud, given that my foreparents made it great. The greatness of America resides today on the economic foundations laid by persons of African ancestry. They are the economic foundational mothers and fathers of this country.

Now, there are some who say to me, literally: How can you be proud, AL GREEN, when your foreparents were put into chains, when they were beaten, when women were raped, when they were born into slavery and lived their lives as slaves? How can you be proud?

I can be proud because I have the power to forgive, the power to forgive for all of these transgressions. God has given me this power. I would hope that others could acquire the power to forgive. The power to forgive is the power that will allow you to go on to do other things.

God did not give me, however, the power to forget. Forgive and forget is not a sensible statement of where the heart and mind should be, in my opinion. It is forgive and remember. Forgive all the transgressions, but remember that they occurred. This is why we can say "never again" as it relates to certain transgressions.

So, I forgive, and I love the country, but I don't forget.

Today, I want to talk about my foreparents. This is a depiction of when they may have arrived, on August 20, 1619. I want to talk about them, and I want to talk about the racism in America today.

As we discuss racism in America today, we have to first identify the reasons why Africans were enslaved, the reasons why America enslaved Africans, to be more specific.

Remember, I am the guy who is forgiving. I am the guy who loves the country, sings the national anthem, but he doesn't forget.

Why did America enslave Africans? Here is why: To be a permanent—I think 240 years of enslavement is a pretty good representation of the fact that there was an intentionality that it be permanent—to be a permanent, identifiable—"identifiable," easily recognized among the population; "permanent," 240 years of enslavement; "identifiable," the complexion of skin as a methodology by which one could be immediately identified and put in his proper place or her proper place, their proper place.

Permanent, identifiable, powerless.

There was never the desire to have persons of African ancestry become

powerful in this country. It was not there. I am talking about at the genesis of this on August 20, 1619, when they were first introduced into the Colonies. There was slavery in the country prior to this, but we are talking about when it was introduced into the Colonies.

Africans were brought here to be a permanent, identifiable, powerless—no power. The courts in this country actually recognized the fact that we were powerless. In *Dred Scott*, the Chief Justice indicated that persons of African ancestry had no rights that a White person had to respect. It was not said in those exact words, but that is the exact meaning. They had no rights.

Permanent, identifiable, powerless, subservient.

They were brought here to be servants—not just servants in the sense of people who were to do the bidding of others but to do so with a degree and a demeanor of servility. They had to be servile—servile.

Africans were brought here to be a permanent, identifiable, powerless, subservient caste—not class; there is a distinction. Class has to do with a socioeconomic identification. Caste has to do with a hereditary identification, meaning if you were born into this caste, this group, you were to be a slave. You were enslaved by birth.

By definition, at birth, you were enslaved. You were permanently enslaved. You were identifiably enslaved. You were powerless as a slave. You were subservient as a slave and forever a slave as long as you lived.

These are the reasons why America enslaved Africans to be a permanent, identifiable, powerless, subservient caste of people.

To this day, much of this still exists. To this day, there are still people who treat persons of African ancestry as though they are still powerless and should be subservient and belong to this caste.

When Dr. King went to India on his pilgrimage, he was introduced at a certain venue. When he was introduced, it was said to him that he was part of a caste. Initially, he didn't really, in my opinion, know exactly how to respond to this because he had not been told that he was a part of a caste. After giving some thought to it, he realized that, to a certain extent, there was this caste system.

To this day, there is still evidence of people who believe that we should be powerless. Let's examine that. Obviously, we are still identifiable, but that we should still be powerless.

□ 1130

We still have problems accessing the capital that allows one to succeed in society. We have evidence, empirical evidence, indicating, evidencing, the fact that persons of African ancestry, who are imminently qualified, can apply for a loan and they will pay higher points for that loan, they will receive less sometimes than what they

need, and they will pay a higher interest rate than an Anglo who is less qualified.

Empirical evidence. I sit on the Financial Services Committee. We have looked into these things. The empirical evidence exists. Still a desire, but powerless.

Now, some people will say, are you saying that there is a conspiracy? I don't think anybody had a grand meeting and decided we will just continue this caste system by making sure they remain powerless in society. I don't think that happened. I think it has been inculcated into the culture. The 240 years of slavery, thereafter followed with Black codes, convict leasing, Jim Crow laws, thereafter followed with lawful and legal segregation.

There was lawful and legal segregation until 1954, the *Brown* case. It hasn't been that long ago. In my lifetime, I suffered lawful, legal segregation. Thank God I have the power to forgive.

Powerless, intentionality, powerless, in the culture. It is not going to be eradicated overnight. One court decision will not eliminate 240 years of slavery plus an additional great number of years of lawful segregation. It doesn't eliminate it.

Many of the people who suffer from this affliction, they don't know it in the sense that they purposefully do these things, but they happen. There was 240 years of slavery, thereafter followed with lawful segregation, and now we still suffer as powerless people.

I am going to say more about powerless, but I want to just remind persons that we still are born Black in America, still have the identifiable complexion. There are still people who expect us to be subservient, to be more respectful than others.

I have seen it myself wherein an Anglo person can say to a police officer that he or she or they happen to think is doing something inappropriate: "Who do you think you are? Give me your badge number. I am going to report you." The officer accepts it. If an African American says: "Who are you? Who do you think you are?" It is unacceptable. There is a belief that you cannot challenge the system to the same extent as Anglos, all emanating from the permanent, identifiable, powerless, subservient caste.

Now, let's give a supreme, superb example of being powerless. I think this example will speak in ways that many of us have not given consideration to. I regret to have to bring this example to the attention of the House of Representatives, to the attention of the country, to the attention of the Senate, but here is the example.

This building is the Russell Senate Office Building. This building is a symbol of national shame, the Russell Senate Office Building. Taxpayer dollars built it. Taxpayer dollars maintain it. Every taxpayer in this country has a stake in the Russell Senate Office Building, and it is a symbol of national shame.

I am talking about racism in America now, how we learn to tolerate it. Remember this: Those who tolerate racism perpetuate racism.

Let's talk about the Russell Senate Office Building, named in honor of a self-proclaimed white supremacist. This is brother Richard Russell, Senator. I refer to every man as my brother. If not my brother, according to the notable anthropologist, paleontologist, L.S.B. Leakey, we are probably cousins. We are probably related in some way.

This is Mr. Richard Russell. Mr. Richard Russell is prominently displayed in this building. When you enter this building, you enter into a rotunda. This is where Mr. Richard Russell is prominently displayed in the Russell Senate Office Building.

You will note at the top, we have styled this, we have captioned it, "self-proclaimed white supremacist." This is Mr. Richard Russell, self-proclaimed white supremacist.

This building is named in honor of Mr. Richard Russell, this man, the self-proclaimed white supremacist. He stands there today in the rotunda of the Richard Russell Office Building.

Now, why would I make an issue of this for you in talking about racism and enslavement? Well, here is why. Powerless. Remember, powerless. This is the building.

Powerless. We, the people of African ancestry, are powerless to remove this man's statue and to remove his name from a building we support. We are powerless. We can't get it done.

The Senate knows that Richard Russell was a bigot and a racist. They probably see him more as a racist than as a bigot, but he was the person who fought antilynching legislation. He is the person who fought civil rights legislation. He is the person who coauthored the "Southern Manifesto," and he is the person who stands in the rotunda all to himself in the Russell Senate Office Building.

Yes, we have asked that his name be removed from the building and that his statue be removed. Just as the Senate has removed names from military bases, the Congress has, the House and Senate, the Senate can remove that name of Richard Russell. This is Richard Russell standing in his place of grandeur.

There is more to be said about this. I would now like you to see a different view of the Russell statue. Your perch can sometimes influence what you see. I have shown you Mr. Russell up close. Now let's step back and take a look.

Here is Mr. Russell. He is standing here. By the way, I respect and I say "Mr. Russell." There are people who would demean me for saying "Mr. Russell." He was a former United States Senator. He was a bigot and a racist, but I still give him respect.

Here is Mr. Russell. Now, let's put this here for just a moment. There is Mr. Russell. He is here. I hope the camera can pick him up.

Here is what you cannot identify that I have to identify for you. Above Mr. Russell, in the Russell Senate Office Building, above Mr. Russell, in these various spaces along this area in the Russell Senate Office Building, are news outlets, major news outlets. CNN is there. MSNBC is there. Major news outlets occupy the space above Mr. Richard Russell.

Who can deny that they are aware that they are sharing space with a self-proclaimed white supremacist? Have they no shame? CNN, have you no shame? You fight against hate, and you house yourself above Richard Russell. Have you no shame, MSNBC? Have you no shame?

The man's name shouldn't be on the building. His statue shouldn't be on the building, and you ought not be housed above it. The Richard Russell Office Building, with Senator Russell in all of his glory, above his head, notable news sources reporting the news, not reporting that Richard Russell is right beneath them, the racist.

Remember now, those who tolerate racism perpetuate racism. All of these news sources I just mentioned—FOX is there, too. All of them, they are there. If one of them that I have called is not there, let me know. I don't go over there. I haven't been over there. I am a one-person protest. I don't go in the building. I respect myself too much to go there. I have dignity. I have respect for myself. I am a sinner, but I am not that much of a sinner.

Those who tolerate this perpetuate it. Those who tolerate this statue being there perpetuate it. I am saying it. CNN is perpetuating racism. MSNBC, you are perpetuating racism. FOX, you are perpetuating racism. I am saying it. I know that I am powerless to do anything to you about it. You can stay there as long as you desire, never report it, and it becomes a nonissue. You can stay there, and the world will remain as it is. There will just be one Member of Congress who came to the floor of the House of Representatives and had the courage to call you out.

I know you won't get any airtime on CNN or MSNBC or FOX. You can't challenge the news media and tell them where they are wrong and expect them to allow you to be heard. It doesn't work that way in this country and probably in very few countries in the world. You can't do it. I understand that.

I understand that I am powerless, but I also understand that I can take a stand. I also understand that I can point out to people that yes, you can challenge power. Yes, you can be that person who speaks truth to power. Yes, you can do it. Here is what is even more important than to speaking truth to power; that is speaking truth about power.

You see, to speak truth to power, you simply say: Power, we have a problem, and we need to solve it.

□ 1145

When you speak truth about power, you say: Power, CNN, MSNBC, FOX, we

have a problem, and you are part of it. They are part of the problem. There are others up there with them, but they are part of the problem.

Richard Russell, a self-proclaimed white supremacist, in a rotunda all to himself. I know of no other rotunda that has a single person in it—if there may be one. There you are housing yourselves above him.

If I am wrong, let me know I am wrong and I will come back to this very podium and I will extend an apology. I will do it. When you are wrong, that is what you do. I will come back and I will extend an apology.

I ask you, CNN, I ask you, MSNBC, I ask you, FOX, tell me I am wrong that you are not reporting from above Richard Russell.

I am talking about racism in America. I am talking about those who tolerate it and perpetuate it. I am now going to talk about solutions. There are many solutions. Please don't take this as all inclusive, but this is a necessary solution. A necessary solution to, as a matter of necessity, deal with how this has been inculcated into society such that these prominent news sources would tolerate this.

There are some things that have to be done. They could be very beneficial in getting it done. If they are tolerating this, I don't know to what extent we can count on them. Here is what we have to do. One of the things we have to do is acknowledge the conscience agenda.

Let me remove Mr. Russell for a moment. He still maintains his place of honor in the Senate, but not here while I am talking. Now, we have to acknowledge this conscience agenda.

Conscience agenda, our moral imperative. Here is what we have to do. We have to acknowledge slavery and the horrors of it, but also set aside a day. By the way, I am not asking for a holiday with people being paid and off from work. I don't want that. I don't think that we should have that for something as important as this.

I don't want it to become something where people are going to have a mattress sale and talk about how you can get a great discount. Slavery Remembrance Day discount, come on in and get your mattress. I don't want that.

I want people to understand that August 20, annually, ought to be Slavery Remembrance Day. I thank God that at least one prominent person has acknowledged it, and there are others that I will mention briefly. Perhaps I will reverse the order and do it this way.

Mr. STENY HOYER helped me to get legislation through the House recognizing Slavery Remembrance Day. I thank Mr. HOYER and I will never let history write him out. I thank him for what he did. Slavery Remembrance Day is important.

We have Juneteenth. Yes, Juneteenth is about celebrating freedom, when General Gordon Granger came into Galveston, Texas, and read "General

Order No. 3." That is worthy of celebrating; this is about commemoration, not celebration. This is about commemorating those lives that suffered for some 240 years to make America great. There were 240 years of suffering. They were born into it, into a caste system.

They were born into it. Babies were slaves. Enslaved people is a more appropriate way to say it. Babies were enslaved human beings that grew up to become enslaved adolescents. They went on to become enslaved adults and thereafter died as enslaved human beings. Lives devoted to making America great.

No emolument has been accorded them. No recompense has been accorded them. No consideration other than they had the necessities to remain alive so that they could continue to be enslaved persons who could produce a work product. We should honor this day.

I am proud of Senator ELIZABETH WARREN who has helped to get this done, and she is working on the Senate to get the resolution through the Senate. The same Senate, by the way, that won't remove Richard Russell's name from the Russell Senate Office Building. That is the same Senate that won't remove his statue from the rotunda that he happens to enjoy all to himself.

We have to have Slavery Remembrance Day. We should honor these economic foundational mothers and fathers on whose sacrifice America has become the great Nation that it is. They built the Capitol. Yes, these folks, their hands helped to construct the very Capitol that we have here. They helped to construct the White House. They built the roads and the bridges. They planted the seeds and harvested the crops to feed the Nation. Yet, they are not properly recognized.

In fact, this Congress did something that demeaned them. Here is what the Congress did in 1956. The Congress of the United States of America, the country I love, land of the free and home of the brave, the Congress of the United States of America awarded Congressional Gold Medals to the enslavers. They awarded Congressional Gold Medals to Confederate soldiers. They awarded nothing to the people whose hands helped build the Capitol. Nothing to them. But awarded the enslavers, the persons who fought to maintain slavery.

Remember, we had to go to war. Thank God for Abraham Lincoln. We had to go to war to deal with slavery. People died. What a tragedy it was. But that is what it took to eliminate slavery in this country. We gave a Congressional Gold Medal to the Confederates, and nothing to the persons who were enslaved.

Well, we can remedy that. Remember now, I am talking about things we need to do to change the mindset that we have. We need, and I think this Congress should, award a Congressional

Gold Medal to the enslaved. That seems so easy to comprehend, but yet so hard for this Congress to do.

They just need to acknowledge that these folks who suffered for 240 years, they ought to be acknowledged for what they did too. They ought to be acknowledged for what they did here, for what they did with the White House, and for what they did for this country—a Congressional Gold Medal for the enslaved.

There is a resolution pending for such a thing to be done. Remember, powerless. Powerless. We are shown to be powerless when something as simple as this can't be done. Something as simple as having a Slavery Remembrance Day where the Congress, meaning the House and the Senate and the President, acknowledges it.

We have a Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. We have a 9/11 Remembrance. We have a Holocaust Remembrance Day, meaning the President, the House, and the Senate recognizes Holocaust Remembrance Day. We don't have such a thing for the people who are the economic foundational mothers and fathers of this country. No slavery remembrance. Don't have it. That is because we are still powerless.

We have some power. Yes, we are Senators and we are in Congress and we have a President and there is a Vice President, but we are still shown that we cannot demand justice and get justice. There are people who would say: You are not asking for it properly. You have to be subservient. Be servile and maybe you can get it then.

We can't demand it and get it. I demand it. We ought to have Slavery Remembrance Day acknowledged by the House, the Senate, and the President, as well as a Congressional Gold Medal accorded the enslaved.

I have talked about it; we need to remove Richard Russell's name from the Russell Senate Office Building. I won't go into any great details in explaining that, I have gone through it clearly. There is legislation for atonement that is pending, and I won't go through that.

I do want to go to the last item on my agenda, which is number five.

Mr. Speaker, so I may govern myself accordingly, can you please tell me how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 26 minutes remaining.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk now about the thing that I think will help not only with slavery remembrance, but also will help us with other issues that have not been resolved. That is the establishment of a department of reconciliation.

Mr. Speaker, we have not reconciled. We have not. There are chasms that we cannot see but that we can experience. We need to span the chasms that divide us. To do so, we need to have a methodology by which it can be accomplished. To have that methodology, we have to have a means in place. This would be the means by which the methodology

could be enforced and put into motion so that we can get reconciliation.

Reconciliation. There ought to be in this country what we could not do after the war because President Johnson was more interested in the antebellum aspect of the war. He would have gone back if he could have, but he could only go so far. He did limit forward movement, so we didn't get reconciliation.

We need a department of reconciliation with a secretary of reconciliation. A person that wakes up every morning with the mission of helping us to reconcile the differences in a very positive way, I might add—the differences that separate us, the chasms that we failed to span over the centuries.

Remember, slavery lasted for more than two centuries, it wasn't a 20-year event. That is why some of the aspects of the powerlessness are still inculcated into our society. We need this department of reconciliation with a secretary and under secretaries of reconciliation to deal with all of the invidious discrimination that has not been resolved. There are issues related to other persons that have not been resolved.

□ 1200

One example would be the indigenous Americans. They are the first Americans. Their issues have not been resolved. These are the folk who suffered the Trail of Tears. These are the folk who suffered wars against them, and they were made the villains. They were defending their land, and they are the villains.

We need to resolve this. The department of reconciliation would help us do this. It won't be done in a month, a week, a year or 2, or a decade. It is going to take time. Nevertheless, it is not going to be done without some structure. It is not going to be done with just the passage of time. It won't happen.

Dr. King reminded us that it is not the passage of time that makes change—these are not his exact words—but rather what you do with time as it passes.

What do you do with the time? If you don't make good use of it, then the change won't take place.

So, we need this department of reconciliation; we need a secretary of reconciliation; we need under secretaries of reconciliation; and we need a budget. I have proposed that the budget for this department be indexed and tied to, if you will, indexed and tied to the Defense Department's budget.

Why the Defense Department's budget? It is because we will always fund the Defense Department. I think that we should have a budget that is indexed and tied to it. The money would not come out of the Defense Department's budget.

There would be money that would be the equivalent of some percentage, say 10 percent, of what is in the Defense

Department for the department of reconciliation so that we can at some point, at some point, span the chasms that divide, separate, and prevent us from having the level of unity within our country that we richly deserve given the great documents, the great founding documents, of the country, that all persons are created equal, endowed by the creator with certain inalienable rights, among them life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. These certain documents include the pledge of liberty and justice for all.

We need to do these things. I am committed to Slavery Remembrance Day. I am committed. I stand alone sometimes with this commitment. It is an idea that I brought to this Congress, and I am going to stay with it.

Yes, I am the progenitor, the progenitor, of Slavery Remembrance Day. I am going to stay with it. I am not letting it go.

The Congressional Gold Medal for the enslaved, I will not let it go.

Removing Mr. Russell's name, I will not let it go.

Establishing a department of reconciliation, I won't let it go.

The question is: Will others find it within their hearts and their spirits to take a similar stance? I pray that they will.

I close with this, Mr. Speaker: We persons of African ancestry have suffered, our ancestors have and are still suffering, from the indignation and humiliation associated with slavery and segregation. We are still suffering from it. We are still suffering from racism.

There are people who would say: Forget the racism.

I am not going to forget it, just like I would not want my Jewish brothers and sisters to forget the Holocaust. Don't forget the Holocaust, and I won't forget slavery.

We are still suffering, and we are suffering because of what I indicated initially.

Why were we brought to this country? When I say "we," I am talking about my foreparents. Why were they brought to this country? They were brought here to be: permanent, remember, 240 years of slavery is evidence of it, centuries; identifiable, they wanted people of color because they could spot them easily; powerless, no power, not recognized, the law recognizes no rights for you as they relate to persons who are Anglo; subservient, always servile, always humble, always ready to serve, pleading with the master, "Give me something that I may do for you, master"; and caste, the difference between caste and class, remember, class is a socioeconomic condition. Caste is usually hereditary. You are born into it, you live it, and you die.

We are still suffering from this original reason that enslaved persons were brought to this country. Nevertheless, I believe that we can bend the arc of the moral universe toward justice for African Americans and all other persons who suffer from invidious discrimination.

I believe it. I believe we can achieve it. I just know that we have to work hard to get it done.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for the time. I am proud to have stood here, and I proudly move forward with the conscience agenda that I have called to the attention of our country. God bless you, Mr. Speaker, and God bless the United States of America.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. McCORMICK). Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF ALLISON GETZ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the extraordinary life of one Allison Getz, who was a friend, a public servant, and a true Texan who has left a tremendous mark on southeast Texas.

Allison's public service wasn't just a job, Mr. Speaker. It was a calling. From chairing events like the Spindletop Ball to leading organizations such as the Symphony League, Temple Emanuel, and the Fire Museum of Texas, she demonstrated a deep commitment to the betterment of our community.

For the last 9 years, she served as Jefferson County tax assessor-collector. Her innovation and modernization efforts as tax assessor earned her the prestigious title of Tax Assessor of the Year for the entire State of Texas in 2021, and that is no easy task.

I speak for southeast Texas, Mr. Speaker. We are forever indebted to Allison's tireless devotion and dedication. Allison had always said three things when she talked with anyone. She said, "How can I help? Is there anything you need?" and she always finished with, "I appreciate you."

She was known for her huge heart, her love for her husband, Mike, her parents, children, grandchildren, and, most of all, southeast Texas.

Brenda and I were deeply saddened to learn about her passing on October 10, 2023. Our prayers are with her family during this very difficult time.

As we bid farewell to this remarkable public servant, let's remember Allison Julia Getz with a great deal of gratitude. May her legacy continue to inspire us to continue the work of service and compassion she so fervently championed.

We are grateful for Allison's dedication to community. We will miss her. She will never be forgotten and will always be in our hearts.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOSEPH "JOE" RUTA

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I also rise to honor the life and legacy of

one Joseph "Joe" Ruta, who passed away on October 14, 2023, at the age of 96.

Joe Ruta was born on February 25, 1927. He was one of the dwindling members of the Greatest Generation. Like so many others of his time, he actually lied about his age to join the Army during World War II. Joe served in Germany as an ambulance driver at Dachau concentration camp, where he saw firsthand the horrors of the Holocaust.

Upon returning home, he married Victoria Damico and became a truck driver. Vicky and Joe were married for 75 years, Mr. Speaker, having two children, six grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. One of those grandchildren is my chief of staff, Jeanette Whitener. She is a jewel.

Joe was an avid card player, enjoyed doing puzzles, and especially enjoyed time spent with his family. He was an amazing husband and an amazing father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He served this country and his family with pride, generosity, and devotion.

Joe will be missed by his family and everyone who knew him. Another from the Greatest Generation is now gone.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF WILLIAM "BILL" BIGGS

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of William "Bill" Ambrose Biggs III, who passed away on November 16, 2023.

Bill Biggs was born in Abilene, Texas, on February 19, 1937. At the age of 11, he and his family, Mr. Speaker, moved to Austin, Texas, where his local adventures would make Tom Sawyer green with envy.

Bill graduated from Austin High School in 1955 and went directly to the University of Texas, where he graduated with a degree in chemistry in the year 1959. He also earned his MBA from Texas in 1961.

Following graduation, Bill went on Active Duty in the United States Army in 1962. During his military career, he earned his Ranger Tab, graduated from the Army War College, and rose to the rank of colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve before retiring in 1988. His final commendation was the Legion of Merit.

Perpetually in motion, after the Army and retiring from his successful business in Pennsylvania, Bill returned to school, earned his J.D., juris doctor, from the St. Mary's School of Law in San Antonio, and graduated in 2020.

He was a tremendous husband, father, grandfather, brother, son, entrepreneur, citizen, soldier, and devoted Texas Longhorn. Bill will be sorely missed by his family and all who knew him.

BIDDING FAREWELL TO BOB HARVEY

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bid farewell to a true titan of Texas, a man whose dedication has left an indelible mark on the landscape of the greater Houston region, Bob Harvey, the president and CEO of the Greater Houston Partnership.

Bob is retiring at the end of 2023. Over the past decade, under his steadfast leadership, the Houston metro area has witnessed unprecedented growth and prosperity.

A lifelong Houstonian, Bob dedicated each waking day to championing the city's expansion, working hand in hand with the business community to foster opportunities for every single Houstonian.

The Greater Houston Partnership is so much more than the Chamber of Commerce for one of America's great cities. Under Bob's guidance, the partnership became a beacon for economic development, advocating for policies that sustain the thriving business environment while enhancing the overall quality of life for all its citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating my friend, Bob Harvey, on a well-deserved retirement.

I thank Bob for his service to our dynamic region and our beloved State of Texas. Blessings to him and his lovely wife, Vicki, and three great kids, Michael, Tom—who worked for us—and Mary, as he embarks on the next chapter of a life well lived.

HONORING THE INCREDIBLE LIFE OF JOHN PAUL SPEES, SR.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the incredible life of one Mr. John Paul Spees, Sr., a man whose journey from Gary, Indiana, through Lake Charles, Louisiana, to the great State of Texas left an indelible mark on our community.

Born in 1936, he went to be with Jesus on December 1, 2023.

Paul was a proud Navy veteran. Paul served 2 years on the USS *Randolph*. His dedication to our great country was surpassed only by his devotion to his family.

□ 1215

In 1958, he married his beautiful wife, the former Sheila Sarver, and together they were blessed with four children, of which we get the privilege of knowing Kelly and her great husband, Paul; four children; fourteen grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

In addition to God, family, and country, Paul loved skeet shooting—at the world championship level, I might add—tinkering with cars, and sharing his musical talents on the piano and accordion. Now, we know where Kelly gets it from.

Mr. Speaker, though, we mourn his passing, we celebrate a life well-lived with Kelly and Paul and all their family. We commend Paul Spees' legacy of love, laughter, and service.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ROBERT MOODY

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a businessman and philanthropist, Robert Moody, who was known to many of us as Bobby.

Bobby's journey was one of resilience, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to family and community

in the city he cherished, which I am privileged to represent, Galveston, Texas.

Bobby's legacy is etched in the successes of businesses he shepherded for over six decades. His leadership transformed National Western Life Insurance Company and American National Insurance Company into industry leaders, providing financial security for millions.

Yet, Bobby's heart beat the strongest for our Galveston community, with a passion that is reflected in the creation of Moody Gardens and the Moody Neurorehabilitation Institute, both testaments to his philanthropic vision.

Beyond his professional achievements, Bobby's devotion to his family was unparalleled. As a loving father, grandfather, and a great-grandfather, he effortlessly blended business acumen with the warmth of family life.

As we bid farewell to such a stalwart leader, a compassionate patriarch, and a beacon of generosity, let us hope, pray, and carry forward Bobby's legacy of resilience, empathy, as well as community stewardship. The island city of Galveston and the Moody family have lost a guiding light, Mr. Speaker, but Bobby's spirit lives on in the institutions he built and in the countless lives that he touched.

CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF PORT ARTHUR, TEXAS

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate 125 years of Port Arthur, Texas, a community with a storied history, located in the 14th Congressional District of the great State of Texas.

The city of Port Arthur began as a dream, quite frankly, of a railroad man named Arthur Stilwell, who envisioned it as a trade and tourism center and a port town that eventually wound up bearing his name.

From tankers navigating the waves to an oil boom that echoed with promises of prosperity, Port Arthur has been a beacon on the Gulf Coast. Refineries proudly claiming, "we oil the world," the allure of Pleasure Island, a Cajun influx adding spice to our culture—I know that is true because my bride grew up in Italy. She can cook that Cajun food—and a museum on the Gulf Coast honoring our famous folk, Port Arthur is a tapestry of history as rich as the soil beneath our feet.

Earlier on, Port Arthur became the heartbeat of the petrochemical industry. In 1901, following the game-changing gusher of Spindletop, Gulf Oil Corporation set up shop, followed by Texaco in 1902.

This marked the dawn of a new era.

By 1957, we had become the center of the world's prosperous oil refining facilities, fueling not just our city, not just our State, but the world.

Today, Port Arthur is home to over 55,000 hardworking, salt-of-the-Earth folks. It is truly something special.

May I add that as your Representative of Port Arthur, I am grateful every day to stand before you as the

voice of Port Arthur here in the hallowed Halls of Congress. Representing a community with such a rich history, where resilience and progress echo from every corner, is an honor beyond measure.

Here is to 125 years of Port Arthur's pride, their progress, and that enduring southeast Texas spirit that defines us. Happy anniversary, Port Arthur.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NORMAN REYNOLDS, JR., ON HIS RETIREMENT

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Groves City Marshal, Mr. Norman Reynolds, Jr., on the occasion of his retirement.

This is the end of an era for the Groves Police Department. Norman Reynolds, Jr.'s, journey into law enforcement is a tale deeply intertwined with his family's legacy. A third-generation police officer, Norman joined the ranks through the encouragement and wise counsel of his father, Norman Reynolds, Sr.

With over 41 years of dedicated service, Mr. Speaker, Reynolds has not only become the longest serving law man in southeast Texas, but also a steadfast pillar in the Groves Police Department.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Marshal Reynolds for his unwavering service, his commitment to keeping our community safe, and for leading the Groves Police Department with dignity, as well as honor.

On behalf of a grateful community, it is my absolute honor and privilege to honor City Marshal Norman Reynolds. I join his wife, Becky, and his family and friends and colleagues in extending him best wishes in his retirement.

CRISIS AT THE BORDER

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to talk about the border for just a second.

Joe Biden and company have allowed this situation at our southern border to escalate from a crisis to a full-blown catastrophe. It was announced just this past Tuesday, CBP saw more than 12,000 encounters with illegal immigrants along the border.

Let that sink in. Twelve thousand in one day crossed the border—those are the ones they know about—that American taxpayers are having to pay for, I want to add. It is unconscionable.

Under this administration's failed policies, every town is a border town, Mr. Speaker, and the rest of the country is beginning to feel the strain that my home State of Texas has felt for so long under a constant stream of illegal migrants encouraged by President Biden's wide-open border.

That is why I introduced H.R. 6477, a bill that would effectively reimplement the remain in Mexico protocols established by and under President Trump.

It would crack down on the rampant abuse of the asylum system that has enabled so much of this problem. My bill would also hold the administration responsible for knowing the whereabouts and the status of illegal migrants throughout the parole process,

and I urge my colleagues to cosponsor it.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALVIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOR EDUCATING GENERATIONS FROM TEXAS

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to proudly acknowledge and celebrate the remarkable achievement of Alvin Community College.

Let me hasten to add that it is where I met my beautiful bride of 47 years 49 years ago in the cafeteria there at Alvin Junior College, or what was called Alvin Junior College.

Alvin Community College, once again, for the seventh time, ACC has been recognized by their prestigious Aspen Institute as one of the top 150 community colleges in America.

The Aspen Institute's recognition, citing ACC's achievements in teaching, degree completion, workforce success, and equitable outcomes underscores the college's commitment to student success. Don't I know it.

As an ACC alum, I can personally attest to the transformative power of this institution. It laid the academic groundwork for my future and even, more importantly, became the serendipitous backdrop where I met my beautiful bride. Did I mention that, Mr. Speaker? I think I did.

Mr. Speaker, let me just say that I thank Alvin Community College for not only educating generations of folks from Texas 14th Congressional District and the neighboring communities, but I congratulate them for continuing to shine as one of the best in the Nation. ACC rocks.

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

MATH ALWAYS EVENTUALLY WINS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, thank you for your patience as we get ourselves set up here.

Mr. Speaker, I obviously try to do this every week we are here, and my goal is not to sound like some idiot economics professor. I am trying to point out the biggest thing that is ahead of us, the reason we are here, and the hardest thing we talk about.

I want to start off by saying that, apparently, I hurt some people's feelings in the last two floor speeches when I walked through the math, and I don't care. The math is the math, and the math will win. The math always eventually wins. This is substantially a math-free zone.

Another thing I want to point out for some of the folks who end up watching a video of this and they get cranky that there is no one in the House. That is actually the way it is supposed to be. They are supposed to be off in their committees or other places working.

This is our chance to talk to the body. Please understand that we are on hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of televisions right now talking to staff. The reason I show up with these charts is trying to see if you can breakthrough and understand just the scale of what is going on.

Remember, we have a debt and demographics issue, and that is the thing that just enrages me. If you are on the left, you say we don't tax enough. If you are on the right, we can't cut enough, which I am more on the cut side; however, you still got a mathematical problem.

I will show you in some of the slides that you can get rid of every dime of Defense and every dime of discretionary and you are still borrowing hundreds of billions of dollars.

Last year, we borrowed 8.4 percent of the economy. Ever hear these discussions about having a 2 percent GDP growth? Okay. Fine. That is what long-run projection is. We borrowed 8.4. That is just the borrowing, not the spend. That is what we borrowed.

It is also one of the reasons we have tried now not to talk in percentages of GDP because no one has any idea what the hell you are talking about.

Mr. Speaker, let's actually have some fun here. We are going to actually try to break this up in two or three different presentations over the next couple weeks.

Today, I am just going to relay out the math, see if any of it still sinks through. Then next week, we are going to try something that we haven't done in a few months. We are going to come in with optimism that the breakthroughs in healthcare, the breakthroughs in technologies, the opportunities that are out there will help us bend the debt curve.

□ 1230

Once again, I am going to go back to a sentence I had a couple moments ago, for those who will text my office, call my office, fuss at me when I am in Costco and say, "David, I want you to balance the budget this year." I can do it. You just have to be willing to let me get rid of all of defense, all of discretionary, and \$300 or \$400 billion of your Medicare. That is how upside-down the numbers are.

Let's walk through some of this. We are two-plus months into this fiscal year, and the number one spend this fiscal year will be Social Security. Now, let's talk about this for a moment.

Social Security is its own trust fund, its own funding mechanism. None of the money is spent in the general fund; it is loaned to the general fund. Social Security gets these special Treasury notes, and then they are paid interest twice a year. If you ever geek out and you are someone who watches U.S. debt and all of a sudden there is this sudden spike, often that is actually because we made our twice-a-year interest payment to Social Security, but it is separate.

You have also got to understand the flip side of that. In 8 or 9 years, when the Social Security trust fund is empty, it doesn't have a claim on the general fund, either.

CBO put out a number of 2033. The Social Security actuaries, which I think are a year behind in their reports, had projected 2034. However, let's use CBO's number. CBO projects that a 25 percent cut in your check is coming in 8½, 9 years.

For the average couple in America on Social Security, I think that is like a \$17,400 cut. We will double poverty in the senior population in America. Okay. It is immoral, and the solution we get is, okay, just raise these taxes, do the cap.

Now, we are still working on the math because it turns out Tax Foundation, the actuaries, and CBO have vastly different modeling numbers. We found a couple interesting nuggets, the Democrat bill does cut benefits, it cuts benefits on high-income earners where they told us they would never cut benefits.

We are starting to realize rhetoric is often different than reality when you are trying to make the math work.

Hopefully, in the next couple of weeks we will actually have nailed down the actual impact, but right now it looks like raising the cap on Social Security, doing these other mechanisms still does not close that \$616 billion shortfall. That is a \$616 billion shortfall. That is the very first year the Social Security trust fund is gone.

Why this isn't talked about constantly here, when defense is like \$830 billion, and just the shortfall in a single year in Social Security is over \$600 billion, does anyone see the scale we are talking about?

Understand, if we use the tax solutions, where you say we are just going to raise these taxes, we are going to take everyone over \$400,000 or just everyone, and you are going to pay the extra 12.4 percent, and then we are going to tax some of these unrealized capital gains and these things to make up that difference. Okay. If that is the Democrat solution, you have just used up your entire opportunity because there is no more money.

What do you do with the other two-thirds of the borrowing, which is the shortfall in Medicare? You have no more capacity. We are going to walk through that.

Why this board here is so important to understand is: in 2024, Social Security will be \$1.450 trillion this year, so \$1 trillion, \$450 billion. Social Security is our number one spend.

Gross interest, that means the interest we pay to Social Security but also the interest we pay to whoever has been willing to buy one of our bonds, is over a trillion dollars this year. Interest now is number two. Interest is now number two this fiscal year. That wasn't supposed to happen for like 8, 10 years, and it happened.

Number three is Medicare.

Number four on our spend is defense.

When you have someone who runs around saying, Cut defense, that is where all our spending is, they are either willfully ignorant or they are just out of date, they are just so out of date.

Demographics is the driver of our debt, and it is so hard to talk about that because for one thing, it is not Republican or Democrat. Us becoming gray hairs, it is not Republican or Democrat, it is math. The solutions may ultimately be partisan, but what we are as a society isn't.

I am going to be much more gentle because I have someone behind me, so I am not going to throw the boards. That was also one of the complaints.

One more time, the exact thing I just said, but I made it into a bar chart because the bar chart is much easier to see, particularly on the television. This is our Social Security. This is interest.

Now, if you say, DAVID, it is not fair to use gross interest because we are paying ourselves. We are not paying ourselves; we are paying the trust fund. Remember, we just talked about Social Security being its own. If you want to conflate the two, then you are sort of breaking the wall, but God bless you.

If you just go to net interest, it is still right there as the second biggest expense we have in the Federal Government this year, and then you have Medicare, and defense now is number four.

Why does this matter? The number of folks who live in this sort of mathematical fantasy world—and just skip 1965, you can see, but do you see this red here? This is last year's spend. Seventy-three percent of the Federal Government's spending was on autopilot, we don't get to vote on it. You get elected to Congress; you do not vote on 73 percent of all the spending because it is formula.

You worked your 40 quarters; you got Social Security. You hit a certain age and participate; you get your Medicare. You are part of a certain tribal group, you get this. These are things that are formulas. You fall below a certain income, you get these.

Defense was 13 percent of our spending last year. Well, defense is really tricky. Yes, we need modernization. Maybe some of the large weapon platforms need a revolution in technology, those things. That is fine. However, the fighting you hear, the fighting that ultimately removed the Speaker, the things that go on here are over this little green wedge here that is 15 percent, 15 percent.

The punch line you need to just burn into your mind, all of this green is borrowed, all this blue is borrowed, and last year about \$400 billion of the red was borrowed. Everything a Member of Congress votes on is borrowed money. Sink that in. Everything we vote on is on borrowed money.

The frustrating thing is we have absolute battles here on the floor and in our committees, trying to save a little

here, trying to save a little there. Fine, we should do it. One of the reasons the approps bills are taking so long is we are breaking them down line item by line item, saying, does this make sense? But stop pretending that at the end of 10 years you will even notice those differences. They won't even show up as rounding errors because we are borrowing.

This is really important to me and forgive me if it is slightly narcissistic. I don't mean it to be. We are trying to find some way to communicate math.

We started something in our office a couple of weeks ago where you can go to our official website, and you can sign up. Just give me your name and your cell number, and every day we are going to text you—and I know this is really exciting—what the day's borrowing was and what the day's tax receipts were. We are going to do it two ways, so we are doing it absolutely intellectually honest. We are going to give you a 364-day clock, so no timing effects because you know Treasury, at the end of the fiscal year plays some game where they roll some of the spending into the next year. There are all these timing effects. Following that, we give you the actual fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, I won't ask you to actually answer this because I am actually not supposed to have the dialogue with you, but it is always fun to point at you.

What would you guess we are borrowing per second, a per second borrow? I think as of yesterday, because we printed this a couple days ago, we were at \$78,480 per second.

You can sign up on our website and get this wonderful text message sent to you every day with the actual facts, not the made-up crap that goes on here. The number of times I hear people speaking behind these microphones, and you are pulling out your calculator and wondering, where did they come up with that? They just make things up because these numbers are so difficult.

If you actually do so far this fiscal year—and it will change as tax collections come in—we are over \$112,000 per second in borrowing; and of that \$78,000 we are borrowing right now per second over the last 364 days, \$30,000 to \$35,000 of that now is interest.

It gets worse because a lot of the bonds we sold over the last couple years—because we are idiots—we sold short on the curve, so we had incredibly low interest rates, and now those bonds are going to have to be refinanced at these higher interest rates.

I am going to put this chart back. We are just trying to help people understand. Interest is one of our great fragilities. What that means is, what happens when Congress is no longer in charge of the Federal budget, but the bond market is? The bond market gets cranky.

Look, 3 weeks ago we had a 30-year bond auction—I appreciate the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee

letting me take my subcommittee, and we brought in some of the bond market experts. The hearing, once again, denigrated back into Republican-Democrat talking points, which frustrated me because we were supposed to have a serious conversation.

Three weeks ago, we had a 30-year bond auction where the broker-dealers, the market makers had to take 24 percent of it. Now, everybody that is listening, you just went, huh?

What happens when there are so few buyers or there is so much inventory that has to be sold that the broker-dealers don't have enough credit line to take it all down?

Does that become a failed bond auction?

Do we start to see stress in the world bond market?

Remember, the entire world uses our bonds as the oil, the liquidity that keeps financial markets working here and around the world, our mortgages, everything else.

Intellectually, I don't think we understand the serious nature of what a chart like this tells you when you start looking at gross interest just marching along, and then this is functionally the last 12 months, so you had some of the lower interest rates in the beginning of 2023. Remember, interest rates didn't really start to move until April last year, and this is showing, just in the last 12 months, we functionally added \$923 billion in financing costs on those interest rates. This year it is going to be over a trillion.

Then you come over here, and you start looking at things like net interest. Net interest is ultimately going up, gross interest is starting to—the two lines are meeting. Why?

Because the trust funds are getting smaller and smaller because they are shrinking. Remember, the transportation trust fund is gone in a few years. Medicare part A, the hospital portion, is gone in 7 years, Social Security is gone in 8½, 9 years. You have got to understand that also has an effect on our borrowing because we can't borrow internally.

I don't think you need to see this board because I have said it like six times, we are borrowing \$1 trillion gross interest this year.

This one is important. I feel like an idiot, I feel like I am the only one coming up here and screaming about this. It is like, SCHWEIKERT stop telling us things we don't want, there is math involved.

What was the movie, there was a joke, or is it Chevy Chase on "Saturday Night Live," 30 years ago I was promised there would be no math?

This chart is very, very simple. We have done an estimate with the Joint Economic economists that we are going to bring this fiscal year \$9.6 trillion to the bond market. About \$2 trillion of that will be what we call virgin, that is new borrowing to cover our shortfall because about 30 percent of everything we spend is on borrowed money. The rest is being refinanced.

You go, what do we care, it is refinancing?

We are now refinancing at much higher interest rates. If we are blessed, you know, 10 years, a little over 4, but that thing used to be at 0.6, 0.7. That gap is why we estimate—and so does Treasury, so does OMB—that we are going to spend over a trillion dollars in interest, and now it is our second biggest expense. It just continues.

□ 1245

How do you think about this? We actually had 2 months last year—now, this is timing effects when tax receipts come in and those things—where we were borrowing to make our interest payments.

Think about that. We were borrowing to be able to pay for our borrowing. Does anyone care? Is it just too complicated? This is the reality.

Yet, if you ever listen to us, and, in particular, my brothers and sisters on the left, they will be behind this microphone saying, if we just tax rich people, we will be fine. Let's keep spending.

These are major components of the 2023 Federal budget. I am not going to walk you through all the line items, but here is the basic point.

If you break it out per household, last year, our spending was over \$48,000 a household. Okay. Receipts, that means tax collections, everything, you know, from excise taxes to income taxes, capital gains, all of them.

We spent \$48,000 per household last year. We took in \$33,800. Anyone see a problem? Structurally, this gets uglier every year, uglier the next year, uglier the next year.

It is not because of mandatory spending. It is not because we are spending more money on foreign aid or spending more money on this and that. It is demographics.

I can show you slides, and I am going to show a couple of these. It is always the ones I get the most angry emails about.

Mr. Speaker, 100 percent of the spending from today through the next 30 years, 100 percent, according to the CBO—and if anyone has ever read the CBO reports—Medicare and its interest for its shortfall.

Remember, its cash shortfall is I think \$88 trillion over those 30 years and Social Security, if we choose to backfill it, in 9 years when the trust fund is gone.

It is functionally healthcare and if we choose to backfill Social Security. So Medicare—healthcare, is the primary driver. It is 70-plus percent of all future borrowing.

The brain trust here, we will come behind these microphones, and we talk about financing it. ObamaCare is a financing bill. The ACA is a financing bill, who gets subsidized and who has to pay.

Let's be honest. Our Republican alternative was a financing bill. It is who had to pay and who got subsidized.

Medicare for all is a financing bill. None of it is about the adoption of technology that makes people healthier.

I have come behind this microphone a handful of times this year and showed the data from the Joint Economic Committee, the Republican report, go to Chapter 3, and we did some very difficult things, and they worked very hard.

I vetted this for weeks. We did the thing we hate to talk about, but it is amazing, the numbers. We talked about diabetes and obesity in America.

What would happen if I could come to you right now and say the most powerful thing you could do to roll down U.S. sovereign debt is take on obesity in America? The morality.

It is also one of the most powerful things you can do for income inequality, for my Tribal populations, for the rural poor, for the urban poor.

We actually had some other crazy data talking about the labor force participation that would go up and family formation.

Is that Republican or Democrat? It is just moral. It is a solution. It was a few trillion dollars over the 10 years—the single most powerful thing you could do.

How many people have you had come behind these microphones and want to talk about we need to help our brothers and sisters live? We are about to have a fifth year of life expectancy falling in America. Our brothers and sisters are dying.

If you look at the data, drugs are right up there. Obesity is even higher. Is it just because you are going to get nasty people saying horrible things about you on social media? Well, screw them. Morality is on our side. It is great economics. It is also the right thing to do, and it is really hard around here.

Let's actually talk about one of the other things. If I get one more leftist, well, you guys supported tax reform. Okay. The single biggest movement in closing income inequality, single biggest movement in raising wages without raising inflation because it allocated money.

Smartly designed tax reform actually puts the money where it gets the greatest amount of productive growth.

Remember your basic high school economics class. What are the two ways you get paid more? Inflation. Well, that doesn't get you anything. When your check goes up for inflation, you are just treading water.

Productivity. We had stagnant productivity for a couple decades. We did tax reform at the very end of 2017, and we had 2018, 2019, the first quarter of 2020 before the pandemic, and it was the ultimate Goldilocks because we were growing. Wages were going up. The poor were getting less poor. We didn't set off inflation. Income inequality is shrinking.

The Democrats keep saying, well, the face cost of that was going to be \$1.7

trillion. Yes, we were taking in dramatically more tax receipts than we ever expected, and it actually added a whole bunch to the life expectancy of Social Security. Stunning amounts of money came back repatriated from overseas, but it was a tax cut.

The same brain trust on the left who is attacking tax reform forgets in just 20 months, President Biden's initiatives have added \$4.8 trillion to the 10-year deficit.

They come at us hard. We did tax reform, and the face value of that was \$1.7 trillion, but they have added \$4.8 trillion, and it is like they forget.

This also set off—the best economists—I want to be honest on this—set off half of inflation. Some of it was supply chain. Half of it was the amount of stimulus the Democrats dumped into the economy.

I have done it here on the floor showing that the 30 months of inflation we just had was the single biggest modern tax hike. Whether you know it or not, you have been crushed.

If you live in the Phoenix-Scottsdale market, and you are not making 22, 23 percent more today than you did 30 months ago, you are poorer.

The brilliance of the left's not liking inflation but not screaming about it or trying to crush it because there are things we could have done in this body to help roll down inflation, but it would have required policy, and it would have required them to admit it was crushing the working population, particularly the working poor, and the dirty little secret is it changed the debt to GDP because inflation devalues the existing debt. You get to pay it back with inflated dollars.

Whether you know it or not, you are about 20 percent poorer today than you were 30 months ago. If your paycheck hasn't gone up, if you are in the Phoenix-Scottsdale area, if you haven't gone up about 22 percent, you are poorer today. It is math.

We keep coming back to the understanding of the scale of the drivers of our debt. I am not going to belabor this board. I have done it before.

We can get rid of every dime of discretionary. There is no defense. There is no State Department. There is no Supreme Court. There is no Congress. That might actually be a good thing, but there is nothing. You are still borrowing. Even at the end of 10 years, you are still borrowing.

To help you understand the scale—and this one I have done entire presentations on, and this is the one where I get the most interesting comments from Democrats.

Well, we need to tax people over \$400,000 more. Okay. Dirty, fun little secret. If you made \$400,000 4 years ago, 3 years ago, today your purchasing power is probably 320, 328.

Part of the scam here is let inflation run a bit. You have heard of bracket creep; same sort of concept. There is a great paper out there. It is on the Manhattan Institute's, Brian Riedl, where

he basically took all sorts of studies, leftist studies, OMB studies, CBO studies, and said, Mr. Speaker, what would happen if you basically maximized every tax rate, if you took people over \$400,000 and said, I am going to maximize their income tax?

There are formulas now because we have really good modeling for this. We can get them up to this tax rate before it changes their economic effects, and the revenues actually go down.

Maximize their capital gains. Maximize their estate tax. Maximize everything. Adjust for the economic effects.

If you don't believe me, go read the paper. You will get about 1.1 to 2 percent of GDP in new tax receipts. Okay.

Let's split the difference. Let's call it 1.6 of new taxes by maximizing every tax rate of those over 400,000. Okay.

The reality is the majority of the people that make over \$400,000 vote for Democrats anyway, so I don't know why we keep trying to say, but the economics are theater.

Back to the point when we began. What did we borrow last year? Anyone listen? We borrowed 8.4 percent of GDP—8.4.

The Democrats' solution covers 1.6 of it. When they do that, the capacity we need to be able to cover the shortfalls in Social Security, Medicare, if there is a disaster, if there is a war—we have no more capacity. This is how fragile we are as a society and intellectually vacuous, the debate here is.

Mr. Speaker, how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Arizona has 9 minutes remaining.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I will try to wrap this up in the next couple boards so the gentleman from Texas can have his time.

This is pretty much the same thing. We actually did the modelling on the permanent deficit, its interest carrying costs. That is what is over here in whatever earth tones that is.

One of the things I have heard the Progressive Caucus talk about, there is some absurd thing called the oligarch's tax where they are going to find really rich people, and the richer they are, they are just going to take portions of their unearned income or their assets. Okay. Fine.

I guess that is where the left's brain is, but you have to stop lying to people about the math. It only covers a tiny fraction of the borrowing.

Part of this even comes from one of the progressive group's own math. It is revenge for people who made a bunch of money, who vote for them and contribute to them, and then they make up the math.

This is such an absurd place. Look. Maybe no one actually cares. I have come here in the past and sort of showed the trajectory we are on to the amount of our economy that will be in debt, and we are already right here.

Remember, this is a chart that if you actually start to do the baseline, and

you start to actually do different baseline annual growths—you have to understand, in less than a decade, if our annual growth does not exceed the mean, meaning we only grow at a half a percent over those years, we are already at 125 percent debt to GDP.

Now, because we are the reserve currency, we get a little bit of a SPIF for more capacity, but basically you have to understand the number.

The time for doing something was actually a couple years ago. Every day we wait, the policy options—and this is going to be part of my closing, and I am going to say it two or three times.

The policy options close because there are things you need to do policywise. If you look at all the taxes the left wants to do—I just showed you a slide—it comes in about 1.5, 1.6 percent of GDP. We borrowed 8.4 last year.

The things we can cut. I can get you a couple of points of GDP we can cut, and I am willing to do some very difficult cuts.

Is it rational for us to borrow money on our nondefense discretionary and send it to States and jurisdictions that have their own taxing authority? We are basically playing a game of here is some free money that we are borrowing. Well, that is \$300 billion of the discretionary, but that is a fraction of the GDP.

The two ends here, that means the actual structural deficit that is actually from the demographics, you need a revolution in the costs. You can't tax enough, and you can't cut enough. It is math.

□ 1300

Once again, another model out there that shows once you do the actual economic effects of taxing the rich, it gets you only a fraction of the 10-year deficit.

I am going to close on this board because it is the board that enrages most people. It is the one that has been modeled by left groups, right groups, some of the honest universities, back to the point I have made. This board is already a year out of date, meaning when it says over the next 30 years, we will have \$116 trillion in borrowed money, we have a model in our office that is approaching \$130 trillion with the higher interest rates.

On this one, \$77 trillion of that shortfall over the next 30 years is Medicare. It is healthcare costs.

Another one is a \$38 trillion shortfall if we backfill Social Security and the shortfall there.

It is immoral what this body is doing by avoiding, and every day that we avoid, you find yourself saying taxes are your only opportunity, though I have just spent the last half an hour trying to explain policy is where the money is at.

Making people healthier is the single-biggest thing you can do to reduce the U.S. debt. Actually, you reduce it but stabilize it because we are going to continue to grow it because we are get-

ting old, and our healthcare costs are going to go up.

Can we use technology? Can we use cures? I could come to you tomorrow and point out the simple fact that 33 percent of all healthcare spending is diabetes. A revolution in our brothers and sisters with diabetes, which we know how to do it now—we actually have pharmaceuticals that are remarkable, and I am not thrilled with talking about pharmaceuticals, but the math is the math. We sometimes have to deal with the reality in front of us.

If we can cut diabetes in half in America—let's see, 15 percent of U.S. healthcare costs is about \$700 billion a year. If you cut 33 percent and then get the economic effects of people being able to work and other things, so a trillion dollars a year.

I mean, you start to understand this doesn't have to be dour. It doesn't have to be dystopian. There is hope. It just requires thinking and maybe owning a calculator and reading.

We are too busy saying the same crap to our voters because they applaud for us. Even though it is 20 years out of date, we say the same crap over and over.

I have been here 10 years. When I first got elected, 1 out of 8 was 65. Today, it is like 1 out of 5.8 is now 65. Demographics is our destiny.

Why are we incapable of telling each other the truth?

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

SHARING CHRISTMAS CAROL HISTORIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) for 30 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as Christmas approaches, I rise to share the histories behind the most beloved Christmas carols.

My wife found a book, and I started reading it at breakfast one morning. I thought it was really interesting to know where Christmas carols came from. I thought I would come up here and share this with my colleagues and with the rest of the country that cares.

I have done three of these now, and I have 30 minutes to do a bunch more. Today, we are going to talk about a lot of them.

The first one is "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear." It was written and composed by two men from similar backgrounds who never met.

Edmund Hamilton Sears was a Unitarian minister and graduate of Harvard Divinity School. Sears, who preferred a quiet life among his New England congregation, emphasized Jesus' message of peace on Earth, good will towards men. The words to "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" first appeared in print in 1850 in the Christian Registry.

By contrast, composer Richard S. Willis led a very public life as an editor

and critic with the New York Tribune. Willis composed carols while acting as a vestryman at The Little Church Around the Corner in New York City.

The music of the carol was matched with Sears' words years later, and here are the results. I can't sing, so don't ask me to sing. I am going to read them, although I sing them in church.

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the Earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the Earth, good will to men,
from Heaven's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.
Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains,
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angel sing.
For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the Earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

The lyrics of "Joy to the World" are based on Psalm 98, which reads:

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the Earth
Make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise
Make a joyful noise to the Lord, the king.

In 1719, English minister Isaac Watts wrote more than 600 hymns for children and adults, many of which are still sung today. Among his many admirers was Benjamin Franklin.

The music's composer was Lowell Mason, the father of American church music. He devoted his life to music education, eventually composing more than 1,600 religious works. Mason called his composition "Antioch," a reference to the Syrian city where Jesus' Disciples first came to be called Christians. Here are the words of the song:

Joy to the world, the Lord is come
Let Earth receive her king
Let every heart prepare Him room
And Heaven and nature sing
And Heaven and nature sing
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing
Joy to the Earth, the Savior reigns
Let all their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy
He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders, of His love

There is a great deal of myth and conjecture around "O Come, All Ye Faithful." Until about 1900, people believed that this hymn could be traced back to the 13th century and that St. Bonaventure possibly composed the original Latin words.

A clergyman named Dom John Stephan researched the original manu-

script and discovered that John Francis Wade wrote it. Wade, a Roman Catholic, lived in Douai, France, where he earned his living copying and teaching music. Composed between 1740 and 1744, the hymn became quite well known locally.

Here are the words to the song:

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, born the
King of angels.
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord.
Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation;
Sing all ye citizens of Heaven above:
Glory to God in the highest.
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord.
Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord.

The next one is one I like a lot. As Phillips Brooks approached the village of Bethlehem on Christmas Eve, 1866, he imagined the holy family on their journey nearly 2,000 years before. The holy land was still singing in his soul when he wrote "O Little Town of Bethlehem" for a children's Sunday school class 2 years later.

O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see Thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in Thee tonight
For Christ was born of Mary
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love
O morning stars together
Proclaim Thy holy birth
And praises sing to God the king
And peace to men on Earth
O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels,
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!

□ 1315

My wife is Dutch, and she learned this song in German where it was originally written. When we sing it in church, she throws me off a little by singing in German, but it is still the same song.

"Silent Night" possesses a simple dignity and power like the alpine setting where it was written. Popular legend states that Joseph Mohr, the carol's composer, a village priest in the little Austrian town of Oberndorf, penned the words to "Silent Night" on Christmas Eve. He became distraught when the organ in his church broke

down and couldn't be repaired in time for Christmas services. He enlisted a friend, a musician, Franz Gruber, to compose a guitar accompaniment for the song.

The image of a starry night, the little church, and the lone guitar is one of enduring humility and quiet beauty. Mohr wrote several arrangements for "Silent Night."

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon virgin, Mother and Child,
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.
Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from Heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born;
Christ the Savior is born.
Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light,
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth;
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

The first written record of "The First Noel" appeared in William Sandys' 1833 edition of "Christmas Carols, Ancient and Modern." Folk songs enjoyed a revival in 19th century England, and there are several collections like Sandys that include this carol.

The first noel, the angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, noel, noel, noel,
Born is the king of Israel.
They looked up and saw a star,
Shining in the east beyond them far;
And to the Earth it gave great light,
And so it continued day and night.
Noel, noel, noel, noel,
Born is the king of Israel.
And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the king of Israel.
This star drew nigh to the northwest;
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay.
Noel, noel, noel, noel,
Born is the king of Israel.

The melody of "Greensleeves" is so old that it is impossible to date. We know that Queen Elizabeth I danced to the melody and that Shakespeare mentioned it in "The Merry Wives of Windsor."

As with other carols, traditional music made a late marriage to sacred words. The English hymn writer William Dix composed these words under the title "The Manger Throne."

What child is this, who, laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with voices sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste, to bring Him praise,
The babe, the Son of Mary.
Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear for the sinners here,
The silent Word is pleading.

This, this is Christ the king,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring him praise,
The babe, the Son of Mary.
So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come peasant king to own Him.
The king of kings, salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
This, this is Christ the king
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste, to bring him laud,
The babe, the Son of Mary.

It is my hope that you will enjoy these histories and think about them as you celebrate the holiday season.

On behalf of the people of my district in central Texas, I wish each of you a merry Christmas and a happy Hanukkah.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 22 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, December 11, 2023, at noon for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV,

EC-2487. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-322, "Grounds for Divorce, Legal Separation, and Annulment Amendment Act of 2023", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814), was taken from the Speaker's table, referred to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska (for himself, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. TENNEY, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Ms. SCHRIER):

H.R. 6653. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to support upgrades at existing hydroelectric dams in order to increase clean energy production, improve the resiliency and reliability of the United States electric grid, enhance the health of the Nation's rivers and associated wildlife habitats, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DOGGETT (for himself, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. TOKUDA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. SALINAS, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Ms. PORTER, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. LIEU, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms.

BONAMICI, Mr. CASAR, Mr. KEATING, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MFUME, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. QUILLEY, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. POCAN, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. IVEY, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. TRONE, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. BOWMAN, and Mr. GREEN of Texas):

H.R. 6654. A bill to prohibit the sale and distribution of expanded polystyrene food service ware, expanded polystyrene loose fill, and expanded polystyrene coolers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. FOXX (for herself and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia):

H.R. 6655. A bill to amend and reauthorize the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CALVERT (for himself and Mr. CUELLAR):

H.R. 6656. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Commissioner of Social Security to implement automated systems with callback functionality for each customer service telephone line of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Social Security Administration, respectively, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROUZER (for himself and Mr. BACON):

H.R. 6657. A bill to amend the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, to limit the conditions applicable to the use of electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards to purchase food, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. BANKS (for himself, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Mr. STEUBE):

H.R. 6658. A bill to prohibit entities receiving Federal assistance that are involved in adoption or foster care placements from delaying or denying placements under certain conditions; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. BARRAGÁN (for herself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. TITUS, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LEE of California, and Mr. CLEAVER):

H.R. 6659. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program to facilitate electric bicycle sharing services for disadvantaged communities; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 6660. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to stipulate that a parking benefit is not a qualified parking fringe benefit unless an employer offers employees the option to receive an equivalent cash benefit or alternative tax-exempt benefit in lieu of the parking benefit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. CARAVEO (for herself and Mr. VALADAO):

H.R. 6661. A bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to reauthorize rural cooperative development grants; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. COSTA):

H.R. 6662. A bill to establish a White House Rural Council, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. CRAIG (for herself, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. TRONE, and Ms. SALAZAR):

H.R. 6663. A bill to amend the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act to authorize the use of certain grants to prevent suicide or overdose by children, adolescents, and young adults, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. ESHOO (for herself and Mr. MCCAUL):

H.R. 6664. A bill to encourage innovation in the development of pediatric drugs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself and Mr. CARBAJAL):

H.R. 6665. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate certain fuel excise taxes and impose a tax on greenhouse gas emissions to provide revenue for maintaining and building American infrastructure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Natural Resources, Education and the Workforce, Transportation and Infrastructure, Science, Space, and Technology, and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 6666. A bill to codify Executive Order 13771 (relating to reducing regulation and controlling regulatory costs); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOOD of Virginia (for himself, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. OGLES, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. PERRY, and Mr. DAVIDSON):

H.R. 6667. A bill to provide limitations for Federal agencies entering into settlement agreements and consent decrees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. HARSHBARGER (for herself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. OGLES, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, and Mr. DUNN of Florida):

H.R. 6668. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds to purchase at-home tests for SARS-CoV-2 from certain foreign entities; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HILL (for himself and Ms. STEVENS):

H.R. 6669. A bill to provide resources for United States nationals unlawfully or wrongfully detained abroad; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. HINSON:

H.R. 6670. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue certain regulations

with respect to the minimum age of a driver of a commercial motor vehicle, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ISSA (for himself, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. KILEY, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. OBERNOLTE):

H.R. 6671. A bill to authorize the court to make an advisory statement under certain circumstances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JACKSON of Illinois (for himself, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. CARSON, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. TRONE, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. DUARTE, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. LIEU, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. FROST):

H.R. 6672. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal posthumously to Marshall Walter "Major" Taylor in recognition of his significance to the nation as an athlete, trailblazer, role model, and equal rights advocate; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio (for himself, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, Mr. MAST, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. CARTER of Louisiana):

H.R. 6673. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to provide for a new rule regarding the application of the Act to marijuana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KILDEE (for himself and Mr. LAWLER):

H.R. 6674. A bill to provide for the periodic issuance of up-to-date clinical guidance on addressing the health effects of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. KUSTER (for herself and Mr. BACON):

H.R. 6675. A bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to provide mental health and substance use services to incarcerated individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Ms. ESCOBAR):

H.R. 6676. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to expand the matters covered by the Armed Forces Workplace and Gender Relations Surveys; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. LYNCH (for himself and Mr. MOULTON):

H.R. 6677. A bill to amend the National Levee Safety Act of 2007 to include in the definition of levee hard or manmade structures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MCCLINTOCK:

H.R. 6678. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide that aliens who have been convicted of or who have committed Social Security fraud are inadmissible and deportable; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCCLINTOCK:

H.R. 6679. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to aliens who carried out, participated in, planned, financed, supported, or otherwise facilitated the attacks against Israel; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MILLER of Ohio (for himself, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, and Mr. WALTZ):

H.R. 6680. A bill to prohibit offices of the legislative branch from using Federal funds to acquire or display any flag or pennant other than the flag of the United States, the flag or pennant of any State or territory or possession of the United States, or the POW-MIA flag; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS (for herself, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. BUDZINSKI, and Mr. GIMENEZ):

H.R. 6681. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to include fuel for ocean-going vessels as additional renewable fuel for which credits may be generated under the renewable fuel program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MILLS (for himself and Mr. HERN):

H.R. 6682. A bill to prohibit funding for the Government of Ukraine for the nationalization of strategic assets; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. PANETTA, and Mr. BUCSHON):

H.R. 6683. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase support for physicians and other practitioners in adjusting to Medicare payment changes; 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. NEGUSE (for himself and Mr. FLOOD):

H.R. 6684. A bill to require the Comptroller General to submit a report on the disclosure process for intellectual property created under a Federal grant, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 6685. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand eligibility and increase simplification of the research credit for certain small businesses; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PANETTA (for himself and Mr. CAREY):

H.R. 6686. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit for middle-income housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PENCE (for himself, Mr. BAIRD, Ms. SCHRIER, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. BUCSHON, and Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 6687. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the regulation of zootechnical animal food substances; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RESCIENTHALER:

H.R. 6688. A bill to permit grant funds to be used to identify unidentified human remains

without regard as to whether the manner of death is determined to be a homicide; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. TOKUDA):

H.R. 6689. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to forgive the Federal student loans of borrowers who are enrolled for benefits under part A of title XVIII of the Social Security Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. VALADAO (for himself and Mr. DUARTE):

H.R. 6690. A bill to amend the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act to authorize the use of Commodity Credit Corporation funds for emergency assistance to dairy producers in the case of livestock relocation and feed crop losses due to natural disasters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

[Omitted from the Record of December 6, 2023]

By Mrs. MCCLAIN:

H. Res. 914. A resolution censuring Representative Jamaal Bowman.

[Submitted December 7, 2023]

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:

H. Res. 917. A resolution authorizing the enforcement of subpoenas issued by the Chairs of the Committees on Oversight and Accountability, Ways and Means, or the Judiciary as part of the inquiry into whether sufficient grounds exist for the House of Representatives to exercise its Constitutional power to impeach Joseph Biden, President of the United States of America, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. ARMSTRONG:

H. Res. 918. A resolution directing certain committees to continue their ongoing investigations as part of the existing House of Representatives inquiry into whether sufficient grounds exist for the House of Representatives to exercise its Constitutional power to impeach Joseph Biden, President of the United States of America, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. ALFORD:

H. Res. 919. A resolution recognizing the 83rd anniversary of the groundbreaking of Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; to the Committee on Armed Services.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:

H.R. 6653.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Tax

By Mr. DOGGETT:

H.R. 6654.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill is to prohibit the sale and distribution of expanded polystyrene food service ware, expanded polystyrene loose fill, and expanded polystyrene coolers, and for other purposes.

By Ms. FOXX:

H.R. 6655.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend and reauthorize the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

By Mr. CALVERT:

H.R. 6656.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 1 and clause 18.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Directs the Social Security Administration and the Department of Veterans Affairs to introduce a more robust public phone line policy, that lowers wait time and improves customer service.

By Mr. ROUZER:

H.R. 6657.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 and the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to limit the Nutrition applicable to the use of electronic benefit transfer (EBT) cards to purchase food.

By Mr. BANKS:

H.R. 6658.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 18 (relating to the power-to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

The single subject of this legislation is:

Parental rights

By Ms. BARRAGÁN:

H.R. 6659.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill creates a program at the Department of Transportation to provide grants for the creation and expansion of electric bike-share programs in disadvantaged communities.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 6660.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Taxation

By Ms. CARAVEO:

H.R. 6661.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

Reauthorize Rural Cooperative Development Grants program

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 6662.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 (relating to the power of Congress to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.)

The single subject of this legislation is:

The Transforming Hiring in Rural Industries and Vital Economies Act establishes a federal interagency council to oversee and coordinate investments in rural areas.

By Ms. CRAIG:

H.R. 6663.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Decreasing rates of suicide and overdose in children

By Ms. ESHOO:

H.R. 6664.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Health care.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 6665.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

Carbon Pricing / Infrastructure

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 6666.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To codify Executive Order 13771 (relating to reducing regulation and controlling regulatory costs).

By Mr. GOOD of Virginia:

H.R. 6667.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Restricting sue and settle tactics and preventing agency legislating through the rule-making process.

By Mrs. HARSHBARGER:

H.R. 6668.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec. 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

health care

By Mr. HILL:

H.R. 6669.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

American wrongful detainees

By Mrs. HINSON:

H.R. 6670.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

Codifies the minimum age for an operator of a commercial motor vehicle for interstate trucking from 21 years of age to 18 years of age.

By Mr. ISSA:

H.R. 6671.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

To authorize the court to make an advisory statement under certain circumstances, and for other purposes.

By Mr. JACKSON of Illinois:

H.R. 6672.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Sec 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To award a Congressional Gold Medal posthumously to Marshall Walter "Major" Tay-

lor in recognition of his significance to the nation as an athlete, trailblazer, role model, and equal rights advocate.

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio:

H.R. 6673.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Controlled Substances Act to provide for a new rule regarding the application of the Act to marijuana, and for other purposes.

By Mr. KILDEE:

H.R. 6674.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

The bill provides for the periodic issuance of up-to-date clinical guidance on addressing the health effects of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

By Ms. KUSTER:

H.R. 6675.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power "to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof."

The single subject of this legislation is:

Medicaid

By Mr. LEVIN:

H.R. 6676.

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:

Military

By Mr. LYNCH:

H.R. 6677.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII, Clause XVIII

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill will amend the National Levee Safety Act of 2007 to include hard and soft infrastructure in addition to levees to the approved structures to fund.

By Mr. MCCLINTOCK:

H.R. 6678.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 4

The single subject of this legislation is:

Immigration

By Mr. MCCLINTOCK:

H.R. 6679.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 4

The single subject of this legislation is:

Immigration

By Mr. MILLER of Ohio:

H.R. 6680.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 1 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Prohibiting legislative branch funds from being used to acquire or display certain flags.

By Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS:

H.R. 6681.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Clean Air Act to include fuel for oceangoing vessels as additional renewable fuel for which credits may be generated under the renewable fuel program.

By Mr. MILLS:

H.R. 6682.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To prohibit funding for the Government of Ukraine for the nationalization of strategic assets.

By Mr. MURPHY:

H.R. 6683.

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 title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase support for physicians and other practitioners in adjusting to Medicare payment changes.

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 6684.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Requiring the Comptroller General to submit a report on the disclosure process for intellectual property create under a Federal grant.

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 6685.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Amending the Internal Revenue Code to expand eligibility and increase simplification for the research credit for certain small businesses.

By Mr. PANETTA:

H.R. 6686.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

Tax

By Mr. PENCE:

H.R. 6687.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the regulation of zootechnical animal food substances.

By Mr. RESCHENTHALER:

H.R. 6688.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To permit grant funds to be used to identify unidentified human remains without regard as to whether the manner of death is determined to be a homicide.

By Mr. SCHIFF:

H.R. 6689.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Education

By Mr. VALADAO:

H.R. 6690.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 (Commerce Clause)

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act to authorize the use of Commodity Credit Corporation funds for emergency assistance to dairy producers in the case of livestock relocation and feed crop

losses due to natural disasters, and for other purposes.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 34: Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 51: Ms. LEE of Nevada.
H.R. 345: Mr. SORENSEN.
H.R. 396: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 537: Mrs. CAMMACK.
H.R. 603: Mr. CONNOLLY and Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.
H.R. 618: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Ms. SHERRILL, and Ms. STRICKLAND.
H.R. 889: Mr. FEENSTRA and Mr. SIMPSON.
H.R. 907: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 977: Mr. MOYLAN and Mr. CRANE.
H.R. 1045: Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 1477: Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mrs. FOUSHEE, and Mr. FRY.
H.R. 1619: Ms. KUSTER and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.
H.R. 1624: Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.R. 1680: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
H.R. 1833: Ms. WEXTON and Ms. LEE of Nevada.
H.R. 2365: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey.
H.R. 2394: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 2395: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
H.R. 2424: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 2748: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY and Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 2818: Ms. LEE of Nevada.
H.R. 2870: Mr. FROST.
H.R. 2871: Ms. SALINAS.
H.R. 2918: Ms. BUDZINSKI.
H.R. 2923: Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. SWALWELL.
H.R. 2983: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 3139: Mr. FINSTAD and Mrs. WAGNER.
H.R. 3170: Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Ms. SLOTKIN, and Mr. KILEY.
H.R. 3413: Mr. LOUDERMILK and Mrs. STEEL.
H.R. 3433: Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. CLINE, Mr. FINSTAD, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 3475: Ms. BUDZINSKI.
H.R. 3495: Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 3702: Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. CISCOMANI, Ms. ROSS, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, and Mr. KILMER.
H.R. 3713: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 3768: Ms. PETERSEN.
H.R. 3850: Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Ms. LEE of Nevada.
H.R. 3851: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 3882: Mr. BERGMAN.
H.R. 3940: Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. PASCRELL, and Ms. CARAVEO.
H.R. 3970: Ms. LEE of Nevada and Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.
H.R. 4198: Ms. PETERSEN.
H.R. 4326: Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. COURTNEY, and Ms. HOULAHAN.
H.R. 4408: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida.
H.R. 4412: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 4413: Mr. MOLINARO.
H.R. 4572: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 4581: Mr. ALLRED, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, and Ms. PETERSEN.
H.R. 4663: Mr. HUDSON and Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 4736: Mrs. CAMMACK and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 4812: Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 4896: Mr. VEASEY, Mr. EVANS, and Ms. CARAVEO.
H.R. 4958: Mrs. MCBATH.
H.R. 4963: Mr. RYAN and Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 5035: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CLYBURN, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Mr. FROST.
H.R. 5141: Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 5145: Ms. SALINAS.
H.R. 5224: Mrs. HOUCHIN and Mrs. MCBATH.
H.R. 5275: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. BUCHANAN.
H.R. 5333: Mrs. KIM of California.
H.R. 5401: Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 5535: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
H.R. 5545: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 5585: Mrs. HINSON.
H.R. 5685: Ms. LEE of Nevada, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, and Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida.
H.R. 5754: Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. LOFGREN, and Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 5761: Mr. KUSTOFF.
H.R. 5819: Mr. OBERNOLTE and Ms. CARAVEO.
H.R. 5851: Mr. CONNOLLY and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 5885: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 6033: Ms. PETERSEN.
H.R. 6041: Mrs. PELTOLA.
H.R. 6049: Mr. NUNN of Iowa and Mr. STANTON.
H.R. 6053: Ms. WATERS, Ms. STRICKLAND, and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 6063: Mr. COURTNEY.
H.R. 6129: Mr. DUARTE and Mr. ROSENDALE.
H.R. 6132: Mr. TURNER.
H.R. 6171: Mr. HARRIS.
H.R. 6270: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 6290: Mrs. FOUSHEE.
H.R. 6361: Mrs. BEATTY.
H.R. 6362: Mrs. BEATTY.
H.R. 6394: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 6413: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 6415: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
H.R. 6446: Mr. MEUSER, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. D'ESPOSITO.
H.R. 6463: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey.
H.R. 6504: Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. SELF, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana.
H.R. 6515: Ms. NORTON, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 6516: Mr. BANKS, Mr. TRONE, and Mr. GUEST.
H.R. 6542: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 6553: Mr. PFLUGER and Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 6570: Mr. DOGGETT and Mr. COLLINS.
H.R. 6573: Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 6581: Ms. WILD and Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 6585: Ms. TENNEY.
H.R. 6592: Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. EVANS, Mr. MCGARVEY, Ms. BUSH, and Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE.
H.R. 6634: Mr. MENENDEZ.
H.R. 6643: Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 6652: Mr. SCHIFF and Mr. COURTNEY.
H.J. Res. 25: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.J. Res. 59: Mr. FERGUSON.
H.J. Res. 98: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.
H. Con. Res. 33: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
H. Res. 627: Mr. BURCHETT and Mr. LANDSMAN.
H. Res. 872: Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, and Ms. WILD.
H. Res. 883: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H. Res. 901: Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. VEASEY, and Mr. MOOLENAAR.
H. Res. 902: Mr. FROST, Mr. CARSON, and Mr. DOGGETT.
H. Res. 907: Mr. LIEU, Ms. WATERS, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. SHERRILL.

December 7, 2023

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

H6743

DISCHARGE PETITIONS—
ADDITIONS AND WITHDRAWALS

Petition 6 by Ms. PRESSLEY on House
Joint Resolution 25: Mr. Costa and Mr. Pal-
lone.

The following Members added their
names to the following discharge peti-
tion.